**2017 PARTY FOR THE PLANET AND ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION**

**Celebrating the Past, PLANtting the Future**

Thanks to presenting sponsor Kentucky Utilities, the Party for the Planet month-long celebration officially starts April 1 and ends on Arbor Day, April 29. Our theme this year is “Celebrating the Past, PLANtting the Future.” If this sounds familiar, you have a good memory! The planning committee felt last year’s theme was still relevant. In fact, we liked the idea of a Party for the Planet so much that we’ve extended the celebration further to include the Spring Is for the Birds! Birdhouse Display, which starts April 21 and ends May 7.

Party for the Planet activities also include the new “Celebrating the Seasons” series in the Kentucky Children’s Garden on April 7. See Page 6 for details.

Party for the Planet festivities culminate on Saturday, April 29 at Lexington’s 26th celebration of Arbor Day at The Arboretum, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A brief opening ceremony will be held in the Tree Giveaway tent. The program includes the Arbor Day proclamation, sponsor recognition, presentations by Tree City USA and Tree Campus USA and a closing musical performance by first and second graders from Cassidy Elementary School.

After the opening program, tour our tents filled with exhibits from a variety of organizations. Be sure to take home a free seedling from the Tree Giveaway Tent. Meander through the adjacent gardens and view the handmade entries in the Birdhouse Display. Then stop by the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center to vote for your favorite birdhouse and do your best to win it by bidding in the Birdhouse Silent Auction. Finally, see the wonders of nature from a child’s perspective by visiting the Kentucky Children’s Garden, where admission is free until 2 p.m.

Thanks to our generous sponsors for helping to provide the day’s activities: Presenting Sponsor: Kentucky Utilities; Hickory Sponsor: Kentucky American Water; other sponsors: Big Beaver Tree Service, LFUCG Tree Board, Lexmark International, Keep Lexington Beautiful Commission, Lexington Environmental Commission, Community Tree Care and Dave Leonard Tree Specialists.

(continued on page 2)
Forming an Education Committee

Later this year, The Arboretum will form an Education Committee. This committee will work to assess the current state of education at The Arboretum and to explore how to expand what we offer. Ultimately, the goal is to envision an inclusive education plan for The Arboretum, its visitors and stakeholders.

Currently, staff are evaluating how best to align programs in the Kentucky Children’s Garden and beyond with state educational standards. Staff have also had initial discussions about interpretive planning and what it entails, as interpretive signage around the grounds is an important method of communicating educational information.

As part of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, The Arboretum has education as an important part of its mission. Lifelong learning, although traditionally thought of as a term applying to senior adult education, is included implicitly or explicitly in The Arboretum’s offerings to all ages. We desire to increase the education offerings as part of our formal programming but want to proceed in a thoughtful, inclusive way.

Daily, we see the very young through the very elderly visiting our grounds. People who come here are typically looking for an opportunity to see and experience new things, or to visit beloved locations. It is to everyone’s advantage and benefit to make the learning experience a positive and engaging one. The Friends have a designated education committee, and we see an opportunity to use their expertise and that of others from academic and professional areas to provide further dimension. Stay tuned for more information about this important part of the work of The Arboretum.

Director’s Message (continued)

The race is in honor of John Sensenig’s birthday, and commemorates his 40-year support of conservation initiatives and sustainability in the Lexington running community and beyond. To be selected as the beneficiary of this inaugural event is an honor, and we are very appreciative.

As the event’s beneficiary, we’ve been asked to provide 40 to 50 willing volunteers for the event. Tasks will involve distributing water, monitoring traffic and cleaning up. We can all help, whether or not we have any familiarity with running, by going to the sign-up page to register to volunteer:

https://runsignup.com/Race/KY/Lexington/JohnsRunLocal8k

Click the Sign Up button to enter your information as a volunteer or participant. Newsletter subscribers can use the code GRASS17 at registration on the race entry fee area to receive a discount.

