



GARDEN NEWS

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.

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The Value of Our Botanic Garden

by Dr. Dave Samuel, WVBG board member

Ever wonder why the West Virginia Botanic Garden (WVBG) located off Tyrone Road is not called the "Morgantown Botanic Garden"? The answer is simple. Even though it is located right here, the value goes far beyond Morgantown. The garden's value benefits the entire state.

For those of you who have not experienced the Garden, let me enumerate some of why it is so important to our area. The Garden is a great place to get out in nature, and do it safely. There are miles of trails, some of which circle a wet area that was formerly Tibbs Run Reservoir, the water supply for Morgantown. Trails also run through wooded areas that include 17 acres of virgin hemlock. Joggers, hikers, pet walkers, bird watchers, etc. all take part in getting exercise in our Garden. And on any given day, you may bump into a neighbor or someone from Missouri, or New York, or who knows where?

Perhaps the biggest value of the Garden is education. There are educational programs almost every week. For a complete list of programs, go to www.wvbg.org. How about the Summer Nature Camps for children ages four through fourteen? There are also school programs and a Family Walk held on the second Friday of every month. Would you like a private group tour of the Garden? Give the Garden a call.

The biggest children's event of the year is the Fall Children's Festival, which this year will be held on Sunday, October 8. For young children it is a fun-filled and free day. Over 80 volunteers will be there to make sure your children have a great Garden experience.

How does all of the above happen? It takes volunteers and money. The volunteer number grows as the Garden grows, but they can always use another hand. There are garden work days where you can get dirt under your nails helping plant and weed, etc. For those who



Cub scouts investigate tadpoles while on a group tour at the WVBG.
 Photo by Erin Smaldone.

The Garden is open daily dawn to dusk.

Admission is free!

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WEST VIRGINIA BOTANIC GARDEN, INC.

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MAILING ADDRESS

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714 Venture Drive, PMB #121
Morgantown, WV 26508-7306
(304) 322-2093

GARDEN LOCATION

1061 Tyrone Road
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

- Editor:** Erin Smaldone
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- Designer:** Lisa Bridges
- Contributors:** Linda Bagby, Stacy Clovis-Woofter, Bill Mills, Dave Samuel, & Erin Smaldone.

A Note from the Director

by Bill Mills, Executive Director

Last fall a new garden was planted next to the Welcome Center with funds donated by Carl and Pam Yagle specifically for creating a flower garden. Dee Runk Boxwood give the garden an evergreen spine and the many other species are planted in drifts that flow with the undulating shape of the bed. Bulbs were tucked in between the many plants and have brought new color to the garden. As of this writing *Allium* 'Purple Sensation' stands tall with its round flowers held high above the many other plants. Every week the garden changes. In the fall I randomly scattered seeds of Poppy, Cleome and Love in The Mist. They too are coming on strong, often in unexpected places, part of the magic of gardening.



The Yagle Garden on May 5, 2017. Photo by Erin Smaldone.

Some seventy-five deciduous azaleas have been planted along the Long Walk on the far side of the reservoir loop. Many new plants have been added to the Rhododendron and Shade Gardens. The beds at the lower parking lot have been expanded and soon will be filled with new plantings. The older beds have grown strong and are looking good, with mature drifts.

We are lucky to have some very dedicated volunteers who help plant, weed and tend to the needs of an ever-expanding Garden. If you have the interest, consider joining this fun group of people. Conversation is brisk, and we often learn things from one another, and from the plants that we tend.

Come and enjoy what is new and what is old, like the very old trees in the Tibbs Run Preserve.

Gardens are happening at the Garden!

Wishing you well and happy gardening.

Bill Mills

Additions to our Nursery Discount Program

Since our Spring Newsletter, the following nurseries have joined our discount program. Check the participating nurseries link on the membership page at www.wvbg.org for a complete listing and discount information.

