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 2 Quarterly Newsletter Spring, 2016

**Party for the Planet & Arbor Day**

*“Celebrating the Past; PLANtig the Future”*

**March 29 - April 30, 2016**

During the month-long Party for the Planet, The Arboretum will be *“Celebrating the Past; PLANtig the Future.”* The Party begins Tuesday, March 29, from 2-5 p.m., with a free event showcasing Kentucky’s Past, located in the Cumberland Mountains and Appalachian Trails regions of the Walk Across Kentucky (WAKY).

On Earth Day, Friday, April 22, we will focus on Planting for the Future with a tree planting and educational event held at William Wells Brown Elementary School. Educational sessions with the students will focus on the importance of trees, soil, and water.

**Who Are “The Founders?”**

This year, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Arboretum, we also honor those we call the Founders. Annually we hold the Founders Lecture series. We recently held a Founders Valentine Tea, and we look forward to a Founders Day event in May. So, who and what are Founders?

A document on file at The Visitor Center proclaims, “Those individuals, clubs, organizations, or businesses who made a generous donation to the Friends of The Arboretum from 1992 to December 31, 1994 are to be named Founders.” The donation amounts were: Corporate - $5000, Organization/Club - $1000, Individual & Family - $800. Many of the Founders have served as leaders of The Arboretum, Friends Board and Advisory Board members, Bur Oak Society Honorees, and energetic volunteers.

Over 25 years we have lost some Founders, but they are a sturdy crew, with close to 60 individual and organization members now, and many of them attended the lovely Founders Valentine Tea.

Founder Virginia Long, who became the first President of the Friends in 1992, recalls approaching Dr. Dewayne Ingram, then chair of the Department of Horticulture at UK, in search of a way to raise funds to support the recently opened Arboretum. The result was the establishment of a generous group of Friends, like Ruth and Bob Straus, with their spirit of giving and volunteering to support The Arboretum.

Party for the Planet culminates with the 25th annual Arbor Day, Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m - 2 p.m. with events for the whole family. The day begins with the traditional reading of the Arbor Day Proclamation. Exhibitors’ tents will be located near the Visitor Center. Opportunities for a tree give-away, plant sales, and educational displays will be located in the Pennyrile area of the WAKY. The Farmer’s Almanac says, “April and May will be cooler and drier than normal,” so the day should be a success! Many thanks to our presenting sponsor Kentucky Utilities whose generous support allows Arbor Day events to be free and open to the public.

Volunteers are needed for all events, especially for Arbor Day. Training for Arbor Day volunteers will be on April 9 from 2 - 4 p.m. (See pages 4 & 5). Find additional information about Party for the Planet at The Arboretum website, arboretum.ca.uky.edu and The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky.

Founders Virginia and Graydon Long

Founders Virginia and Graydon Long

Founders Ruth and Dr. Robert Straus
A competitive process was conducted last fall to select a team to design the renovation and expansion of the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center and adjacent outdoor spaces. De Leon & Primmer Architecture Workshop from Louisville was unanimously selected by the interview team from a field of ten qualified regional firms.

Roberto De Leon and Ross Primmer, principal partners in the firm, subsequently met with Arboretum staff, Arboretum Advisory Board and Friends Board members, and UK’s Campus Architect to discuss what is needed in the expanded Visitor Center.

In early February Mr. De Leon and Mr. Primmer led a charrette for Arboretum stakeholders (staff; Advisory Board and Friends Board members; neighbors; and landscape architecture and horticulture faculty and students) that invited them to gather in small groups, review and comment on four different schemes to expand the building, and offer their ideas as to changes and additions. At the end of the session, the groups shared their work.

The interactive process revealed many common concerns regarding the current building, as well as a shared desire for greater connection between the visitor center and the surrounding landscape.

Mr. De Leon and Mr. Primmer’s next step is to develop a refined plan for review and comment. The ultimate goal of this phase of their work is to create compelling images of what is envisioned for the building in order to raise further funds for this worthwhile and necessary project. Stay tuned for exciting updates.

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Curator’s Choice:

Mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum)

By Todd Rounsaville, Curator of Native Plants

The first species to emerge as winter subsides are referred to as “spring ephemerals.” These plants remain dormant for the majority of the growing season, emerging as harbingers of spring to maximize sunlight before the tree canopy has developed. They include some of the most stunning and well-known native wildflowers including trillium, Virginia bluebells, trout lily, and bloodroot. Among their ranks is mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum), perhaps the most ubiquitous of all the ephemerals.

