



Progress Continues

Progress continues with the Confluence Discovery Park (CDP) project. The ARM Group completed the CDP Master Plan Environmental Study that analyzed all of the data from the environmental studies that had been done on the proposed CDP site and provided the next steps that need to be done to move the project forward. Though challenging, it is believed the steps are achievable. Currently, actions are being taken to implement the ARM Group proposals.

This report also highlights:

- The Fern Hollow Project that is associated with Kopchick Hall.
- A follow-up to the birds of CDP that was featured in last year's annual report.
- The affiliation with the Pennsylvania Public Horticulture Coalition (PPHC)
- The partnership to produce the "Weavers Perfect Memory".
- Some examples of how the arboretum is being used by IUP students and faculty.

On behalf of the arboretum board and IUP, I wish to express our gratitude to all of you who have generously provided support to the Allegheny Arboretum. The arboretum is an ongoing project that will continue to evolve as part of IUP and the Indiana community. Without your support, we will not be able to accomplish our goals.

There are many ways in which you can help the arboretum succeed. Toward that end, a form for your use is included on the last page of this report. We thank you in advance for your support. Please feel free to contact me. Until the next report, please stay in touch.

Cordially,

Dr. Jerry L. Pickering, Executive Director Allegheny Arboretum Board Indiana University of Pennsylvania Robertshaw Building 650 South 13th Street Indiana, PA 15705-1087

Confluence Discovery Park 2030 Master Plan

In the spring of 2022, the Allegheny Arboretum and IUP hired the environmental engineering firm ARM Group to review the environmental studies that have been completed on the four properties that constitute the proposed 39-acre CDP. The purpose of the review by ARM Group was to assess the technical, financial, and regulatory feasibility of implementing the master plan and to provide guidance on the next steps needed to begin to bring the plan to fruition.

The ARM Group also coordinated meetings with representatives from the Confluence Discovery Park Arboretum Committee, IUP, and the PADEP Northwest Regional Office. Mitchell Peffer, director of Facilities Planning and Construction, and Steven Markiewicz, associate director of Facilities Planning and Construction at IUP, were selected as co-managers for the CDP project.

The ARM Group CDP Master Plan
Environmental Summary Report was
submitted to IUP in December 2022.
The report provided ARM's conclusions
regarding the current environmental
status of the CDP and provided a basis
for potential "next-step" actions for
the CDP project area. In their report,
ARM Group stated that, "the CDP site is
comprised of land with a long industrial
and commercial past, the majority of this
land can be considered brownfields as
that term is defined by the PADEP and

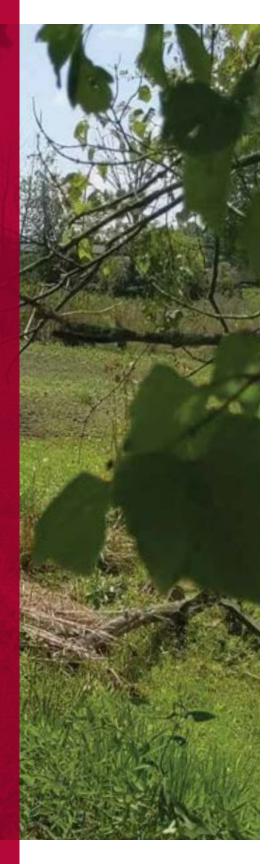
United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The conceptual plans of the CDP 2030 Master Plan envision future recreational and educational use of the site as a gateway to the existing IUP Arboretum, IUP campus, and as an overall asset to Indiana and the surrounding communities. Though challenging, these goals are believed to be achievable. Through proper funding to support future environmental, engineering, and land development activities, ARM feels that through a phased approach, the goals of the CDP 2030 Master Plan can be met in whole or in part. To achieve these goals, future communication and planning between CDP stakeholders, the greater community, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) will be paramount to make these goals a reality."

