Creation of an Arboretum for Botanical Education at Delaware State University

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An Arboretum is being created at Delaware State University (DSU) as a component of the educational programs of the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium (DOV). Trees on college campuses have excellent potential as educational resources. Labels have already been placed on over 80 different existing tree species, with a preliminary map of tree locations forming a loop walk around campus (http://herbarium.desu.edu/Tree_Walk_Brochure.pdf). Approximately 30 additional new species of native and non-native trees are being planted and labeled.

The campus trees are utilized for undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources including Systematic Botany, Dendrology, Field Botany, Economic Botany, Horticultural Plant Materials, and Ecology; as well as in other departments, for example Biology, English, and Mass Communication. The trees are also used for community outreach, including Master Gardener classes, teacher in-service classes, garden clubs, nature societies, scout troops, and visiting schoolchildren in our Woodlands Classroom Program. A monthly Campus Nature Walks program, attended by University faculty, staff and students as well as members of the community, features topics such as tree identification.

Undergraduate students hired as Herbarium trainees assist with the Arboretum and educational outreach, along with volunteers. They also prepare herbarium specimens, which are deposited in the Herbarium and used for education, research and documentation.

The new Delaware State University Arboretum will have over 100 different tree species, with accompanying booklet and map. Use of the outdoor educational resources is being quantified. The Arboretum will enrich the curriculum and outreach, and increase botanical knowledge of students and the public.

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