

Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail & Arboretum

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February 2023 Newsletter

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Woodcrest Villa Arboretum is Dedicated To Those Recognized with Trees

Thanks to Arboretum & Nature Trail Patrons in 2022

Audrey Ackerman-Frey	Charles D. Graybill	Linda Rice
Gail E Alexander & daughters	Paul & Delphine Heimer	Beth Rogers
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Edward Fuller	Reginald & Jane Pattey	Rose Ann Wassell
Dennis C & Nancy J Good	Patricia R Rankin	Norman G. Yunginger

Thanks to donors & volunteers

Thanks to the many residents, families, & staff who contributed to the projects carried out in 2022. These projects included installing the James Richard Dohren park bench; planting of 6 honor/memorial trees bringing the total to 25 trees; improving the trail including removing brush & spreading wood chips; repairing storm damage on trail; mowing the edges of the arboretum to keep down invasive plants; purchasing mulch for the trail; & other supplies as needed. Thanks to Woodcrest for always being there to help when needed & providing encouragement. Special

thanks volunteers who maintain the trail; clear brush in the arboretum; and make sure the honor & memorial trees get watered when necessary.



Bruce Metzler & Ken Kreider load chips for the Nature Trail.

Thanks to Arboretum & Nature Trail Volunteers/Committee Members

Dean Baker	Tony Harnish	Jerry Lawrence	Ronald Sheehan
Emily Belser	Steve Henning	John Lebo	David Suh
Richard Benson	Bonnie Hughes	Jim McCoy	Dave Warfel
John Carpenter	Lewis Kauffman	Bruce Metzler	Joe Weidel
Levi Fisher	Scott Kennedy	Jack Neal	
Charles Graybill	Ken Kreider	Charlie Schwenk	

What understory tree in the forest keeps its tan leaves all winter



Answer:

American Beech

Fagus grandifolia

One enjoyable sight in winter is a young beech tree with its leaves still hanging on. As the winter weeks go by, the leaves lose most of their color until they resemble old lace. Holding onto old leaves is called marcescence and of course beeches aren't the only one to do it. As trees get older and taller, they seem to lose that trait. A forest full of young beech trees is a beautiful view – be sure to look for them over the next month.

Fagus grandifolia, commonly called American beech, is native to eastern North America. It is a large deciduous tree typically growing to 50-80' (less frequently to 120') tall with a dense, upright-oval to rounded-spreading crown. It is a low-branched tree with its mature trunk ranging from 2-3' (less frequently 4') in diameter. Trunks

have distinctive thin, smooth, gray bark. Elliptical dark green leaves (to 5" long) have coarse, widely-spaced marginal teeth and prominent parallel veins, each vein ending at the tip of a marginal tooth. Foliage turns golden bronze in fall. Monoecious yellowish green flowers bloom in April-May, the male flowers in drooping, long-stemmed, globular clusters and the female flowers in short spikes. Female flowers give way to triangular nuts enclosed by spiny bracts. Beechnuts ripen in fall and are edible.



Charlie Graybill & Bruce Metzler spread chips on the Nature Trail.