Celebrating 20 Years since WVBG Established a Home

by Linda Bagby, Board Member

It hardly seems possible that 20 years have passed since the West Virginia Botanic Garden, Inc. (WVBG) began the development of a botanic garden at the site of the former Tibbs Run reservoir. Prior to 2000, years of preparation had been done to register the organization as a corporation in WV and to achieve IRS tax exempt status. The search for a suitable home for a garden led to the naturally-beautiful Tibbs Run reservoir property and a lease agreement was signed with the City of Morgantown and the Municipal Utility Board (MUB) in 1999. The WVBG officially took over the responsibility for the management of the 82-acre site on June 13, 2000. The driving force behind the West Virginia Botanic Garden for most of these years was founder, George Longenecker, and many dedicated volunteers.

How the Garden has—literally—grown since then! In 2000 things were a lot different. There was no gravel road to the reservoir level, much less a parking area. There were only dirt trails to get around the site. There were no utilities at the reservoir level. There was no building and no restrooms. All equipment, supplies, and records were stored by volunteers. Meetings were held in homes or borrowed spaces. Unlike most botanic gardens, the land came with no endowment, so funds to do anything had to be raised.

The development of the WVBG has not only involved improvements to the site but has also required growth in WVBG’s organizational capacity to carry out the mission. To guide the development of the Garden’s site, a Master Plan was created by 2005. An update to the original Master Plan was needed in 2018 to address changes related to the required breach of the Tibbs Run dam and the acquisition of property along Tyrone Road. Major site enhancements have been made over the years that have provided access to fascinating features of the Garden and enabled future development. Some include: the road down the hill and the reservoir loop trail (2006); the wetland boardwalk (2010/11); the utility project which brought electric, gas, water, cable, and sewer from Tyrone Road (2013); and the Education and Event Center, including the first real restrooms (2016). Gardens have been added to provide color and texture and to address specific interests such as the Butterfly and Shade Gardens. Most recently, the Yagle Garden welcomes visitors to the Education and Event Center.

(Continued on page 3)
Director’s Note
by Philip Smith, Executive Director

So many things have to happen to an acorn for it to ever have a chance at becoming a tall oak tree. Trees produce varying levels of acorns each year, creating an interesting seed dispersal relationship between the oak and the squirrels that hide caches of acorns for winter food. Acorn production may be poor or even fail on some years. Some years oaks produce more acorns than the squirrels can consume. During those years, squirrels bury caches of these acorns further and further from the parent tree, thus dispersing the seed into new areas and where there’s a better chance for germination and growth for the seedling tree.

At the WVBG, we treat funding and volunteers like our little acorn caches. We depend on both to achieve the mission of this Garden.

In the good years, we know that big things can be achieved, but we also know that we must be responsible stewards of these resources. The WVBG Board of Directors is unparalleled in their tireless planning, generosity, ideas, and execution toward a singular goal—success through a shared vision. Thankfully, the City of Morgantown and its leadership also shared that same vision with the Garden’s founders for what this mighty oak would look like back in 2000. The city provided municipal land as fertile ground for the West Virginia Botanic Garden and in June of 2000, conditions were just right for burying a little acorn on the banks of Tibbs and Jones Run.

Over the past twenty years since this storied oak sprouted from the ground there have been many who’ve come to fertilize, prune, and care for it. Thank you for all your care and love for this very special place. Unlike most botanic gardens that may have started with large endowments or on estates, this is one where you truly made it happen with your generosity of time and treasure.
The educational program began in 2001 when the first mushroom walk was held and the program has been growing ever since. The WVBG’s first part-time employee, Education Director Erin Smaldone, was hired in 2009 and since then the public program options have grown and cover a wide variety of topics. In addition, young people learn about the environment through nature camps and school group programs and people of all ages participate in group tours and special events.

The WVBG has only been able to grow because of the generous support of the community. Volunteers have been vitally important over the years. Many individuals and groups including Eagle Scout candidates, the WVBG Garden Keepers, Wednesday Warriors and others have completed numerous projects and still take care of the Garden. The WVBG has always had a “working” Board of Directors who fulfill needed functions when there has not been enough staff to address everything. As budget allowed, an increasing number of part-time employees have been added. Not until 2016 was the Executive Director position expanded to full-time. The WVBG has been fortunate to have had such dedicated staff members who have strived to keep the Garden functioning and growing.

