



GARDEN NEWS

Fall/Winter 2016

The West Virginia Botanic Garden, in harmony with nature, seeks to enhance the quality of life through public enjoyment and education involving inspirational landscapes and displays of a rich variety of ornamental plants appropriate to the region.

Spectacular Fall Gardens

by Bill Johnson, Board President

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October might be my favorite month of the year. There's less to do in my garden now that most plants are slowing down and preparing for winter. This fall's unseasonably warm weather has been perfect for leisurely strolls to enjoy the subtle beauty of the season. Many fall-blooming plants, for example asters, toad-lilies (*Tricyrtis*), and hardy chrysanthemums, are still putting on a show as well as providing late-season nectar for needy pollinators.



Chrysanthemum with honeybee.
Photo by Bill Johnson.

If you're looking for inspiration, or just want to get outside, relax, and soak in the beauty of the season, visit a public garden. The West Virginia Botanic Garden has a spectacular fall foliage display. As a member of the Friends of the West Virginia Botanic Garden, you are eligible for free admission and/or discounted services at 300 North American gardens that are members of the American Horticultural Society (AHS). Our Garden is the only AHS member garden in West Virginia.

Great AHS-member gardens in neighboring states that offer free admission to Friends of the West Virginia Botanic Garden include the Cleveland Botanical Garden in Ohio, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Virginia. To learn more, visit the AHS website (www.ahs.org/gardening-programs/rap/find). The Morris Arboretum was among six Philadelphia-area gardens that I visited in mid-October along with several fellow Board members, Botanic Garden staff, and significant others. In addition to gaining ideas and inspiration to bring back to our Garden, senior staff from these world-class institutions generously shared their time and expertise—and the gardens were fabulous!

The Garden is open daily dawn to dusk.

Admission is free!



WEST VIRGINIA BOTANIC GARDEN, INC.

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Morgantown, WV 26508

www.wvbg.org

The West Virginia Botanic Garden, Inc. is incorporated in West Virginia as a tax-exempt, not-for-profit 501(c)(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

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Fall Reflections

by Bill Mills, Executive Director

As fall descends upon us, I find it a good time to look around and see what has occurred during the recent growing season. What was successful, what was not, what goals and aspirations do we have for next season? I do this in my own garden, and now I find myself doing it here at the West Virginia Botanic Garden. I look at it two ways: what has happened with the planted garden, and what has happened with the organization of the Garden?

I had the honor to travel with some members of our Board of Directors and a few employees to look at gardens in the Philadelphia area. The Philadelphia region has more public gardens than any area of our nation. Some of the gardens are private and offered very personal stories. Five of the gardens are public institutions, most with budgets in the many millions of dollars. How does the West Virginia Botanic Garden stack up and relate to these institutions of beauty and inspiration? Very well, I think. We are the youthful, wide-eyed dreaming child, making our way into the big world.



Chanticleer Garden, a source of inspiration. Photo by Bill Mills.

The land that our Garden lives on is profoundly beautiful, inspirational, and has a historical time line behind it. We have a dedicated cadre of volunteers, supporters, a strong Board of Directors, and local governments and other institutions that share in our belief and vision for the Garden. Our coffers are much smaller, but they are growing. The same can be said of the garden spaces for which the new master plan is a blueprint for expanding these garden spaces. As we speak, a significant garden is underway, connecting the Welcome Center to the lower kiosk area. We are most thankful to Karl and Pam Yagle, who have given significant funding to bring this Garden to life (See article on page 6). Over several years, they have funded a special account that has allowed this to happen. It will take other like-minded, forward-thinking, visionary citizens to help grow other sections of the Garden.

Standing in the Brandywine Valley garden of my friend David Culp, golden leaves showered down upon us in warm air. It was a fleeting moment in time, true garden magic. I am lucky to see and feel that magic often at the West Virginia Botanic Garden. It may be falling leaves, the sound of children laughing, the kiss of a warm breeze, or fog lifting over the surrounding hills.

Please help us achieve the goals in our new master plan and move the Garden forward. If you have the means, be generous in our annual appeal campaign. It is an investment in a budding institution and belief in a community that will leave a long legacy for generations to enjoy far into the future, making our Mountain State a better place. Wishing you all well.