The first "action" to move forward with the CDP project is to hire Young and Associates Engineers and Surveyors (Y&A) to complete a physical feature and topographic survey for the entire CDP site boundary. They would also verify property boundary lines within the project area if new parcels weren't previously surveyed. Y&A will also research existing easements and right of ways within the project area for planning of future development. The second "action" is to hire ARM Group to do borings and soil testing on properties

that had not been tested or may need additional testing. The seven parcels of land that need to be tested include the former McNaughton Oil/Lern property, the former Whites Spring Land Co./
Roumm property, and the former Pike/
Beck Machine property. Currently, the Allegheny Arboretum and IUP are in negotiations with Y&A and the ARM Group regarding establishing costs and means of payment for carrying out the proposed work. It is hoped that the next phase of the work can begin in the spring of 2024.

The mission of the *Confluence Discovery Park 2030 Master Plan* is to transform a historically flooded, abandoned, industrial parcel into a multi-use and aesthetically attractive property that occupies a strategically important gateway to the university and the Indiana community.

The CDP Master Plan is available at the arboretum's website: IUP.edu/arboretum



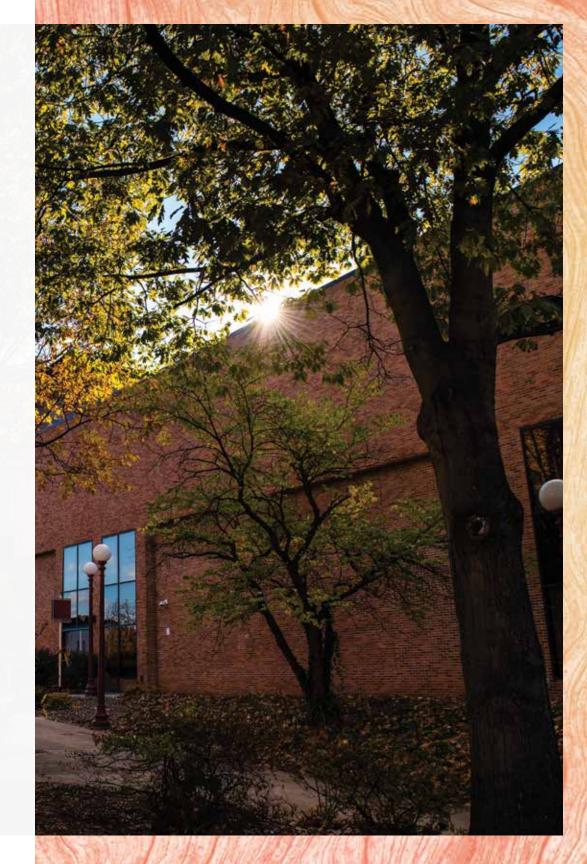
Tree Plantings

Three dedication trees were selected this past year.

- 2013-02A: Franklenia alatamaha, Franklin Tree
 - Jonathan S. Vargo-Master's degree IUP –2013 Affectionately known as Jon-Jon. Beloved family member and loved by all. Taken from us too soon. You are forever in our thoughts and prayers. Donated by the Vargo family
- 2017-02A: Liriodendron tulipifera, Tulip Tree
 - In loving memory of Becky Young Driscoll, Wife of IUP President Mike Driscoll A woman who volunteered, shared
 - her talents, and loved IUP.
 Donated by the IUP Alumni
 Association
- 2017-04A: Franklenia alatamaha, Franklin Tree
 - Robert L. (Bob) Vargo-Bachelor's degree ISTC- 1950 Well done, good and faithful servant-loving husband, father, family member, and friend to all. You are forever in our thoughts and prayers. Donated by the Vargo family and friends

In addition, the following five trees were planted.

- 2023-02: Red Oak, *Quercus rubra* (replacement for dead tree)
- 2023-03: Swamp White Oak, Q. bicolor
- 2023-04: Chinkapin Oak, Q. muehlenbergii
- 2023-05A, 05B: State Street Maples, *Acer miyabei* 'State Street'
- 2023-06: White Shield Osage Orange, *Maclura pomifera*



Benches

Three plaques were placed on dedication benches.