Legacy Campaign Update

We are pleased to report our fundraising totals as of February 28, 2017, for gifts and pledges to expand and renovate the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center and to establish an endowment for this building.

Arboretum Visitor Center (Phase II): $1,022,727.84
Dorotha Smith Oatts Endowment: $171,955.26

We thank everyone who has contributed to the Legacy Campaign since it launched in August 2013. Our special thanks go to Mrs. Dorotha Oatts for her vision and generosity.
FRIENDS NEWS

2017 Bur Oak Society Award

Friends of The Arboretum established the Bur Oak Society in 2003 to honor individuals who have made significant and continuous contributions to The Arboretum. The 2017 awardees were recognized at the February 8, 2017, spring Founders Lecture. The awardees were:

**Joe Dietz** has contributed his many talents as a volunteer at The Arboretum by planting thousands of daffodil bulbs, teaching photography classes and directing the layout for the 25th Anniversary Calendar. He has shared his interest in Bonsai by teaching classes, planning an exhibit at the Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center and donating several of his plants for sale at Arboretum fundraisers. He is always present at Arboretum events, smiling and ready to take pictures or lend a hand.

**Amy VanMeter**, as the Assistant Director of Development for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, has worked for over 13 years with Arboretum staff, Advisory Board and Friends on many important projects. Amy discovered her love for The Arboretum in 2000 when she met our principal benefactor, Mrs. Dorothea Smith Oatts. A true funding tour de force, Amy spearheaded the first Arboretum Gala and was crucial in generating financial interest to establish the Kentucky Children’s Garden. Amy treasures her personal and professional relationships with our staff and volunteers, and will remain a true friend of The Arboretum for life.

**Neville Crawford** is from Madisonville, heart of Kentucky's Shawnee Hills region. His plant knowledge is largely self-acquired because of his keen interest in the subject. For many years, he has worked with Arboretum staff to collect native plants and seeds from his farm and the surrounding area to populate this section of the Walk Across Kentucky. He also has collected and donated many of the plants in the ephemeral garden and donated nearly 20 tons of sandstone boulders to the Shawnee Hills Meadow area. Arboretum staff consider him an ideal ambassador.

**Todd Rounsaville** (featured on page 2) has been The Arboretum’s Curator of Native Plants since 2011 and expertly managed the Walk Across Kentucky and the Arboretum Woods during that time. Over the past six years, the plant collections have grown to encompass new trails, signage, and specialty ecosystems like the wildflower meadow and Cumberland Mountain exhibit. All of his work was done in collaboration with the Native Plant Staff and Volunteers, and he is eternally grateful for their kindness and support.

Left to right: Joe Dietz, Amy VanMeter, Neville Crawford and Todd Rounsaville.

In Passing

Losing friends is one of the saddest things that most of us experience. The Arboretum has lost some excellent friends recently, some whose service transformed a former cow pasture into the 100-acre botanic garden you see here today. We are so very honored when family and friends choose to name The Arboretum as a fitting place for memorial gifts. We give thanks to the families of Dr. Keith MacAdam and Dr. Robert L. Lester for including us in this manner.

Dr. David Stevens’ recent passing saddens us as he and his late wife, Sally, did so much to further The Arboretum and the Kentucky Children’s Garden. We celebrate their lives and thank them for all they accomplished.

**Phyllis MacAdam** has lots of experience in writing! After her retirement from the Carnegie Center for Creative Writing, her neighbor recruited her to produce an expanded newsletter for The Arboretum. Phyllis took that job seriously, and since 2006 has been the driving force behind putting together an interesting, professional and readable newsletter once a quarter covering all manner of pertinent information from staff, Friends, and volunteers. She has authored two major articles for this issue, and we hope to coax a few more out of her in the future! Her current plans are to retire in earnest this time and “spend more time with my kids and grandkids.” We will still look forward to seeing Phyllis and her faithful dog Hidey on a daily basis as they walk around our 100 acres. We are forever grateful, Phyllis!
ON THE GROUNDS

