

THE UP CYCLE

Messiah University's Office of Sustainability
Official Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sustain-A-Fest

Oct. 4 | Union Patio

Restoration House Reunion

Oct. 5 | Foreman Lawn

Tree Planting

Oct. 30 | location?

Let's Combat Waste on Campus

By: Danielle Leppert, Waste Coordinator

How do we combat waste on campus? Messiah offers a variety of ways. One main way is through our trash and recycling, collected by Penn Waste. Penn Waste's regulations allow us to recycle clean plastics with numbers 1, 2, and 5, newspaper, cardboard, glass, and aluminum.

Another way is through the Office of Sustainability. We collect compost from all of the dining facilities on campus and reuse the compost from the two gardens on campus, adding back essential nutrients into the soil. You can participate in this by requesting a compost bucket for free! Stop by the Office of Sustainability or see us at Sustain-a-Fest on Oct. 4, from 4 to 6 p.m. on the Union patio to receive one.

The Office of Sustainability also partners with the Lottie Nelson Dining Hall to participate in the Food Recovery Network. We donate uneaten food to the Bethesda Men's Shelter in Harrisburg. This helps us reduce our waste while going to a good cause. If you would like to get involved, please contact us at sustainability@messiah.edu.

Every spring semester, we participate in a campaign initiative called Campus Race to Zero Waste. It is a nationwide event that rallies college campuses to reduce and recycle more. To promote zero waste at our campus, we participate in 8 weeks of competition that include fun games and events. Keep an eye out for our events on how you can learn more about sustainability and how you can reduce your waste.



Deer Pressure in the Community Garden

By: Owen Anderson, Grantham Community Garden Coordinator

The past summer in the community garden is one remembered for its precarity. But through the drought and heat, one single issue stands out. In previous years, deer have only eaten crops such as lettuce and beets, which we protected using row covers and organic repellent. Yet this year, not only did the deer ignore the repellent and destroy our row covers, but they also consumed a wide range of crops they usually leave untouched. Any squash, radish, okra, luffa, peppers, beans, and many more soon fell prey to their rampant hunger. The scale of this issue is unprecedented in the sixteen years the garden has existed. Why has deer pressure so abruptly escalated?

It is certainly due to a decrease in food availability for local deer populations, not an increase in their preference to eat from the garden. Several factors contribute to this including development, poor health of forests, scarcity of food due to climatic changes, and unchecked deer population due to lack of predators. The forests surrounding campus are covered with Japanese Honeysuckle, which is highly deer resistant¹ compared with native species. Climate change also has an effect, as “warmer temperatures allow deer populations to increase, leading to a loss of forest underbrush.”² This decreases the prosperity of the forest and, thus, food availability for native species, driving them to search for sustenance elsewhere.

Our immediate step to address this issue was to put up a higher fence around the garden. After getting approval, we utilized some invasive bamboo from campus to construct a temporary nine-foot fencing. We planned for this fence the last two weeks before we installed a permanent fence but it has lasted to this day due to the requirement that we hire a contractor for such a major addition. Unfortunately, its mitigating effects were limited, as the deer successfully jumped ten feet over it and into the garden. This led to a fundamental shift in our ability to maintain production in our upper garden, and we estimate that deer have eaten over 75 percent of all crops grown there this summer. We hope that a higher fence might be installed, along with measures to rehabilitate the forest, but these are costly ventures in both time and resources.



¹ Nature's Mace, "Do Deer Eat Honeysuckle?" <https://naturesmace.com/blogs/blog/do-deer-eat-honeysuckle>

² EPA, "What Climate Change Means for Pennsylvania",

<https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/climate-change-pa.pdf>

Sustainable Living on Campus

By: Danielle Leppert, Waste Coordinator & Foreman Restoration House Leader



Current residents of the Foreman Restoration House



Current residents of the Melhorn Restoration House

Messiah has two sustainable living houses on campus, the Foreman and Melhorn Restoration Houses. They are across the train tracks near the high tunnel, chicken coop, and beehives. The houses are a part of Messiah's Special Interest Housing program and focus on restoration with God, humanity, and creation. Residents focus on sustainable living by composting, reducing our consumption, making everyday sustainable swaps, caring for the campus chickens, and more.

The Restoration Houses will be at Sustain-A-Fest on Oct. 4, from 4 to 6 p.m. with the apple cider press. Be sure to stop by to grab a cup and chat about ways to live sustainably! We also have our 25th Anniversary Open House reunion on Oct. 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. on the Foreman Lawn. Stop by for refreshments and to see the houses. There will be a photo opportunity at 5 p.m. for all past residents who have lived in the Foreman and Melhorn Restoration Houses.

To hear about more upcoming house events, follow us on Instagram @restoration_houses_mu and @muspecialinteresthousing. If you are interested in joining the Restoration Houses for the spring semester, click [here](#) for more information:

Garden Volunteer Hours

Volunteer with us on Saturdays from 11 to 12 p.m. We will meet in the garden behind Jordan and Kline. Gloves, tools, and earthy fun are provided!

