

Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail & Arboretum

<http://rhodyman.net/WCV>

May 2023 Newsletter

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Woodcrest Villa Arboretum is Dedicated To Those Recognized with Trees

Free Native Plant Container Workshop May 23 & 24, See Page 2

Trail Crew Waters Honor & Memory Trees



During April's recent dry spell, Bruce Metzler, Mike Fritz and Charlie Graybill (from left) formed a work party to water the newest Honor & Memory Trees in the Arboretum.

Thanks for Donations

Thanks to those that donated \$750 for us to buy wood chips, service the tractor and buy saw blades 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

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Lancaster, PA 17601

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Virginia Bluebells & Eastern Bluebirds



Virginia Blue Bells are blooming along the Nature Trail and the Arboretum. Virginia bluebells are found in moist, rich woods and river valleys. These erect, clump-forming perennials display terminal clusters of pink buds, that expand into

pendulous one-inch trumpets. The flowers are pastel blue, but occasionally, white or pink. Like other spring ephemerals such as bloodroot, Virginia bluebells must grow, blossom and set seed quickly during the brief interval, after cold temperatures, before trees form enough leaves to shade them out. By mid-summer the plants have faded away. Virginia bluebells are pollinated by bumblebees and other long-tongued bees. Hummingbirds, sphinx moths, bee flies, butterflies and skippers.

Mike Fritz reports that Eastern Bluebirds have started building nests and laying eggs in several of the new birdhouses placed around the Nature Trail & Arboretum in February. Between now and Fall, they may produce up to 4 broods of chicks.



Free Class: "Native Plant Container Workshop"

You will take home a container of native plants you planted.

The Instructor is Linda Ferich, Lancaster Conservancy
Community Coordinator for Wildlife Habitat

Container gardens in groupings or as individual specimens can dress up balconies and are nice accents in existing gardens. They are also mobile: You can change your mind about a plant's position as often as you'd like without disturbing its root system. Transportability also allows gardeners to protect plants from weather extremes including hot sun and freezing temperatures.

Native plants create wildlife habitat on your patio. Native plants thrive in their environment and create a natural habitat for pollinators, like bees, birds, and butterflies. These creatures are delightful to watch but they have jobs to do; the natural environment promotes a symbiotic relationship.

The classes will be in Woodcrest Villa's greenhouse. Pots, plants, and potting soil will be provided. There will be 2 classes, each confined to 15 people. Each person will be guided in potting their own containerized native planting. You will take your container planting home after the class. The plants are Blue Moon Phlox and Butterfly Weed shown below. There will be 2 workshops, each limited to 15 attendees. The workshop with all materials included is FREE.

You must sign up for the workshop in the book in the Bistro area. There is no fee.

Date(s): Choose either Tue., May 23, or Wed., May 24.

Time(s): From 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Location: Woodcrest Villa Greenhouse



Blue Moon Woodland Phlox

Woodland Phlox flowers in April & May & provides pollen for butterflies and hummingbirds. It

is a perennial and will come back each spring.



Butterfly Weed

Butterfly weed's brilliant flowers attract butterflies. It makes a delightful cut flower. It is a perennial and will

come back each spring. It needs full sun.

If you have any questions, call Steve Henning at 7116 (717-735-7116).