

## Campus's collection of trees and shrubs now an arboretum



Photo courtesy of Dr. Susan Yost

The historic red maple (*Acer rubrum*) in front of Lookerman Hall will soon be in full fall color.

Left: The majestic black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), one of the oldest and largest trees on campus (4 feet in diameter), graces Delaware Hall.



Photo courtesy of Lou Calabrese

As Delaware State University continues to make sustainability a priority on campus, its collection of 172 different species of trees and shrubs is in the spotlight.

This spring, the University's collection was designated as the DSU Arboretum.

Take a walk around campus, and you'll notice every species of tree and shrub is marked with its own 4-by-6-inch label; a brochure with a map of the arboretum also is available showing their locations.

Used for education and research, the arboretum also helps people learn to appreciate trees and their value, said Dr. Susan Yost, educator at the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium.

"Each tree has a story," she said.

Local species are an important part of the food web, she said, and the arboretum also simply adds beauty during much of the year.

"The campus really has pretty trees," said Yost.

The number of trees and shrubs on campus has grown in recent years, with 57 — including 35 new species — planted during 2010-2012.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture grant obtained by Yost partly funded the establishment of the arboretum and the recent planting, labeling and map updates. Work and upkeep is done with the support of Herbarium, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Cooperative Extension faculty and staff, student workers and volunteers.

DSU's efforts have gained recognition from the



A weeping form of the native redbud tree (*Cercis canadensis*) is planted during Arbor Day festivities near Lookerman Hall by Dr. Dyremple Marsh, dean of the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences; Dr. Michael Valenti, administrator of the State Forestry Service; John Ridgeway '75, Toyota corporate manager; President Harry L. Williams; student Syrena Taylor; and Mary Widhelm, Arbor Day Foundation program manager.

### TAKE A WALKING TOUR

Dr. Susan Yost will lead a nature walk on the arboretum trees Thursday, Oct. 17, at 1 p.m. The walk will begin in front of the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium in the U.S. Washington Jr. Cooperative Extension Center.

Arbor Day Foundation for the second year in a row, with the University again named a Tree Campus USA.

DSU is the only school with that title in Delaware and one of just two Historically Black Colleges and Universities nationwide. Tree Campus USAs are recognized for having an implemented plan for tree care that is supported by school allocations, an established Campus Tree Advisory Committee, related education outreach, as well as an annual observance of Arbor Day.

"The founding fathers (of DSU) would be happy about the way we are preserving this campus," said President Harry L. Williams. "We are going to preserve space for our trees."

### ABOUT THE DSU ARBORETUM

The 172 campus tree species comprise 114 trees and 58 shrubs; 68 species are native to Delaware, 98 are nonnatives, and six are adventive species (not native to Delaware, but native to North America and now growing in the wild in Delaware). The arboretum recently became an official accredited arboretum on the Morton Register of Arboreta.

### RECENTLY ADDED SPECIES

Among the 35 species planted in the last three years on campus, two-thirds were native trees and shrubs, including several species of oak (*Quercus* spp.); beach plum (*Prunus maritima*), with white flowers and edible fruits; American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), a formerly widespread species decimated by the chestnut blight; and chinquapin (*Castanea pumila*), a shrubby relative of American chestnut with edible nuts.

### ARBORETUM MAP ONLINE

To get a copy of the brochure with the map, a list of common and scientific names and map coordinates, visit [herbarium.desu.edu](http://herbarium.desu.edu), click on Publications, and then select [Arboretum map/brochure 2012.pdf](#).