Financial backing from WVBG members and individual, organizational, governmental, and corporate donors has been instrumental in funding Garden operations. Grants have been and are still important in funding projects and programs. In early years the “Gardens of the Mon” tour of private gardens was a popular fundraising event; in more recent years, the Garden Party fundraisers and fundraising dinners have been fun ways for people to contribute.

The future is bright! Twenty years of hard work is bearing fruit. With increased financial and public support the West Virginia Botanic Garden can even more fully realize its mission to foster learning, inspiration, and well-being through the beauty and wonder of plants, the natural environment and culturally enriching experiences.

Come celebrate our 20th anniversary June 13! Food trucks, craft beer, and guided tours will highlight the festivities. Stay tuned for more information.

Support the WVBG:
Join us for A Season of Good Taste or Sponsor an Event or Series

There are many ways for individuals and businesses to contribute to the ongoing success of the Botanic Garden. Over the past few years, the Season of Good Taste dinner series as well as our annual Garden Party have been a wonderful way for us to raise funds and we are delighted to continue in 2020. Enjoy delicious food, good company and more right at the Garden! Learn more and purchase tickets online at www.wvbg.org.

In addition, you or your business/organization may be interested in becoming an event or series sponsor. We offer sponsorship opportunities for all of our special events. All sponsors will be recognized on event promotion as well as at the event and will receive complementary tickets. Also, new this year, we will be organizing our many public programs into “series” according to program type or topic. This will allow those interested in a particular type of program to see them listed together in the seasonal schedule. Series include art, gardening, wellness, nature, and family. We are also soliciting community sponsorships for each series. Sponsorships would cover the series for the entire year. Sponsors would be recognized on the WVBG website, in newsletters along with the seasonal schedules, and any promotion for that series. See page 5 for spring activity listings and events for the year. For more information on event or series sponsorship, visit our website, wvbg.org, or call 304-322-2093.
The Delight of Frogs and Flowers
by Erin Smaldone, Education Director

I finally figured out why I get so excited about frogs. Specifically, the song of spring peepers (at about 1.5 in long and very camouflaged, they are more often heard than seen) and the sight of wood frogs. It’s the same reason why I so delight in the sight of the first crocuses poking up in my garden—it means spring is finally here! Sure, winter has its moments. The peace and quiet you find when walking outdoors. The magic of gently falling snow. But for me, by the time the frogs start singing, I’m ready to bid winter goodbye (regardless of the date on the calendar). Most people consider the “new year” to begin on January 1. But for me, it’s closer to March 1 (side note: come join us for a special members-only spring peeper party on March 15!). It’s when the natural world starts to awaken from its winter sleep. The wood frogs and the peepers literally “thaw out.” They contain chemicals in their cells that allow them to sit in the leaf litter in the forest or in the crevice of a log and freeze over without dying. When the weather warms up to above freezing temperatures on a regular basis, they thaw out and start looking for mates. At the Botanic Garden, this generally happens around the end of February. It starts with singing. Then the eggs are laid and the tadpoles hatch out and continue to grow into the summer months. It’s a process that is fun to track and share with Garden visitors, especially the younger ones. Of course other life emerges over the course of the spring and summer and the WVBG really comes alive. Likewise, when the first spring bulbs emerge in March, it is also the beginning. The beginning of growth that will continue for many months to come. The world greens and the flowers bloom. From that point on, I can look forward to new colors, shapes, textures, and scents in the gardens on a daily basis. A spring, summer, and fall of daily delights to discover. Then, when winter rolls around again, it is not over. The plants store energy in their roots, bulbs, or seeds. The animals deploy strategies for winter survival. The world is quiet. Until the peepers sing again.

New Events at the Garden

The first Howl-O-Ween Doggie Trick or Treat event took place in October 2019 and the public’s response was paw-some. Over 200 dogs and even more ‘hoomans’ came out for a beautiful fall evening dressed up as superheroes, bad guys, and even snacks. Vendors from area non-profits set up around the Reservoir Loop Trail and passed out doggie treats to our furry friends. It’s the least we can do to thank them for all the joy they give to Botanic Garden visitors throughout the year.

