The Arboretum's mission is to showcase Kentucky landscapes and serve as a resource center for environmental and horticultural education, research, and conservation.

Volume 23, Issue 4 Quarterly Newsletter Fall, 2016

Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival
Saturday, October 15, 2016, 2 - 6 p.m.
$7 Admission Includes Kentucky Children’s Garden, $5 for KCG Members

By Jane Dreidame

Last year's inaugural Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival was a smashing success and promises to be even better in 2016, with additional crafts and educational activities for all. Once again there will be a fantastic array of pumpkins decorated by UK students and area schools in the Giant Pumpkin Tent as well as an awesome straw maze. Free pumpkins (while supplies last) will be available for children under 12 with paid admission, and costumed creatures and our Scarecrow Parade will greet you as you stroll the Walk Across Kentucky to the beat of live music.

Expanded crafts and activities will include a dress-up photo booth, take-home crafts, pumpkin toss and roll, and much more! Local garden centers will display fall plants and decorations and be on hand to share their gardening expertise. Admission price includes entrance to the Kentucky Children's Garden and tickets for a drink and snack. This year the Kentucky Children's Garden will offer special activities geared for the little ones.

Please plan to join us as we celebrate the splendor of autumn on October 15! Proceeds from this event will benefit the Legacy Campaign for Visitor Center improvements and a new Educational Wing. Sponsorships are available and volunteers are needed before, during, and after the Festival to help set-up, staff activity booths, and clean up. To volunteer to help with this exciting event, please contact Dawn Bazner: kybrit@twc.com.

Join the Scarecrow Parade
October 1 - 31, 2016
Sept. 26: Entry forms due at Visitor Center.
Guidelines and entry forms are available at the Visitor Center or on our website: arboretum.ca.uky.edu
Sept. 29 & 30: Scarecrows delivered to The Arboretum and placed around the gardens. We provide the post; you place your scarecrow. Remember all scarecrows must be ‘weather worthy.’
Nov. 1: Scarecrows removed

Save the date:
The Friends of The Arboretum 2016 Annual Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 5:30 p.m.
Meet at E. S. Good Barn, Culton Suite 1451 University Dr., Lexington, KY

- Report on the 25th Anniversary Year
- Election of Officers & new Board Members
- Update on fundraising and the Legacy Campaign to expand the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center.
From Molly Davis, Arboretum Director

Every season of the year provides an opportunity to observe and absorb the natural environment at The Arboretum, a fact in which we revel with each passing season. You might share our opinion that summer is the busiest time of the year, and it has certainly seemed so in 2016.

This summer The Arboretum benefitted by incorporating UK students as summer workers. They, in turn, learned from our staff how a public garden operates, how plant collections are created and maintained and how important it is to connect people to plants and the environment. To learn about the research conducted by the Walk Across Kentucky summer interns, see the article on page 6. Most recently in the Rose Garden, interns helped plant hundreds of roses, perennials, shrubs, and trees in preparation for the 10th anniversary memorial service for the victims of Flight 5191.

Interns and staff in the Kentucky Children’s Garden welcomed over 10,000 visitors this summer, conducted programming three times a day, and held “First Friday Fun Days” each month to introduce the month’s programming theme. Special attention was devoted to sparking children’s interest in growing plants and seeds in their vegetable beds and then helping to harvest the efforts of their hard work.

Our last newsletter highlighted the August 27 Legacy Campaign Farm to Table fundraising dinner. As you know, our fundraising dinner was postponed to a future date (likely mid-year 2017) due to our concerns about hosting both the Flight 5191 memorial service and a dinner on the same date. We appreciate your understanding about the decision to postpone. Our highest fundraising priority is the Legacy Campaign to expand the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center and to establish an endowment for the building. An improved and expanded Visitor Center will provide the infrastructure to conduct more programs and classes as well as space for staff, meetings, and events. Thank you for your interest in this campaign to date, and be assured that the campaign is ongoing with the ultimate goal of an improved and expanded Visitor Center.

