



Fall 2011

Winter 2012

Imagine Working Toward ‘Tomorrow’s Glory’

Linda Bagby
WVBG Board President

Recently a generous donor gave us hundreds of young day lilies - just what we needed to help anchor the soil above the rock wall on the uphill side of the lower parking lot. These are not your run-of-the-mill daylilies; they are unusual cultivars of many colors and characteristics. As we planted them, we were intrigued by many of their names. What would you guess “Transylvania Cocktail” or “Ashes of Love” might look like? We had fun visualizing the possibilities and how this garden will appear as it grows.

Do you ever imagine what the Botanic Garden will be like in the future? In this newsletter you’ll find information about some of the wonderful plans and activities that are going on right now. In addition, behind-the-scenes, the Board of Directors is constantly formulating the stepwise development of the Garden.

Although we still are planning to include a pavilion on the site, the Board has decided that a small building with restrooms is a high priority at this time. This multipurpose “starter” building is expected to house a welcome desk for visitors, be a headquarters for volunteers, provide some offices from which the operations of the Garden can be conducted and contain an open space for indoor activities such as classes and meetings. In tandem with the building plans, committees are also working on bringing utilities down to the future facility’s location. We hope to see these plans come to fruition within the next few years as funding allows. We are very grateful for the continuing generous support of all our donors and volunteers as they help us achieve our goals.

Why are so many working and donating to the West Virginia Botanic Garden? To me the reason is summed up in the name of this little daylily. We give today to bring about “Tomorrow’s Glory”! The future is in our hands. We hope that you will join in and “Come Grow with Us!”



Photo by Linda Bagby

West Virginia Botanic Garden

Board of Directors

George W. Longenecker, *Executive Director*
 Linda Bagby, *President*
 Bill Johnson, *Vice President*
 Bradford C. Bearce, *Secretary*
 Karl Yagle, *Treasurer*
 David Barnett
 Madonna Bird
 Denise Gwinn
 Barbara Howe
 Ellen Hrabovsky
 Kara Hurst
 Emilie Johnson
 Autumn McDaniel
 JoAnn Nicholas
 Don Reinke
 Jennifer Selin
 Annette Tanner
 Karen Toothman
 Jon Weems

Life Directors

Frank Scafella
 Florence Merow

Staff

Erin Smaldone,
Volunteer Coordinator & Education Director

West Virginia Botanic Garden

714 Venture Drive, PMB #121
 Morgantown, WV 26508-7306
 (304) 376-2717
 Actual location: 1061 Tyrone Road

www.wvbg.org

The West Virginia Botanic Garden, Inc. is incorporated in West Virginia as a tax-exempt, not-for-profit [501c (3)] organization. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law. West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents for the West Virginia Botanic Garden, Inc. from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Newsletter by Ellen Hrabovsky, Pam Yagle,
 Linda Bagby, Erin Smaldone, Barbara Howe and
 George Longenecker

Where have we been? Where are we going?

By George W. Longenecker

Most botanic gardens start from an estate with beautiful gardens. The owners perpetuate their legacy by turning the estate over to a non-profit organization like ours and include a supporting endowment.

The West Virginia Botanic Garden, Inc. started looking for a place to build a botanic garden in the 1980s. In 2000 the Morgantown Utility Board removed a limited amount of timber from the former Tibbs Run Reservoir property just before our lease with the City of Morgantown took effect. Our initial project was removing the slash left from the timbering, which become the first of 20 Eagle Scout projects at the Garden.

To progress in an orderly manner LaQuatra Bonci Landscape Architects of Pittsburgh developed a master plan. Many in our community contributed their ideas during this process.

Funding has come from a variety of sources. Grants have been received from a number of organizations. The largest, a Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trail Grant, built the accessible trail around the reservoir basin. Funding from the Hazel Ruby McQuain Foundation has helped with detailed plans and infrastructure. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has funded the recent wetland boardwalk construction. The Kiwanis and Weldon Foundations, plus many others, have provided small grants for events and equipment. The City of Morgantown and the Monongalia County Commission have been continuing supporters of the Botanic Garden and its on-going activities. Presidents of the West Virginia Garden Club have supported the WVBG during their tenure, raised funds and gotten the word out about the WVBG.

