

Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail & Arboretum

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July 2024 Newsletter

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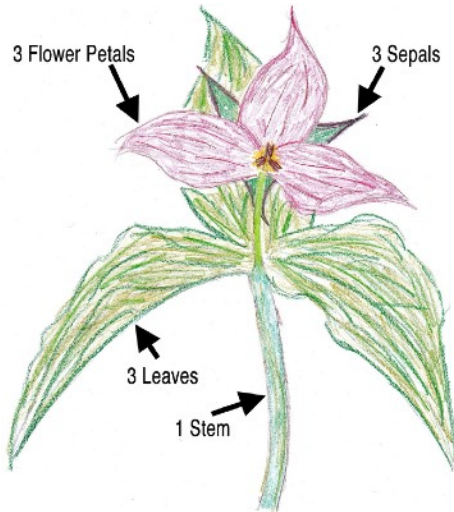
Woodcrest Villa Arboretum is Dedicated To Those Recognized with Trees

Mennonite Home is now Trillium Place, but what is a Trillium?

Trillium Place was selected as the new name for the Mennonite Home. Some residents are saying, what are Trilliums. To those of us who know what they are, they are very special.

Trilliums are spring ephemerals in the genus *Trillium*. They bloom in early spring before trees have leaved out. They quickly store up sugar in their roots while blooming and producing seed. Then they vanish until the next spring. They are known for their distinctive single stem with one three-petaled flower with three-sepals at the base of that flower, and three leaves all coming out at the same point on the single stem. Several trillium species are native to Pennsylvania, each adapted to different regions and habitats. Below are pictured two notable trillium species native to Pennsylvania.

Trillium flowers hold significant symbolism in various cultures and contexts. In Christian symbolism, the trillium's three petals are sometimes seen as representing the Holy Trinity:



the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As a spring ephemeral, trilliums are seen as harbingers of spring and renewal, symbolizing the return of life and growth after winter.

Various Native American tribes have used trilliums for medicinal purposes. They used the roots and leaves to treat ailments like dysentery, ulcers, and childbirth-related issues.

In some folklore, trilliums are considered to have protective properties and were sometimes planted near homes for protection.

Many trillium species are threatened or endangered due to habitat loss, collection, and the slow growth rate of the plants. Encouraging the propagation of trilliums in gardens and nurseries helps reduce the pressure on wild populations. From seed, a trillium plant can take anywhere from 5 to 7 years to produce its first bloom. Attempts to transplant trilliums almost always fail and result in death of the plant.



Trillium grandiflorum (Large-flowered Trillium)



Trillium erectum (Red or White Trillium)

Nature Trail is Visually Impaired Accessible

Jim McCoy, with advice from Laura Griffith, worked to make the Nature Trail accessible for people that are visually impaired. It still involves walking on uneven ground, but Laura advised Jim on where to add white markers to aid in following the trail. It is always a good idea to take a cell phone in case you need assistance. From a cell phone, the number to call for assistance is 717-390-4100. This number is posted on emergency locator signs placed every 200 to 300 feet on the trail.



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Honor/Memory Trees

No More Space on Harrisburg Pike

Unfortunately space along Harrisburg Pike was much more limited than expected and there is no longer space available. Space exists in the arboretum expansion area across the bridge from the original arboretum.

Honor/Memory Trees to be Planted in Fall

Since 2019, 26 trees have been planted in the Arboretum. One tree, a Black Gum, is in the Arboretum expansion area. Three more trees will be planted in the expansion area in the fall: a River Birch, a Yellowwood, and an Okame Cherry. Requests are being accepted for additional trees for fall planting. The tree varieties available are:

Bald Cypress - *Taxodium distichum*

Hackberry - *Celtis occidentalis*

Honeylocust - *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Skyline'

Kentucky Coffee Tree - *Gymnocladus dioica*

Princeton Elm - *Ulmus americana*

Tulip Poplar - *Liriodendron tulipifera*

For more information contact Steve Henning at 717-735-7116 or acer103@earthlink.net.

Thanks For Donations

Thanks to those who donated for the Trail Crew to buy supplies for the Nature Trail & Arboretum such as wood chips for the trail, service for the tractor and new projects.

Make donations out to:

Tandem Living

with the note:

WCV Nature Trail & Arboretum

Send all donations to:

David Suh, Treasurer

WCV Nature Trail & Arboretum

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