Curator’s Choice: Aesculus pavia (red buckeye)
By Todd Rounsaville, Curator of Native Plants

There is minimal geographic overlap between the three species of buckeye (Aesculus spp.) that are indigenous to Kentucky. Yellow buckeye (A. flava) and Ohio buckeye (A. glabra) can be found in the eastern and central regions of the state, respectively. They tend to be large trees with yellow flowers, and when grown in proximity, natural hybrids between the two may occur. Red buckeye (A. pavia) has a small range in Kentucky, found in only the westernmost counties of the state. Unlike yellow and Ohio buckeye, red buckeye has red flowers and grows as a dense shrub or sometimes a small tree.

Along with maples (Acer spp.), buckeyes are placed within the soapberry family (Sapindaceae), and it is easy to see their relation. Both genera have ‘opposite’ leaf arrangement and ‘palmate’ veination. In buckeye, the palmate lobes are dissected so much that they are technically leaflets that comprise a compound leaf. The palmately compound leaf shared by all buckeyes is unlike leaves of any other native trees, making them easy to identify.

The red flowers of Aesculus pavia are borne in spring on a compound inflorescence known as a panicle. The flowers serve as a food source for bees and hummingbirds, and ultimately yield large seeds typical in appearance to other buckeyes. Seeds may look edible but are toxic to humans and livestock.

Red buckeye is listed as a threatened species in Kentucky due to its limited distribution at the northern extent of its range. Cultivation is generally easy, and the plant performs admirably in full sun to partial shade in a variety of soil types, provided it does not dry out excessively. This species has no major pest issues and requires little to no maintenance. Due to its small stature, red buckeye can be cultivated as a specimen flowering shrub, or used in mass as a hedge or screen planting. The Walk Across Kentucky collection has three red buckeyes, all found in the Mississippian Embayment region near the wetland boardwalk. Spring is an ideal time to catch them blossoming and see ruby-throated hummingbirds visiting their flowers.

StoryWalk
The StoryWalk will recommence rotating children’s stories in early April. Keep an eye out for a new story each month, courtesy of a cooperative agreement with Lexington Public Library and Jessamine County Public Library.

If you’d like to volunteer to help with the monthly changing of stories displayed, contact Jackie Gallimore via email at Jackie.Gallimore@uky.edu.

KCG Opens March 30
The Kentucky Children’s Garden (KCG) opens for the season on March 30 (weather permitting).

2017 Spring Hours: March 30 - May 28
Thursday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed April 16 for Easter

Renovation of the Demonstration Vegetable Garden (DVG) in the Home Demonstration Garden is in progress to provide increased space for the Fayette County Extension Master Gardeners to grow vegetables. Arboretum Horticulturist Jesse Dahl is installing new rabbit-proof perimeter fencing and reconstructing raised beds.

The goal of the project is to provide more space for the group to grow new plant varieties and to grow vegetables that require lots of space such as tomatoes, corn, asparagus and sweet potatoes. Extension Horticulture Agent Jamie Dockery says, “We welcome the public to join our Master Gardeners on Monday or Thursday morning in the DVG or in the Herb Garden. Working side by side provides visitors the opportunity to learn our methods and the principles of organic gardening, and Master Gardeners to answer any questions home gardeners may have.”
Botanist Julian Campbell may be the longest-working Arboretum volunteer. His service began not as a volunteer, but as a paid collector. While working as a teaching assistant at UK in 1986, he spent eight months driving around the state digging up seedlings and collecting seeds of native plants. Those seeds became some of the first native trees planted at The Arboretum. Over 30 years later, he still accompanies Arboretum staff on collecting trips as a volunteer and shares his knowledge of Kentucky native plants.

Dr. Campbell did his first graduate research in The Arboretum Woods and knows the trees intimately. He has worked for many years with other volunteers to eradicate invasive honey-suckle from “those precious 15 acres.” He has high hopes for future activities in the Woods. “Let’s do something wonderful to involve students and researchers so people can understand the Woods better.”

