

# Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail & Arboretum

<http://rhodyman.net/WCV>

September 2025 Newsletter

[PDF of Newsletter](#)

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

## Dead Trees Are Full Of Life

Dead trees, often called "snags" when standing and "logs" when fallen, play a vital role in ecosystems, providing essential habitat and resources for a wide range of wildlife.

### Fungi and Insects Are At Home Together



**Polypore fungi**, shelf fungi or conks, have pores on the underside instead of the gills that mushrooms have. These pores lead to a network of tubes where spores are produced.



**Bess beetles** are gentle and social beetles that live in family groups and communicate using stridulation—rubbing body parts to make sounds. Families even defend their logs together!



**Termites** play a major role in dead tree decomposition. They rely on gut microbes to digest tough wood components like cellulose that they can't break down on their own.

### Some Guests Arrive By Air



**Solitary bees** dig tunnels into soft, decaying wood to create nests, or use pre-existing holes left by wood-boring insects. They also seek shelter in logs to overwinter.



**Woodpeckers** use their powerful beaks to drill holes and their long tongues to capture insects from inside trees and rotting logs.



**Wasps** use downed trees as a great source of nest-building materials. Paper wasp queens will scrape up wood fibers and chew them into soft pulp to use to construct a nest.

## Don't Forget To Look Under The Log



**Millipedes** are arthropods with 2 pair of legs on each body segment. They are mainly active at night. Millipedes are detritivores, feeding on dead leaves, plants, and other organic matter.



**Salamanders** live under log and leaf clutter finding cool, damp shelter—ideal since they need moisture to absorb oxygen through their permeable skin. This also protects them from predators.



**Pill bugs** or sow bugs are actually land-dwelling crustaceans, like land crabs, that breathe through moisture-loving gills—making rotting logs the perfect humid habitat. They have six segments with a pair of legs on each segment and can roll into a ball.



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](mailto: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

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