Coming in July will be our first fun run at the Garden, the Young Run & Senior Walk for Wellness. Join us on July 25, 9:00-11:00 a.m. for a fun, family-oriented event at the Garden with a focus on health and wellness. The event will feature three 1-mile races for different age groups followed by a walk for the whole family and healthy food and drink for all. Races will include a run for children ages 6-8, a run for children ages 9-12, and a walking race for adults over age 50. Prizes will be awarded to the first three male and female finishers in each race. Each participant will also receive a tee shirt if registered by the pre-registration deadline (July 3). Race fee is $15 for WVBG Members, $20 for non-members. Register online at wvbg.org.

Design by Cheryl Carnegie.
**West Virginia Botanic Garden Spring 2020 Activities**

We have organized our Spring (March-June) activities into thematic series below. Please visit our website, wvbg.org, or Facebook page (@wvbotanicgarden) for complete activity descriptions and registration. Please pre-register for all activities. Thanks and we look forward to seeing you at the Garden!

### Family Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Rock Painting for Kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Friday Family Walk</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Young Birders Walk</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Friday Family Walk</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Young Birders Walk</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Friday Family Walk</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Arts in the Garden*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>1:00 - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Wood Relief Art Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>1:00 - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Drawing Flowers in Graphite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Nature Art: Creating Patterns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>1:00 - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pulp &amp; Plants: Homemade Papermaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>2:00 - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Botanic Garden Observations: Field Journaling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Nature Photography for Teens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>2:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Outdoor Portrait Photography</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Arts in the Garden series is funded in part by The Community Arts Grant, made possible through a collaborative effort between YCF and Arts Mon, with funding from the Monongalia County Commission and the Douglas H. Tanner Memorial Fund for the Arts.

### Get out and Garden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Grow Ahead: Starting Seeds Indoors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>5:00 - 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Teaching Garden Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Easy Home Composting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Build Your Own Container Garden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Discovering Nature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Operation Bluebird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Woodcock Walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Wetland/Amphibian Walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Close to home: Climate Change Impacts at WVBG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Spring Bird Walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Salamander Walk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Wellness in the Garden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 5- June 25 (Thursdays)</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Evening Yoga in the Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>9:00 - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Young Run &amp; Senior Walk for Wellness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More Wellness programming coming this summer!

### Special Events (Entire Year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Time TBD</td>
<td>WVBG 20th Anniversary Celebration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>9:00 - 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Young Run &amp; Senior Walk for Wellness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>Time TBD</td>
<td>“Tall Oaks from Small Acorns” Annual Fundraiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>12:30 - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Fall Children’s Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>4:00 - 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Howl-O-Ween: Doggie Trick or Treat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Members Only Event

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>7:00 - 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Spring Peeper Party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stay tuned for additional Members Only events later in the year.

### Celebrate National Public Gardens Day!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Free WVBG Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Free WVBG Tour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Girl Scout Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>2:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Sensational World of Bugs!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>1:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>The Science and Secrets of Flowers and Gardens!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Join us for a family activity! Photo by Erin Smaldone.
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(Continued from page 6)

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Ruby Delamata
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David Dolph
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Krislin Feathers
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Cindy Kozakiewich
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Chet & Joanne Longenecker
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Morgantown
Scott Parson w/ Thrivent Financial

* Member who also donated to the Annual Appeal or made other additional donations.
Welcome to our New Staff: Rachelle Thorne & Jess Kaplan

WVBG welcomes our newest staff members, Rachelle Thorne as Volunteer Coordinator and Jessica (Jess) Kaplan as Environmental Educator.

Rachelle's background in Parks & Recreation Management and extensive science background are bonus perks to her friendly personality and love for the Garden. Rachelle says “The WVBG has been my place of refuge ever since I moved to Morgantown. I love the hemlocks, Tibb’s Run, the gardens, and the community of people that visit and appreciate how special this place is. The staff and volunteers have done an amazing job and it’s an absolute honor to work here.” Rachelle is excited to work with our many existing volunteers as well as welcome new ones to help grow and shape this amazing place! You can reach her at volunteers@wvbg.org to discuss how you might best serve West Virginia’s Garden or by filling out our online volunteer form at wvbg.org.

Jess has an extensive background in environmental education and is also currently a graduate student at WVU where she is researching the impacts of environmental education and citizen science on youth learning. She was a guest instructor at WVBG’s summer nature camps and Natural Wellness for Girls program last year where she taught youngsters about water quality and citizen science. Jess says “my passion has always been connecting people to the natural world and I feel that working at the WVBG is a natural fit with my past experience and current career focus.” We couldn't agree more and are happy to have her on our team.