Caldwell Landscape Design, LLC
Masontown, WV 26542

Highland Landscaping
Buckhannon, WV 26201

Dinners in the Garden & our Late Summer Night's Dream

On the evening of April 29th, The Garden hosted its first of five dinners, part of the "A Season of Good Taste" Garden Dinner Series. Mike Costello and Amy Dawson from Lost Creek Farm provided the remarkable menu to a sold out crowd.

Trellis Smith of Modern Homestead in Reedsville, WV will be serving us a meal of delicious comfort food on the evening of May 19th. Trellis is a very gifted cook and host, always making everyone feel special and comfortable in his presence.

Chef Mark Tasker and the staff from Table 9 will be serving his unique fare on June 17th. Chef Marion Ohlinger of Hill & Hollow will join us on August 25th, followed by Chef David Halterman of Sargasso who will present his feast on October 21st.

Our annual fundraising event, **A Late Summer Night's Dream**, will happen on Sunday, September 10th. The event will happen in the shade of the Garden with music and entertainment surrounding us. Come prepared to bid on a great selection of auction items and support the Garden for another season.



Guests enjoy the meal and company at the Lost Creek Farm dinner event. Photo by Lisa Bridges.



Dinner items prepped and ready to be served. Photo by Lisa Bridges.



Guests Dave and Cathy Samuel and Gary Nicholas relax on the deck during the Lost Creek Farm dinner event. Photo by Lisa Bridges.

Garden Values *(Continued from page 1)*

can't do much physical work, the Garden has a spot for you to help as well. You can spend time greeting visitors at the Welcome Center. Plans are to try and have volunteers there every day of the week, so they will need lots of help. For a complete list of all the types of volunteer help needed, go to the website and look under "Help WVBG Grow." You can also contact Kay Jones at volunteers@wvbg.org.

You can also help your Garden grow by becoming a member, making a donation, or becoming a sponsor. The Garden's annual September fund-raiser is looking for sponsors. The value for businesses in our region is the publicity they get for helping sponsor Garden events.

Can you tell that I am a big fan of the potential of the West Virginia Botanic Garden to grow and bring visitors to Morgantown? And educate our kids? And provide a safe place to walk? Why not pay the Garden a visit and see why it has so much value for Morgantown and the state of West Virginia? For more information on any of the above email info@wvbg.org or call 304-322-2093.

Editor's note: this article is adapted from an article originally written for the Dominion Post Newspaper, April 2017.

Register Today for Camp SOAR!

There are a few spaces left in our new summer nature camp, Camp SOAR: Stewardship & Outdoor Appreciation and Readiness (ages 9-13), July 24-28, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Join us to observe, connect, create, reflect, appreciate—all outdoors at the WVBG! The camp will offer guided trail and garden explorations, lessons in basic outdoor readiness skills, an introduction to nature arts, and opportunities for creative expression and journaling. Camp highlights include visits from community members in nature-oriented careers and an on-site group volunteer project. Register at www.wvbg.org.

WVBG Summer Activities Schedule *(Continued on page 5)*

Note: we are now asking that participants **pre-register for ALL activities**. A link to register is at the end of each activity description on the activities schedule page of the WVBG website, www.wvbg.org.

July 7-September 18, First Fridays & Third Mondays, 9:30 a.m. Morning Yoga in the Garden: Join yoga instructors **Heidi Sherwin** (Fridays) and **Sally Tolka** (Mondays) to connect with nature, rejuvenate energy, and experience relaxation through yoga. The beauty and serenity of the garden setting provides the perfect environment to stretch, strengthen, center, breathe, and relax. All skill levels are welcome. Bring a yoga mat, water, sunscreen, sunglasses, and small hand towel. \$12/class for WVBG members; \$15 for non-members.

July 14-November 10, 2nd Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Friday Family Walks: Join WVBG Education Director **Erin Smaldone** on the second Friday of each month for a short story followed by a walk around the Garden concluding with a simple craft. This easy, casual walk is a great way for children and their caretakers to get outside and enjoy nature and the company of others. The trail will accommodate "off road" strollers. All ages. Free.