- Dr. Edward Platt and Mrs. Olga Platt Retired IUP Faculty
- In honor of Allan T. Andrew, Ph.D.
 For 34 years of service to the Biology
 Department and the IUP Community
 from your family
- IUP Proud Pickering Family, Jerry: Biology Department '69-'04, Susie "85, M '89, Kathy '85, Sara '89, Michael '92





Fern Hollow

The Allegheny Arboretum is developing "Fern Hollow" in the green space north of Kopchick Hall. The goal of "Fern Hollow" is to create a niche garden that will demonstrate the horticultural use of native ferns, fern allies, and flowering perennials typical of a woodland hollow found throughout the Allegheny Mountains. In addition, educational material will display and explain the Carboniferous Period and relate it to present-day energy resources. Native ferns and fern allies whose ancestors were part of the Carboniferous flora will dominate this area. The addition of native perennials will help create a "Native Woodland" habitat. "Fern Hollow" will consist of five planting "zones" that due to the demolition of Weyandt Hall will take two years to complete the plantings. Barbara Hauge, RLA, of UpStreet Architects, has created

a proposed planting layout for the five zones. Plans are being developed to start planting three of the zones in the fall of 2023. The niche garden and displays will be a focal point for the campus. It will become an educational area for IUP students, student groups visiting campus, and for the community. Educational material will include information about the fern life cycle, Carboniferous plant fossils, and the processes that formed current energy resources. The green space will also include a stone dry bed, benches, fossils, appropriate sculptures, and information signage. Most of the large stones that were part of the "Campbell Rock Garden" that was dismantled due to the construction of Kopchick Hall have been incorporated into "Fern Hollow". The emphasis of "Fern Hollow" is educational, but it will also create a unique and informative green space associated with Kopchick Hall on the IUP campus.





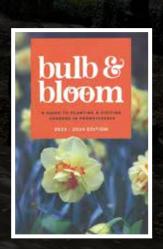


Currently, the IUP Master Plan is being updated by Smith Group, nationally known campus planners. The last IUP master plan was updated in 2017. Public meetings have been held to allow the community to learn about the update and to provide input that could be incorporated into the new master plan. The 2023 Long-Range Facilities Master Plan Update is expected to be complete by the end of 2023. Additional information can be obtained at the University Operations and Administrative Services website: www.iup.edu/university-operations/

masterplan/index.html

Pennsylvania Public Horticulture Coalition - PPHC

This year the Allegheny Arboretum became a member of the PPHC. This is a coalition of diverse public gardens and related horticulture entities throughout Pennsylvania. The PPHC was formed in 2021 when the industry needed a unified voice in Harrisburg following the adverse effects of COVID-19. The PPHC strives to be the leading voice for Pennsylvania's dynamic public horticulture industry, so all citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize and celebrate the vital contributions of public horticulture. Currently, 21 public gardens are members of the PPHC. Triad Strategies consulting firm has been hired to promote the PPHC and provide opportunities to interact with legislators to raise awareness of the benefits of public horticulture.



This spring the Pennsylvania Tourism Department published *bulb & bloom: A Guide to Planting & Visiting Gardens in Pennsylvania*, and PPHC members helped distribute the booklet throughout the Commonwealth.

Academic Committee

Soils Training and Research

This work, coordinated by Dr. Lara Homsey-Messer in the Department of Anthropology, is a partnership with IUP and Soil Hub, LLC. Soil Hub is an approved PA Department of **Environmental Protection training** sponsor for Sewage Enforcement Officers (SEOs) and is contracted to develop and administer mandatory soils training courses for individuals in private industry, the public sector at the municipal, county, and state levels, and—importantly for IUP—to students interested in careers in the environmental and natural sciences fields. Soil Hub offers trainings at various locations across the state.

including Shippensburg University in central Pennsylvania and Quakertown in eastern Pennsylvania. IUP is their western-most "soil hub," established in 2019. The benefits of this partnership to IUP are several. **First,** in addition to IUP faculty being able to use the soil pits for classroom and thesis research, IUP students can take the DEP training courses free of charge. **Second,** Soil Hub provides exposure of IUP's programming and resources to people who would otherwise have no interaction with IUP. We've had people stay behind to talk about the Archaeology and Geosciences Department and ask about graduate programs. **Third**, it supports IUP's

mission to utilize partnerships to connect students and faculty with community partners and alumni in order to work towards building a strong, sustainable society alongside a robust economy. **Finally,** it offers students an experiential learning environment applied to the kinds of real-world situations that they will find themselves working in upon graduation. Three large, permanent backhoe pits are available for training: at 6-feet wide, 10-feet long, and 3-6 feet deep, pit locations were selected to illustrate certain morphological properties, including bedrock weathering, wetland soil development, and the effect of topography on soil