Private funds have played a critical part in our development. There have been donations large and small, specific and general, plus memorials; a few people have included the WVBG in their wills. The *Friends of the West Virginia Botanic Garden* was created as a way of recognizing these contributions.

(Continued on Page 8)

Come to the Third WVBG Fall Children's Festival on Sunday, October 16, 1-4 P.M.

Ellen Hrabovsky

It is fall again and that means more than football, colored leaves and cooler weather. It's almost time for the third WVBG Fall Children's Festival at the Botanic Garden. From 1-4 p.m. Sunday, October 16, toddlers to teen-agers, grade schoolers to college students, singles and couples, parents and grandparents will gather to enjoy new activities and old favorites -- all possible through the support of the Kiwanis Foundation. The event is free and open to the public.

Parking is limited so please car pool if possible; but most important, bring the kids.

The Fairy Garden has a new table, a refreshed sign and four new fairy houses built by girls from BOPARC, but we need many more new houses for our woodland sprites. The weather has been hard on last year's structures so we would welcome help to improve the housing. The only restriction in building is that no live vegetation may be cut or pulled to add to the dwellings. Other than that, imagination is the only real limit. For a \$5 donation to the WVBG, Autumn McDaniel will take a picture of each child with his or her fairy house and will mail the photo to each participant.

In addition the Children's Discovery Museum of West Virginia will be with us to lead some activities and to showcase their Services. Erin Smaldone will be leading Nature Bingo, which includes a walk in the woods to fill in a bingo card. Old favorites such as pumpkin painting, making pine cone bird feeders and a variety of leaf crafts will definitely be part of the day.

A new feature this year will be take-home bulb planting. Each child may fill a pot with soil, plant a bulb and take it home to watch the bulb grow into a beautiful plant. (Directions will be provided.) Other learning experiences and crafts will be available, but let's save some as a surprise.



Pine-cone bird feeders can be fun for all involved as illustrated by the intent focus of this child. Photo by D. Fulton

The delicious refreshments of past years will again be ready for all to enjoy. Botanic Garden souvenirs such as hats, shirts and cups will be on hand for purchase. We are also selling bulbs to be shipped to your homes. These can also be purchased ahead of time through our web site www.wvbg.org. The WVBG retains 50% of the price. Please bring checks or cash as we are not able to handle credit or debit cards. See you at the Festival!

The Botanic Garden Hosts a ‘Garden Gathering’ for Its New Advisory Council

The Advisory Council of the West Virginia Botanic Garden has been in the planning stages for quite some time. This body, at last, became a reality Aug. 14, 2011, when the WVBG Board of Directors hosted a welcome reception for the Council’s charter members at the Garden.

Sunshine broke out from the rain to assure everyone that it was a good day. After an opportunity to meet, to chat and to enjoy the refreshments provided by various Board members, WVBG President Linda Bagby introduced George Longenecker, Executive Director. He provided the group with a history of the WVBG’s development, progress and needs. George then asked Advisory Council members to promote the Botanic Garden as each person can and to be involved as much as possible.

What is the Advisory Council? It includes people with expertise and influence in areas that can impact our development. There are legal experts who can give advice when legal issues arise. There are building experts. There are garden and environmental experts. There are financial and fund-raising experts. We hope to be able to call upon these individuals for guidance as the WVBG continues to grow. There will be no regular meetings of the group, but they are welcome at all organizational functions and will be kept informed of our activities. An annual reception will honor and thank these individuals.

Our Advisory Council members are: Jack Bowman, Bill Byrne, Bob Carubia, Barbara Evans Fleischauer, Beth Fuller, Chris Haddox, John Jett, Walt Kordek, Brenda Moore, Dan O’Hanlon, Frank Scafella and Robin Yorty. We missed those who could not attend the reception and look forward to seeing them at future events.

Thank you to all who contributed to a wonderful afternoon. Volunteers Kristin Bagby, Dan Lauer and Kurt Skasik helped with set-up, serving, parking and take-down – in the thunder and lightning. Special thanks go to members of the Development Committee who planned the event, communicated with Advisory Council members and to the board members who provided the wonderful snacks.



