

Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail & Arboretum

<http://rhodyman.net/WCV>

April 2026 Newsletter

[PDF of Newsletter](#)

Woodcrest Villa Arboretum Is Dedicated to Those Recognized With Trees & Benches

Who's Returning to the Trail This Month?

April is one of the most exciting months for birdwatchers along the Nature Trail. As temperatures warm and trees begin to leaf out, many migratory birds are returning to Lancaster after spending the winter in the southern United States, Central America, or even South America.



One of the first birds many people notice is the **Eastern Phoebe**. This small flycatcher often returns in March or early April and can be recognized by its habit of wagging its tail while perched. Phoebes commonly nest on building ledges, bridges, and other sheltered spots.



Another early arrival is the **Tree Swallow**. These graceful birds can often be seen swooping over open areas or near water as they catch insects in midair. Their glossy blue-green backs and bright

white undersides make them easy to recognize when the sunlight catches their feathers.



April also brings the **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, one of the earliest warblers to appear in spring migration. Sometimes called the “butter-butt” because of the bright yellow patch near its tail, this energetic bird moves quickly through trees.



By mid-to-late April, visitors may also begin hearing the cheerful song of the **Chipping Sparrow**, a small bird with a rusty-red cap and a clear trilling call that is heard near lawns.

Watching for returning birds is a wonderful way to experience the changing seasons. A simple walk along the trail in the early morning can reveal a surprising variety of sights and sounds as migrating birds stop to rest and feed. If you bring binoculars and pause occasionally to listen, you may discover that the trail is full of returning travelers announcing that spring has truly arrived.

Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail & Arboretum Caretakers



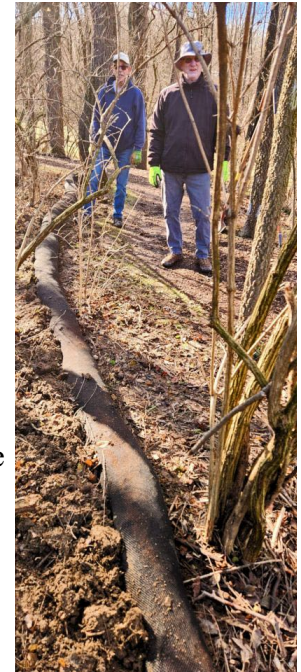
Using Wattle to Protect the Trail

Along parts of the Nature Trail, you may see long, black tubes along slopes or beside the path. These are erosion-control wattles, designed to help keep the trail from washing out during heavy rains.

The wattles used are about 8 inches in diameter—and are filled with a dense, sawdust-like material. They are surprisingly heavy, weighing about 7.5 pounds per linear foot, which helps keep them securely in place.

Installed along the contour of the trail, wattles act as barriers that slow down runoff water. This allows water to soak into the ground while trapping soil and sediment that would otherwise be carried away.

These wattles are a practical and effective way to protect the trail, especially in areas prone to runoff, helping keep the path safer and easier to maintain.



Left photo shows trail washout. In the right photo:

John Lebo & John Carpenter are installing wattle. Jim McCoy, & Bruce Metzler helped also.



Campus Bench



Arboretum or
Trail Bench

Honor & Memory Benches Available

Both the original arboretum and the expansion area are now fully planted with honor and memory trees. A new opportunity to honor or remember a loved one is through the placement of a bench—either on campus or along the arboretum and nature trail. Each bench includes a personalized plaque, allowing you to share a meaningful message that will be enjoyed by all who pause there. For more information contact Steve Henning at acer103@earthlink.net or call 7116.

IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF A LOVED ONE

Your Message Here (up to 55 characters & spaces per line)

...remembrance, dedication, sponsorship, inspiration...

Thanks for Donations

Thanks to those who donated for the Trail Crew to buy supplies for the Nature Trail & Arboretum, such as saw blades for trimming, mulch for the trail, and service for the tractor.

Make donations out to:

Tandem Living

with the note:

WCV Nature Trail & Arboretum

Send all donations to:

Bruce Metzler, Treasurer
WCV Nature Trail & Arboretum
2001 Harrisburg Pike, PH 305
Lancaster, PA 17601

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