Special thanks to our departing board members: Barb Howe, Beverly Martin, and Kathy Zimmerman. We appreciate your time and commitment to the Garden.

A warm welcome to our new board members: Linda Baer, Rod Brundage, Andrea Horton, and Jan Mitchell. We look forward to working with you.

Hammock Haven Supports Garden

by Victoria Cather, Event Chair

This year's fundraiser, Hammock Haven, on August 28, 2016, was a great success! We had over 200 attendees who enjoyed the delectable "low country boil" cuisine created by Chefs Marion Ohlinger of Hill & Hollow and Mark Tasker of Table 9, with Tutto Gelato on hand to provide refreshing gelato on what turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year.



Local chefs (from left to right): Sam Yokum, Michael Bowyer, Marion Ohlinger, Mark Tasker, and Jason Fickes. Photo by Victoria Cather.

The band Magnolia Warbler, formerly known as Sawbriar, with lead performer and sculptor Jamie Lester entertained the crowd with lively rhythms transporting us to the South.

Aaron Sears, owner of Plantology Emporium, enhanced the mood by decorating for the event with a touch of mossy intrigue throughout the Event Lawn and into the Shade Garden where everyone enjoyed their dinner and a reprieve from the late summer sun.

Allen Poe, our friend and auctioneer, got the crowd bidding on all of our wonderful silent and live auction items.



Guests enjoy dinner and the new hammocks. Photo by Victoria Cather.

FirstEnergy sponsored the main theme of this year's event, which was the installation of our six hammocks and the unveiling of artist Michael Loop's whimsical butterfly and queen bee sculptures.

Special thanks again to all our many sponsors, auction item donors, and volunteers who helped us raise \$17,000 toward supporting the ongoing expenses of our beloved Garden.

Please stop out to the Garden soon and enjoy our new additions!



Serving up gelato (from left to right): Victoria Cather, Jenny Joseph, and Sarah Straface. Photo by Carl Cather.



All smiles from Nancy Stout (left), Anne Walters, and Irene Liberatore. Photo by Victoria Cather.

WVBG 2016-17 Fall/Winter Activities

November 20, 2:00 p.m. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Program: The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid has decimated much of the eastern hemlock forests. **Ellen Hrabovsky**, local naturalist, will present a slide show discussing the biology and the current status of this invasive pest as well as treatment methods. We will also visit our beautiful hemlocks stands, which have been treated. This program is most appropriate for adults and older children. Meet at the Welcome Center.

November 26, 11:00 a.m.--12:00 p.m. Wreath Decorating Demonstration: Join **Bill Mills**, executive director of the West Virginia Botanic Garden, and watch as he creates a remarkable wreath for the holiday home, decked out in a variety of fragrant evergreens and adornments from the garden. This special wreath will be auctioned and all proceeds will benefit the Botanic Garden. In addition, learn how to accent basic wreathes and how to make an all-weather bow. This demonstration is free and open to the public. Completed wreaths and supplies will be available for purchase. Note: This demonstration will take place at Modern Homestead, 41 South Robert Stone Way, Reedsville, WV 26547. RSVP at www.mymodernhomestead.com/calendar/ or call (304) 864-4333.



Learn how to make holiday wreaths like these on November 26. Photo by Bill Mills.

(Continued on page 8)

Year-round Fun for Children and Families

by Erin Smaldone, Education Director

The West Virginia Botanic Garden (WVBG) is a wonderful place for children to play, explore, learn, and share the wonders of nature with family and friends. This past year, children and their families have joined us for a variety of kid- and family-oriented activities.



Children and their families enjoy a Family Walk.
Photo by Erin Smaldone.

Our monthly First Friday Family Walks are casual walks around the Garden with the goal of providing families a place and time to go for a walk outdoors along with other families. These walks have been a great way for adults to meet and talk with other parents, for kids to explore the trails with other kids, and for people who are unfamiliar with the Botanic Garden to get acquainted and learn about what the WVBG has to offer. While the walks are targeted at families with small children, anyone is welcome to join us, so come on out for a walk! Walk reminders are posted on our Facebook page a few days prior to the walk.

