

Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail & Arboretum

<http://rhodyman.net/WCV>

July 2025 Newsletter

[PDF of Newsletter](#)

Woodcrest Villa Arboretum is Dedicated To Those Recognized with Trees & Benches

Lightning Bugs and Fireflies: A Summer Spectacle



Whether you call them lightning bugs or fireflies, these insects will soon light up our lawns and woods. They typically appear from late June through July, depending on the species. Fireflies are often found in areas with tall grass, marshy ground, and near ponds and streams. They also favor shaded environments under low-hanging trees, in forests, and open fields.



Photo by Radim Schreiber

To see them, look for their flashing lights after dark. These bioluminescent displays are part of their courtship rituals, as males and females use specific flash patterns to find each other. Pennsylvania is home to about 30 flashing firefly species — each with its own unique blinking sequence. One species, *Photuris pensylvanica*, is even our official state insect.

These fascinating insects are beneficial to gardens and ecosystems. As larvae, they are carnivorous and feed on soft-bodied invertebrates like snails, slugs, and worms. As adults, many are attracted to nectar and act as pollinators.



Lancaster County offers ideal habitat for fireflies, thanks to its abundance of farm fields and preserved open space — prime territory for mating displays. We can support lightning bugs by turning off outdoor lights when they're not needed during the summer season. Artificial light disrupts their ability to communicate through flashing.

Firefly larvae live in leaf litter, making them most common near wooded areas where leaves are left undisturbed year-round. Fireflies spend the first one to two years of their lives underground as larvae, hibernating and hunting. Only then do they emerge as short-lived adult lightning bugs, blinking their way through summer nights in search of a mate.

16th Annual Serviceberry Festival



This group went on the WCV bus trip to Heartwood Nursery's Serviceberry Festival in June.



Campus Bench



Arboretum or
Trail Bench

Honor & Memory Benches Available

Now, both the original arboretum and the expansion area are filled with honor and memory trees. A new opportunity to honor or remember a loved one is with a bench, either a campus bench or an arboretum/nature trail bench. Each bench includes a plaque where you can place your message. For more information contact Steve Henning at acer103@earthlink.net or call 7116.

IN MEMOR OR HONOR OF SOMEONE

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

Editor: Steve Henning:
acer103@earthlink.net