The Arboretum at Penn State

May 2021

Welcome back for another exciting season of programs and events at the Arboretum! As always, interns bring not only fresh faces, but also surprising skills and talents to our team. Welcome back to Grace Stewart, Breanna Kisner, Zack Kline, and Lucas Rizzo who will be honing their horticulture skills and welcome them back this summer. In the children’s garden, Jennifer, a cyclist and fly-fishing enthusiast who grew up on a flower farm, and Paige Fenstermacher will be helping with day-to-day children’s garden operations. Our houseplants. Landscape architecture student Lucas Rizzo has been interested in plants since childhood when he planted his first tree by growing a maple from a fallen seed.

A windy breeze and a lightning strike necessitated the removal of a 50+ foot tall weeping hemlock (Picea abies) from the campus’s “Garden of the Senses”. The tree’s root system and soil conditions were considered too fragile to move, and it was determined that it would not be possible to preserve the tree in another location on campus.

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On Saturday, June 5, the Pollinator and Bird Garden will host two sessions, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Each will feature 45 minutes of instruction and 15 minutes for questions. The theme for the afternoon session is “Guiding children to fire protection safety.” All sessions are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

It was difficult for all involved, but the tree seems to be settling in to its new home just fine. The Arboretum’s director of horticulture, Michele Riggle, said it was the first time a tree of this size has been moved on campus in the Arboretum’s history.

Flower programs and events, Valley Bands in the Park events, ice cream socials, and campfire stories are all on the program to keep you engaged and entertained this summer. Arboretum Volunteer Coordinator Kelly Oleynik at keo5114@psu.edu for more information.

The Arboretum continues to produce videos about the gardens. We have recently, and the response has been gratifying. Topics have included creative ways to engage children in birdwatching, pollinator monitoring, and horticulture. These videos are available online and are perfect for at-home activities. You can find them on our website and social media.

Finally, we are eagerly anticipating the return of in-person programs in the gardens! We have been experimenting with new ideas, and we are excited to share them with you. We have been experimenting with new ideas, and we are excited to share them with you. We have been experimenting with new ideas, and we are excited to share them with you. We have been experimenting with new ideas, and we are excited to share them with you. We have been experimenting with new ideas, and we are excited to share them with you.