



WEST VIRGINIA
BOTANIC
GARDEN
INC.

Fall/Winter
2008-2009

Volunteers are the engines that make the WV Botanic Garden grow

Tim Prescott

President, WVBG Board of Directors

My family and I took a guided walk the morning of October 11 at Mason-Dixon Park, near Core WV, to celebrate the 241st anniversary of the Mason-Dixon Line's completion. Our guide was Pete Zapadka, an amateur historian and astronomer with a passion for this very important piece of American history. Pete stands out in my mind because he is an exemplary volunteer. He has a day job, but his zeal leads him to spend countless personal hours researching the work of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon and their place in our local history. What's more, Pete loves to share the benefits of his accumulated knowledge with anyone who will listen.

We at the West Virginia Botanic Garden have the same drive as Pete. Although it's an entirely volunteer organization, we have 19 volunteers serving on our Board of Directors, which meets six times a year to discuss work projects, funding and strategies for accomplishing our master plan goals. Each of us is dedicated to developing the Botanic Garden as a regional showplace. No one is interested in accepting pay or gifts for what we do, but we are moved collectively by the spirit of taking part in something that is bigger than any one individual.

Additional volunteers have helped us in many different ways. At least a dozen Boy Scouts have earned Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project badges with projects of their own design at the WVBG. Volunteer work days have drawn lots of helping hands for projects as varied as placing commemorative benches, clearing brush and maintaining trails. Our annual "Gardens of the Mon" home garden tour would not be possible without the enthusiastic assistance of Master Gardeners.

The author Kahlil Gibran said "you give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." There will come a day when we will need to hire staff, especially as we begin to realize the elements of our master plan. Until then we count ourselves lucky for the support we gain from both volunteers and members.

Notes from the WVBG Executive Director

Dr. John Keefe has stepped down from the Board of Directors. His contributions have been noteworthy. His name appears on most lists of those who have helped with Eagle Scout projects and with volunteer workdays. He has brought equipment to mow the meadow below the lower parking lot to keep the woody plants from taking over. Most recently his brother in Chicago has been helping him to rework the WVBG web site. At our last meeting he promised "I will be back." Thanks, John, for all that you have done! We look forward to your continued involvement in the future.

Welcome aboard to our new Board members: Bill and Emilie Johnson, Dianne Kinney and JoAnn Nicholas. You will hear more about them in the future.

A new trail has been opened in the far southeast woods across Tibbs Run. We are not sure what to call it yet but you can access it from just below the old dam on Tibbs Run. Arpan Prabhu, a member of Troop 65 in Morgantown organized the project as part of the requirement for his Eagle Scout badge. The trail leads through the woods and connects to the Tibbs Crossing trail near the Meditation Garden on the eastern side of the WVBG property. One of the special features of this project was to bring in large, flat stones that were set into the stream to make a dry crossing at normal water levels. Now we need a name for the trail. All suggestions will be considered.

Other Eagle Scout projects being planned include a screen fence on the north side of the property near the entrance and a deer fence in the service area to protect plants in the nursery area.

Several notable plant donations have been made to the WVBG. The Goff Plaza Garden Club of Bridgeport donated a Celine Page Peony in memory of Eleanor Cain. The peony was from Don Smith of Sylvan Gardens in Floyds Knobs, Indiana. It has been planted beside the bench that was dedicated in her memory. (See the article on page 6.)

A collection of 58 labeled cultivars of daylily were donated by Steve and Sarah Zolock of Zolock Gardens in Belle Vernon, PA. They have also indicated that they would like to add to the WVBG Hosta collection in the future.

We look forward to adding labels to our plants so that everyone can learn more about them. Several donations for labeling have been received, and we are researching the best types of labels to serve our needs.

