



A publication of the Friends of the National Arboretum

ARBOR FRIENDS

FALL 2018



IN THIS ISSUE

4 Highlight: The Gotelli Collection **8** Meet Our Interns **10** What Will Your Legacy Be? **14** WYG Green Ambassadors

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

Even though the Arboretum’s meadow is still covered with fall’s brilliant yellow flowers (mostly *Bidens aristosa*) as I write this, the FONA staff and I are hard at work planning for 2019 and beyond.

Thanks to the support of members like you, FONA is on track to end 2018 on a high note. This year we’ve presented more programs and activities for Arboretum visitors, hosted more students at the Washington Youth Garden, and funded more interns than ever before.

We’re also about to take on two large projects: restoring the Arboretum’s iconic Capitol Columns and expanding the Washington Youth Garden. Both are key priorities of the Arboretum and are needs that FONA is uniquely positioned to address.

The Capitol Columns were dedicated in 1990 and have turned out to need more care and maintenance than the Arboretum staff has been able to provide, given their tight budget and small staff. Over the years, the Columns have been damaged by weather, and features such as the lights and adjacent fountain have been inoperable for long periods. We’d like to get the Columns structurally restored, upgrade and enhance the landscaping around them, make them more accessible to the disabled, and create an endowed fund to provide for the Columns’ long-term maintenance.

FONA has a similarly ambitious vision for the Washington Youth Garden. The current garden is a wonderful space, but it is too small to meet the demands being placed on it. We’d like to expand the size of the garden, build out its infrastructure, and provide space for families and kids to encounter nature and plants in a more unstructured way. Sometimes, just getting muddy with plants is the best way for kids to experience nature! We’ve begun laying groundwork for these two ambitious projects, both of which will need several years of work and require substantial funding. I’m looking forward to updating you on our progress on these two projects and hope that we’ll be able to turn to you for support as we begin work. So stay tuned for details.

In the meantime, please be sure to visit the Arboretum. Winter’s cold days have their own unique beauty and you’ll not regret the trip! 🌳

Tom McGuire, Executive Director
Friends of the National Arboretum
tmcguire@fona.org
202.544.8733

ON THE COVER American witch-hazel *Hamamelis virginiana* flowers bloom in autumn.



FRIENDS OF THE
NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Board of Directors

Nancy Bryson, Esq., *Chair*
Jennifer Hatcher, *Vice Chair*
Charles W. Findlay, *Secretary*
Lynne Church, *Treasurer*
Robert A. Bartlett, Jr.
Zandra Chestnut
Martha Van Dale
Elizabeth Dugan
Marsha Echols, Esq.
Linda A. Findlay
Chandler Goule
Virginia Kromm
Grant Leslie
Anne MacMillan
Bill Matuszeski
Kevin McIntosh
Scot Medbury
Paul Meyer
Esther Mitchell
Tim Petri
Pamela Raymont-Simpson
J. Landon Reeve IV
Barbara Shea
Holly Shimizu
Lou Slade
Michael Stevens
Peggy Strand
Ann Wrobleksi

FONA Staff

Tom McGuire, *Executive Director*
Claire Broderick,
Membership Programs Manager
Susan Chapin, *Operations Manager*
Catherine P. Kerkam, *Director of Philanthropy*
Connie Perez, *Director of Institutional Relations*
Melinda Peters, *Volunteer Programs Manager*

Washington Youth Garden

Nadia Mercer, *Program Director*
Jake Dacks, *Garden Manager*
Thea Klein-Mayer, *Garden Educator*
Brienne Studer, *Education Manager*
Crystal Williams,
Communications and Events Manager

Arbor Friends

Claire Broderick, *Managing Editor*
Laurie Cullen, *Copyeditor*
Nicole Hamam, Hamam Design, *Designer*
Contributors: Claire Broderick, Jake Dacks,
Kathy Horan, Catherine P. Kerkam, Tom
McGuire, Nancy Moitrier, Pierre Moitrier,
Dr. Richard T. Olsen, Melinda Peters, Tuckie
Westfall, Karen Zill

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Strengthening Our Core



WHAT A REMARKABLE YEAR, and I’m not referring to the unprecedented 40 inches of rain that fell this summer. That much water certainly resulted in exuberant growth, if not conspicuous consumption, by our plants that turned mowing and weeding into Sisyphean efforts for our staff.