We would like to thank the scores of generous donors who contributed to The Arboretum Annual Giving Campaign. This campaign was initiated in October 2015 and ended in spring 2016 with a total raised of $16,935.10. Our intent for monies from this annual funding campaign is to hire additional staff to care for the gardens. The second Arboretum Annual Giving Campaign will commence in September.

Changes are coming to the Visitor Center. For the first time, we will operate using a point-of-sale system for cash-based operations such as Kentucky Children’s Garden admissions, gift shop purchases, photography permits, reservations for weddings, classroom fees, and refreshment purchases. As of September 1, admission fees to the Kentucky Children’s Garden are being collected inside the Visitor Center. We are also expanding our gift shop and providing more work areas for staff. We will continue to have a meeting space for committees and our boards, but our ability to host large meetings and classes will be limited. Please stop by when you have the opportunity to see the changes, and thank you for your support of the Legacy Campaign to expand the Visitor Center.

We would be remiss if we didn’t thank Amy VanMeter of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, for her help over the past 13 years. Amy has accepted the position as Director of Donor Relations and Scholarships and will no longer be working with The Arboretum. In her former role as Assistant Director of Development at the College, Amy worked with The Arboretum staff and the Friends of The Arboretum on fundraising projects.

As summer draws to a close and most of our summer interns return to their studies, we thank them and wish them good luck in all future endeavors! The end of summer means that we head into refreshing fall temperatures and look forward to our next fundraising event, the Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival. We hope you will be able to attend this fun, educational and very enjoyable occasion!
Curator’s Choice: Asimina triloba (pawpaw)
By Todd Rounsaville, Curator of Native Species

Pawpaw (Asimina triloba) is one of several plants in Kentucky’s flora representing the northernmost member of an otherwise tropical family. The same can be said for persimmon (Diospyros virginiana, Ebenaceae–Ebony Family), yellow passion flower (Passiflora lutea, Passifloraceae–Passion flower Family), and prickly ash (Zanthoxylum americanum, Rutaceae–Citrus Family). In pawpaw (Annonaceae–Custard Apple Family), we have a tree that is especially exotic in appearance and even more of a temperate-curiosity because of its tropical-flavored fruits.

Pawpaw is best known because of its fruit, which is the largest edible tree-fruit in the United States. The taste and texture is often described as a cross between banana and mango. Unfortunately, the fruits have virtually no shelf life, and as a result they have not gained wider popularity as a hand fruit. Breeding programs have long tried to produce a more marketable variety: pleasant taste, seedlessness, and a thick ‘husk’ for storage and shipping.

Pawpaw is extremely common in Kentucky, and autumn is an excellent time to find ripe fruits while hiking. Most frequently found in bottomlands and floodplains with rich soils, the plants tend to form dense colonies by sending up ‘suckers’ from the root system giving the appearance of a thicket of small trees. Asimina belong to one of the more primitive groups of flowering plants and are closely related to Magnolia. Like Magnolia, their leaves are large, simple, entire, and alternate, making them quite easy to distinguish in the wild. Also like Magnolia, the evolution of pawpaw occurred long before that of bees; thus pollination is generally carried out by flies and beetles that are attracted to the floral bouquet of rotting meat. Individual flowers are rust-purple in color and borne very early in spring before the leaves emerge.

Cultivation of pawpaw is easy, provided soils are not overly dry. They can handle both full sun and deep shade, however the latter will generally yield less fruit. Indeed, the cultivation of pawpaw is an ideal way to obtain fresh fruit with minimal effort. It is imperative to note that pawpaws have both a genetic and temporal self-incompatibility in regard to pollination, so at least two trees are required to yield fruit. Thus combined with their clonally-suckering/spreading growth habit, a generous amount of space is necessary for a successful harvest.
2016 FALL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events and classes meet at the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center unless otherwise noted.
Pre-registration is required for all workshops unless indicated. Please call 859-257-6955 or email dmbast0@uky.edu

ADULT & FAMILY PROGRAMS

Guided Walks through the Gardens
1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 11 a.m. - noon
Jesse Dahl, Arboretum Horticulturist, will lead walks through the horticultural and display gardens highlighting plants of particular interest at the time of each tour. Those who have served as Arboretum tour docents are encouraged to attend (free of charge) to increase knowledge of the horticultural areas. Tours start at the Visitor Center. Cost $3. Limit of 25 people per tour. Groups of 5 or more must pre-register.