George W. Longenecker,
Executive Director

West Virginia Botanic Garden

Board of Directors

George W. Longenecker, *Executive Director*

Tim Prescott, *President*

Linda Bagby, *Vice President*

Bradford C. Bearce, *Secretary*

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Christine Linton

JoAnn Nicholas

Bill Pennington

Annette Tanner

Karen Toothman

Jon Weems

Life Directors

Frank Scafella

Florence Merow

West Virginia Botanic Garden

714 Venture Drive PMB #121

Morgantown, WV 26508-7306

(304) 376-2717

Actual location: 1061 Tyrone Road

www.wvbg.org

The West Virginia Botanic Garden, Inc. (WVBG) is incorporated in West Virginia as a tax-exempt, not-for-profit [501c (3)] organization. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law. West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents for the West Virginia Botanic Garden, Inc. from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Newsletter by Ellen Hrabovsky, Pam Yagle,
Tim Prescott and George Longenecker

Professor Joseph “Hutch” McKee Hutchison III

December 4, 1931–July 26, 2008



Born December 4, 1931, in Cambridge, Ohio, Joe spent most of his early years in Charleston, WV. A son of the late Joseph McKee and Gladys Oliver Hutchison, he graduated from Charleston High School, earned his undergraduate degree in 1953 from Muskingum College in Ohio and completed a master's degree at West Virginia University in 1957. Hutch remained at WVU as a Recreation and Parks Administration professor for 40 years. He is survived by Ann, his wife and companion of 53 years, and by their son and two daughters.

Hutch enjoyed a long, notable tenure with the National Youth Science Camp as a founder and director. He later helped to establish the National Youth Science Foundation, which recently honored him by dedicating a portion of the Foundation's new Canaan Valley facility as “the Joseph M. Hutchison III Amphitheater”. For more than 10 years he had served as chairman of the NYSF's

Board of Trustees.

After experiencing the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, he helped found the WV Storytelling Festival held at Jackson's Mill each year. He was also one of the original leaders of the West Virginia Highlands Coalition (later known as the WV Highlands Conservancy) in 1964.

Joe was an avid outdoorsman and gardener. His involvement with the West Virginia Botanic Garden, Inc. started in its infancy, before the present WVBG site was available. He guided many of the Garden's decisions and activities of the WVBG as a member of its Board of Directors and as Treasurer. The WVBG continues to receive donations in his memory.

This summary of Joe's life does not begin to describe the man. Excerpts from some recent tributes to Joe provide a better understanding of this remarkable person. The eulogy given at Joe's funeral by his long-time friend and associate, Jim Shuman, best sums up the incredible person that was Joe “Hutch” Hutchison. “Simply speaking, Joe had a tremendous influence on me, primarily through his delightful combination of quiet, under-spoken friendliness, humanity and creative energy.” Shuman offers the “Top Ten Things Learned from Joe Hutchison”:

- #10 Take short cuts!** Find the straightest line from Point A to Point B; take roads nearest that line.
- #9 If you want to get somewhere for breakfast, you might have to leave in the middle of the night.**
- #8 If you are going to make something, make it special.**
- #7 Immerse yourself in ideas – lots of them.** He never had enough of new ideas.
- #6 Don't let convention stand in your way.** He had lots of ideas and was willing to be unconventional.
- #4 Speed limit signs are just suggestions.** The corollary to this is that white lines are suggestions, too.
- #3 Country roads are what it is all about.** Dirt roads were Joe's favorite!
- #2 It's all in the story.** ...every one of us has a story, and he liked to listen.
- #1 Just treat people right, and the world will be a better place.**

Norman Julian knew Joe as “a long-serving crew chief for the ‘stats guys’ ...” at WVU sporting events. He wrote of the “Sad News” in his column in *The Dominion Post*. “Joe maintains he saw every shot Jerry West ever took in a WVU uniform at home. He recorded every completion that Jeff Hostetler, or Oliver Luck, or Major Harris ever threw.” Julian always made a point at the first football game of the fall to hear how Joe spent his summer. There was always an adventure to relate. If asked the obvious “what if something bad happened” question. “Joe would answer only with that easy grin of his, which indicated to me he knew a lot more than he told.” As to his love of storytelling, Julian says, “If ever a guy was at home at a storytelling festival, it was Joe.”

“When the ‘well dones’ are noted in the big statistic book in the sky, better allow extra space beside Joe Hutchison's name.” (N. Julian) Thanks, Joe!

***Hamamelis virginiana* (Common Witchhazel) is more
than an extract in your medicine cabinet**

Ellen Hrabovsky

My first introduction to Common Witchhazel was a mysterious bottle of clear liquid in my grandmother's bathroom. Her response to my questions was that it was good for lots of things and to leave it alone. With the name "witchhazel" it seemed a good idea to do as I was told – for once. Imagine my surprise many years later when I was introduced to this wonderful plant in the wild!