Another of Julian’s favorite places at The Arboretum is the “Plum Grove” he and a colleague, Dr. Bob McNeil, created near the Woods. Years ago he collected and planted a dozen clones of native goose plum trees which he still helps tend.

Because of his significant contributions to the growth of The Arboretum, Julian was selected as a member of the Friends of The Arboretum Bur Oak Society in 2006.

In addition to his work at The Arboretum, Julian is a vigorous activist for conservation. He initiates and supports restoration projects throughout the Bluegrass. He leads the Bluegrass Woodlands Restoration Center and maintains a website: bluegrasswoodland.com, which includes a technical catalogue of wild plants of Kentucky. It contains hundreds of pages including detailed maps showing the distribution for each native species by county.

Thanks, Julian, for your many years of involvement and for continuing to share your knowledge and environmental vision with The Arboretum community.

Volunteer of the Quarter

By Phyllis MacAdam

Another of Julian’s favorite places at The Arboretum is the “Plum Grove” he and a colleague, Dr. Bob McNeil, created near the Woods. Years ago he collected and planted a dozen clones of native goose plum trees which he still helps tend.

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Thanks, Julian, for your many years of involvement and for continuing to share your knowledge and environmental vision with The Arboretum community.

2017 Season Adopt a Plot

Since its inception, the Adopt a Plot program has enabled our small staff to maintain the Home Demonstration Garden and specialty gardens such as the fragrance and rose gardens. Volunteers have donated countless hours to weeding, deadheading and performing other garden tasks, all the while being able to field questions from interested visitors. In 2017, the Adopt a Plot program will be focused on the rose garden.

We encourage volunteers who have cared for beds, garden rooms or other locations to adopt a rose garden plot. The rose beds have undergone extensive renovation, with hundreds of new roses planted along with hardy perennials, flowering shrubs and upright trees. Concentrating the Adopt a Plot program in the rose garden will ensure the new plantings are off to a great start.

Become a Kentucky Children’s Garden (KCG) Volunteer

The KCG is seeking volunteers to help with events, field trips, outreach and greeting guests at the gate. If you want to share your love of plants and nature with children, this is the place for you! To become a KCG volunteer, you must first attend a training session and undergo a background check.

To learn how you can become a KCG volunteer, contact Jackie Gallimore, Children’s Education Coordinator via email at Jackie.Gallimore@uky.edu.

Volunteers Welcome!

Imagine a place where your commitment of time and effort benefits both you and your community; a place where your hard work has an immediate and pleasing impact for all to see and appreciate. If you are looking for such a place, The Arboretum is the right place for you!

Staff and Friends spent time this winter refining and improving our volunteer system. The goal was to offer volunteer opportunities that meet everyone’s needs, promote efficiency for the work of all involved and further our mission.

A full menu of volunteer opportunities is now available on our website under the “Volunteer” tab. There, you will find individual job descriptions for each volunteer opportunity. Jobs are organized into five categories which, in some cases, overlap. They are:

- Working with plants
- Working with people
- Working our events
- Working with Friends
- Working with children

We shared this information at our Volunteer Fair on March 11 and thank everyone who attended and signed on for a volunteer opportunity this year. If you weren’t able to attend, there’s plenty of time to sign up. We invite you to take a look at the materials on our website, talk to a friend who volunteers here or pick up a volunteer packet at the Visitor Center. You are sure to find a place where your talents are a perfect fit!

Spring is for the Birds!

The Friends of The Arboretum present the return of the Birdhouse Display and Silent Auction! This popular event is scheduled to coincide with April’s Party for the Planet. Be sure to vote for your favorite birdhouse in our outdoor voting boxes and place a bid on birdhouses up for auction in the Visitor Center from April 21 to May 7. Join us for a closing reception on May 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. For complete details of important dates, refer to the calendar on Pages 6-7 or our website.
Celebrating the Season – A New Event Series

Discover the wonder of the seasons at Spring Has Sprung, an event for the entire family. April 7, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Kentucky Children's Garden (KCG). Learn about the season and related themes such as spring, animals, gardening and trees by visiting booths that include demonstrations, crafts and plant giveaways hosted by local organizations and volunteers. See our online KCG calendar for further details. Coming July 14, Sizzling Summer and on October 6, Amazing Autumn.

