Guided Walks, More: Wooster Garden Festival Schedule of Events

By Kurt Knebusch
(330) 263-3776
knebusch.1@osu.edu
Source: Ken Cochran
(330) 263-3761
cochran.7@osu.edu

WOOSTER, Ohio — Guided walks, tours and presentations are the heart of the July 19–20 Wooster Garden Festival. Secrest Arboretum and the Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI) are the settings. Here’s a look at the schedule.

Friday, July 19

• 10:30 a.m. “Hostas: A Gift for the Garden.” Secrest Arboretum.
• 11 a.m. “Meet the All-Americans” (All-American plant selections). ATI.
• 11:30 a.m. “Diagnostic Walk” (plant pests and diseases). Secrest Arboretum.
• Noon. “There’s a Fly in My Plant!” (carnivorous plants). ATI.
• 12:30 p.m. “Insect Walk.” Secrest Arboretum.
• 1 p.m. “Be a Conehead” (conifer cones). ATI.
• 1:30 p.m. “Deciduous Trees: Terrific Trees That You Should Know.” Secrest Arboretum.
• 2 p.m. “Happy Grass” (lawn improvement). ATI.
• 2:30 p.m. “Butterflies: The Ultimate Garden Accent.” Secrest Arboretum.
• 3 p.m. “Long Live Perennials!” (perennial care). ATI.
• 3:30 p.m. “Foundation Plants.” Secrest Arboretum.
• 4 p.m. “Beyond Scarborough Fair” (herb gardening). ATI.
• 4:30 p.m. “Weed Walk” (identification and management). Secrest Arboretum.
• 5 p.m. “Is There a Doctor in the Garden?” (plant diseases). ATI
• 5:30 p.m. “Bird Walk” (identification of summer residents). Secrest Arboretum.

Saturday, July 20

• 10:30 a.m. “Bird Walk.” Secrest Arboretum.
• 11 a.m. Dedication of Jack Miller Broadleaved Evergreen Garden. Secrest Arboretum.
• 11 a.m. “The Gardener’s Palette” (use of color in the garden). ATI.
• Noon. “Contain Yourself!” (container gardening). ATI.
• 12:30 p.m. “Pruning and Pinching” (how to rejuvenate plants). Secrest Arboretum.

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• 1 p.m. “Thank You Very Mulch” (landscape uses for mulch). ATI.
• 1:30 p.m. “Weed Walk.” Secrest Arboretum.
• 2 p.m. “Bananas in Your Bed” (tropical plants for Ohio landscapes). ATI.
• 2:30 p.m. “Broadleaved Evergreens for Your Landscape.” Secrest Arboretum.
• 3 p.m. “Long Live Perennials.” ATI.
• 3:30 p.m. “Sitting Plants.” Secrest Arboretum.
• 4 p.m. “Stars and Stripes” (how to mow patterns in ballfields). ATI.
• 4:30 p.m. “Tree Choices.” Secrest Arboretum.
• 5 p.m. “Beyond Scarborough Fair.” ATI.
• 5:30 p.m. “Foundation Plants.” Secrest Arboretum.
• 8 p.m. “Night Insect Walk.” Secrest Arboretum.

All Day Both Days, Secrest Arboretum

Dawn redwood trees, shade and ornamental trees, ecological landscaping, prairie plants, BioLab for Children (hands-on science for kids: water-powered pop-bottle rockets, insect zoo, edible play-dough, more), specialty plant sale (dawn redwood, umbrella magnolia, Ohio buckeye, white fir, redbud, goldenraintree, longstalk holly, oakleaf hydrangea; four-inch and one-gallon pots, $5 to $10, cash or check only), outdoor bread oven, miniature garden railway, guided wagon tours (through Secrest Arboretum to ATI and back), food (sandwiches, ice cream and beverages sold by Hartzler Family Dairy of Wooster).

All Day Both Days, ATI

“Floritopia” (shade garden, harp ensemble, floral arranging), “Tropical Paradise” (historic plant conservatory, tropical plant collection), greenhouse open house.

Secrest Arboretum is part of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center’s Wooster campus, 1680 Madison Ave.

ATI is at 1328 Dover Road (U.S. 250).

Admission and parking are free and are available at both sites.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days.

For more information, call (330) 263-3761 or visit http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/wgf.

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Dig Dawn Redwoods, 'Living Fossils,' at Wooster Garden Festival

By Justin Hamilton
(330) 263-3780
jhamilt3@hotmail.com
Source: Burney Huff
(330) 262-0636

WOOSTER, Ohio — Twenty million years of history at the 2002 Wooster Garden Festival? The idea may seem ludicrous, but thanks to the ancient dawn redwood tree, a so-called "living fossil," that's just what people will find.

The festival — July 19–20 in Secrest Arboretum and at the adjacent Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute — will spotlight, among other things, a tall tree that grew when dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

The 85-acre arboretum is home to about 30 specimens of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, and Burney Huff, a retired Wooster physician and a dawn redwood enthusiast, will be on hand to talk about them.

Huff recalled the first time he saw a dawn redwood.