During the summer months, summer nature camps provide a week of fun for campers. This year the WVBG held two sessions of the Nature Explorer Camp for children ages seven to ten and two sessions of the Curious Kids Camp for children ages four to six. These camps are designed to get kids outside exploring nature, learning, and having fun. Each day covers a different topic and includes stories, mini-lessons, activities, games, crafts, and of course lots of outdoor exploration

and discovery. Look for information about next summer's camps and a registration form on our website, www.wvbg.org, this winter.



Educator Megan Stewart shares a salamander with campers.
Photo by Erin Smaldone.

The Fall Children's Festival was back in its eighth year this year and was once again a huge success. Children and their families enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at the Garden while building fairy houses, painting pumpkins, crafting with leaves and other natural materials, planting bulbs to take home, checking out our live scarecrow, and enjoying tasty snacks. The festival boasted record attendance of almost 700 people this year, including those who have come year after year as well as many new families. Thanks to all who came out to enjoy this special day and to our valuable volunteers (all eighty of them) who helped make it happen.



From left to right: Festival goers make leaf crafts, pose with the scarecrow (Matt Marino), and show off a freshly painted face. Photos by Carol Spears.



A Big Thanks to the Weldon Family Foundation for Sponsoring the 2016 Fall Children's Festival

A special "thank you" to Patricia Watson and the Weldon Family Foundation for sponsoring the Fall Children's Festival this year. As the festival grows from year to year, the expenses involved to put it on and make it great for everyone, free of charge, add up. We are thankful for the financial contributions made by the Weldon Family Foundation that allowed us to cover all of our festival expenses and pave the way for future community events. The Trust was established in 2008 to benefit charitable organizations in Monongalia and Preston counties whose purpose is supporting the arts, culture, humanities, educational or scientific endeavors, health and medical research, and programs associated with agriculture, food, nutrition, housing and shelters, as well as general community improvement.

The Promise of Spring

by Bill Mills, Executive Director

As I stroll the Garden and the surrounding forest, I cannot help but notice all the signs of what is to come next spring. These signs give me promise on the grey days of winter.

What first grabbed my eye this year were the buds on the Red Mill Andromeda (*Pieris japonica* 'Red Mill'). There are several planted outside our new Welcome Center so I see them often. The flowers of this plant are gathered at the ends of the branches and are quite reminiscent of Lily of the Valley. The buds are formed and in place by late summer. The flowers open relatively early in the spring, followed by a flush of new growth that is characteristically red, hence its cultivar name.



Red Mill Andromeda.
Photo by Bill Mills.

Not far from the *Pieris* is a young dogwood (*Cornus florida*) that was planted to honor the Rosie the Riveters of World War II. At this writing, its foliage is strikingly red and adorned with fat grey buds, next spring's flowers. As winter ends, these buds will continue to swell.

A stroll in the Rhododendron Garden tells a similar story. Look closely at the plants, and you can see the buds that will be next season's flowers. Evergreen species for the most part have fat buds, but they vary from species to species. Some are round, others pointed, some quite large, some diminutive in size. The deciduous species have also set bud. They can be found at the ends of their naked branches.



Dogwood leaves in fall.
Photo by Bill Mills.

Many of our deciduous trees have obviously set next year's buds. Ohio buckeye trees (*Aesculus glabra*) have especially large buds. Their leaves flush very early in the spring and are often caught by late frosts for this reason. Oaks (*Quercus*) and maples (*Acer*) exhibit their buds as well, but they are small and scale-like.

If you are in the forest, stop and look at the base of some of the ferns. Many of them have tightly held bundles, called fiddleheads, at their base. As soon as spring temperatures allow, they will be next season's growth. I am amazed how primed so many plants are.

In my own Charleston garden, I recently noticed the very red buds of peonies held close to the ground. I have about a dozen single scarlet Japanese type. They are spectacular in bloom. The single varieties tend not to fall over from the weight of their flowers. I enjoy them for that characteristic, and for their very elegant chalice-like form, with golden anthers filling the cup.