July 9, 1:00 p.m. Container Gardening for Kids: Create a Habitat! Butterfly Window Boxes: Learn to create a habitat that provides a welcoming home or resting spot for various West Virginia butterfly species, all in a window box garden! Led by WVBG Outdoor Educator **Stacy Clovis-Woofter**, this make-and-take garden project offers budding naturalists opportunities to observe, connect, and learn more about butterflies and habitat creation. Open to children ages 4 and older with an accompanying adult. \$15 for WVBG members; \$20 for non-members.

July 9, 8:00 p.m. Full Moon Walk: Enjoy a walk at the Botanic Garden at night under the light of a full moon with WVBG Executive Director **Bill Mills**. The walk will be on the gravel Reservoir Loop trail and will last about an hour. We will be observing the sky and listening for the sounds of the nocturnal world. Bring a flashlight. All ages. Free.

July 15, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Nature Photography Workshop: Local photographer **Dave Smaldone** will teach participants how to use simple settings on their digital cameras, give compositional tips, and encourage seeing creatively in a variety of natural settings. Beginner and intermediate photographers welcome. \$15 for WVBG members; \$20 for non-members.

July 22, 10:00 a.m. Pawpaw 101: The Story of America's Forgotten Fruit: Author **Andrew Moore** offers a brief history of the pawpaw, the largest edible fruit native to the United States, and offers some explanations as to why it has been overlooked in modern times. He also provides an overview of the growers working to raise the fruit's profile, and how the tree can be reintegrated into our diets and culture. Registrants will receive a seedling pawpaw. \$15 for WVBG members; \$20 for non-members.

July 30, 1:00 p.m. Outlander Plant Walk: OUTLANDER fans, this season's presentation by **Kay Jones** will focus on the flowers named in the series of books and shown in the TV series and what these flowers have meant throughout time. Come learn about OUTLANDER'S powerful use of flowers to tell stories. Most appropriate for adults who have some knowledge of the OUTLANDER books or TV show, but all are welcome to learn. Free.

August 5, 10:00 a.m. Nature in Summer: Summer is a time of growth in nature and blooms in the garden! Join WVBG Education Director **Erin Smaldone** to learn about what is happening in nature and at the Garden during the summer. The program will include a slide presentation followed by a walk. All ages. Free.

August 6, 1:00 p.m. Beech Bark Disease: A Long Established Forest Disease in West Virginia Reaches Monongalia County: Beech bark disease was first reported in WV in the early 1980s and has since spread throughout the higher elevations in eastern part of the state. In April 2016, BBD was discovered for the first time at the West Virginia Botanic Garden. During this presentation, **Dr. Matt Kasson**, WVU Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology, will discuss the history of the disease and potential factors influencing its progression. Most appropriate for adults. Free.

August 12, 10:30 a.m. Insect Walk: Join **Sue Olcott**, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources wildlife diversity biologist, as we go in search of winged wonders. Learn to identify butterflies at the butterfly garden and watch for other jewels of the sky as we walk the reservoir trail. This walk is dependent upon warm dry weather. All ages. Free.

August 12, 7:30-9:30 p.m. A Tour of the Night Sky: WVU Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy **D.J. Pisano** will be leading a tour of the night sky. The evening will start with a talk about some of the highlights in the night sky, including planets, star clusters, and galaxies as well as the origins of the Perseid meteor shower which peaks on August 12. This will be followed with the opportunity to look at some of these objects through telescopes plus a guided tour of how to view the Perseid meteor shower. All ages. Free.

WVBG Summer Activities Schedule *(Continued from page 4)*

August 13, 1:00 p.m. Container Gardening for Kids: Spectacular Sand Buckets with Succulents: Bring the beach back home and join us for gardening fun, as we create colorful succulent gardens in sand bucket containers! Led by WVBG Outdoor Educator **Stacy Clovis-Woofter**, this make-and-take garden project offers budding gardeners opportunities to learn more about what these sun-loving plants need to thrive. Open to children ages 4 and older with an accompanying adult. \$15 for WVBG members; \$20 for non-members.