Attending the reception (from left to right) are Brenda Moore, WV State Garden Club president; Barbara Evans Fleischauer, a Mon. Co. state legislator.; Robin Yorty, director WVU events; Chris Haddox, WVU asst. prof. in Green Building; Bill Byrne, Morgantown City Council and local lawyer; Frank Scafella, WVBG life member; and John Jett, WVU extension agent. Photo by Madonna Bird

WATER WORKS WAIFS
-- No more washing in "wiggle-tail water" now
-- Our people will hereafter take pure water from the bowels of the earth, in preference to
impure drainage from the bowels of humanity — so to speak.
AND
No danger of drinking nasty woolly water worms in Water Works water!
-Morgantown Weekly Post, May 16, 1885

**West Virginia Humanities Council awards grant
to the West Virginia Botanic Garden**
By Barb Howe

The West Virginia Humanities Council has awarded the West Virginia Botanic Garden \$5597.16 grant to interpret the history of the old City of Morgantown reservoir, now the site of the Botanic Garden, and the story of bringing pure water to Morgantown. Erin Smaldone is the grant's project director. We cannot describe "wiggle-tail water" or "woolly water worms," but they were clearly of great concern to Morgantown residents before private companies organized to provide clean water to the city. From November 1912, when the reservoir was completed, until 1969, some of that water came from Tibbs Run and Jones Run, which flow through the Botanic Garden.

The grant allows Michael Caplinger and me to continue our research on the history of Morgantown's water supply and to work with Erin and Dave Smaldone, plus other WVBG Board members, to develop interpretive panels about the following themes:

- 1) the history of the land before it was used for the reservoir;
- 2) why Morgantown needed a public water system;
- 3) early efforts to supply water to Morgantown;
- 4) why this site was chosen for the reservoir;
- 5) construction of the reservoir in 1911-1912;
- 6) post-1912 developments at the reservoir;
- 7) the employees at the reservoir;
- 8) what happened to the water once it left the reservoir; and
- 9) what happened to the site after 1969?

A map will identify locations of the interpretive panels, and we will develop a free booklet that talks about the history of the site.

Next May, we will have a "grand opening" for the panels, similar to the event we had for the wetlands boardwalk. Michael and I led one walk Sept, 25 to discuss the reservoir's history, and we will lead a second one at the grand opening. Details will be available in the next newsletter.

This project is being presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily represent those of the West Virginia Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Summer Nature Camp a Success

By Erin Smaldone

This year the WVBG hosted its first Summer Nature Camp for local 7 to 10-year-olds. The camp attracted seven campers and one Natural Leader (an older camper who assisted instructors and led some activities). All campers enjoyed a week of learning, exploring and spending time in nature. Every day was an adventure with new discoveries. We found a giant beetle, a slug, a red eft salamander, a crayfish, stream salamanders, a tiny toad, butterflies, hummingbird moths, a yellow-billed cuckoo (an uncommonly seen bird!), lots of grasshoppers and more! Each day of camp had a different focus including trees, flowers, insects and birds.



Summer Campers and leaders.
All photos by Erin Smaldone.

To start each day, the campers wrote in their custom designed journals about the day's topic, followed by a short lesson. Afternoons were spent exploring and participating in hands-on activities. To beat the heat, we retreated to the shady forest most afternoons, and the campers got to spend some time in the cool waters of Tibbs Run. At the end of the day, everyone made a craft pertaining to the day's lesson to take home. On Friday we did a variety of activities covering all of the week's topics and ended with some special guests: birds from the West Virginia Raptor Rehabilitation Center! It was impressive how well all of the kids got along and stayed engaged. A combination of a great group of kids and fun things to do outdoors led to a wonderful week. Our Natural Leader, 12 year old Caden Spencer Haines, did a terrific job interacting with the campers and helping out. His passion for birds made him a perfect fit to lead the bird day. He even devised his own home-made bird feeder craft! We extend special thanks to Brandon Rumberg and Ryan Chidester, WVU students who did an exceptional job of helping to organize and to lead camp.