A small paperbush (*Edgeworthia corymbosa*) is nestled at the back of my border. Soon its tropical-like leathery foliage will drop, leaving the plant clad in fat swollen silver buds. They are a very handsome addition to the winter landscape, and they are especially effective when planted in front of an evergreen background. Come late February or March, the buds will open, often in the snow, with intoxicatingly fragrant lemon yellow flowers. This plant was seen on a recent trip to look at Philadelphia gardens and was greatly admired in several locations. Many say it is hardy only in zone 7 and higher, but I have had good luck with it in some tough winters. It does need even moisture, good drainage, and a soil rich in humus. It could easily be the victim of a drought; even moisture is essential to its longevity. It should be located away from prevailing wind. Plants that are of questionable hardiness should usually be planted in spring so that they have an entire growing season to root out before their first winter.

The last plant I will mention are the Autumn crocus (*Colchicum*). Contrary to the way most plants grow and bloom, they are sending out flowers now, without foliage. The glossy, abundant hosta-like foliage (Continued on page 6)

Donated Plants and New Yagle Garden

by Dave Barnett, Treasurer, and Phil Cole, Assistant Site Manager

Sometimes visitors to the West Virginia Botanic Garden ask, “Where are the Gardens?” Many are pointed to the WVBG’s established gardens, such as the Eclectic, Shade, Butterfly, Rhododendron, Kiosk, and Secret Gardens. Of course all these gardens are surrounded by the beauty of the natural woodlands, while the old reservoir basin is in its early succession stage of sourwoods and alders. The WVBG property is quite a nice example of flora and fauna biodiversity, which we are fortunate to have and proud to share with our visitors. Now we are excited to announce a new garden: the Yagle Garden at the newly opened Welcome Center.



Helping to plant the new Yagle Garden are (left to right): Phil Cole, Jon Weems, and Dave Barnett. Photo by Erin Smaldone.

This spring Bailey Nurseries of Minnesota donated over 200 bare root plants to the Botanic Garden. Bailey is one of the nation’s largest producers of bare root trees, shrubs, and perennials, numbering 15 million annually and with over 5,000 acres in production in Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and Illinois. The company delivered all these bare root plants in two eight-foot-long boxes dropped off in the Botanic Garden parking lot. It is significantly less expensive to ship bare root plants in the spring while they are still semi-dormant.

For several days, many volunteers helped separate the bundles, root pruned, and potted the plants. They were then stored and cared for during most of the summer: pruning, fertilizing, and spraying regularly with milk to keep the deer from munching on them.

Karl and Pam Yagle, longtime supporters of the Garden both in time and financial support, generously helped to fund a new Garden incorporating these donated plants around the Welcome Center. Bill Mills has done a wonderful job designing the Garden, bringing the Yagles’ vision to life.

Volunteers dug holes, spread soil mix, planted, and mulched most of the donated plants. Digging in our thick clay soils proved challenging, and we are thankful for extra effort put forth by our volunteers!

This winter you’ll see a planting with tremendous winter value including First Editions® Baton Rouge Dogwood (*Cornus alba* ‘Minbat’), and Fire Dance Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ‘Bailadeline’), both with bright red twigs. First Editions® Wildfire Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata* ‘Bailfire’) will offer showy red berries when paired with pollinator Jim Dandy Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata* ‘Jim Dandy’). Other plantings include various Hydrangea spp., Ninebark (*Physocarpus* spp.) and more.

Additionally twenty newly-planted First Editions® Standing Ovation Serviceberrys (*Amelanchier alnifolia* ‘Obelisk’) will offer a splash of spring color to the long walk along the historic reservoir dam. These small columnar trees bloom with brilliant white flowers which give way to edible berries in June.

As we continue to grow, we look forward to your visit and seeing our new gardens and plants adapt to their new home.

Spring Promise (Continued from page 5)

will appear in the spring, go dormant in summer, and bloom again in fall. I so appreciate their elegant flowers. Some are double, some white, most are lavender. Deer are not fans of this little-known plant.

The world of plants never ceases to fascinate me. Get out and enjoy the natural world. Be an explorer and investigate! There is always something new to learn.



Autumn crocus. Photo by Bill Mills.

Join the Friends of the West Virginia Botanic Garden Today!

