

On-Campus Locations for Quiet Reflection

The Kopjafa- Outside the entrance of the College of Natural Resources' Cheatham Hall

The Kopjafa is a wooden sculpture patterned after traditional Hungarian memorials. The 14.5-foot high, 600pound wooden sculpture was a gift from a professor at the University of West Hungary in memory of those who lost their lives and those whose lives were altered by the April 16, 2007 tragedy. It was sculpted by Levente Denes, who was a visiting associate professor of forestry at West Virginia University.

Denes drew from the Transylvanian heritage in Hungary and his expertise in wood. Some historians believe the wooden sculpture art form came from the Magyars, a tribe of people who lived between the Baltic Sea and Russia's Ural Mountains and moved into Turkey and Iran before raiding in 896 A.D. a region that once belonged to Hungary known as Transylvania (now part of Romania). In the Middle Ages the word "kopjafa" was applied to a broken jousting pole used as a headmarker over the grave of its dead warrior; today the carved wooden pole has come to mean a commemorative public memorial honoring heroes and battlefields.

Kopjafas generally have no inscriptions — letting the design speak about the deceased. Denes spent more than 200 hours hand-carving the wooden column that symbolizes respect, affection, honor, and remembrance. He chiseled the white oak with geometrical symbols; the falling star signifies death, the crosses stand for sacrifice and patriotism, and the star on the top of the column represents distinguished bravery. The logos for Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, and the University of West Hungary are also carved on the monument.

The Duck Pond Gazebo and Amphitheater - Grove Lane

The Duck Pond has been a Virginia Tech landmark for generations of alumni. It is appropriate, then, that a number of classes have helped ensure its endurance. Funds for an overall restoration of the area, including the numerous benches scattered around the pond, were provided by the Class of 1943. And the classes of 1988 and 1989 built the gazebo where students, alumni, and visitors can study, feed the birds, or merely sit and take in the beauty of the Duck Pond throughout the seasons.

The Amphitheatre near The Grove (the university president's home) and the Duck Pond is a revered garden area known by virtually all alumni. The Amphitheatre was an initiative of the Southwest Virginia Garden Club and the Virginia State Federation of Garden Clubs. It was built by 'relief workers', likely from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) or Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) employed by the Federal Government during the Great Depression. It was dedicated in 1935. It was originally called the 'Garden Theatre' built as a place for birds and plants and as a memorial to the pioneers who settled the Mountain Empire of Southwest Virginia. It has been used for weddings, plays, movies and quiet reflection for the past 74 years.

The Hahn Horticulture Garden- Located on Washington St. across from Litton-Reaves

The Hahn Horticulture Garden is nearly six acres of teaching and display gardens. Established in 1984 by Horticulture faculty, the garden serves undergraduate students and the local community as a learning resource for plant material, landscaping concepts, and environmental awareness. Garden features include perennial borders, water gardens, shade gardens, meadow garden, and the Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion.