

KENDAL CROSSLANDS ARBORETUM – KCA

2016 ANNUAL REPORT – April 26 2017

It may be hard to believe, but it is now six years since discussions were first held to decide if it was reasonable to establish the KC campus as an accredited Arboretum. It was soon realized that campus beautification provides a definite marketing appeal, that education about the care of trees would enhance residents' enjoyment of the outdoor world and that financial gifts for memorial trees would provide continuing additions of significant trees to the landscaped areas. And now we are celebrating our fifth annual meeting!

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the many generations of residents who in the past 30+ years donated trees and who, ten years ago, added green display tags to more than 400 trees on our campus. Were it not for such active and involved tree-loving residents, we would not be able to enjoy the 132 mature trees that are now featured on six loop walks, all visible from a hard surface without disturbing anyone's privacy.

Having achieved Level 1 certification as an Arboretum in 2012, the Joint Committee is in the process of applying for Level 2 status. Thanks to a generous grant from the KCorp Charitable Fund, we recently purchased the machine needed to prepare permanent aluminum tags – first for trees in Featured Collections and later, for other significant trees on each campus.

Eventually, each campus will feature four tree species as Featured Collections and to begin this process, magnolias will be the one tree featured on both campuses. Other requirements for Level 2 certification are that we name a Curator (i.e. Casey Groff) and that we expand our educational programs which we plan to do by inviting Garden Clubs and perhaps school or college groups for tours.

In the past three years since the Arboretum Fund was established, 27 memorial trees have been planted and many residents have contributed to this Fund which allows us to add display tags to more trees and provide educational materials for tree tours.

Many residents have adopted a tree and weekly walks among them are planned this year when we will illustrate their most appealing features, whether it be bark, buds, flowers or foliage. For those less able to get outside, the KCA web site www.kcarboretum.org and associated photographs were contributed by residents. This site provides a way to take a virtual tour of 132 trees on the six loop walks. We are grateful to all the resident volunteers who provide continuing support for the Arboretum.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Allcock, KCA Chairperson