Common Witchhazel is a native shrub or sometimes a small tree that is at its finest in late fall and early winter. Slow-growing and multi-stemmed, it usually reaches heights of 15 to 20 feet and is a common understory plant found along rocky stream banks, shaded north-facing slopes and upland forests throughout the eastern United States. The leaf is deciduous, alternately arranged and broadly elliptical with a repand to sinuate margin (shallowly wavy to deeply wavy). The leaves mature from a deep green to a rich golden yellow in the fall. The attractive bark is smooth, thin and gray. The naked terminal and obtuse lateral buds are a velvety, medium brown.

Witch-hazel's most remarkable feature is the flower/fruit timing. With its yellow, spidery arrangement of four petals, the flower appears in the fall of the year and blooms often into December and even January (thus, the alternative name "Winterbloom.") Flowers are functionally monoecious, meaning that they are equipped with male and female parts, but they will not self-fertilize. They produce a fragrant, sugary nectar or sticky pollen that easily attracts bees and small gnats. Blooms appear just before or just after the leaves fall, making the shrub a late-year show of yellow.

The fruit from last year reaches maturity at the same time this year's flowers bloom. The fruit is a two-chambered structure housing an oblong dark seed in each chamber. Seeds are oily and were savored by Native Americans. When the fruit dries, it bursts open, ejecting the seeds as far as 25 feet; so keep this in mind if you feel the urge to bring a few of the flower-laden branches into the house. This characteristic gave rise to another alternative name "Snapping Hazel."



Figures A



Figure B

(Photos by Ellen Hrabovsky)

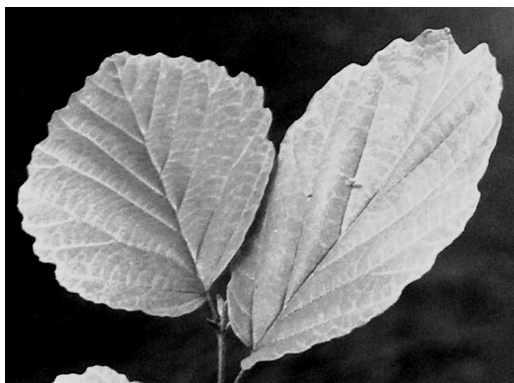


Figure C

The spidery, four-petal Common Witchhazel flower is obvious in Figure A. A two-chambered fruit, having already expelled its seeds, is open in Figure B. Flower petals can be seen in the background. The Common Witchhazel's typical wavy-edged leaf appears in Figure C.

What's in a name? *Hamamelis* means 'together with fruit' because the flower and last year's fruit are together side-by-side on the branch. This shrub is neither a "witch" nor a "hazel." The word "witch" seems to come from the old English word *wych* meaning "pliable" and referring to the bendable branches that were used by our early settlers as divining rods, just as hazel twigs were used in England.

Common Witchhazel was widely used by Native Americans as a medicinal plant. The bark was used by the Osage to treat lesions of the skin. The Potawatomi steamed twigs in their sweat lodges to relieve muscle aches and pains. The Menomoneie boiled twigs in water to relieve backaches and to keep their legs limber. The Iroquois had many uses for the plant, including a tea to treat colds and cough, as an astringent and as a blood purifier. Its uses have included the treatment of eye inflammations, hemorrhoids, bites, stings and skin sores.

Chemically, Common Witchhazel contains varying amounts of tannins, flavonoids and other compounds, which may explain its astringent and styptic actions. The bark contains about 30 times more tannins than does the leaf extract. Therefore, a tea of the leaves will have quite different effects from a tea of the bark. Herbalists have recognized its use as a styptic to stop bleeding. A tea from bark and leaves has been used for internal bleeding or as an enema to relieve hemorrhoid pain. Witchhazel extract is now found in pads or ointments for the same purpose. Recent studies have found significant anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant activity in carefully derived extracts. It is of interest that, while most herbs are sold as dietary supplements, witchhazel is one of the very few medicinal plants still approved by the Food and Drug Administration as an ingredient in non-prescription drugs.

As a cultivar, the Common Witchhazel is quite popular; and some references below give more detail about varieties available and methods of managing them.