August 19, 1:00 p.m. Grilling From the Market: Join **Bill Mills**, Director of the WV Botanic Garden as he grills vegetables and samples other gems found at the Morgantown Farmers Market from a morning visit. Come hungry. Seating limited to 15 participants. \$15 For WVBG members; \$20 for non-members.

August 25, 6:00 p.m. "A Season of Good Taste" Dinner: Hill & Hollow: Join chef **Marion Ohlinger** of Hill & Hollow restaurant for a delicious meal at the Botanic Garden. \$95 per person. Visit www.wvbg.org or call 304-322-2093 for more information and to register.

August 26, 10:00 a.m. Wildflower Walk: With local naturalist **Ellen Hrabovsky**, we will explore the plethora of summer wildflowers found around the reservoir basin. A wildflower book is helpful. All ages. Free.

August 27, 1:00 p.m. Container Gardening for Kids: Create an Ecosystem! Rainforest Terrariums: Join us in celebrating the many wonders of our world's rainforests by creating a tiny, thriving ecosystem! Led by WVBG Outdoor Educator **Stacy Clovis-Woofter**, this make-and-take garden project will focus on how soil layers, plant choice, water and light requirements are all connected as well as offer young scientists lessons on nature's water cycle. Open to children ages 4 and older with an accompanying adult. \$15 for WVBG members; \$20 for non-members.

September 2, 10:00 a.m. WVBG Citizen Scientist! Magnificent Monarch Butterflies: Join us at the WVBG Butterfly Garden and learn about the Monarch's life cycle, magnificent migration, habitat needs and conservation opportunities for citizen scientists and gardeners both young and old. Led by WVBG Outdoor Educator **Stacy Clovis-Woofter**, this walk and program will also focus on national Monarch conservation efforts by National Wildlife Federation and Monarch Watch. All ages. Free.

September 10, 4:00-7:30 p.m. Garden Party Fundraiser: A Late Summer Night's Dream: The event will happen in the shade of the Garden with music and entertainment surrounding us. Come prepared to bid on a great selection of auction items and support the Garden for another season. More information will be posted online soon. Registration opens August 1st.

September 17, 1:00 p.m. Mushroom Walk: WVU Professor of Mycology **Dan Panaccione** will lead us in search of forest fungi. He will show us how to identify the native mushrooms at the garden by their unique characteristics. Emphasis will be on general biology, not edibility. All ages. Free.

September 23, 10:00 a.m. Tree ID Walk: WVU Society of American Foresters club members will help us identify and teach us about some of the trees found at the WVBG. Bring a tree ID guide if you have one. All ages. Free.

September 23, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Appreciation Event for George Longenecker: George Longenecker, founder of the West Virginia Botanic Garden and long-time Executive Director will be celebrated at an afternoon reception. Everyone is invited to come and express their appreciation to George for his vision, leadership, and devotion to making the Garden such a wonderful community asset. Refreshments will be served. All ages. Free.

September 30, 8:00-11:00 a.m. Bird Day: Celebrate our avian friends at the Garden! Join us for a fall bird walk led by local birder **John Boback** followed by a live bird presentation by the **Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia** (10:00 a.m.). All ages. Free.

* All activities take place at the West Virginia Botanic Garden, 1061 Tyrone Rd., Morgantown, WV 26508 unless otherwise noted.

* Programs will last approximately 1.5-2 hours unless otherwise noted. Donations are appreciated and can be made at the Welcome Center at any time.

* Please refrain from bringing your pet to activities. Thank you.

* Please register for all activities online at www.wvbg.org. If you have questions, call 304-322-2093 or email info@wvbg.org.