*All members receive special benefits at participating arboreta and gardens.
Visit www.ahs.org and click on "Garden Directory" for listing.*

- *STUDENT (\$15) — discounts on logo items, periodic WVBG newsletters, invitations to special members-only events, reduced prices for special activities, special previews of plant sales, and one-year subscription to *Better Homes and Gardens Magazine*
- *INDIVIDUAL (\$25) — discounts on logo items, periodic WVBG newsletters, invitations to special members-only events, reduced prices for special activities, special previews of plant sales, and one-year subscription to *Better Homes and Gardens Magazine*
- *HOUSEHOLD (\$50) — the same opportunities that apply to an individual membership but extended to those in a single household
- *CONTRIBUTOR (\$100) — all of the above plus discounts at participating nurseries and garden centers
- *SPONSOR (\$250) — all of the above plus free admission to a workshop
- *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
- *SUSTAINER (\$5,000) — all of the above plus Welcome Center rental for up to 20 people for a three-hour event
- *CONSERVATOR (\$10,000) — all of the above plus Welcome Center rental for up to 100 people for a six-hour event

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" or fill in the membership form and pay online at www.wvbg.org. You may publish my name. Yes No

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

I would prefer to receive the newsletter via: Mail On-line

Information on gift memberships, employee matching gifts, and more is available on-line at www.wvbg.org.

Thank you for your generosity!

Please return this form, along with payment, to: WVBG, 714 Venture Dr., PMB 121, Morgantown, WV 26508



Health and Safety Committee Busy at Work

by Nancy Elliott, Committee Chair

Safety for our visitors, staff, and volunteers has always been a top priority of the Garden. Having the new Welcome Center has allowed us to make some additions that will continue this mission.

The Garden recently obtained funding for an Automatic Electric Defibrillator (AED) to be used in the case of a cardiac emergency. This device will be housed in the Welcome Center along with our first aid kit and incident reports.

Don and Susan Sauter, local patrons of the Garden, graciously contributed \$1,000. Quota International of Morgantown contributed matching funds.

Since 1985 Quota International has placed over forty AEDs in area schools. Denise Palmer, RN, Quota member and clinical manager of the West Virginia University Heart and Vascular Institute, was instrumental in acquiring the Quota Club funding. Sally Taylor, RN and Safety and Health Committee member, worked tirelessly as a liaison to acquire the AED for us. Rod Brundage, committee member and certified trainer, provided CPR, AED, and first aid training to eight Garden staffers and volunteers. He also has been instrumental in developing emergency response/disaster management protocols for Garden events. We now have plans in place in case something unforeseen occurs at a Garden event.

So come on out and enjoy your Garden! It just got a little bit safer.



Shown are (left to right): Sally Taylor, WVBG Safety and Health Committee; Bill Mills, WVBG executive director; Denise Palmer, Quota International; and Bill Johnson, WVBG president. Photo by Victoria Cather.



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Fall/Winter Activities *(Continued from page 3)*

December 3, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Walking & Yoga: A Rejuvenating Journey in the Gardens: As the holiday season gets rolling, it's time for you to get strolling and flowing! Treat yourself to time in nature and rejuvenate your mind and body with **Heidi Sherwin**, E-RYT. The workshop will include a mindfulness walk around the Gardens, followed by a gentle flowing yoga sequence and meditation in the Botanic Garden's new Welcome Center. Yoga and walking make a perfect combination for connecting with the rhythms of nature, enhancing one's energy, shifting the mood, and quieting mind chatter. Now that's holiday joy! Please bring warm clothes, walking shoes, water, a journal and pen, and a yoga mat. Hot water and tea will be provided. The cost is \$20 for WVBG members and \$30 for non-members. Register online at www.wvbg.org by November 28.

January 8, 1:00 p.m. Nature in Winter: What are the plants and animals doing during this time of year? What makes nature in winter so special? This program will be the first in a new series focusing on what is happening in nature and the Botanic Garden through the seasons. West Virginia Botanic Garden Education Director **Erin Smaldone** will present a short slide show followed by a walk around the Garden. All ages are welcome. This event is free and open to the public.

All activities take place at the West Virginia Botanic Garden, 1061 Tyrone Road., Morgantown, WV 26508 unless otherwise noted. Park in the lower parking area. Check www.wvbg.org or the WVBG Facebook page for weather-related cancellations.

Walks and presentations will last 1.5-2 hours and are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Donations are appreciated and can be made at the Welcome Center any time.

Please refrain from bringing your pet to activities. The WVBG is smoke-free and firearms are prohibited. Thank you.