Mayapple grows in colonies which spread belowground via rhizomes (underground stems that grow horizontally). Borne along the rhizome are single stems which yield either one leaf or bifurcate into two leaves. The leaves are radially symmetric and after being pushed above the soil they open much like an umbrella. Stems that bear two leaves produce a waxy white flower (1-2” across) from the point where leaf bases are joined. The flowers are thus hidden from above by the large leaves. The mayapple fruits, which resemble small lemons, also tend to go unnoticed by humans. Mayapple fruit is considered by many people to be delicious, but be warned that all parts of the plant (including unripe fruit) are poisonous!

If you wish to cultivate mayapple, consider its natural ecology. It is a colonizing plant that will spread over time. This is not to serve as a warning against a potential garden bully (it is not one) but rather a suggestion of how stunning mayapple looks when grown en masse. Mayapple will reach 12-18” in height, and are impressive as mixed plantings with other tall ephemerals such as Virginia bluebells or wild hyacinth. The ability of mayapple to tolerate a variety of sun and soil moisture conditions is remarkable. Nevertheless, dappled shade in rich, moist soil is ideal. On the Walk Across Kentucky, mayapple colonies may be seen in the Appalachian Plateau, Arboretum Woods, Bluegrass, and Shawnee Hills Regions.

Friends 2016 Bur Oak Honorees

Dr. David Stevens served on the Friends Board and shared his expertise as co-chair of the Fundraising Campaign for the Kentucky Children’s Garden and chair of the Development Committee.

Jamie Dockery, Fayette Co. Extension Agent for Horticulture, teaches classes, and supervises the Master Gardeners. He was a member of the Kentucky Children’s Garden Planning and Arbor Day Committees.

Marcia Farris is a Founder of Friends. She was chair of the Education Committee for many years and served as Friends President for two terms. She served as Director of The Arboretum for 15 years.

Dr. Tom and Sherrill Pirone. Tom helped plant the Rose Garden and coordinates the Adopt-a-Plot Rose Garden program. He served on the Friends Board. Sherrill was co-chair of the Volunteer Committee for many years and volunteers as a receptionist.

All American Selections Herbaceous Perennial Trials

By Jesse Dahl

The Arboretum’s gardens have been used for plant trials for many years. Trials have included plants from large breeders and from organizations such as All American Selections (AAS) and American Garden Rose Selections. Trials allow staff and visitors an opportunity to see how plants perform compared to other plant cultivars, and to observe how they perform in Kentucky’s environment in tolerating our insect and disease threats. Plants that perform spectacularly are deemed “winners” while others are “losers.” Entries have to be new and never-before-sold, but after the trial they may be introduced commercially.

This year, The Arboretum will be one of 24 gardens involved in the new AAS Herbaceous Perennial Trial. Herbaceous perennials are garden plants with non-woody stems that die back to the soil line when winter temperatures arrive. The plants enter a dormant period and strengthen the root system while waiting for the coming of spring. This year we will be testing new Blackeyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, Chrysanthemum, Salvia, and Dianthus cultivars. These plants will be in the long bed by the chain link fence in the Home Demonstration Garden.
ADULT & FAMILY PROGRAMS
Founders Lecture with Dr. Winston Dunwell
Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m. at Gluck Equine Center
(Details on page 2)

Guided Walks through the Gardens
1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, 11 a.m. - noon
What better way to learn about and enjoy the gardens than with
the person responsible for their care? Jesse Dahl, Arboretum Horti-
culturist, will lead walks highlighting plants of particular inter-
est at the time of each tour. Cost $3. Limit of 25 people per tour.
Groups of 5 or more must pre-register.
   April 6 & 20: Spring bulbs and flowering trees
   May 4 & 18: Roses and irises
   June 1 & 15: Flowering shrubs and long lived perennials

Volunteering 101
Saturday, April 9, 2 - 4 p.m.
For new and returning volunteers. The Arboretum has many
ways to get involved, from weekly opportunities such as the
Edible Garden or Native Plants workdays; to annual events
such as Arbor Day, Birdhouse Display, Party for the Pumpkins;
etc. Volunteers must complete a 2016 Volunteer Agreement
and attend orientation prior to starting work.

Friends Plant Exchange
Saturday, May 7
Plants and garden items are to be delivered at 9 a.m. The ex-
change begins promptly at 10 a.m. Cost: $2/Friends FREE

Founders Day
Sunday, May 22, 2 - 4 p.m.
We will continue our 25th anniversary celebration by dedicating
the day’s events to Charter and Founding members. Enjoy the
gardens; bring memories to share as we create a time capsule.