Bibliography: There is much interesting literature about this amazing plant. The following is a small list of available sources to enhance the reader's education:

General Nutrition Company If you do not want to make your own, witchhazel extract can be obtained as Thayer's® Original Witch Hazel from www.GNC.com for \$9.99.

Fralish, J. S. and S.B. Franklin. 2002. **Taxonomy and ecology of woody plants in North American Forests.** John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York pp. 202-04.

Wikipedia, "Witch-Hazel." <http://en.wikipedia.org>

Steven Foster Group, Inc. (Specializing in Herbs, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants---Photography, Consulting and Publications.) "Witch-Hazel *Hamamelis virginiana*."

www.stevenfoster.com/education/monograph/witchhazel.html

Brooklyn Botanic Garden. "Winsome Witch-Hazel – The native shrub with an individualist streak."

www.bbg.org/gar2/plants/2005fa_winsome.html

USDA Forest Service Fact Sheet ST-294, November 1993. *Hamamelis virginiana*. Witch-hazel.

www.cnr.vt.edu/DENRO/dendrologywww.hort.uconn.edu/Plants/h/hamvir/hamvir3.html

Gardening Tip

Have mums planted that you want to come up again next spring? Leave the tops on to help insulate the crown. Many plants, including chrysanthemums have a tender crown that needs to be protected from cold during the winter. When the flowers fade, they can be trimmed off to make the plant look nicer, but cut no more than that. Leaving the branches helps insulate the crown by collecting leaves and snow that will keep the crown warmer. When spring arrives and the leaves are coming out on oak trees, cut the tops of your mums back to expose new growth coming from the crown; and you will be ready for another year.

A members' appreciation outing takes place Oct. 19

Linda Bagby

Friends of the West Virginia Botanic Garden are our backbone. To express our thanks and appreciation, we invited our members and their guests to the Botanic Garden on Sunday for a "members only" event. Music, refreshments and tours of the Garden accompanied the bright, sunny weather. Board of Directors President Tim Prescott thanked members for their role in the WVBG. As a special surprise, an architectural rendering of the new pavilion was unveiled for the first time in public!



Architect's rendering of proposed Pavilion

Our serving table was beautifully decorated with a fall floral arrangement designed by Carol Ramsburg. Homemade quickbreads made by the Catholic Daughters and the Wesley United Methodist Women accompanied warm, spiced cider donated by Kroger. A bushel of several varieties of apples was provided by Ed Hawkins from his orchard. Mellow harmonies graced the fall air. "Forge Ahead," the ensemble of Joanna Patti-Jaworski, Paul Chapman and Richard Pierce generously entertained the gathering.

Approximately 75 attendees were asked to fill out a questionnaire to suggest projects the WVBG should pursue as we move forward. Those who completed the form were entered into a drawing for some lovely prizes. Four Scarlet Kaffir Lily plants were given by Priscilla Clark. George Longenecker donated a pruning saw, collapsible hoe/cultivator and a bottle of wine from a Wisconsin vineyard. Lakeview Resort and Spa donated a round of golf for four.

We were happy so many of our Friends and their guests could join us to celebrate our West Virginia Botanic Garden!

Remember! There is one more scheduled walk this year. The Sunday afternoon gate opening is suspended until good weather returns in the spring. Sorry for the inconvenience.

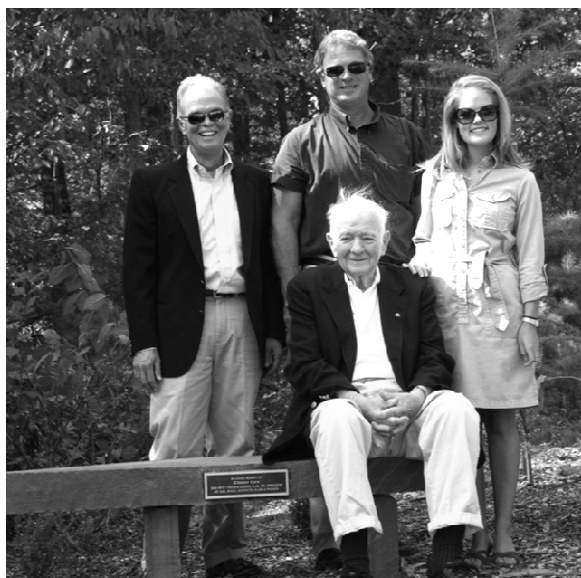
<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WALK LEADER</u>
Dec. 6	9:00A.M.	Winter Botany	Ellen Hrabovsky

The West Virginia Garden Club donates a second bench to the WVBG

Sept. 24, 2008-- Approximately 40 Garden Club members gathered at the West Virginia Botanic Garden to celebrate Eleanor Cain and to dedicate a bench in her name. The structure is adjacent to the Butterfly Garden and is beautifully landscaped to blend into the area.