September 21: Ornamental grasses, Fall annuals & perennials
October 5 & 19: Fall gardening & evergreens

LFUCG Environmental Commission Awards Nominations
Nomination Deadline: Friday, September 30
Send to: Demetria Kimball Mehlhorn, Division of Environmental Services, 200 East Main Street, 9th Floor, Lexington, Kentucky 40507 or email: LFCEC@lexingtonky.gov.

Friends of The Arboretum Fall Plant Exchange
Saturday, October 1
All plants and garden items are to be delivered by 9 a.m. Exchange begins promptly at 10 a.m. Cost: $2/FREE for Friends of The Arboretum

Scarecrow Parade
October 1 - 31 (See details on p. 1)
Entry Forms due: Wednesday, Sept. 26
Scarecrows delivered & installed: Sept. 29 & 30, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Scarecrows Removed: Tuesday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fall Master Gardener Lecture: Allen Bush on Perennials
Tuesday, October 11, 6:30 p.m.
Fayette Co. Cooperative Extension, 1149 Red Mile Place, Lex. For more information call 859-257-5582
Allen Bush, well-known contributor to gradenrant.com and expert on perennials will educate and entertain. Cost: FREE

Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival
Saturday, October 15, 2 - 6 p.m.
Everyone is invited to enjoy fun and educational activities for the whole family. (See page 1 for details). Admission: $7; $5 for KCG members. (Under age 2 FREE) All proceeds benefit the Legacy Campaign to expand and renovate the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center.

Friends of The Arboretum Annual Meeting:
Wednesday, November 16, 5:30 p.m.
E. S. Good Barn, 1451 University Dr., Lexington
All Friends are invited to attend. The meeting will include election of Officers for the 2017-18 term and five new Board Members plus update on The Arboretum's 25th Anniversary Events and the Legacy Campaign.

Home Football Game Days
The Arboretum parking lot, the outdoor restrooms, and the Kentucky Children's Garden are closed on UK home football game days: Sept. 3, 17, 24; Oct. 8, 22; Nov. 5, 19.

If your address has changed: Please call us at 859-257-6955 or email janet.cabaniss@uky.edu so you can continue to receive communications from The Arboretum.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

All Volunteers: Please download a 2016 Volunteer Agreement from the website: arboretum.ca.uky.edu/forms. Bring your completed form to the Visitor Center before your start your work.

Kentucky Children’s Garden Workdays: 9 - 11 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Monday of the month: (Sept 12 & 26)
Please note this opportunity is not available after Sept. 26.

Vegetable Garden Workday: 9 - 11 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 19. This opportunity is not available after 9/19.

Native Plant Workdays: Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, year round, weather permitting.

Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival, Saturday, October 15: Volunteers are needed for set-up Friday afternoon Oct. 14 and Saturday morning Oct. 15, 8 a.m.- noon, as well staffing during the event:, 2 - 6 p.m., and take down/clean-up afterwards. Contact Dawn Bazner: kybrit@twc.com.

Legacy Campaign Update
By Molly Davis, Arboretum Director

We are pleased to report our fundraising totals to date for the Legacy Campaign to expand and renovate the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center and to establish an endowment for this building. As of August 30, 2016, gifts, pledges and matching dollars for the Arboretum Visitor Center total $832,508. Gifts, pledges and matching dollars for the Dorotha Smith Oatts Endowment total $166,122.

Of the original $1.2 million goal for the Legacy Campaign, we are at 83%. However, our goal was revised to $2.2 million as we embarked upon the Schematic Design for the renovation and development of the Visitor Center earlier in 2016. We are now at 45% of that revised $2.2 million goal.