Species Spotlight: Canadian Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

by Bill Mills, WVBG Executive Director

When I was a young man I was lucky to spend time in the Catskill Mountain range at the home of a friend. It was a magical place with a stone-lined trout pond just beyond the doors of the kitchen, and wide meadows that opened onto the Neversink River. It was a short walk from the charming village of Claryville, N.Y. The hill behind this farmhouse was a very mysterious place, a dense Hemlock forest, deeply shaded by these majestic trees and with a thick carpet of needles. I always took my shoes off to experience the softness underfoot. The forest was so dense and shaded that there was barely any ground cover or understory. This forest made the species *Tsuga canadensis* dear to my heart.

Now I live on the edge of the West Virginia Botanic Garden and find myself reunited with the species. Almost every day I walk the woodland trails with the company of my Briard, Steve, and marvel at the giant Hemlock that grow there. Some are quite old, 250 years or more. In the winter they hold snowfall on their layered branches as do their neighbors the Rhododendron. They thrive in the shade created by this mixed metaphysic forest, and the moisture of their northern facing slope. The ground is filled with many species of moss and large patches of *Lycopodium obscurum*, a club moss.

The species, also known as Eastern Hemlock, is often planted as a hedge as it will adapt well to shade conditions and can handle shearing. Most people do not realize that it wants to grow into a tree of possibly seventy-five feet and that they will be fighting it for its entire life. I have a pair in a woodland garden that I have sheared into tall wedding-cake-like topiary. They are a bit of a formal note as you enter the world or random woodland chaos.

There are dozens of cultivars of this species. I have several growing in my Charleston garden and hope to introduce many to the West Virginia Botanic Garden. 'Cole's Prostrate' was originally found in New Hampshire and is a very slow-growing form that hugs the ground. The branches become muscular and show through the carpet of fine green needles. This is a very choice plant. 'Cappy's Choice' is a weeping form that has grown to about eight feet in height and is fifteen feet wide. Its needles are smaller than those of the species, and its elegant form has branches that descend to the ground. 'Gentsch White' is often touted as a dwarf though mine are well over my own height. Their new growth is frosted white. It can be a great pairing with white spring bulbs planted close by. I have sheared a couple into topiary as my way of size control. My favorite is a plant that I remember seeing on the grounds of several old estates that I would sneak into in my youth: *Tsuga canadensis* 'pendula' or 'Sargentii', Sargent's Weeping Hemlock. The specimen that grows in my garden weeps over a walk up to the woodland garden. I enjoy being beneath its canopy, which is often home to a Cardinal or a Robin.



Tsuga canadensis 'Cappy's Choice.'
Photo by Bill Mills.



Canadian Hemlock line the Tibbs Run Trail at the WVBG.
Photo by Erin Smaldone.

The species *Tsuga canadensis* is under duress from the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, an insect species mistakenly introduced into the U.S. from Eastern Asia in the 1920s. In some areas the species has been wiped out entirely. The forest in the Garden has been treated with Imidacloprid with great success. Cold winters set the pest population back as well. It is very sad to see a species under duress, knowing that its loss will change much in the eastern forest, including the shade it casts on streams, keeping them cool for trout. Growing them in the garden setting may be how we keep this gene pool alive.

Tsuga canadensis is a species worth exploring and promoting. Its beauty is unique, its profile outstanding twelve months of the year.

WVBG Announces New Membership Options

by Linda Bagby, WVBG Membership Chair

Joining the Friends of the West Virginia Botanic Garden is becoming easier than ever! Effective in June, you can choose to join in the following new ways:

Two-Year Membership: You may join for a two-year period and get a 10% discount on the two-year cost! This saves us on annual renewal reminders so we can pass on the savings. You will get a membership card with an expiration date two years from the donation date and a renewal reminder as the expiration of your membership approaches. Join online or send in the form in this newsletter.

“Perennial” Membership: This type of membership allows you to make recurring gifts toward the cost of membership. You can choose to make a monthly gift (\$5.00 minimum/month) or an annual gift that will automatically be charged to your credit or debit card. Once set-up, this will continue until you tell us to stop. We will not send annual renewal reminders but will mail out a new membership card each year.

Perennial members must join via the WVBG website, www.wvbg.org, and click the “Help Us Grow”. The website contains more information about membership and the many benefits available.