Forest fungi

"The nature camp this summer at the Botanic Garden was a joy to be at. I learned many things and hopefully the other kids that attended were able to learn a couple things, too. On the last day we had guests from a nearby raptor rehabilitation center and had a great time. Thanks again for letting me be a part of the nature camp." - Caden Spencer Haines



Catching insects at the Butterfly Garden

"I liked trying to catch butterflies and learning about the different insects."
- Ryan Smith



Checking out a salamander

***INDIVIDUAL** (\$25) -- discounts on **Logo Items** (caps, shirts, etc.), periodic **WVBG newsletters**, invitations to special **Members Only** activities, reduced prices for **Special Events** and special previews of **Plant Sales**

***FAMILY** (\$50) -- the same opportunities that apply to an **Individual** but extended to the immediate family

***CONTRIBUTOR** (\$100) -- all of the above plus a **Gift Item** and **Discounts at Participating Nurseries and Garden Centers**

***SPONSOR** (\$250) -- all of the above plus a **Second Gift Item** of your choice

***PATRON** (\$500) -- all of the above plus a small group **Private Tour** of the WVBG

***BENEFACTOR** (\$1,000) -- all of the above plus a **Home Garden Consultation** by the WVBG Executive Director

I would like to become a **Friend of the Botanic Garden** at the _____ level and will make my check payable to the "West Virginia Botanic Garden." **You may publish my name.** ___Yes ___No

Please send me planned giving information.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____
 Preferred Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Thank you for your generosity!



Let us know if you would like to save paper and receive the newsletter in electronic form.

E-mail On-Line

✂-----✂-----✂

Garden Keepers Keep Our Gardens Beautiful By Erin Smaldone

Anyone who as ever cared for a flower garden knows how much work it takes to keep it vibrant and fresh. Luckily, with the help of our regular Garden Keepers, the flower beds at the Botanic Garden have been well-tended and looking great for visitors. In addition to the wonderful help we receive on our 3rd Saturday workdays, the Garden Keepers come on a more regular basis to weed, to deadhead and to cut back flowers in each of our designed flower beds.

Carol Nix, Sunnie Morton, and Jayne Tveter comprise the core group of Garden Keepers and are occasionally joined by others who are available. JoAnn Nicholas has been maintaining the Shade Garden and "milking" plants to keep the deer at bay. Ellen Hrabovsky regularly mows the open areas and footpaths to keep the Garden looking clean and inviting.

The Garden Keepers were trained by George Longenecker early in the season, and he has been impressed with what they have accomplished throughout the summer. I admire the beautiful, flourishing gardens whenever I visit, and I know we have the Garden Keepers to thank. If you are interested in joining the Garden Keeper team, contact Erin at 304-216-8704 or Erin@wvbg.org.



714 Venture Drive, PMB #121
Morgantown, WV 26508-7306

Non-profit org.
US Postage paid
Morgantown, WV
Permit #108

Come Grow With Us!

(Continued from Page 2)

Our first garden was the Eclectic Garden— built around the foundation of the reservoir caretaker’s house in the entrance area. Next the Shade Garden developed with the help of WVU students and faculty to demonstrate that one can have a nice garden without cutting down trees. The Butterfly Garden is the result of a suggestion from and research by a group of WVU School of Pharmacy students.

One part of WVBG’s mission is education. To meet this goal initially, “Gardens of the Mon” tours of private gardens in the Morgantown area were begun. It has always been fun to see how people have developed their home landscapes and learned from their experiences. A series of educational walks on a variety of subjects at the WVBG have introduced the public to the Botanic Garden and its resources. To further the expansion of its educational mission, a part-time Education Director and Volunteer Coordinator, Erin Smaldone, was hired. She has instituted a number of workshops, a summer nature camp (see page 6) and a “Natural Leaders” program.

It’s become obvious that shelter on rainy days is needed. Therefore, a multi-purpose building that could be used year-round is in the planning stages. This will be a building where staff and volunteers can work. It will also serve as a visitors’ information center. Progress in this direction was further stimulated by the West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association, which suggested that they might be a major supporter of this project.

To further assist our efforts, the WVBG has recently constituted an Advisory Council of leaders in the community and across the state. We will look to them for suggestions and ideas and will consult with some for advice and counsel as situations arise. The Advisory Council also can be assist by helping to spread the word broadening our base of interest and support.

We have big ideas but must work in small steps. Thanks for your support!