development. Students are trained to identify and describe soil horizons, texture and describe key soil features, and interpret the potential for archaeological sites based on the nature and age of soils. Since 2021, Soil Hub has offered six trainings for DEP, usually two each spring and fall. Students in IUP's Archaeology BA and Applied Archaeology MA program are additionally doing soils research at the pits during the fall semester as part of courses in Geoarchaeology and Environmental Archaeology. Since 2022, the National Collegiate Soils Judging Team at the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, under the supervision of Dr. Mitzy Shaney, uses the pits to









prepare for the regional soil competition, held every October. Finally, although COVID intervened during the springs of 2020 and 2021, the pits are planned to be used by Indiana Area Senior High School students participating in the Pennsylvania statewide Envirothon competition, an annual natural-science-themed academic competition for high school-aged students held each spring, which includes topics in Soils and Land Use, as well as Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and Environmental Issues.

SEED Club students remove invasive plants in South Woods

South Woods is part of the IUP campus Arboretum. It is the small woods on University Drive beside the IUP's president house. It is across the street from the Rugby Field and Baseball Fields. This area is used for several classes

because it is the most natural area we have, with the highest proportion of native to invasive plant species. Since the students removed invasive plants in 2023 and previously in 2022, there are almost no invasive plants in the South Woods. A natural area with no invasive plants is the most ecologically healthy situation possible. Students used thick leather gloves, pry bars and wooden block fulcrums to pull the plants out by the roots. All the plants were loaded into a trailer and taken to the Recycling Center to be ground into mulch. This was a project of the IUP SEEDS Club. SEEDS is Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability. The purpose of this work was to maintain the ecological integrity of this precious, undisturbed woods. The SEEDS faculty advisor is Dr. Ellen Yerger.





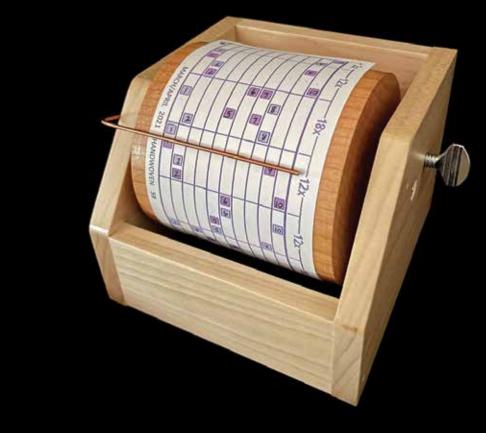


Plant Selection Committee

An inventory of the 70 seedling plants purchased from the Tree Pittsburgh Heritage Nursery in 2022 indicated that 48 plants survived the early spring frost. Three species (eastern redbud, tamarack, spicebush) accounted for most of the loss plants. The plants have been placed in larger containers at the

Twolick Valley Nursery, where they will be cared for until they are an adequate size to transplant (two-three years). Most of the plants that were selected because they are difficult to obtain have survived. Examples of this are black oak and umbrella magnolia.





Weavers Perfect Memory

The Allegheny Arboretum has joined in a partnership with Alan and Rhonda Luckey by providing wood from removed IUP campus trees (Harvest to Use Project) to be used in the construction of the Weavers Perfect Memory apparatus that they invented. Black oak and red maple from campus trees have been selected to construct the apparatus. The Weavers Perfect Memory allows a weaver a handy way to keep track of

the number of repeats in the treading draft (used to keep track of a pattern). It is planned to make commemorative units with the IUP logo engraved in the wood and to have these available for the 150th anniversary of IUP in 2025. For additional information, view the website: weaversperfectmemory.com

SCHOOL ST. SCHOOL ST 54 PRAT1 **ELKIN IGHT** 47 BREEZEDALE HADLEY DHNSON UNION BUILDING (HUB) #1 **WEYANDT** NORTHERN SUITES 25 Heritage 29 30 28 Garden UN (HUI Dak Grove **NORTH** DINING **KOPCHICK** 106 Kopchick Hall Construction Area McELHANEY WALLWORK LOCUST ST. **SUTTON** 62 **ACKERMAN GRANT ST. DELANEY** BOILER CO-GEN PLANT