Improvements in the KCG

You asked and we listened! Improvements to the KCG are being made based on the 2016 exit survey completed by more than 300 visitors. These requests were for more benches and shade as well as moving the morning programming and train times to accommodate younger children’s lunch times.

Ticket Taking Jumps into the 21st Century

We are excited about our new Point-of-Sale System that will be in place when the Kentucky Children's Garden opens March 30, weather permitting. This will enable us to process your ticket purchase or seasonal membership check-in more efficiently. Don’t forget that ticket purchases and seasonal membership check-in both take place in the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center. While you are here, please visit our expanded gift shop!

KCG Seasonal Membership

Get the most value for your seasonal membership purchase by buying it early in the season. Cost: $90 for a family of up to five; $75 for Friends of The Arboretum. Please show your Friends membership card to receive the discount.

Don’t miss Addie’s Day May 20 in the KCG!

A special day for families in the Kentucky Children’s Garden in memory of Adelaide Kennedy McReynolds. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Activities with Cambo the Clown, pony rides, games and refreshments begin at 11 a.m. See Page 7.

KCG Spring & Summer Schedules

The KCG opens for the season March 30 (weather permitting).

2017 Spring Hours: March 30 - May 28

Thursday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed April 16 for Easter

2017 Summer Hours: May 31 - August 27

Wednesday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 - 5 p.m.

Daily in the KCG

Each day the KCG is open, there is educational programming at 10:30 a.m. (except Sunday), 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
The model trains run from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. (except Sunday), 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Pricing

Daily admission is $3 per person or $10 for a family of up to five people. Children UNDER 2 are free. Seasonal passes are available, inquire at the Visitor Center.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Spring Calendar

Adult events, classes and programs meet at the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. Please preregister by calling (859) 257-6955.

The following symbols are used to identify our programs and events:
P - Party for the Planet
B - Spring Is for the Birds!
V - Volunteer opportunity
F - Family-oriented

March

30 Kentucky Children’s Garden opens (weather permitting), 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. F

April

1 Party for the Planet starts! P
4 & 18 Volunteer Orientation for new or returning volunteers will regularly occur from 9 - 9:30 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of April, May, June and September. A brief orientation is required before you can volunteer. See Volunteers Welcome! on Page 5. V
5 Native Spring Flowers Tour in the Walk Across Kentucky at 11 a.m. Groups of 5 or more must preregister, FREE. P, F
6, 13, 20 & 27 Native Plants volunteers, 10 a.m. - noon. Help the Native Plants staff care for the Walk Across Kentucky Collection by planting trees, shrubs and perennial plants, maintaining mulched trails, tending the grounds by weeding, mulching, removing invasives and other tasks. V
7 Spring Has Sprung in the KCG, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Help us successfully plant our Arbor Day Tree (an Osage Orange ’White Shield’), $3 per person. P, F
7 Spring Is for the Birds! Birdhouse registration form and fee due at the Visitor Center. B, F
April (continued)

7 & 21 Docent-guided tour of the gardens at 11 a.m. Groups of 5 or more must preregister. $3 per person (cash or check only).

