

2021 Arden *Treasure Hunt*

To get credit for each mission post a photo on **Forest of the Ardens** along with the appropriate hashtag. If you are doing it with a group of people, tag them all in the photo/post for credit. Post photos of all ten missions to receive the 2021 Forest of the Arden's Patch featuring the red fox, designed by local artist Phoenix Ridings. When you are finished posting your photos, message the Forests of the Ardens Facebook page to let them know you are finished. You can pick up your patches at the Forest Committee's booth at the Arden Fair on September 4th. This table is located at 1900 Sherwood Road. Or you can make arrangements via FB messenger to have your patches delivered.

Mission #1: Arden's most famous tree

Entomologist Doug Tallamy calls oaks "the most productive plant in this country." Their importance in our ecosystem cannot be understated, so Tallamy wrote a whole book about them, *The Nature of Oaks* (available at the Arden Library). In a recent interview, Tallamy stated, "Over 900 species of Lepidoptera—and most of them are moths—use oaks, and there's no other genus that comes close to that. The reason that's important is that caterpillars are transferring more energy from plants to other animals than any other type of plant eater. Measuring the caterpillars in your ecosystem is a really good measure of how well that energy is being transferred out and how much biodiversity you actually have in that ecosystem." They truly are the giants of our eco-system. Arden's most famous tree is a Swamp White Oak hybrid which was hauled out of the woods as a young tree and relocated to the Arden Green in 1914 to honor Joseph Fels, the philanthropist who bought the land to found Arden. To receive credit for this mission, take a photo of yourself or your group in front of the Fels Oak (located near the sliding board on The Arden Green) and post on Forest of the Ardens Facebook page with the tag **#ArdenTreasure01**

Mission #2: Old Growth Trees

The forests of Arden are part of Community Forests in The Old-Growth Forest Network. The Old-Growth Forest Network is an organization founded to preserve our last remaining old-growth forests and connect the people who care about them through our nationwide Network. "The old-growth stage is especially important because of its unique structure. Various canopy layers and berry-producing plants are beneficial for many bird species. In a forest that has not been disturbed for hundreds of years some trees will develop hollow cavities. These cavities become important nesting places for animals. In an undisturbed forest some large trees will die and fall, creating yet more habitat: numerous insects, fungi, reptiles and amphibians benefit from the fallen trees. The moisture retained within an old-growth forests benefits lichen and mosses, and the species that live among the mosses and lichens. Old-growth forests are one of the few land uses where topsoil is created instead of destroyed. More carbon and nitrogen are retained in an old-growth forest than in forests of other age classes. For improving water quality and air quality there is nothing better than an old-growth forest." (Excerpted from www.oldgrowthforest.net) To receive credit for this mission, take a photo of yourself or your group in front of a tree suspected to be at least 200 years old and post on Forest of the Ardens Facebook page with the tag **#ArdenTreasure02**

Mission #3: Sherwood (ever)Green

In 2021, The Ardens certified the whole of Sherwood Green as a Wildlife Habitat. There are 5 requirements to certify a habitat: 1) provide food, 2) supply water, 3) create cover to protect animals from weather and predators, 4) provide spaces for animals to raise young, and 5) follow sustainable gardening practices. One way to insure the third requirement, cover for animals, is to have evergreen trees nearby so that animals can find cover year-round. To receive credit for this mission, take a photo of yourself or your group in front of an evergreen tree on Sherwood Green. Hint: Conifers aren't the only kind of evergreen tree on the green. **#ArdenTreasure03**

Mission #4: Arden's Forest Stewardship Policy

The Village of Arden has two objectives in its stewardship of the village forests:

1) Preservation of a natural ecosystem including appropriate wildlife habitat and 2) Enhancing resident's interaction with and enjoyment of this natural environment. Find a copy of the Village of Arden's Forest Stewardship Policy online and take a screenshot of it. Post it on Forest of the Ardens Facebook page with the tag **#ArdenTreasure04**

Mission #5 and #6: Invasive Trees/Native Trees

Maple Trees are one of the first trees that kids learn to identify, but there are many kinds of maple trees. Some of the maples, such as Red Maples and Sugar Maples, are native to our forests and others, such as Norway Maples and Japanese Maples, are invasive.

Leaf size and shape are important to differentiate (Norway leaves tend to be larger). Norways leaf out earlier and drop foliage later blotting light from other species, thus displacing native species that support our native insects. The bright yellow leaves of Norways are some of the last to leave. The best way to ID a Norway is to take a leaf off including the petiole (leaf stem). At the base of the stem a white sap will ooze- that the chemical that makes the plant unattractive to our insects and deer. They won't eat Norway leaves. Hint: Infestation of Norways can be found at the corner of Sherwood and Lovers. To receive credit for this mission, take a photo of yourself or your group posing with a Norway Maple and post it on Forest of the Ardens Facebook page with the tag **#ArdenTreasure05**. To get credit for the 6th mission, take a photo of yourself or your group in front of a native maple tree, such as a Red Maple and post it with the tag **#ArdenTreasure06**. Hint: some Maple Trees are tagged in the Sherwood Green.

Mission #7: Spotted Lanternfly

Spotted Lanternfly, an insect native to China, is a destructive, invasive plant-hopper that attacks many hosts including forests, ornamental trees, orchards, hops, and grapes. This insect is detrimental to Delaware's agricultural industries, the environment, residential areas and has an impact on interstate commerce. In the Ardens, we have a SLF task force that makes traps to try to slow the invasion. YOUR MISSION is to take a close-up photo of Spotted Lantern Flies in one of the traps around Arden and post your image on Forest of the Ardens Facebook page with the tag **#ArdenTreasure07**

Mission #8: Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer, a destructive, invasive beetle that attacks and kills North American ash trees, was detected in a surveillance trap in New Castle County in 2016. Communities where ash is a nice looking, large street tree will likely be impacted. The Ardens have been proactive in chemically treating ash trees against this insect invasion. YOUR MISSION is to take a photo of yourself or your group standing in front of an ash tree in the Ardens and post your image on Forest of the Ardens Facebook page with the tag **#ArdenTreasure08** Hint: You may be able to find labeled ash trees in a spot where the community enjoys live outdoor music.

Mission #9: Certified Wildlife Habitat Sign

Recently, the Ardens achieved Certified Community Wildlife Habitat status. To do this we completed several goals in the area of education and outreach. In addition, over 40 individuals certified their leaseholds as Wildlife Habitats. This initiative helps create islands and corridors of resources needed for wildlife to survive in an age of increasing residential and industrial development. YOUR MISSION is to take a photo of yourself or your group standing in front of Certified Wildlife Habitat sign on an individual leasehold in the Ardens. (The ones at the Buzz and the Gild Hall don't count) and post your image on Forest of the Ardens Facebook page with the tag **#ArdenTreasure09**

Mission #10: Tree City USA

Arden is a Tree City USA. This program is a great opportunity to celebrate the importance of an urban tree canopy and improve care of these vital city trees. Close to 75% of Arden is covered by our tree canopy. Each year, we commit to planting more trees and to have an event for Arbor Day to increase awareness about the need to plant trees. YOUR MISSION is to take a photo of yourself or your group standing in front of the tree we planted for the latest Arbor Day Celebration. This tree is located next to the big boulders in the Field Theater. Post your image on Forest of the Ardens Facebook page with the tag **#ArdenTreasure10**

When you are finished with all of your missions, make sure to message the Forest of the Ardens Facebook page to let them know you are finished so they can check for your photos. You can also make arrangements to pick-up your patch at the Arden Fair or have it delivered.