



Artist Todd McGrain poses with his sculpture of the Carolina Parakeet

## The “Buzz” in the Pollinator and Bird Garden this Fall

Though the new Pollinator and Bird Garden has only been open for a few months, we already have new and exciting things underway in the space. First, we recently welcomed Heather

Desorcie as the garden’s full-time pollinator

educator. Heather’s position is housed in [Penn State’s Insect Biodiversity Center \(IBC\)](#), and is just one outgrowth of the ongoing partnership between the Arboretum, the IBC, and the IBC’s [Center for Pollinator Research](#). Heather’s role will be to connect the IBC’s research with the Pollinator and Bird Garden, and to develop educational and interpretive resources that connect garden visitors to plants and pollinators. This is something of a return engagement for Heather; she served as our summer avian education intern in 2018, while earning her master’s degree in education studies at the University at Buffalo. Prior to taking on her new role as pollinator educator, she worked as facilitator of learning at the Tift Nature Preserve in Buffalo, NY.

We also have some exciting bird-related news to share from the garden: the Arboretum is hosting one of five sculptures being loaned to Penn State as part of the [Lost Bird Project](#). The Lost Bird Project, conceived by artist Todd McGrain, consists of sculptures of five North American bird species driven to extinction in modern times. Penn State’s exhibition is being organized by Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center, with whom the Arboretum is proud to collaborate on this year-long project. Through next September, you will be able to find a sculpture of the Carolina Parakeet in the fruit and vegetable bed area of the Pollinator and Bird Garden. Meanwhile, the Arboretum’s education and programming team is working with Shaver’s Creek and other project partners to plan educational opportunities around the exhibition.

## Public Programs

### Expanding in the Gardens

The new Pollinator and Bird Garden may have been the main attraction in the Arboretum this summer, but the gardens were also buzzing with new programs. Thanks to the hard work of both volunteers and staff and the generous support of friends of the Arboretum, we were able to host more programs at the Arboretum than ever before!



Young visitors learning about hydroponics

In planning for this summer, we did our best to ensure that there would be something available for everyone. Program activities included topics as diverse as the biology and ecology of gall wasps, the preparation of food using plants that can be found in your own backyard, and soil science made accessible for elementary-aged children. We offered programs tailored for adults, programs suitable for the whole family, and even a few mini camps for children and youth. The willingness of faculty, staff, and students from across the University, as well as community experts, to get involved made this incredible variety possible.

Of course, not everything offered this summer was new. We were extremely pleased to resume hosting drop-in programs in Childhood’s Gate Children’s Garden, including avian education and weekly harvest tastings.

For those not able to visit the gardens in person, or not comfortable doing so, we continued to schedule online programs throughout the summer, primarily in the form of webinars. Opportunities for virtual engagement will continue through the fall and into the colder months, making garden learning possible even when it might not be enjoyable to be outside.

This summer represents only the beginning for public programs at the Arboretum. We look forward to building on the strong foundation that has been laid. If you’re interested in receiving updates about upcoming programs and events at the Arboretum, please sign up for our programs and events mailing list here: <https://bit.ly/3s5ceIT>. We look forward to seeing you in the gardens soon!



Volunteer Jan Becker

## Welcome Back, Children’s Garden Volunteers!

What a delight to welcome back children’s garden volunteers this past August! After we said goodbye to summer interns Paige Fenstermacher and Grace Stewart, volunteers were back in full force and facilitating weekly programs in the garden. Harvest garden tastings resumed, and visitors enjoyed making delightful mementos such as bookmarks and leaf prints inspired by their discoveries in the garden. Scavenger hunts are always a

popular activity for children and families alike. Children’s garden guides were so engaged giving clues about where the animal sculptures were hiding, it made one wonder who was having more fun! With the continued support of our enthusiastic volunteers, programs extended further into the fall than ever before. We were so glad to have them back, and look forward to a full summer season in 2022!

## Greetings from Jennifer Hoooven, Childhood Education Coordinator

I am beyond excited to have been selected as the new childhood education coordinator for The Arboretum at Penn State. After earning a degree in Recreation and Park Management as an environmental educator at Penn State in 1999, I have spent the last 20 years working with children in our local community. Most recently, I taught an ecologically focused preschool curriculum at Penn State’s Child Care Center at Hort Woods on the University Park campus.



Jenn Hoooven  
Childhood Education  
Coordinator

My passion is connecting children with nature through both planned and emergent experience-based curricula. This summer I was able to put my experience and excitement to work in the garden as I supported and led programming around ecology, geology, and the arts. Some of my favorite moments included hearing gasps of awe and delight from children as they learned to focus a microscope for the very first time and reconnecting with many of my past preschool students and their families as they visited Childhood’s Gate Children’s Garden. I’ve enjoyed meeting our volunteers and am thankful for their warm welcome and support.