17-19 Spring Is for the Birds!
Birdhouses for the display must be turned in at the Visitor Center. B, F

17 Urban Forest Ecology Tour
in the Woods at 11 a.m. Groups of 5 or more must preregister, FREE. P

21 Spring Is for the Birds!
Birdhouses displayed throughout the gardens. Vote for your favorite birdhouse either in outdoor voting boxes or in the Visitor Center. Silent Auction is in the Visitor Center. B, F, P

29 Arbor Day
at The Arboretum from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Preregistered volunteers and exhibitors should park in Arboretum parking lot or auxiliary lot. See article Page 1. P, F

May

2 & 16 Volunteer Orientation
for new or returning volunteers from 9 - 9:30 a.m. See Volunteers Welcome! on Page 5. V

3 Garden Heroes volunteer opportunity, 9 a.m. - noon. Help Arboretum staff care for the grounds by weeding, mulching, removing invasives and other tasks. See Volunteers Welcome! on Page 5. V

4, 11, 18 & 25 Native Plants volunteers, 10 a.m. - noon. Help the Native Plants staff care for the Walk Across Kentucky Collection by planting trees, shrubs and perennial plants, maintaining mulched trails, tending the grounds by weeding, mulching, removing invasives and other tasks. V

5 & 19 Docent-guided tour
at 11 a.m. Groups of 5 or more must preregister, $3 per person (cash or check only).

May (continued)

7 Spring Is for the Birds!
Birdhouse reception 2 - 4 p.m. Silent Auction closes in two shifts. First shift closes at 3:00 p.m. Second shift closes at 3:45 p.m. Birdhouses may be picked up from 4 to 5 p.m. B, F

13 John’s Run Local 8k to benefit The Arboretum Legacy Campaign. 50 volunteers needed at the event. 7 a.m. - noon. For details, Google "John’s Run Local 8k." Runner’s discount offered, see Page 2. V

13 Friends Spring Plant Exchange
Plants and garden items must be delivered at 9 a.m. The exchange begins promptly at 10 a.m. $2 per person, Friends members FREE.

20 Addie’s Day in the Kentucky Children’s Garden in memory of Adelaide Kennedy McReynolds. This special fun day for the entire family includes free admission to the KCG from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Activities with Cambo the Clown, pony rides, games and refreshments begin at 11 a.m. F

June

1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Native Plants volunteers, 10 a.m. to noon. Help the Native Plants staff care for the Walk Across Kentucky Collection by planting trees, shrubs and perennial plants, maintaining mulched trails, tending the grounds by weeding, mulching, removing invasives and other tasks. V

2 & 16 Docent-guided tour
at 11 a.m. Groups of 5 or more must preregister. $3 per person (cash or check only).

6 & 20 Volunteer Orientation
for new or returning volunteers from 9 to 9:30 a.m. V

7 Garden Heroes volunteer opportunity, 9 a.m. - noon. Help Arboretum staff care for the grounds by weeding, mulching, removing invasives and other tasks. See Volunteers Welcome! on Page 5. V

Arboretum Advisory Board
Tom Barker (UK)
Timothy Brooks (City)
Ned Crankshaw, Co-Chair (UK)
Warren Denny (UK)
Linda Gorton, Co-Chair (City)
Dewayne Ingram (UK)
Nancy McNally (Friends)
Andy Mead (City)
Jessica Nicholson (City)
Rob Paratley (UK)

Friends of the Arboretum Board Officers 2016-18
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Dawn Bazner, Vice President
Dabney Parker, Treasurer
Zinnah Caluag, Secretary
Jessica Nicholson, Past President

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Robert Castlen
Native Plants Team
Jesse Dahl
Horticulturist
Allen Dyer
Horticulture & Grounds Team
Jackie Gallimore
Children’s Education Coordinator
Katie Morrison
Lead Educator
Michael Patton
Native Plants Team
Todd Rounsaville
Curator of Native Plants

UK Student Staff
Garrett Hamilton
Kelly Hogan
Rhett Moreland
Madeleine Wamsley
Ryan Welleforde

High School Student Intern
Emily Sorrell
**Your tax-deductible gift is always appreciated!**

*Please accept my donation to the Legacy Campaign to expand and renovate the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center.*

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☐ I do not wish for anyone to be notified of this gift.

**PAYMENT INFORMATION (your gift is tax deductible):**

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to The Arboretum.

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