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Project Spotlight

Educational Arboretum at Delaware State University

On May 6, 2010, 31 different species of trees (see list of trees below, listed in order of planting) were planted across the Delaware State University campus. Most of the tree planting was contracted out, but all of the watering and maintenance is being done by volunteers, Herbarium student workers, and director of arboretum projects, **Susan Yost**. This arboretum is a component of the educational programs of the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium (DOV). Labels have been placed on over 80 different existing tree species, with a preliminary map of tree locations forming a loop walk around the campus. Approximately 30 additional new species of native and non-native trees are being planted and labeled.

The campus trees are utilized for undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources including Systematic Botany, Dendrology, Field Botany, Economic Botany, Horticultural Plant Materials and Ecology; as well as in other departments. The trees are also used for community outreach, including master gardener classes, teacher in-service classes, garden clubs, nature societies, scout troops, and visiting schoolchildren in the Woodlands Classroom Program. A monthly Campus Nature Walk program, attended by University faculty, staff and students as well as members of the community, features an array of topics including tree identification.

Undergraduate students hired as Herbarium trainees assist with the arboretum and educational outreach, along with volunteers. They also prepare herbarium specimens, which are deposited in the Herbarium and used for education, research and documentation.

The new Delaware State University Arboretum will have over 100 different tree species, with accompanying booklet and map. Use of the outdoor educational resources is being quantified. The Arboretum will enrich the curriculum and outreach, and increase botanical knowledge of students and the public.

For more information about the Educational Arboretum at Delaware State University, please contact **Dr. Susan Yost** at Syost@desu.edu [1]

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