PARTICIPATE & HELP
Volunteers Needed!
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CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS
Little Sprouts (Ages: 3-5 years) Meet at the Visitor Center
Wednesdays in March
Session One: 10 - 10:45 a.m. (maximum 30 children)
Session Two: 11 - 11:45 a.m. (maximum 30 children)
Cost: $3 per child per session (Cash only)

March 16, Flower Power: Spring bulbs and spring ephem-
erals are starting to peek out of the ground. Make a flower out of
re-used materials and take a hike to see what’s in bloom.*

March 23, Trees for Me: Join us to explore the Trees of The
Arboretum! Learn the differences between evergreen and de-
ciduous trees, go on a tree hike, create a tree craft, and help us
plant a tree in the Kentucky Children’s Garden."

March 30, Get Ready to Garden: It is officially spring! Help
plant veggies in the Kentucky Children’s Garden, get muddy,
and make a mud pie to take home.*
*Please dress appropriately for weather. Hikes are weather dependent.

Addie’s Day
Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Enjoy this special fun day for the whole family with pony rides,
games, refreshments, and more in memory of Adelaide Kenne-
dy McReynolds. Free admission to the Kentucky Children’s
Garden during the event.

Kentucky Children’s Garden
Opens March 17
(weather permitting)

Spring Hours: March 17 - May 29
Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday: 1 - 5 p.m.
Closed Monday & Tuesday

Admission $3 per person, $10 for a family of up to five people
Children under age 2 FREE; Season Membership $75; Friends $70

Summer hours: June 1 - August 28
Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.
January 22, 2016, was the last day at The Arboretum for Emma Trester-Wilson, Children’s Education Coordinator for the past five years. Emma moved to a new position in San Antonio, Texas, where she is Family and Adult Program Specialist at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens. During her years at The Arboretum, Emma continued to grow children’s programming with a variety of hands-on activities, directed outreach to schools, and welcomed many school field trips. She trained and supervised volunteers and oversaw maintenance and development of the KCG.

Asked what she would miss the most, Emma said, “the people of course - the families, the kids, and the volunteers.” Her advice to her successor, “Never underestimate the abilities of young kids. They will amaze you with what they learn and remember.”

Of the value of the KCG, she said, “Once people come inside and see what we offer for a nominal fee, they continue to visit.”

On February 29, Jackie Gallimore joined The Arboretum staff and "leaped" into the position of Children’s Program Coordinator. Jackie says, “It’s my dream job. I’m very pleased to get started.”

Jackie is well prepared for her work. Most recently employed as an Education Consultant at Bluegrass Green Source (formerly Bluegrass PRIDE) she holds an MS degree in Natural Resources with emphasis in Environmental Education. Previously she created and directed outdoor children’s programs in STEM (Science, Technology, Environment, and Mathematics) and served as a museum science educator. In her spare time she enjoys hiking, rock climbing, crafting, and relaxing with her two cats.

Of her work in the Kentucky Children’s Garden, she said, “I’m looking forward to connecting kids with the outdoors. It’s so important to provide that kind of space, especially in an urban environment.”

Welcome Jackie Gallimore

2015 Report of Living Collections along the WAKY

The collection of native plants at The Arboretum is always growing, as befits the State Botanical Garden of Kentucky. A recent report by Curator of Native Plants Todd Rounsaville and his staff provides an up-to-date inventory of the native plant collection assembled for the Walk Across Kentucky as of December, 2015: their origins, status, and location. While the numbers are always changing as plants are added and some are lost, the 2015 total is 2,525 individual items* in the collection.

How does The Arboretum obtain new acquisitions? Todd says some are the result of “finds” on wild-collecting trips with the staff; others are gifts from private collectors; and still others have been discovered right here on Arboretum property. The staff also maintains a wishlist of woody plants needed to complete the collection. Item losses can be due to natural death, removal, or propagation failure.

Todd acknowledges the valuable work of the Walk Across Kentucky staff: Laura Baird, Robert Castlen, Grace Coy, Cole Crankshaw, Jon Parker, Michael Patton, and the Thursday Morning Native Plant Work Group.
Liz Hobson, Volunteer of the Quarter
By Marilyn Mroz

Liz Hobson started volunteering at The Arboretum 15 years ago after she retired as Education Director at KET. Liz is an original member of the Thursday Native Plant Group which includes volunteers Erwin, Kurt, Mary, Peggy, Beata, Grant, Hugh, Charlie, Mary, Bunny, John, Jane, Suzanne, Saundra and Tom; and staff, Todd (Curator of Native Plants, Todd Rounsaville), Robert, Laura, and Michael, devoted to battling invasive plants in The Arboretum. Also a group member until his death, Liz’s partner, Tom Campbell, (d. Oct. 2014) was “…quiet and unassuming, but did much of the heavy lifting, pulling up honeysuckle and winter creeper, often enlisting the help of a pruning saw and weed wrench.”

