

November - December 2021 Newsletter

Which season at The Arboretum is your favorite? For me, there's none that I find more pleasing and beautiful than fall. Well, unless that season is spring with its ephemerals in the Shawnee Hills and swathes of bulbs across the landscape. Or summer with its profusion of blooms and insects in the Horticultural Gardens, especially the developing Perennial Teaching Garden. Or the stark contrast between deciduous trees, evergreens and sparkling blue skies in winter. I have a hard time choosing, but now would be a great time for *you* to visit to see if fall is *your* favorite season at The Arboretum.

With humid summer days long gone, the crisp fall temperatures make taking a walk here a pleasure. A recent stroll around the grounds provided picture-perfect scenes of maples in sunny yellows and rosy reds; long views across the Shawnee Hills to far areas provided yet more vignettes of fall color; and to cap it off, a magical glimpse of sun breaking through on a cloudy day. Below are a few photos of what's in store when you visit.

I hope you will visit soon to see, experience and enjoy this once-a-year treat, and throughout the year to find ***your*** favorite season.



The Arboretum Woods



The Pennyrile region of the Walk Across Kentucky



The Mississippi Embayment wetland bridge

Important items to remember for your visit:

- ***Face coverings (a mask or other method) continue to be required inside all UK buildings, regardless of your vaccination status.*** This applies to the Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center and its restrooms, as well as the outdoor restroom facilities.
- The Visitor Center is operating under ***winter hours: 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.***

- The Visitor Center and offices will be ***closed for the Thanksgiving holiday*** (Thursday, November 25 and Friday November 26).
- The Visitor Center and offices will be ***closed for the December holiday*** (Friday, December 24 through the New Year, reopening Monday January 3, 2022).
- Saturday November 20 is the date of the final UK Football home game. There ***is no vehicular access on home game days*** except for UK Football season pass holders.

Educational Programming



Get into the holiday spirit by making a traditional holiday kissing ball! For \$30 plus 6% tax (\$31.80 total) we will provide a kissing ball kit for you to pick up and assemble at home. You will receive a link to an instructional video, where Senior Horticulturist Jesse Dahl will teach you how to make a kissing ball using greenery from The Arboretum. The video will also include a virtual tour of our evergreens and interesting facts about pines, firs and spruce.

Pre-registration is required as the number of kits is limited. For more information or to pre-register, contact arboretum@uky.edu or call (859) 257-6955.

Please include in your email or have ready the following information:

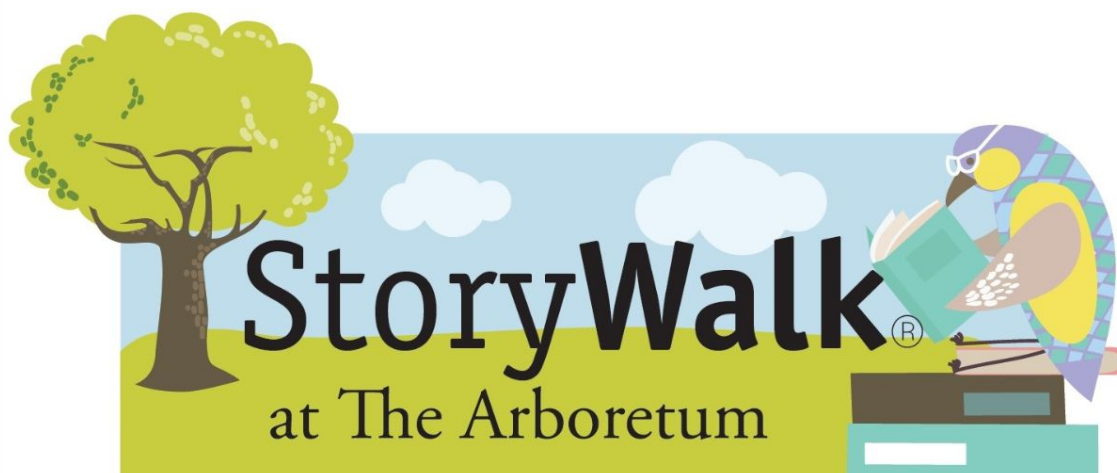
- The number of kits you would like to buy
- Your email address (if it is different from the email address you use to email us)
- Your phone number (very important in case of unforeseen weather or other unanticipated events)