We thank everyone who has contributed to the Legacy Campaign since it was announced in August, 2013. Our special thanks to Dorotha Smith Oatts whose generosity enabled us to launch the Campaign. We look forward to seeing you at the Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival and other upcoming fundraising events that will benefit the Campaign.
Update from Kentucky Children’s Garden
By Jackie Gallimore, Children’s Education Coordinator

KCG Ticketing Moved to the Visitor Center
As of September 1, all visitors to the Kentucky Children’s Garden will go to the Visitor Center to purchase admission tickets or to check in with seasonal memberships. This means that the Visitor Center will be open when the KCG is open on weekends. Thank you for your patience and for being willing to go to the Visitor Center before heading to the KCG.

Katie Morrison Joins KCG Staff
We are thrilled to announce that Katie Morrison has accepted the position of Lead Educator at the Kentucky Children’s Garden. Katie began as an Education Assistant this past spring and graduated from UK with a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences in May. She will be staying on with us throughout the year to help grow the education department! Katie says she really enjoys working with the children.

Weekly Fall Activities in the KCG

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<td>Create a Craft</td>
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<td>Nature Exploration @ 1 &amp; 3 p.m.</td>
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Train times: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1:30-2:30 p.m., 3:30-4:30 p.m.

First Friday Fun Day: Amazing Autumn
Friday, October 7, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Winter Solstice Celebration
Saturday, Dec. 17: two sessions: 10-11 a.m. & 2 - 3 p.m.
Celebrate the coming of longer days and the winter season with us! We will have stations to make bird feeders, explore why seasons happen, and learn a little snow science. Plus we’ll go on a short winter hike. Make sure to dress for the outdoors.
Cost $1. Preregistration is requested but not required.

Looking Forward to 2017:

Winter Life
Saturday, Jan. 14, 2 sessions 10-11 a.m. & 2-3 p.m.
What do animals do during the winter? Are trees still alive? Learn the answers to these questions and more during our Winter Life session. Make sure to dress for the outdoors.
Cost $1. Pre-registration is requested but not required.

StoryWalk to Continue through October

In partnership with the Lexington Public Library and the Jessamine County Public Library, we have decided to continue the popular StoryWalk program until the end of the Kentucky Children’s Garden season on October 30, 2016. In September we will feature Diary of a Fly by Doreen Cronin. October’s book is Fall Leaves by Loretta Holland. Follow the stories page-by-page as you walk from the Visitor Center through the Demonstration Garden and back.

From November through February, the StoryWalk will be turned into an Arboretum Timeline to be created with the help of staff, volunteers, and Board members who will share their memories. The goal is to showcase the history of The Arboretum.

This summer our Horticulturist, Jesse Dahl, planted a small sorghum crop near the pioneer cabin in the Kentucky Children’s Garden. Harvest time is coming up!
**2016 Birdhouse Display Winners**

**Best in Show:** Blue House by Ezra Haggard

**2016 Fan Favorites (Voted by Arboretum Visitors)**

**Adult:** His and Hers Birdhouse by Thomas Mullaney

**Junior:** Cardinal Castle by Katherine Zimmerman

**Awards - Adult Level:**

- Most Creative and Artistic: C’est la Vie by Barton Goley
- Best Use of Natural Materials: Mayfair Village by Mayfair Manor Residents
- Best Use of Recycled Materials: Knocking Around by Ed Klee
- Most Functional for Birds: The Greatest by Charlotte Haney
- Honorable Mention: Bed and Breakfast by Jane Kirn and Duck Duck Box by Central Kentucky Audubon Society

**Awards - Junior Level**

- Most Artistic: Cardinal Castle by Katherine Zimmerman
- Most Creative: Magna Tweet by Zoe Breitgan
- Best Use of Recycled Materials: Penny Palace by Kalton Zimmerman
- Most Functional for Birds: Rainbow Birdhouse by Robert Manna

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**Native-Plant Intern Projects**

By Todd Rounsaville, Curator of Native Plants

The Native Plant Summer Internship at The Arboretum has been a successful program to advance the development of the Walk Across Kentucky while engaging college students with an ecologically focused professional experience. This summer our four interns were responsible for individual projects that culminated in presentations at the end of their tenure.