Eleanor Cain was a president of the West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. and devoted years of dedicated service to that organization. Her husband, two sons and a granddaughter attended the event.

Jerry Shiver, the current WV Garden Club president, conducted the proceedings. George Longenecker orchestrated landscaping and placement of the bench.



The Cain Family

Become a Friend! Membership Has Its Benefits

INDIVIDUAL (\$25) discounts on Logo Items (caps, shirts, etc.), periodic WVBG newsletters, invitations to special Members Only activities, reduced prices for Special Events and special previews of Plant Sales

FAMILY (\$50) the same opportunities that apply to an Individual extend to the immediate family

CONTRIBUTOR (\$100) all of the above plus a Gift Item and Discounts at Participating Nurseries and Garden Centers

SPONSOR (\$250) all of the above plus a Second Gift Item of your choice

PATRON (\$500) all of the above plus a Free Private Tour of the WVBG for a small group

BENEFACTOR (\$1,000) all of the above plus a Home Garden Consultation by the WVBG Executive Director, a licensed Landscape Architect

-----X-----

I would like to become a Friend of the Botanic Garden at the _____ level. Please make your checks payable to the "West Virginia Botanic Garden." You may publish my name. __Yes __No.

Name: _____

Address: _____

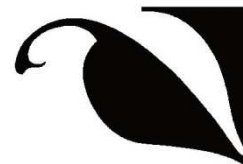
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____



Check here if you would like your donation to go to the Pavilion Fund

Thank you for your generosity!



WEST VIRGINIA
BOTANIC
GARDEN
INC.

-----X-----

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The following are the new donors since June 2008. We could not make it without you!!

A complete list of donors will appear with the Spring newsletter.

Sponsor

Anonymous

Contributor

Anthony & Carenda Fragale

Michael Goodman

Ann Hutchison

Dick & Karen Smittle

Chris & Paul Ziemkiewicz

Family

Kathryn & Jeffery Burgess

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Dorothy Wilson

Jan & Rodger Yeager

Future Botanic Garden Projects will require tools and materials that we do not have. We would be extremely grateful for donations of any of the items.

Tools and equipment

- 5-ton dump truck
- DR Brush Hog or similar mower
- Large multi-tined manure fork
- Garden hand tools

Wish List

- Blade trimmer
- Gator or similar ATV
- Ventrac or similar tractor
- Log splitter

Materials

- Double-shredded hardwood mulch

Special volunteer needs

- WVBG volunteer coordinator
- WVBG grant writer

- 2009 WVBG Garden Tour committee members
- Sponsors for the 2009 Garden Tour
- Lots of volunteers for work weekends and for other times

If you would like to help with any of these needs, please write

George@wvbg.org

or call 304-376-2717.

Thank you!



714 Venture Drive PMB #121
Morgantown, WV 26508-7308

Non-profit org.
US postage paid
Morgantown, WV
Permit #108

Come Grow With Us!

Garden Tour 2009!!!

Saturday, June 27, 2009

Note: The date has changed.

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Rain or shine)

We have altered the date for the 2009 “**Gardens of the Mon**” tour, and we need your assistance. Please let us know how you and your friends can help with this fundraiser. Review the following choices; select what you would like to do; fill out this form and send it to us at 714 Venture Drive PMB #121, Morgantown, WV26508-7308. Chris Linton has agreed to be the Garden Tour’s chairperson so you may call her at 304-292-0742 or e-mail her at cblinton@hotmail.com. If you write her, type “WVBG Garden Tour” in the subject line.

Nominate a garden for the tour _____
(Homeowner’s name, address, home and/or cell phone numbers)

I/We can help with Planning _____, **Ticket Sales** _____, **On site Hospitality** _____
On- site Plant Information _____

Name _____

Home Phone _____ **Cell Phone** _____

E-mail _____

Thanks for working to make 2009 the best Garden Tour yet!