Registered participants will be able to pick up their kit (or kits) at The Arboretum on either:

Thursday Dec. 9 - from 9 am to 6 pm
OR
Friday Dec. 10 - from 9 am to 12 pm (noon)

We will collect your payment in the Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center when you arrive to pick up your kit. Cash, Visa, and Mastercard are the accepted forms of payment.

Please remember that a face covering is required to enter the Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center, regardless of vaccination status.



Children love reading a story related to plants or weather as they follow the StoryWalk through the Horticultural Gardens and Displays. These stories, chosen by our Education Coordinator and our partner, the Lexington Public Library, not only encourage reading but help children connect and learn about the nature around them.

The StoryWalk panels will display *Over and Under the Snow* by Kate Messner and illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal over the winter months.

Thank you, Volunteers!

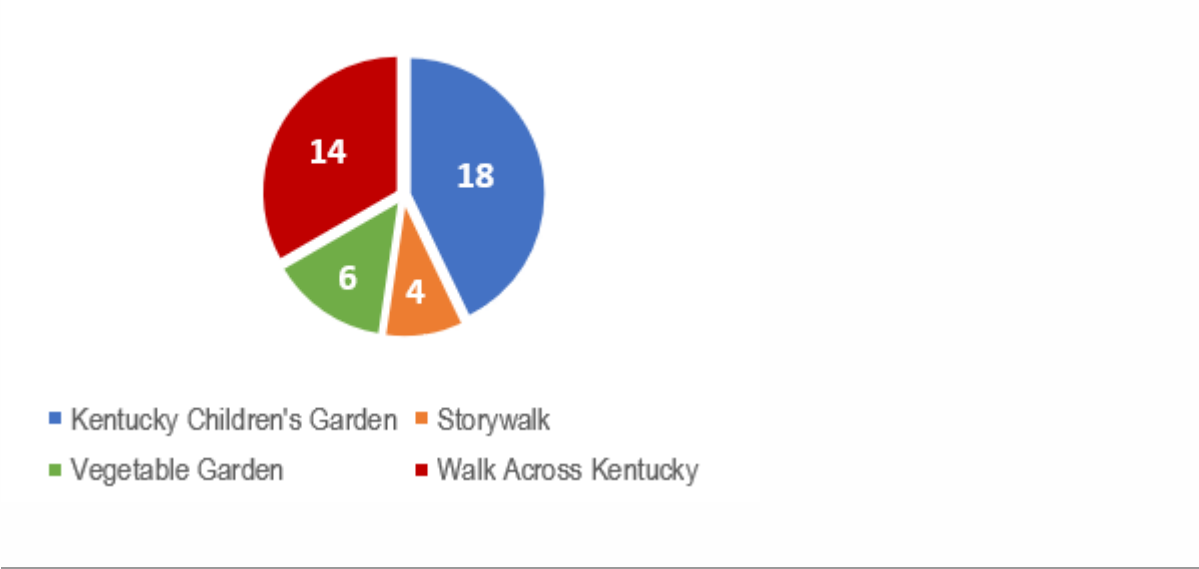
The Arboretum staff would like to thank ***each*** and ***every*** volunteer for their participation and help in the first quarter (July 1 to September 30, 2021) of fiscal year 2022. We frequently receive compliments from first-time visitors about the beauty and educational value of The Arboretum and the Kentucky Children's Garden, and this would not be possible without your willingness to serve. ***Thank you!***

We tabulated the first quarter's volunteer hours and numbers based on the volunteer logs maintained by the staff member in charge of each area. If you did not log in your volunteer hours with a staff member, please contact Heather Ortt so that we

