

Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail & Arboretum

<http://rhodyman.net/WCV>

July 2023 Newsletter

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Woodcrest Villa Arboretum is Dedicated To Those Recognized with Trees

Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail Maintenance



Left to right: Charlie Graybill, Jim McCoy, and Emy Belser. Not shown, Joe Weidel. They were blending two trails.

Thanks for Donations

Thanks to those that donated for us to buy supplies such as saw blades and service the tractor for the Nature Trail & Arboretum.

Donations for the Nature Trail & Arboretum should be made out to:

Mennonite Home Communities

with the note:

WCV Nature Trail & Arboretum

Since MHC is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, all donations made out this way are considered tax exempt donations for tax purposes. Send all donations to:

David Suh, Treasurer
WCV Nature Trail & Arboretum
2001 Harrisburg Pike, PH 202
Lancaster, PA 17601



Left to right: Charlie Graybill, John Lebo, Jim McCoy and Joe Weidel were laying out the site for a bridge to be built in the arboretum.

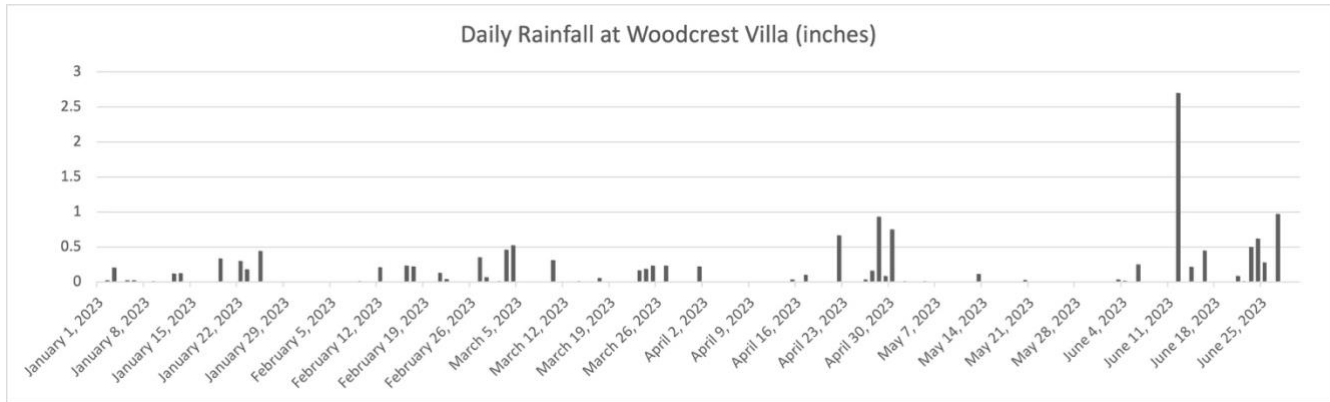
Bluebirds



Mike Fritz reports that wrens and bluebirds have occupied 4 of the new birdhouses placed around the Nature Trail & Arboretum in February. 2 had families of wrens and 2 had families of bluebirds. Between now and Fall, they may produce up to 4 broods of chicks

Rainfall at Woodcrest and the Current Drought

The Woodcrest Nature Trail & Arboretum committee monitors rainfall for the newest trees in the arboretum. These trees are reestablishing their root systems after being transplanted last fall. They are spreading their roots in their new locations in our arboretum. Though we are in the midst of a drought, the stretches in early February, mid-April and May into June, were most concerning in the arboretum.



A drought in spring affects young plants and plants with shallow roots first. The first signs of drought are the wilting of tomato plants, annuals, and new perennials. This can occur after a week with no rain or very little rain. For that reason, these plants are usually watered. When watering it is normally best to water deeply once a week, and a little more often in extremely hot conditions.

In a more severe drought even established perennials and newly planted trees and shrubs may need watering. When lawns go brown, we know that some other plants are struggling. The good news is that lawns will come back when the drought breaks. The bad news is that established perennials and newly planted trees and shrubs may suffer if they are not watered. When we haven't had sufficient rain in 10 to 14 days, the trail crew starts watering trees that were transplanted within the past 12 months.



Dave Warfel, Bruce Metzler, and John Carpenter are shown hooking up the water tank to the trail crew's tractor & trailer.

So what is considered sufficient? Our average annual rainfall is about 42 inches. To simplify, we assume a daily average of 1/10th inch per day. If over a 14-day period we get less than 7/10th of an inch, half of average, we get concerned. We look back at recent heavy rains, the condition of turf grass, and other conditions such as peak temperatures each day and the relative humidity. If in drought we water.

Edited by Steve Henning
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