An ardent hiker (along with her three dogs), Liz says her interest in volunteering was sparked by her love of the native plants she encountered on hikes and by studying how invasive plants choke out native plants. She learned that the entire Kentucky ecosystem is affected when invasive plants overtake natives. Animals, birds, and insects suffer, too. While there is much emphasis on what, where, and when to plant, she says we must also learn what not to plant. To Liz, both education and eradication are essential in combating invasives.

She invites anyone who is interested to join the Native Plant Group which meets every Thursday year-long from 10 a.m. to noon. You can help keep The Arboretum not just a beautiful place but also an important place to continue a process of “developing inner peace and being present in the moment.”

The Kentucky Children’s Garden Gets a New “Wet Meadow” Demonstration Area
By Dr. Chris Sass,
UK Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture

We have exciting news to share! A new learning area will be implemented this spring with the addition of a “wet meadow” near the entrance to the Kentucky Children’s Garden. This addition is possible thanks to a University of Kentucky Sustainability Challenge Grant from the President’s Sustainability Advisory Committee, the Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment, and the UK Office of Sustainability.

What is a wet meadow, you ask? It is an area of land that allows rainfall infiltration into the soil through the use of plant material. Contrary to its name, a wet meadow is usually dry, but it becomes wet and holds subsurface moisture better than prairie areas.

We will use mostly native plants to attract butterflies and other pollinators to help children learn about the importance of habitat and storm water control. The area will also include benches, trails, and educational signage. We are excited about the area and how children will experience this new outdoor learning laboratory.

Arboretum Annual Giving Campaign
By Molly Davis

The first Arboretum Annual Giving Campaign has been a great success! Thank you to everyone who supported The Arboretum by making a gift by mail during the phonathon or by donating online.

The Arboretum relies on the generous support of members, donors, and the public. A gift to The Arboretum, in addition to your Friends membership, enables Arboretum staff to care for this special place and to fulfill The Arboretum’s mission as a center for environmental and horticultural education, research, and conservation.

UK students will resume calling for The Arboretum Annual Giving Campaign in the spring. If you have been thinking about making a tax-deductible donation, I hope you will take the call and support The Arboretum. If you have already made a gift to the Annual Giving Campaign you will not receive a call this spring.

Remember, you may give online at any time. Go to www.uky.edu/GiveNow. For College/Program select Arboretum. For Fund Designation select Fund from the pull-down menu or select Other and type in the fund name of your choice.
Enjoy Friends Membership Benefits
By Nancy McNally, Friends President

It’s spring and time to get back to work in the garden. As you make your gardening plans, be sure your membership in the Friends of The Arboretum is up to date. One of the best benefits of a Friends membership is a 10% discount on purchases at area garden centers. Participating businesses are listed on our website (arboretum.ca.uky.edu).

Another great benefit of your membership is the Reciprocal Admissions Program (RAP). Because The Arboretum is a member of the American Horticultural Society, your Friends membership card entitles you to free or discounted entry at nearly 300 gardens throughout North America and the Cayman Islands.

To our donors and members:
As you can see, we have not listed gifts to The Arboretum in this issue of The Arboretum newsletter. We are transitioning to a new method of acknowledging your generous gifts to The Arboretum. Starting this spring, donations to all funds made from November 2015, and going forward, will be acknowledged on our website Donor Honor Roll at (arboretum.ca.uky.edu).

Please know that we are grateful for all gifts, whether to the Annual Giving Campaign, the Legacy Campaign, the Kentucky Children’s Garden, Walk Across Kentucky, Rose Garden, etc., which your support helps make possible. We hope you will agree that acknowledging your gifts with a larger audience will better communicate how much we appreciate the gifts you make and how critical they are to making possible what everyone enjoys at The Arboretum.

Molly Davis, Director
Your Membership Is a Tax Deductible Gift to The Arboretum!

ENCLOSED ARE MY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (membership runs for 12 months from payment date).

My name ____________________________

My address ____________________________ City __________ State __________ Zip __________

My email address ____________________________ Phone ____________________________

I prefer to receive The Arboretum quarterly newsletter On line By mail

This is a gift membership for (Name) ____________________________

Address ____________________________ City __________ State __________ Zip __________

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☒ Student - $10
☒ Individual - $35
☒ Family/household or non-profit org. - $50
☒ Supporting member - $100
☒ Sponsoring member - $250

PAYMENT INFORMATION

☒ Cash ☐ Check

Enclosed amount $ __________

☒ Charge Amount $ __________

☐ Visa ☐ Discover

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Card No. __________
Card Holder Name ____________________________
Expiration __________
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We are considering ways to reduce costs and our carbon footprint, yet continue to provide timely information about the Arboretum. If you have an email address, please be sure to provide it so we can stay in touch with you!