



A Note from the President of Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum

Dear Friends,

Because the health and wellbeing of our members, volunteers, supporters and visitors have always been our top priority, we have already postponed the Sculpture Trail *Kickoff* Reception scheduled for March 22 and our Volunteer Recognition Luncheon scheduled for March 28.

We have also decided to postpone our special program with **Douglas W. Tallamy** scheduled for Sunday, April 19. If you have already purchased tickets for that program, we will be contacting you directly to advise you of arrangements for a refund should you wish one.

The Knippenberg Center for Education was scheduled to open, and our outdoor volunteers were scheduled to begin work, on March 31. However, in light of the suspension of all Wayne Parks and Recreation programs and events through April 12 and the recent publication of more stringent guidelines, we will keep the KCE closed and suspend outdoor volunteer work, and we are postponing all of our events and programs, until further notice. Those events include art shows and concerts, our Mommy and me walks and book club meetings, our yoga classes, our tours and our Arbor Day program and tour.

However, we would like to remind everyone that Laurelwood Arboretum itself, like all of Wayne's public parks, continues to be open from 8 am to dusk. We have 30 acres of beautiful woodlands and gardens that are just waking up from their winter's rest, and early spring blooms are already plentiful. Our miles of walking paths will bring fresh air to your lungs and a bounce to your step.

There is plenty of room in the arboretum to comply with current recommendations to keep your distance from others while still being able to enjoy all that we have to offer. I know that the stress of recent days has been difficult for everyone, but for me stress has a way of yielding to Mother Nature whenever I take a walk in our beautiful arboretum. I highly recommend it.

Please know that we will take every precaution recommended by health officials in an effort to keep everyone who visits Laurelwood Arboretum healthy and safe. We will also continue to follow the directives of the Wayne Parks and Recreation Department.

We very much appreciate your patience, and your continued support, as we navigate the days ahead together.

Wishing you all good health,

Linda E. Ransom