

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## DURAND-EASTMAN PARK ARBORETUM

### MASTER GARDENER PROJECT

*The Master Gardener Project in the Durand-Eastman Park Arboretum, initiated in 2001, has completed its eighteenth year. The schedule of weekly sessions that incorporate work, education and good fellowship in a beautiful public garden provides an attractive volunteer opportunity that continues to retain old and recruit new members.*

*The following report details the activities and accomplishments in 2019.*

#### **WORK CREW**

- The **number of Master Gardeners** at each of the weekly half-day sessions ranged from 3 to 11 with an average of over 8 per week. Twelve potential work sessions were cancelled due to cold or rain after our arrival, and holidays.
- **Twenty-nine Master Gardeners** attended one or more of the 52 weekly Tuesday sessions and while none had perfect attendance 4 did have 100+ volunteer hours with Steve Murphy topping all with 126 hours.
- **Total volunteer time** for the 50 three-hour sessions is approximately **1000 hours**, adjusting for occasions when individual attendance was less than three hours. Based on an hourly rate of \$27.17 (AARP "Value of Volunteers" Data), **the monetary value** for the 1000 hours of volunteer time is **over \$27,170**.
- **The cumulative financial value** over the eighteen years of the project, this year with approximately 1000 hours of volunteer time, **is approximately \$407,000**.

#### **ORGANIZATION**

- The various administrative tasks required for smooth operation of the Project were reorganized and formalized as follows for 2019:
- **Three co-conveners** serve during each of the four **three-month blocks** during the year to guide the education and business meeting, interact with the Park Supervisor and plan the work.
- The twelve co-conveners for 2019 were **Sandi Allen, Linda Bagdon, Bob Beabout, Shirley Bower, Mike Cellini, Rich Conolly, Jim Fallon, Kathy Lewis, Gerry Honch, John Nelson, Steve Murphy, and Paul Tiffany**.
- **Linda Bagdon** - - manager of the "educator of the day" rotation.
- **Bob Beabout** - - tour coordinator
- **John Nelson** - - manager of the rotation schedule for periodic **Newsletter** articles.
- **Jim Martel** - - preparation of both the **quarterly Project Reports** for the Master Gardener Newsletter and for preparing the **Annual Report** for the 2019 year.

**Unfortunately the year held some sadness with the loss of Chris Hodgeman on June 2 at the age of 87. Chris joined the Community Foresters in 2004. He served many years as a meeting convener and averaged 100 volunteer hours at Durand Eastman Arboretum. Chris will be greatly missed.**

## WORK SITES AND TASKS

- We started the year with the week off, due to New Year's Day. We cleared privet and oriental bittersweet from Zoo Road for two weeks. In the **Magnolia** section we performed seasonal pruning of root sprouts and removal of dead wood. We then started pruning in the Fruiticetum, stopped for a week of warm weather to remove fallen branch debris to get a head start on spring.
- We went into the **Fruiticetum** for two of the next four weeks pruning and trimming the flowering tree collection and removing oriental bittersweet.
- In early March the Intern Class of Master Gardeners was given an introductory tour of the arboretum. Several have since joined our group.
- We returned to the Fruiticetum and finished the flowering trees. Then removed oriental bittersweet and barberry from the Seaway Trail.
- As April started we spent several weeks, at Zoo Road, Culver Road and Log Cabin Road, clearing fallen branch debris to help with the upcoming mowing season. We planted several trees on Zoo Road and daffodil bulbs at the exit sign on Pine Valley Road.
- In May there were several weeks off due to heavy rain but we did manage to clear oriental bittersweet, privet and wild rose from Zoo Road.
- June found us at the Culver Road entrance sign for two weeks of weeding and planting several Purple-Leaf Sand Cherry (*Prunus x cistena*) shrubs, then back to Zoo Road to finish our May project.
- We started July by planting an American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) Princeton to honor the deceased husband of one of our members. The balance of the month was spent at the Zoo Road entrance sign clearing weeds, and walking all the park trails cutting back branches for ease of walking.
- For several weeks in August, at the Log Cabin Road and Horse Shoe Road entrances, we cleared paths behind the Lake Shore Boulevard guard rails to allow safe walking away from traffic.
- We started September on Log Cabin Road by planting four winterberry holly (*Ilex verticillata*) shrubs. The next week we found that the park deer found and harvested most of the leaves but after caging the plants they are healthy and growing undisturbed. We finished the month removing cucumber vine from the viburnum on Lake Shore Blvd.
- October started with a review of our Fall Tour route, then at Log Cabin Road removing toon tree saplings and oriental bittersweet from Sweet fern Road. In November as the year was ending, our last project was on Log Cabin Road at Pat Lake. We found and uncovered several Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) growing in the water. The trees were hardly noticeable until the wild rose and oriental bittersweet that covered them was removed.
- December started out with snow, cold and very few wanting to work. It ended with the Christmas / New Year Holidays and a need to be with our families at that time of the year.
- During the year we planned and led **four weekend public tours of the Arboretum from April to the beginning of May**. The tours were attended by a total of 51 people who made donations of \$51.00 to the **Master Gardener** program.