**Amanda Carrol** (UK Chemistry) focused on the chemistry and secondary compounds of the Rosids clade of Angiosperms. This is a particularly large and commercially important group of plants that is well represented along the Walk Across Kentucky.

**Mercedes Murphy** (UK Forestry) took a particular interest in the native plants of Kentucky bearing edible fruit. Mercedes’ project examined all the native species that produce edible fruit and foliage, including when they can be harvested and culinary/medicinal uses.

**Kseniya Verenich** (UK Natural Resources and Environmental Science) took on the curation of the WAKY Solidago collection. Solidago (the goldenrods) is an important group of plants in Kentucky, and Kseniya’s work entailed the proper identification, vouchering, and gap analysis of the species we have in cultivation.

**Amanda Wilburn** (Transylvania University Biology and French) has a strong interest and background in invasive species. Amanda’s project highlighted three of our worst plant-invaders (honeysuckle, wintercreeper, johnsongrass) by compiling a meta-analysis of invasion biology and control methods for each species.

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**Adopt-a-Plot Doc: David Winkle, Volunteer of the Quarter**

By Maggie Wells

It’s easy to see Dr. David Winkle’s dedication to The Arboretum. Or, it would be easy if the I.D. sign hadn’t fallen off of his Adopt-a-Plot! Despite the lack of marker, David’s assigned plot is easy to find. If you follow the gravel path beyond the Visitor’s Center to the large oak (the one where everyone gets a picture taken!) you will find his plot on the right, just before the tree.

A retired Family Practice physician, David Winkle began volunteering at The Arboretum in the spring of 2015. His duties include weeding, edging, deadheading, and taking general care of the plants in his plot which include lilies, asters, false indigo, peonies, and sedum. He likes the work because it appeals to his desire for order “in a positive way.”

David’s favorite part about The Arboretum isn’t just volunteering. He also loves wandering about discovering new wonders on his “get lost trips.” For him, the Arboretum is a “continual learning experience,” and no matter the season, there is always something new to see.

Gardening, including caring for his plot at The Arboretum, has been a lifelong joy for this Kentucky native. When he was a kid he built gardens for his mother, and he has always loved seeing things grow. “Gardening is my passion,” he says. “Gardening is a multi-layered experience, full of meaning.”

If you are interested in being assigned an Adopt-a-Plot at The Arboretum, please contact Jesse Dahl: jessedahl3@uky.edu.
From The Friends President, Nancy McNally:

We have had a very exciting year celebrating the 25th Anniversary of The Arboretum. Friends members have played an important role and contributed so much to the success and growth. Thank you for your continued support.

I hope you plan on attending our Friends Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 5:30 at the E. S. Good Barn. We will elect new officers and Board members, thank those who are outgoing, and hear an update on the Legacy Campaign. There is still time to nominate a new Board member. Send names to John Hartman: jhartman@uky.edu.

Remember to use your Friends Membership for a discount when purchasing fall plants from participating area garden centers and present your card when visiting botanical gardens across the country. These are two benefits of a membership.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the 2016 Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival on Saturday, October 15th. It is going to be a great event!
Your tax-deductible gift is greatly appreciated!

Please accept my donation to the Legacy Campaign
to expand the Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center:

My name: ____________________________
My address: ____________________________ City: __________ State: _____ Zip: __________
My gift is   ☐ in Memory of, or   ☐ in Honor of (name): ____________________________

Please send gift acknowledgment (without amount) to (name): ____________________________
Address: ____________________________ City: __________ State: _____ Zip: __________

☐ I do not request that anyone else be notified about this gift.

PAYMENT INFORMATION (your gift is tax deductible):

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to The Arboretum.

Charge:   ☐ Visa   ☐ MasterCard   ☐ Discover   ☐ American Express   Amount: $ __________
Card No. __________ Expiration: __________ Your phone: __________
Card Holder Name: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________