Planning Underway for our Children’s Adventure Garden!

During last year’s Board of Director’s Retreat, one of the key projects identified for future development at WVBG was the Children’s Adventure Garden (CAG). Our Site Manager and Landscape Designer Phil Cole developed a draft design for the CAG this last Fall and we have begun fundraising toward this dream. Kiwanis Foundation of Morgantown has graciously committed $5,000 toward the project and our Grants Committee has been hard at work searching for additional funds for completion. We are all excited about making WVBG more family friendly and further develop nature education opportunities for our youth. The proposed garden will feature natural play elements, a frog pond, bean tipi, lookout tower, secret tunnel, shade sails, interpretive panels, and a variety of beautiful drought tolerant plantings. A proposed Meadow Garden (pictured top left) will be developed adjacent the CAG opposite the Reservoir Loop Trail. At time of publishing, Eagle Scout Candidate Jack Copenhaver has been working with WVBG to design and install a circular labyrinth that is accessible from the Reservoir Loop Trail and will connect to the CAG through a meandering trail passing a variety of interesting mosses, lichens, and other natural plants. If you’d like to donate toward the CAG, contact Executive Director Philip Smith at psmith@wvbg.org.

Children’s Adventure Garden conceptual design. Design by Phil Cole.
The days of many hemlocks (*Tsuga Canadensis*) may be numbered but not all! We have a gorgeous forest at the WV Botanic Garden and our hemlocks are the crown jewels of that forest. Thanks to the efforts of many researchers with the USDA Forest Service and the WV Department of Agriculture much has been done to further the possibilities of their survival.

Why do we care about hemlocks? Their dense canopy shades and cools streams providing a very good aquatic habitat; they protect against erosion; the deep duff layer retains moisture and they provide an excellent wildlife refuge. They are lovely ornamentals and in some places because they are so long-lived they have great historic significance.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) (*Adelgis tsugae*) was imported accidentally from Japan and was first recognized in Richmond, Virginia in 1950. In the 1990’s it exploded on the scene throughout the Eastern United States, devastating the forests of New Jersey, Virginia and other areas east of the mountains. It rapidly made its way over the mountains and is found throughout West Virginia. Luckily, it was not spotted in the West Virginia Botanic Garden (WVBG) until 2012 and treatment was quickly initiated.

Our criteria for treatment include healthy trees within 1 ½ tree lengths of our hiking trails and trees of ecologic importance such as shading streams and providing dense habitat in our forests. Hemlocks within some special gardens were included. Small trees as well as large, old beauties were treated. In all 620 trees on the east side of the reservoir basin were measured, marked and treated with an insecticide in 2012-2013. An additional 50 trees were treated in other sensitive areas of the garden. Trees within 15 meters of streams received an injection into the tree to avoid contamination of waterways.

Another treatment option is the use of biologic controls. In Asia there are several beetles that feed only on the adelgid. Many of these have been extensively studied, quarantined and then released in an attempt to slow down the ravages of this invasive insect. A formal release of biologics has not been done at the WVBG. Our hemlocks remain healthy and we are sure that the recurring visits of a polar vortex help. The adelgid is not acclimated to very low temperatures.

Working with the team from the WV Dept. of Agriculture Plant Industries group we have been inspired by their dedication and their love of our forest, particularly our hemlocks. Comments such as “This is the new Cathedral...” and “This is what a forest should look like” should inspire us to continue to protect our forests.
WVBG Members Receive Discounts at Businesses

Members of the Friends of the West Virginia Botanic Garden at the *Contributor level or above* can receive discounts by showing their membership card at the businesses listed below. Information about discount amounts and any restrictions that apply can be found on the WVBG website under "nursery discount program."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Businesses</th>
<th>Locations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benson’s Lawn Systems Inc.</td>
<td>Morgantown, WV</td>
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<td>Greenleaf Landscapes Inc.</td>
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<td>Gritts Midway Greenhouse</td>
<td>Red House, WV</td>
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<td>Flowerscapes</td>
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<td>Sunshine Farm and Gardens</td>
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<td>Greenleaf Landscapes Inc.</td>
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Grants Continue to Help the Garden Grow