- We planned and led **four weekend public tours of the Arboretum from October to the beginning of November**. The tours were attended by a total of 52 people who made donations of \$127.00 to the **Master Gardener** program.
- We also led a private Arboretum tour for the entire Master Gardner group in October.

## **EDUCATION**

- In 2015 Community Forester Rich Conolly designed, built and installed a new kiosk (see below) on Zoo Road. This new addition, updated by a Community Forester every quarter, to the **Arboretum** has provide information, educational material and pictures of seasonal interest.
- **Sixteen crew members** served as “**educator of the day**” at one or more of 50 weekly sessions. The preparation and presentation of the woody plant topic took approximately 3 hours (**total ~ 150 hours**).
- At times, for various reasons, crew members came for only the weekly educational sessions and total approximately **301 hours**.
- **Six crew members** researched and wrote **woody plant articles** for the monthly Master Gardener newsletters. Each article required 2 – 4 hours of work. (**total ~ 18 hours**).
- The 8 **tours** required some unique preparation as well an additional 1 or 2 co-leaders. The estimated time expended to lead and preparation **for 8 tours is over 110 hours**.



**TOTAL EDUCATION HOURS ~561**

## **SOCIALIZATION**

- Tasty treats were furnished by the “educator of the day” that started off each of the weekly sessions and several members always closed the morning with lunch at a nearby café.

- Jim Fallon organized and hosted our annual summer picnic at his house.

## **SUMMARY**

### **WORK CREW**

The crew size has increased over the years of the project and several of the members are starting their eighteenth year. Although there is always ample work for additional crew members, the accomplishments thus far have been satisfying to us all.

### **ORGANIZATION**

The reorganization and formalization of administrative tasks allows all crew members, in rotation, to share in all aspects of the project - - work, education and administration.

### **WORK SITES AND TASKS**

The work sites and the renovation and maintenance tasks remain what they have been for the duration of the project, a not unexpected requirement in the care of large public or homeowner gardens. The crew members have acquired an increasingly intimate knowledge of the **Arboretum** and the work that is necessary. They have advanced their skills in identifying problems, pruning ornamental woody plants and in the identification and removal of invasive plants. The list of sites and tasks speaks for itself.

### **EDUCATION**

This component of the project has expanded every year. We educate each other, other Master Gardeners and the wider community through weekly education sessions, newsletter articles and reports and tours of the arboretum.

*It is our good fortune to participate in this satisfying project in a beautiful place because of the support and encouragement of the Monroe County Department of Parks and the Horticulture Staff of the Cornell-Monroe County Cooperative Extension. For this we are deeply indebted and very appreciative.*

Jim Martel

## **2019 CREW**

JOAN ALDEN  
LINDA BAGDON  
MARY BEACHAMP  
CHRIS BOWER  
RICH CONOLLY  
JERRY GARDNER  
GERRY HONCH  
KATHY LEWIS  
DAVE MERKEL  
CHRIS MURRAY  
DE ANNE QUINN  
FRANZ SEISCHAB  
CHARLIE VALESKA

SANDI ALLEN  
BOB BEABOUT  
SHIRLEY BOWER  
MIKE CELLINI  
JIM FALLON  
CHRIS HODGMAN  
DAYLE LAVINE  
JIM MARTEL  
STEVE MURPHY  
JOHN NELSON  
JIM RHODY  
PAUL TIFFANY  
GINNY WILTERDINK