Arboretum News

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Armstrong State University

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The landscaping around the new Science Center is almost complete. The landscape was designed to require minimal maintenance, have a large diversity of plants, and be visually appealing.

To create a low maintenance landscape, we limited turf areas to sites getting full sun and shaped them to eliminate the need for line trimming. Centipede sod was installed in these areas because of its low fertility requirements. The shady south and west sides of the building contain large shrub beds which require minimal maintenance and most of the ornamental beds contain perennials and flowering shrubs. The Grounds Department prides itself on introducing new and different plants to the AASU landscape, consequently, the Science Center landscape contains many plants not used anywhere else on campus. Here is a partial list of some of the interesting plants used.

- **Japanese Fir** (*Abies firma*). This is a heat tolerant species of the genus that includes the Fraser Fir and Balsam Fir and is native to Japan. Several are planted along the east side of the Science Center.

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along the east side of the Science Center, it is a native of Japan and China.

- Sweetbox - *Sarcococca confusa*, *Sarcococca hookeriana humilis*, *Sarcococca orientalis*, *Sarcococca ruscifolia chinensis*, *Sarcococca saligna*. These five different species are all evergreen and prefer to grow in shade. Possessing fragrant flowers, Sweetbox can be used as an effective tall groundcover. They are all planted on the south side of the building under the Live Oak trees.

- Daphniphyllum - *Daphniphyllum macropodum*. This large evergreen shrub has a slight bluish sheen and is growing outside the southwest entrance along the sidewalk. A native of Japan and Korea, Daphniphyllum somewhat resembles large-leaved rhododendrons.

- Chinese Tulip Poplar - *Liriodendron chinense*. A native of China and Indochina, these fast growing trees are located on the north side of the Science Center. Planted as a tribute to the past presidents of AASU, these trees have larger leaves than their north American relative the Tulip Poplar.

- Round-leaf Vitex - *Vitex rotundifolia*. This tall groundcover has purple flower spikes and should grow 1 to 2 feet tall. Round-leaf Vitex is related to two other species of Vitex growing on campus, *Vitex negundo*, located in front of MCC and *Vitex angus-castus*, located on the west side of Lane Library. Native to Asia and Australia, *Vitex rotundifolia* is growing next to the driveway on the north side of the Science Center.

- Chalkbark Maple - *Acer leucoderme*. This native tree is a southern variation of Sugar Maple and grows to 25 to 30 feet tall. With excellent fall colors ranging from red to yellow-orange, there are several of these trees planted on the north side of the east-west building of the Science Center.

- Common White Jasmine - *Jasminum officinale*. This semi-evergreen spreading shrub can grow to 10 feet in height. It has white flowers that are intoxicatingly fragrant and is growing along the driveway on the north side of the Science Center. White Jasmine is native to the Caucasus, Afghanistan, the Himalayas and China.

- Chinese Redbud - *Cercis chinensis*. This species of redbud, native to central China, is very similar to our native species, *Cercis canadensis*. Both have reddish purple flowers early in the spring and heart shaped, dark green leaves but Chinese Redbud grow to only about 15 feet in height while Eastern Redbud can reach 30 feet in height. It’s interesting the number of species from eastern Asian countries, particularly China, that grow well in our climate. One explanation is that Georgia and portions of China are both located on the southeastern corner of a large landmass at about the same latitude. This may account for similar environmental conditions.

**Who we are**

**Name** – Angela Hensley  
**Job title** – Groundskeeper I  
**Number of years at AASU** – 1 1/2  
**Job duties** – include cutting the grass, irrigation, and general maintenance of campus grounds.  
**Favorite part of job** – meeting all the individuals on campus.

**Favorite plant on campus** – Variegated junipers.

**What do you like to do for fun when your not at work?** – I like to go to the movies, shopping, dancing, sports, and work in my yard.
The Fern collection located in front of Jenkins Hall continues to expand with five new species added this winter. There are now 19 species of ferns in the collection. A map and guide will soon be available with a brief description of all the ferns in the collection and an explanation of the fascinating life history of ferns.

- Closest to the steps of Jenkins Hall is Australian Sword Fern (*Nephrolepis obliterata*). This Australian native can grow in full sun and will form a dense mat.
- Macho Fern (*Nephrolepis biserata*) is a pantropical species can tolerate sunnier locations, will form dense colonies, and can be invasive. This evergreen species is related to the common Boston Fern.
- Mahogany Fern (*Didymochlaena truncatula*) is a beautiful fern with glossy, dark green foliage. A genus of one species, it is native to tropical Africa, America, and Polynesia. Its new growth is a bronze-red color.
- Another newly planted species, Hart’s Tongue Fern (*Pyrrosia lingua*), has a very unique leaf for a fern. Also called Japanese Felt Fern, this evergreen, creeping fern has simple lanceolate leaves and the underside can be covered with a reddish mat of hairs and spores. This fern is native to Japan, Taiwan, China, Vietnam, and northeast India.
- Leather Leaf Fern (*Rumohra adiantiformis*) has stiff, leathery leaves and is often used in floral arrangements. This fern is native to Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Polynesia, and South America.

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**FERN COLLECTION CONTINUES TO GROW**

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**Fern Garden**

1. Royal Fern - *Osmunda regalis*
2. Maiden Fern - *Thelypteris kunthii*
3. Gemmiferous Spikemoss - *Selaginella moellendorffii*
4. Holly Fern - *Cystopteris falcata*
5. Dixie Wood Fern - *Dryopteris x australis*
6. Netted Chain Fern - *Woodwardia areolata*
7. Peacock Spikemoss - *Selaginella uncinata*
8. Cinnamon Fern - *Osmunda cinnamomea*
9. Christmas Fern - *Polystichum acrostichoides*
10. Korean Rock Fern - *Polystichum tsu-simense*
11. Ghost Fern - *Athyrium x Ghost*
12. Autumn Fern - *Dryopteris erythrosora*
14. Silver Cloak Fern - *Chelanthes argenta*
15. Hart’s Tongue Fern - *Pyrrosia lingua*
16. Mahogany Fern - *Didymochlaena truncatula*
17. Macho Fern - *Nephrolepis biserata*
18. Leather Leaf Fern - *Rumohra adiantiformis*
19. Australian Sword Fern - *Nephrolepis obliterata*
The Arboretum News is a quarterly newsletter produced by Philip Schretter, the Grounds Superintendent of Armstrong Atlantic State University.

**Featured Plant: Tung-oil Tree**

The Tung-oil Tree (*Aleurites fordii*) is a native of central and western China where seedlings have been planted for thousands of years. A small tree that can grow to 20 foot tall, it has large, dark green, heart-shaped leaves and produces a milky sap at the petiole when broken. The large white flowers with rose-throated centers are attractive and abundant. There is a good specimen located on campus on the east side of the Fine Arts Building near the ceramics classroom. Tung-oil Trees can also be found in Savannah’s historic district planted in court-yards.

The fruits of this tree are 2 to 3 inch diameter pear-shaped drupes that turn from dark green to brown when mature and contain 3 to 5 large seeds. The oil rich kernel inside the seeds are the reason Tung-oil Trees are cultivated commercially. The quick-drying oil is used to manufacture lacquers, varnishes, paints, resins, greases, and polishing compounds. Tung-oils are used to coat containers for food, beverages, and medicines. Major producing countries are mainland China and South America (Argentina and Paraguay). They are planted in the U.S. from Florida to eastern Texas.

Tung trees usually begin bearing fruit in their third year of growth and in commercial production by their fourth or fifth year. Maximum production is in 10-12 years.

Both the leaves and seeds of this...