We are extremely thankful to these donors and grantors for their recent support. Our continued growth depends on their generosity.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization/Foundation</th>
<th>Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>DTE</td>
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<td>Volunteer WV – Volunteer Generation Fund Grant</td>
<td>Volunteer coordination/race event</td>
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<tr>
<td>McDonough Foundation</td>
<td>Camp &amp; school group scholarships</td>
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<td>Kiwanis Foundation</td>
<td>Children’s Adventure Garden</td>
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<td>Lynch Foundation</td>
<td>Education/outreach printing</td>
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<td>Cheat Lake Rotary</td>
<td>Event lawn pavilion</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Chingos Foundation</td>
<td>Conservation Education</td>
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WVBG Grateful for Shopping Rewards

Sincere thanks to all of you who have been directing your shopping rewards to the West Virginia Botanic Garden (WVBG)! It has made a huge difference! Since WVBG supporters began placing orders using AmazonSmile, the WVBG has received almost $800 from Amazon! Kroger’s Community Rewards Program has been even more rewarding. Since January of 2016, the WVBG has received quarterly checks totaling over $8,000! If you have not yet directed your rewards to the WVBG, please see the wvbg website for instructions (click on “support us while you shop” under the donation tab). We are very grateful for this demonstration of support for the WVBG and for the financial help that keeps the Garden growing.
Join the West Virginia Botanic Garden Today!

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Individual</td>
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- 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)
- One-year subscription to a complimentary magazine
- Checkout privileges at WVBG library
- Discounts at participating businesses
- Free admission to one workshop (up to $50)
- Private small group tour of WVBG (up to 10 people)
- Use of a designated garden for up to 30 people for a three-hour event
- Use of Education and Event Center for up to 30 people for three-hour event
- Use of Education and Event Center for up to 75 people for six-hour event

PLEASE NOTE: Individual/student member benefits apply only to the individual named on the membership. Household benefits apply to up to 5 family members living at the same address. For households larger than 5, join at the Contributor level or above.

- Visit the American Horticultural Society Website for listings and information about the Reciprocal Admissions Program.
- Magazine subscription to Better Homes and Gardens or Martha Stewart Living details will be provided.
- Visit wvbg.org for more information about nursery and garden center discount.

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. ☐ 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 26508. Thank you!

To celebrate the WVBG’s 20th anniversary, we have set a goal to increase membership by 20% in 2020. This means adding 100 new memberships. We need all our members to help make this happen! As an incentive, for every new membership that a member brings in, the recruiting member will be entered into a drawing for a $100 gift certificate for dinner at Tin202! There is no limit on how many you can recruit. Don’t forget that you can also give gift memberships. More new memberships give you more chances to win. Just be sure that your name is listed in the “Referred by” space when a new member signs up for a membership either online or using the membership brochure. As an added enticement, new members will also be entered into a separate drawing for a $100 gift certificate to Tin202. Time is limited on this incentive—all new memberships must be received by May 31, 2020. The winners of the gift certificates will be announced at the June 13 birthday celebration at the Garden (winners do not have to be present to win.)

Encourage your family, friends, and associates to join you in supporting our wonderful community resource by becoming a member—and you each will get the chance to enjoy a great dinner in celebration of 20 years of growth at the West Virginia Botanic Garden.

Win Free Dinner by Recruiting or Becoming New Members

Win a dinner at Tin202! Photo by Sher F Yip.
EXCITING NEWS! The Monongalia County Recreation and Trails Levy is up for renewal this spring and this time the WVBG will be included. By voting YES on May 12, you’ll be helping all of our county’s top parks for less than the price of a pizza. The WVBG stands to draw up to $40,000/year if the levy is renewed. Some of these much needed funds would be used to renovate an existing house that we own adjacent to the Garden’s entrance on Tyrone Road into a Welcome Center complete with gift shop, offices, and gallery with potential for snack bar and more!

Public gardens have been shown to make tremendous quality of life impacts to local communities—a fact that you are well aware of. We depend on your donations and memberships to keep the Garden open and free of admission, but costs are high. With insurance, maintenance, utilities, and overhead costs continuing to rise, we really need all the help we can get to not only remain open, but especially to continue developing our Master Plan for the enjoyment of all visitors.

We are urging all of our Monongalia County friends to get out the vote this May and help renew the Recreation and Trails Levy!