"I went back to my 45th class reunion at the Duke [University] Medical School, and I remember seeing this unusual-looking tree in the Duke Gardens," he said. "I came back and had [Secrest Arboretum Curator] Ken Cochran explain what type of tree it was. From that time on, I fell in love with this tree and its history."

Dawn redwoods were known from only fossils until 1941, when a living specimen was discovered in a remote part of China. Seeds from the lone tree were shipped to the United States in 1948. Arboretums, including Secrest, began propagating them.

Today, some dawn redwoods in the Wooster facility are more than 50 years old and 100 feet high. One of the finest, and also the easiest to see, is at the arboretum field headquarters building on Selby Road.

Dawn redwoods grow well in Ohio. With full sun and moist soil they shoot up two to three feet a year, forming a stately pyramid.

Also, although the dawn redwood is a conifer, it's not an evergreen. Its green needles turn golden-bronze in fall then drop, leaving bare branches. New, light-green needles grow in spring.

Visitors to the Wooster Garden Festival, if they're so inclined, can purchase their own dawn redwood tree, albeit a young one. Small potted seedlings ($5) will be part of a specialty plant sale. Also available will be Ohio buckeye, umbrella magnolia and seven other unusual tree and shrub species, plus prairie grasses and wildflowers. Sales will be by cash or check only.

Admission to the festival is free, although there's a $5 fee for a July 20 water garden tour. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days.

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Search for Secrest ‘Geocache’ at Wooster Garden Festival

By Justin Hamilton
(330) 263-3780
jhamil3@hotmail.com
Source: Dave Lohnes
(330) 263-3648
lohnese.2@osu.edu

WOOSTER, Ohio — Secrest Arboretum now has a “geocache,” and visitors to the 2002 Wooster Garden Festival can borrow a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit to find it.

Geocaching — pronounced “geo-cashing” — is a new, informal, high-tech game. Individuals or organizations hide weather-proof containers, or geocaches, on public or private land and publicize the location coordinates. Then, using GPS units, people search for the sites.

A GPS unit is a hand-held electronic device that determines the user’s latitude and longitude within six to 30 feet.

Typically, a geocache holds a logbook and a token reward — in Secrest’s case, a wooden nickel. Finders are encouraged to register in the logbook and leave a reward in return.

Secrest Arboretum is part of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center’s Wooster campus. It’s co-hosting the July 19-20 festival with the adjacent Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI).

Except for a July 20 water garden tour, admission is free.

Borrowing a GPS unit at the festival is free, too. Five will be available in the arboretum information tent. All that’s needed to borrow one is a driver’s license. The coordinates will lead past nine notable trees — details will be given at the start — and then to the geocache. The hunt should take 45 minutes to an hour.

Fernleaf beech, Heritage river birch, Adirondack crabapple, snakebark maple, Japanese stewartia, dawn redwood, umbrella magnolia, Ohio buckeye and katsuratree are the trees.

People who have their own GPS units are welcome to bring them and use them, too, said Dave Lohnes, OARDC web developer and the coordinator of the Secrest site.

The geocache will stay in place after the festival, Lohnes said. The GPS units can be borrowed at the OARDC Visitor Center, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Details are at http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/geocache/.

Hours for the festival are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days. For more information, call (330) 263-3761 or visit http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/wgf.

OARDC’s Wooster campus is at 1680 Madison Ave. ATI is at 1328 Dover Road (U.S. 250).

Free parking will be available at both locations.
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
Ohio State University Extension
Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

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**July 20 Water Garden Tour Part of Wooster Garden Festival**

By Justin Hamilton  
(330) 263-3780  
jhamil3@hotmail.com  
Source: Bob Buchwalter  
(330) 669-3489

WOOSTER, Ohio — Have you ever wanted the soothing sound of a stream or the peaceful trickling of a waterfall in your own back yard?  

If so, then join the water garden tour that's part of the 2002 Wooster Garden Festival. You'll see what it takes to build your own water garden and discover new ideas.  

The self-guided, drive-it-yourself tour is Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Seven Wooster-area stops will showcase a range of water garden designs.  

Tickets, $5, may be purchased at the Bouquet Shop, Wooster and Orrville; Maurer Pharmacy, Wooster; and Buchwalter Greenhouse, Wooster. Maps will be given at the time of purchase. Proceeds will benefit Ohio State University's Secrest Arboretum in Wooster.  

The Wooster Garden Festival — a showcase of plants and a celebration of gardening — is July 19–20, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the arboretum and at the adjacent Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute. Except for the water garden tour, admission is free.  

"People will have the opportunity to see a wide variety of water gardens, including small- and large-scale ponds," said Bob Buchwalter, owner of Buchwalter Greenhouse and the tour organizer. "They'll get to see ponds that we have installed for people as well as ponds that have been created by the homeowner. Basically, people will see that each pond is unique in its own way."

Among other things, the tour will show different pond sizes and filtering systems, including a system that uses ultraviolet sterilizing light.  

Buchwalter said water gardens are popular, and getting more so, because of what they bring to the landscape: fish, wildlife, aquatic plants and serenity.  

The tour will show that building and maintaining a water garden is not as hard as it may seem, he said.  

"We want to show people that they can install these water gardens themselves," he said. "The tour will give people ideas for their own gardens because they can see what other people have created."

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