The WVBG really needs everyone’s support to develop and maintain the facilities, gardens, and programs. Memberships help fund the operating expenses of the Garden—funds essential to keep the Garden growing. These types of continuing expenses are rarely funded through grants so the support of those who recognize the value of the Garden is vital.

Join today! For questions, call the WVBG office at 304-322-2093 or e-mail info@wvbg.org. Thank you.

Join the Friends of the West Virginia Botanic Garden Today!

join now!

Annual Membership Levels & Benefits

To learn about ‘Perennial’ memberships or to apply for any membership online please visit www.wvbg.org

	Student	Individual	Household	Contributor	Sponsor	Patron	Benefactor	Sustainer	Conservator
1 YEAR	\$18	\$23	\$30	\$100	\$750	\$500	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
2 YEAR	\$27	\$45	\$90	\$180	\$450	\$900	\$1,000	\$9,000	\$18,000
Free admission/discounts at 300 gardens in US*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Periodic WVBG newsletters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10% discount on retail merchandise (except sale items)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitations to members-only events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reduced price on special activities (such as workshops)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Preview of plant sales	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-year subscription to a complimentary magazine**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discounts at participating nurseries and garden centers***				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Free admission to one workshop (up to \$50)					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Private small group tour of WVBG (up to 10 people)						✓	✓	✓	✓
One-hour home garden consultation							✓	✓	✓
Use of Welcome Center for up to 20 people for three-hour event								✓	✓
Use of Welcome Center for up to 100 people for six-hour event									✓

*Visit the American Horticultural Society website for listings. www.ahsgardening.org/mgardens **Better Homes and Gardens or Martha Stewart Living magazine
***All members also receive a 20 percent discount on one order from White Flower Farm.

Name _____ Preferred Telephone # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ (Provide email to receive WVBG updates, including link to online newsletter.)

Check here if you prefer to receive newsletter by postal mail. WVBG may publish my name. Yes No

Contact me about gift memberships. I am including an additional tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

My company has a matching gift program, and I have enclosed the form/information.

Please make checks payable to West Virginia Botanic Garden, Inc. and return form with payment to: WVBG, 714 Venture Dr., PMB #121, Morgantown, WV 26506. Thank you!

Spotlight on Volunteers

by Kay Jones, WVBG Volunteer Coordinator



Eric Law serving as a WVBG Host.

Photo by Erin Smaldone.

Volunteers help the Garden grow with their time, talent, and physical labor. **Nari Soundarrajan** has spent many hours enjoying the Garden. He now volunteers as Garden Greeter/Host because he wants to give back to the community for the joy and calmness that he receives during his trail walks, and he wants to help visitors discover the various beautiful habitats at the Garden. His volunteer hours will contribute to the requirement for the Master Naturalist program. **Eric Law** is completing volunteer hours as a member of the Garden Maintenance Crew and as Garden Greeter/Host to fulfill volunteer hours for his Ruby Fellowship at WVU in forensic science. He recently helped plant 75 azaleas along the Reservoir Loop Trail. **Stephen Itschner** has volunteered for three seasons as a Garden Greeter/Host to complete his community service hours at WVU. He is a PhD student in electrical engineering who will be moving back to his home state of MD to work and do research. **The Keener Duo, Lynne and Don**, are both Master Naturalists. They began volunteering at the Garden to earn the required volunteer hours for that program, and they

have continued to volunteer because they enjoy it so much. Both of them frequently attend presentations and educational walks to learn more about nature, and they like working with other volunteers as they plant, weed, and mulch. Lynne says that the growth of the plants from spring through fall gives her much gratification for her physical labor. Don is now also volunteering as a Garden Greeter/Host. If you would like to volunteer your time, talent, or physical labor to help the Garden grow, contact Kay Jones at volunteers@wvbg.org.



Don Keener (left) and fellow volunteer Mark Reasor work on prepping a garden expansion. Photo by Erin Smaldone.