## Introducing Our Interim Director



Sanford “Sandy” Smith  
Interim Director

On July 1, 2021, Dr. Sanford “Sandy” Smith assumed the role of interim director for The Arboretum at Penn State following the retirement of the Arboretum’s founding director, Dr. Kim Steiner. Sandy, who has worked for Penn State for 34 years, is a teaching professor of Forest Resources and extension specialist with Penn State Extension. He earned his B.S. from the University of Maine, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Penn State.

The transition to interim director of the Arboretum has been a natural one.

Throughout his career developing natural resources education programs for youth, Sandy has led tours of students, the public, and forest landowners through the fields and woodlands that would become the Arboretum. Once the H.O. Smith Botanic Gardens opened, he became a frequent contributor to the Arboretum’s educational offerings. Because of his dedication to forest stewardship and interest in the cultural history of the land, he has compiled many fact-based stories about the early iron industry and the Arboretum’s Hartley Wood for visiting school groups and the public. He is currently enjoying collaborations with other Penn State faculty to provide educational programs in the Arboretum’s gardens and forests.

This is also a time of transition for the Arboretum, which became a unit in Penn State Outreach on July 1. Sandy noted, “While I committed to guiding the Arboretum in this interim period as it continues on its strong trajectory of growth and excellence, I was also tasked with helping shepherd our incorporation into Penn State Outreach. After having worked on this for the past four months, I am more confident than ever that Outreach is an outstanding place for us to be positioned and connected. In a word, we feel we have found a wonderfully supportive new ‘home.’”

## Construction Update: The Palmer Museum of Art

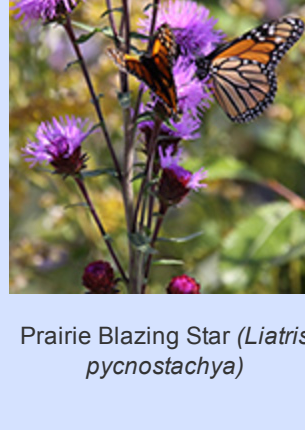
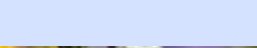
Construction of the new Palmer Museum of Art began in the Arboretum this July, and was commemorated with a groundbreaking ceremony held in the gardens in August. Over the next two years, garden visitors will be able to observe the progress of this exciting project. The new facility, planned to open in fall 2023, will not only nearly double the Palmer’s space for the display, study, and stewardship of art, but will serve as the Arboretum’s headquarters, bringing our staff together under a single roof and furnishing classrooms, event space, and other important infrastructure. Excavation for the building’s foundation and basement is now underway—we can’t wait to see the new museum take shape!



Excavation for the new museum’s foundation and basement in July..

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

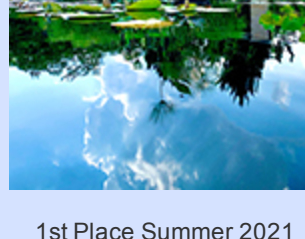
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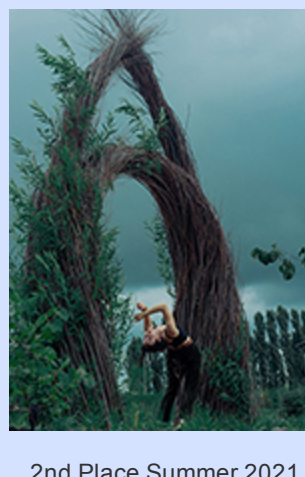
Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)



Heather Desorcie  
Pollinator Educator



1st Place Summer 2021  
Photo Contest  
Angelina Starck



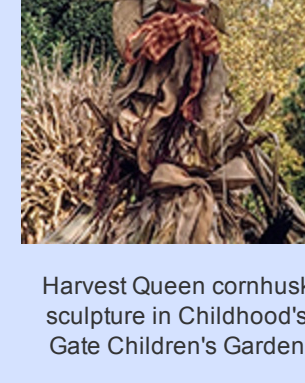
2nd Place Summer 2021  
Photo Contest  
Bea Strelow



3rd Place Summer 2021  
Photo Contest  
Audra Hixson



Holiday trees and lights will be displayed from mid-December to mid-January in the H.O. Smith Botanic Gardens.



Harvest Queen cornhusk sculpture in Childhood’s Gate Children’s Garden



Gourd Display



Autumn wreath at Overlook Pavilion

## Parking Reminder

Visitor Parking is available in the Lewis Katz Building lot, just across Bigler Road from the old Arboretum lot.

To park in the Katz lot, Arboretum visitors who do not hold a Penn State parking permit must pay a fee of \$1/hour. [Read more.](#)



A rendering of the new museum as seen from the Arboretum’s Event Lawn. (IMAGE:ARCHITECT: ALLIED WORKS. RENDERING: COURTESY OF MIR)