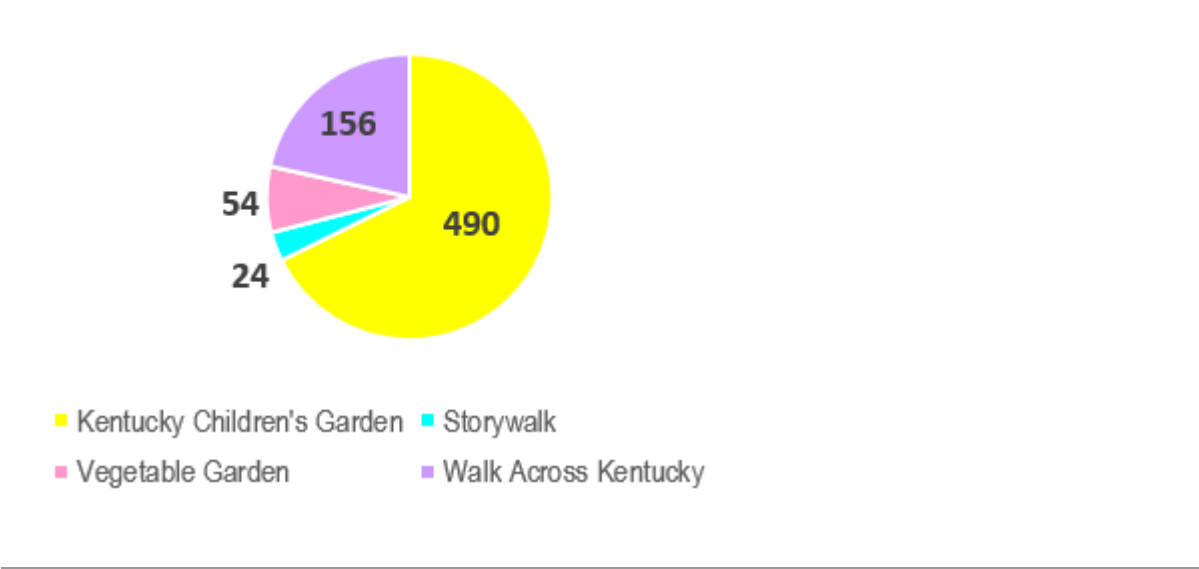
can amend our records ***and*** so we can follow up with staff about ensuring they offer these logs to you.

The first pie chart below depicts the number of volunteers who participated in each area. Our records indicate there were ***42 volunteers who actively participated in the first quarter.*** (It's worth noting that some volunteers participate in more than one area.) The second pie chart shows that our records indicate those dedicated volunteers provided ***724 hours of assistance*** in the first quarter. Another way to look at these impressive numbers is each volunteer contributed, ***on average, 17 hours*** for a grand total of ***97 days of assistance in all areas!***

Number of Volunteers



Volunteer Hours



Our small but dedicated staff appreciates each hour you invested with us. You helped the Kentucky Children's Garden maintain excellence in programming for

children and families. You helped maintain the Walk Across Kentucky Native Plant Collection as a conservation and research resource for students, and for visitors to enjoy and learn from. You helped plant, maintain and harvest vegetables and fruits to help feed needy individuals in our community. You helped install new stories along the StoryWalk to improve reading skills and promote connections with the natural world. In short, you helped us achieve our mission and with everything we aim to achieve. You are invaluable!

Support The Arboretum!

With the outstanding support of the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE) Office of Philanthropy and Alumni, we will soon launch our **Annual Giving Campaign for fiscal year 2022** (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). Past Arboretum donors can expect to see a mailed letter around December 1st. If you've already made a donation this fiscal year, **thank you!** It is not our intention to seek donations from anyone who has already made a gift this fiscal year, but mistakes can happen and we apologize in advance if this occurs. We will be mailing approximately 6,500 letters to past donors and residents who live in the vicinity of The Arboretum seeking their support.

