

– IVAN RACHEFF’S VISION OF A GARDEN –

Shortly after buying the house, Ivan Racheff looked out a second story window and envisioned a beautiful garden to replace the slag heap sitting between the steel mill and the rest of the neighborhood. As the new owner of Knoxville Iron Works, Mr. Racheff wanted to show that beauty and industry could live side-by-side. In 1947, he spent \$76 to buy grass seed, trees and shrubs. The garden was born!

As years passed, Mr. Racheff added more plantings, a tea house, pond, small orchard, vegetable garden and bee hives. He installed a bell cast in 1873 by the Meneeley and Kimberly Bell Foundry of Troy, New York.

In 1970 Mr. Racheff donated the gardens and house to the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs (TFGC). Today the site serves as the state headquarters for TFGC.

In 2003 the three-acre garden was certified as a Level 1 Arboretum by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council. Thirty-two species of trees on the property were correctly identified and labeled with common and botanical names – many of them planted in the original garden by Mr. Racheff.

– THE ARBORETUM AT RACHEFF –

Today more than 75 species of trees have been identified and labeled: certified as a Level II Arboretum. The garden is primarily a Spring garden, its finest display of flowers, bulbs, shrubs and trees in full bloom.

Other features include the Japanese Garden, Fern Cobble, Wildflower area, Children’s Garden, Hosta Garden and more. A registered Monarch Waystation and Pollinator Garden were established in 2016, and a raised bed Herb Garden has been added. There is a TFGC Memorial Wall in the upper garden honoring past officers and members who were committed to the preservation and beauty of the gardens. A Blue Star Marker and garden honors all the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

The Arboretum at Racheff promotes the esthetics of trees in the landscape with the emphasis on highlighting the species that are most successful in this area.

Gardens are free and open to the Public March to December, most every weekday 9am to 3pm. Upper garden is handicap accessible. Gardens are available for special events and private tours by appointment.

Ivan Racheff House and Garden



*Located at
1943 Tennessee Ave., Knoxville, TN 37921*

*State Headquarters of the
Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs*

*Open most weekdays
February 15 to December 15
Monday – Friday 9am to 3pm*

*Mailing Address
P. O. Box 50185, Knoxville, TN 37950
Phone: 865-522-6210*

*Gardens Available for
Special Events*



ARBORETUM CERTIFICATION:

Tennessee Urban Forestry Council certification program maintains standards for public education by state arboreta. A certified arboretum must be open to the public with trees that are labeled, properly protected and well maintained.

Tree Inventory – The Arboretum at Racheff

1. American Holly – *Ilex opaca*
3. Sasanqua Camellia- *Camellia sasanqua*
4. Japanese Camellia - *Camellia japonica*
5. Flowering Dogwood – *Cornus florida*
6. Carolina Hemlock – *Tsuga caroliniana*
7. Loblolly Pine – *Pinus taeda*
8. Yoshino Cherry - *Prunus x yedoensis*
9. Golden Larch - *Pseudolarix amabilis*
10. Siberian Elm – *Ulmus pumila* (invasive)
11. Black Gum- *Nyssa sylvatica* 'Wildfire'
12. Common Hackberry – *Celtis occidentalis*
63. Slippery Elm -*Ulmus rubra*
13. Red-Tip Photinia –*Photinia x fraseri*
64. Chinese Yew - *Taxus chinensis*
14. Japanese Maple – *Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum atropurpureum*
15. Japanese White Pine- *Pinus parviflora*
16. Golden Rain Tree – *Koelreuteria paniculata*
17. Black Cherry – *Prunus serotina*
18. American Arborvitae -*Thuja occidentalis*
19. White Mulberry – *Morus alba* (invasive)
20. Kousa Dogwood - *Cornus kousa*
21. Japanese Falsecypress – *Chamaecyparis pisifera*
22. Eastern White Pine – *Pinus strobus*
23. Allegheny Serviceberry – *Amelanchier laevis*
24. China Fir – *Cunninghamia lanceolata*
25. Saucer Magnolia -*Magnolia x soulangeana*
26. Fraser Fir – *Abies fraseri*
65. Pawpaw – *Asimina triloba*
27. Foster Holly - *Ilex x attenuata* 'Fosteri'
28. American Chestnut – *Castanea dentata*
29. Canadian (Eastern) Hemlock – *Tsuga canadensis*
66. Black Hills Spruce - *Picea glauca*
30. Star Magnolia - *Magnolia stellata*
31. Southern Magnolia – *Magnolia grandiflora*
32. Washington Hawthorn– *Crataegus phaenopyrum*
67. Osage Orange- *Maclura pomifera*
68. Basswood - *Tilia americana*
33. Eastern Redbud – *Cercis canadensis*
69. American Elm – *Ulmus americana*
34. Boxelder- *Acer negundo*
70. Sourwood - *Oxydendrum arboreum*
35. Silver Maple – *Acer saccharinum*
36. Sweet Bay Magnolia – *Magnolia virginiana*
37. Japanese Cryptomeria - *Cryptomeria japonica*
38. Red Mulberry- *Morus rubra*
39. Carolina Cherry Laurel – *Prunus caroliniana*
40. Crape Myrtle - *Lagerstroemia* 'Natchez'
41. Chinese Holly - *Ilex cornuta*
42. Tulip Poplar- *Liriodendron tulipifera*
71. River Birch - *Betula nigra*
43. Asian White Birch – *Betula platyphylla* var. *japonica*
44. Southern Red Oak – *Quercus falcata*
45. American Yellowwood – *Cladrastis kentukea*
46. Corkscrew Willow - *Salix matsudana*
47. Common Pear – *Pyrus communis*
48. Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*
49. Ginkgo- *Ginkgo biloba*
72. Sassafras - *Sassafras albidum*
2. Sugar Maple- *Acer saccharum*
50. Black Walnut – *Juglans nigra*
51. White Oak - *Quercus alba*
52. English Yew - *Taxus baccata*
53. Sycamore – *Platanus occidentalis*
54. Carolina Silverbell – *Halesia Carolina*
55. Common Persimmon- *Diospyros virginiana*
56. Yellow Buckeye – *Aesculus octandra*
57. Shortleaf Pine -*Pinus echinata*
73. Umbrella Magnolia – *Magnolia tripetala*
58. Colorado Spruce – *Picea pungens*
59. Chastetree - *Vitex agnus-castus*
60. Norway Spruce – *Picea abies*
61. White Fringetree – *Chionanthus virginicus*
62. Contorted Filbert - *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'
- A. Dwarf Blue Spruce - *Picea glauca*
- B. Rising Sun Redbud - *Cercis canadensis* 'JN2'
- C. Forest Pansy Redbud - *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy'

3/28/2023