Map and Guide to the Living Collection: 2023 Edition

The Tree Tour Guide to the labeled campus trees was updated this past year. A total of 109 different tree species are listed. The guide includes a map of the campus showing the location of each tree species and brief information about each species. Arboretum Board member Dr. Michael Tyree of the Biology Department was instrumental in updating the guide. The guide is available at the arboretum's web page: www.iup.edu/arboretum

Art in the Arboretum

The Art in the Arboretum project was initiated in 2016 with funding provided by the late IUP graduate Raymond Kinter. The aim of the project was to provide funding to support a competitive, student-oriented art project that would be installed on the IUP campus. The student competition was part of Sean Derry's Public Art class at IUP. The first sculpture entitled "Legacy Marker" was installed in front of Sprowls Hall. In 2020, the second student competition started and a winner selected, but

the COVID-19 virus attack caused the program to be cancelled. The plan was to start the competition again in 2022; however, due to the cancellation of the graduate art program at IUP and the elimination of the Public Art class, the Art in the Arboretum project has been cancelled. The remaining \$3,000.00 in the Art in the Arboretum fund will be used for some "art-related" project associated with the Allegheny Arboretum.

Birds of the Confluence Discovery Park—Revisited

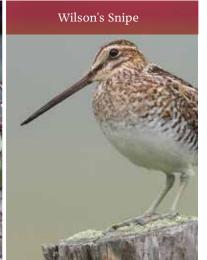
Dr John Taylor provided the following information as a "follow-up" on last year's article in the arboretum's annual report about the birds at the CDP site.

The varied habitats of the CDP site continued to attract birds, and a correspondingly large number of birding enthusiasts over the past year. The part of the site that local birders have come to call the "Kovalchick Slough," where there is standing water much of the year, delivered a delightful variety of species for viewing and photography. Although most of the water disappeared during an extended late-summer dry spell, a few puddles and an appreciable expanse of mud remained to draw the attention of shorebirds. In addition to those that breed locally like Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers, fall migrants such as Solitary Sandpipers and Greater Yellowlegs have been stopping by to probe the mud for food with their long beaks. The slough has been arguably the most reliable place in the county to get a good look at a Wilson's Snipe, a secretive species usually seen only as it bursts into erratic flight when you nearly step on it. This fall, however, one has been feeding out in the open on the mudflats, affording splendid views of the distinctive plumage that helps it blend in with shoreline vegetation. (It is, by the way, a diurnal species that feeds during the day; don't let anyone fool you into going out with a sack at night to catch one.)

Many other species have been sighted in the reeds and trees that line the slough. Warblers were well-represented throughout the warmer months of the year. The common resident Yellow









Warblers and Common Yellowthroats have been replaced with the onset of cooler weather by migrant species such as Nashville Warblers and Yellowrumped Warblers, stopping by on their way south for the winter. Palm Warblers have been particularly common in recent weeks, easily identified even at a distance by their habit of conspicuously wagging their tails. Birders visiting the slough are well advised to also keep an eye to the sky for larger birds passing over and an ear tuned for the distinctive calls of Common Ravens and Fish Crows, the latter's "bark" differing from the familiar "Caw" of the more common and nearly identical American Crows. A number of sightings this year of Common Nighthawks flying over the slough provides some encouragement that this once-abundant species is recovering somewhat from a serious decline in abundance in our area in recent decades. An eye-to-the-sky also paid dividends last December when two Black Vultures were seen flying over the slough, adding a new species to list of those seen in/ from the CDP site. Formerly restricted to areas farther south, this vulture species has experienced a northward expansion in its geographic range in recent years.