Last year, your support made possible everything we aim to do, provide and achieve. Thanks to your continued philanthropy, Dawn Bailey, our Education Coordinator, created and delivered new programming in the Kentucky Children's Garden and provided on the job learning experiences for our UK Student interns. Your gifts helped Jesse Dahl, Senior Horticulturist, maintain the Horticultural Gardens and continue developing new spaces and features such as the Perennial Teaching Garden. Emily Ellingson, Native Plants Collection Manager, used your gifts to develop collection trips with top-notch institutions such as Polly Hill Arboretum and the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University, and local collecting trips with regional partners such as Floracliff Nature Sanctuary and Shaker Village.

By supporting us during our Annual Giving Campaign, you provide an immediate impact and allow us to plan ahead.

Your annual gift can support any of our existing gift funds or endowments. A partial sampling of options includes:

- The Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center Expansion and Renovation gift fund and its associated endowment
- The Walk Across Kentucky Native Plants Collection gift fund
- The Horticultural Gardens and Displays gift fund
- The Kentucky Children's Garden gift fund
- The Flight 5191 Memorial Rose Garden gift fund

- The UK-LFUCG Arboretum endowment

Please contact the Visitor Center (859-257-6955) or send an email to Arboretum@uky.edu if you have questions. We would love to help you select the area or need that best suits your interests and goals. Everything we do depends on **you!**

Save the date!

This spring, The Arboretum will once again be featured during ***One Day for UK!*** On this day we will bring together our supporters to share why they love The Arboretum and to pledge their support. Be sure to mark April 21st in your calendar and stay tuned for more information on how to celebrate The Arboretum all day long!



Arboretum Staff News

We're pleased to welcome Heather Ortt, Staff Support Associate II, to The Arboretum and to introduce her to you. Heather is originally from Western Kentucky and moved to Lexington after marrying her husband, Cody, in 2010. She graduated from the Paul Mitchell School in Lexington in 2013, earning her Diploma in Cosmetology. While she loves interacting with others, she is also ardent about exploring the outdoors and connecting with nature and wildlife. "Working at the Arboretum delivers the best of both worlds. I love that I can come to work and interact with our guests who are also nature enthusiasts."

Heather is our first point of contact for visitors, students, faculty and staff who come in the Visitor Center or call for information and we are delighted that she is here performing these important tasks. When you visit, please stop in at the Visitor Center and introduce yourself to Heather.



Heather Ort

Emily Ellingson, our Native Plants Collection Manager and Curator, left Kentucky in late October for a new position at Polly Hill Arboretum on Martha's Vineyard. We are in the process of interviewing candidates for Emily's replacement and hope to make an announcement very soon. We eagerly await welcoming a new person to our staff.

Research at The Arboretum



Top: (left) Richie Katko and the steam weeder; (right) Richie steam weeding wintercreeper in The Arboretum Woods. Bottom: Ellen Crocker performs a temperature check while Richie applies steam and Sumi McCarty assists in one of the test plots.

Weed management is hard! From professionals managing landscapes and natural areas to homeowners dealing with garden beds, controlling unwanted plants is a constant battle. Herbicides are a common method for managing weeds but they are just one tool available. This past year, The Arboretum has been the host site for a trial of a new tool for managing weeds and invasive plants, a steam weeder. The steam weeder kills plants through the targeted application of steam without any added chemicals. Their efficacy in different settings (e.g. with woodland invasive plants such as *Euonymus fortunei*, [wintercreeper], landscape weed management, etc.) is untested.

To better understand the potential of the steam weeder, a team of researchers

at UK, including Ellen Crocker, Carmen Agouridis and Lee Moser, received a grant to partner with The Arboretum and UK Physical Plant Division to purchase and test a steam weeder. Next time you visit, you can check out some of these plots, for example along the shared use path in the woods (testing on the invasive plant wintercreeper) and next to the Perennial Teaching Garden in the Horticultural Gardens (testing potential non-target damage to nearby plants).

Want to subscribe? Here's how!

We hope you like our updated newsletter format. If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving it, please ask them to send an email to arboretum@uky.edu letting us know of their wish to be added to our listserv.

The Arboretum [website](#) continues to be our primary communication tool and repository of a wealth of information. With this new newsletter format, we will be able to post each newsletter on the website. Progress is a wonderful thing!



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