

Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail & Arboretum

<http://rhodyman.net/WCV>

March 2026 Newsletter

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

Let the Show Begin: Trees Awaken After Winter

March rarely dazzles like April or May, but it is the month when the trees shift from potential to action. The architecture of branches becomes animated. Bud scales part. Catkins lengthen. Bark appears brighter in the changing light.

The early bloomers at Woodcrest include Red Maple, Cornelian Cherry Dogwood, Serviceberry, and Flowering Dogwood.



Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) is often among the first trees to bloom, sometimes as early as late February. Its flowers are small and lack petals. Clusters of stamens or pistils that are usually red, though sometimes yellowish. When many Red Maples bloom at once, the thousands of red flower clusters create a subtle effect often described as a “red haze.” Woodcrest has many Red Maple trees across the campus and within the Arboretum.



Cornelian Cherry Dogwood (*Cornus mas*) is actually a dogwood, not a cherry. Its bright yellow

flowers open before the leaves emerge. While the flowers do not resemble typical dogwood blooms, the leaves are unmistakably dogwood. Cornelian Cherry Dogwoods line the walkway in the center of the Viva parking lot.



Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*) produces delicate, slightly fragrant, white to cream-colored blooms in early spring, often before leaves emerge. These flowers are not only decorative but also critical for attracting pollinators early in the season. They are followed by edible, blueberry-like fruit in June. There are many Serviceberry trees near the Romarin mailboxes and outside the Gamber Auditorium windows.



Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) produces iconic early-spring blooms featuring four showy white, pink, or red bracts surrounding tiny yellowish-green true flowers. Flowers are followed by red fruits (drupes) in late summer, which are a valuable food source for birds. Flowering dogwood trees grow in the hedge along Woodcrest Drive in front of the Bluebird Café.



Shown assembling 4 memorial benches left to right: John Carpenter, Jim McCoy, Rick Benson, and John Lebo.



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
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