The other eye, however, should frequently be directed to the denser vegetation and thickets where an impressive variety of wrens and sparrows can be found. The disappearance of House Wrens and arrival of Winter Wrens heralds the approach of winter each year, while the hardy Carolina Wrens can be seen here throughout the year. Similarly, Song Sparrows can be found at the site year-round, while summer residents like Chipping Sparrows and Field Sparrows head south, giving way to the Whitecrowned Sparrows that pass through as migrants and White-throated Sparrows that settle in and stay for the winter. Among the most sought-after species that birders visit the site in hope of seeing is the Lincoln's Sparrow, a shy sparrow that sneaks through during spring and fall migrations. It pays to scrutinize all the conspicuously streaked sparrows to avoid overlooking a Lincoln's amidst the ubiquitous Song Sparrows. The vast majority of such attempts end in mild disappointment when the bird turns out to be the common resident species. But every so often, as occurred several times this spring and fall, such diligence is rewarded when the bird in the binoculars is found to have the finer and more restricted streaking, buffy wash on the breast, faint eye ring, and slightly smaller beak that distinguish the Lincoln's from the Song. And those are the moments that bird enthusiasts live for, and the CDP site will be providing for years to come.

Board Changes

Two members left the board:

- Ms. Christina J. Koren, University Advancement, Corporate and Foundation Relations, IUP
- Dr. John Kilmarx, Associate
 Vice President for Academic
 Administration, IUP

Two board members joined the board:

- Mr. Robert Crusan, Urban Forestry Consultants
- Mr. Matt Genchur, Regulatory Specialist, Resource Environmental Solutions



Budget

Balance 7/01/2022	\$221,197.62
Donations	\$6,764.71
Expenditures	\$16,133.10
Annual Report	\$2,718.13
Benches	\$7,305.00
IUP Foundation Fees	\$331.67
Membership Dues	\$1,325.00
American Public Garden Association	\$325.00
Pennsylvania Public Horticulture Coalition	\$1,000.00
Plaques, Accession Tags	\$177.67
Tree Tour Guide	\$1,562.50
Trees	\$2,713.13
Balance 6/30/2023	\$211,829.23

An arboretum endowment fund of \$200,000.00 was established with the IUP Foundation. As a result, starting in 2023, the fund will provide approximately \$5.595.00 annually to the arboretum budget.

2023 - 2024 Proposed Activities

- Coordinate efforts with the ARM Group, PADEP, Confluence Discovery Park Committee, and the arboretum board to implement the recommendations of the "action plan" developed by the ARM Group, based on their review of the environmental studies of the proposed CDP site.
- 2 Continue to inform the university and Indiana community about the *Confluence Discovery Park 2030* Master Plan.
- Begin discussion between the arboretum board and IUP to develop a strategy to implement Allegheny Arboretum Management, Operations, and Business Plan.
- 4 Continue to carry out arboretum "basic" functions.
 - · Coordinate tree plantings and bench donations
 - Update, maintain, and mount accession tags
 - Maintain tree accession list
 - Update, order, maintain, and mount tree plaques
 - · Coordinate bill payments and budget
 - · Write and supervise the publication of annual report
 - · Maintain and update "Friends of the Arboretum" donor wall
 - Update the arboretum's web page
- **5** Continue to implement the goals of the following committees.
 - Confluence Discovery Park Committee
 - Fern Hollow Committee
 - Plant Selection Committee
- **6** Continue to cultivate contacts with local organizations.
- **7** Continue to work with administrators, faculty, and students at IUP to promote Allegheny Arboretum-related projects.
- **8** Continue to implement the goals and objectives of the Allegheny Arboretum.

Allegheny Arboretum Board Members

Mr. W. Thomas Borellis

Assistant to the VP for Administration and Finance for Special Projects, IUP, retired

Ms. Marge Bucci

Indiana Garden Club

Mr. Robert Crusan

Urban Forestry Consultants

Mr. Matt Genchur

Regulatory Specialist, Resource Environmental Solutions

Mrs. Carla Eichman

Evergreen Garden Club of Indiana

Mr. Charles Flynn

Musser Forests, retired Treasured Trees Nursery, owner

Ms. Beth Ann Harrington

Director, Wood Center Art Department, IUP

Ms. Barbara Hauge, RLA, ASLA

UpStreet Architects, Inc. Assistant Executive Director, Allegheny Arboretum Board

Ms. Laura Herrington

Executive Director of the Indiana County Tourist Bureau

Mr. Laurence Miller

Director, Facilities Maintenance and Operations, IUP

Dr. Jerry L. Pickering

Executive Director, Allegheny Arboretum Board Biology Department, IUP, retired

Mr. Robert Pollock

Penn State Cooperative Extension

Dr. Holly Travis

Biology Department, IUP

Dr. Michael Tyree

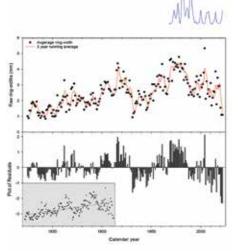
Biology Department, IUP

Short Feature— "Story of the Black Oak"

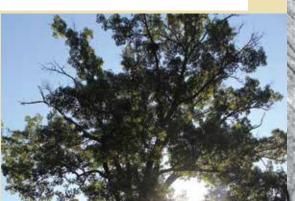
As reported in last year's annual report, the only black oak (*Quercus velutina*) on campus had to be removed. Located in the Oak Grove, it was believed to have been the largest tree on campus (height: 109 ft., DBH: 4.5 ft., circumference: 12 ft). A "slab" of the tree's cross section was saved and ring-widths were measured by undergraduate Lily Palfrey in the IUP Biology Department's tree-ring lab. Below is a summary of the data obtained.

- The oldest growth ring dates back to 1825 (note: tree slab was taken from approximately 7 feet from the ground so it is safe to add 5-7 additional years to this age).
- · Estimated age: 202 years old
- Gypsy (Spongey) Moth infestation: 1991-94
- Died: 2022; Removed: July 2022
 Ring width data collected for each year

from 1825-2022 (upper panel). Black circles represent absolute-ring width (mm) and red line represents three-year rolling average. (Lower Panel) Residuals from simple linear regression. Bars greater than zero represent observed ring-widths that were greater than predicted and negative bars represent ring-widths lower than predicted (stress years).







Friends of the Arboretum

Anonymous (2)

Faye Bradwick and Donald Lancaster

Jose Carranza '65 and Carmy Greggi Carranza '64, M'80

Evergreen Garden Club

Michelle Fryling and Calvin Fryling

Kathleen Foltz Kerr '61 and Ronald Kerr

John Kilmarx and Beth Kilmarx

Mary Jo Ludwig and Michael Ludwig

R. Craig Martin '72 and Margaret Kremer

Pat Mazanek '73, M'82 and Patti Shannahan Mazanek '74, M'86

Jack McMillen '75, M'79

Mary Ordakowski Morgan '91 and Scott Morgan Tonya Patterson

Susan Pickering '85, M'89 and Jerry Pickering

Edward Platt and Olga Platt

Ruth Riesenman '64

Wesley Semple M'69 and Susan Semple

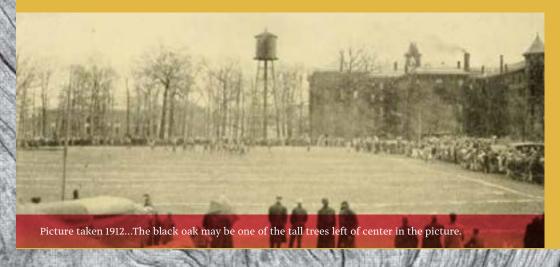
Daniel Shively and Joanne Shively

Ron Thomas and Gerri Thomas

Holly Travis M'03, D'07

Kelly White M'22

Christina Wiggins



"America's biodiversity loss is not just a crisis for the species that make up the country's unique and iconic wildlife; it's a threat to our future."

Kameran Onley

With Your Support... The Allegheny Arboretum at IUP continues to grow, but additional funding is needed in order to continue the efforts of the arboretum. Operating solely through private funding, the Allegheny Arboretum is grateful for the continued support of individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations.

Since January 2000, the arboretum has planted, nurtured, and developed green spaces on the IUP campus. The restoration and revitalization of the Oak Grove; planting of trees and placing of benches in recognition of friends, family, and loved ones; creation of new niche gardens; and so many other developments have been accomplished through the efforts of everyone involved with the Allegheny Arboretum at IUP.

Your gift makes a difference. Each tree, each garden, each bench leaves a legacy of memories for students, families, friends, and the Indiana community.

To make your gift, complete the form below, visit IUP.edu/giveagift, or call the Office of Annual Giving at 724-357-5555.

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This report summarizes the activities of the Allegheny Arboretum Board from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, and presents some projects the board will pursue in the coming year.