Perhaps Herculean is a more apt description. Our dedicated staff work hard to balance what are at times competing interests within a publicly funded botanical research facility

that serves a heavily urbanized community. The interaction of the public, in terms of visitor services and amenities, with our 446 acres of collections, gardens, and managed natural areas must not compromise the scientific efforts of our mandatory research programs. The crux, of course, is related to our available funding, authorities, and specific priorities and how best to manage or leverage these resources and goals.

To this end, we completed an exciting new Core Framework Plan with funding from FONA. What began as a revisioning effort for the National Arboretum’s physical core—the 109-acre site centered on the Ellipse Meadow—quickly grew into a revisioning of our 2007 Master Plan. The issues that affect the Core have an impact on the entire campus: major circulation and traffic issues; visitor orientation, way-finding, and accessibility problems; and a disconnect between historical, ecological, and societal imprints on the landscape. Thus, the opportunity presented itself to address the entirety of the National Arboretum and integrate our Strategic Plan into a new vision setting forth practical and attainable recommendations for a sustainable future.

We were honored to work with the nationally recognized and award-winning landscape architecture firm of Reed Hilderbrand LLC, a team with prior experience regarding the challenges and opportunities at the National Arboretum. The result is a Core Framework Plan that celebrates the unique natural features of the National Arboretum while simplifying and reducing traffic flow and enhancing pedestrian and bicycle accessibility. It re-focuses development to our Administrative Complex, thus reducing our built footprint across the campus and providing a gateway into our research areas for novel educational and outreach opportunities.

There is much more to share, and in the upcoming year, we will socialize the Core Framework Plan with our neighbors, communities, Friends, and supporters. We already have buy-in from our major stakeholders and have begun using the plan to make facility-related decisions. I look forward to engaging all of you over the next year and into the future as we move the National Arboretum down this exciting path. 🌳

Richard T. Olsen, Director
The United States National Arboretum

NEW LOOK, SAME MISSION FOR FONA

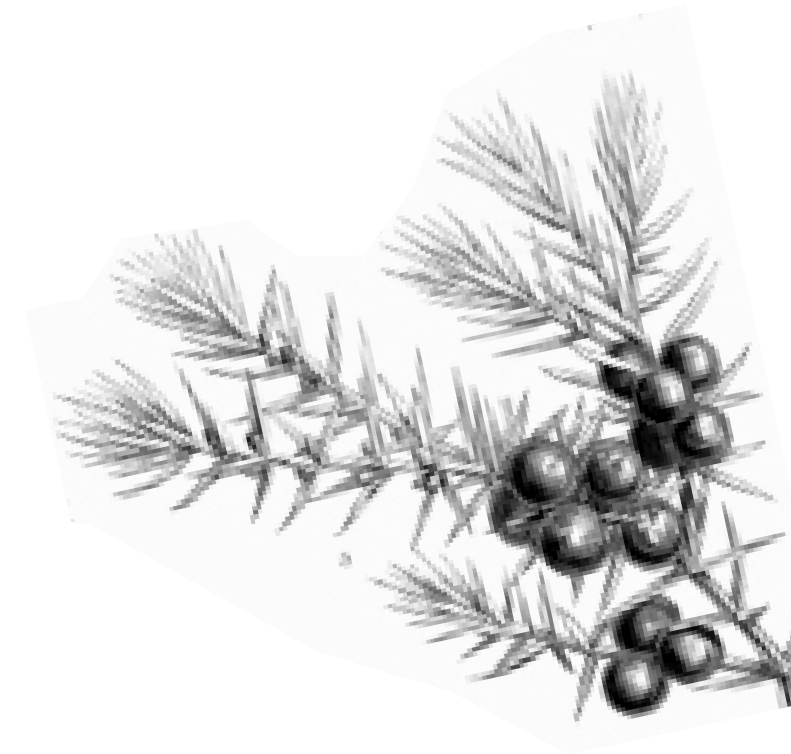
You might notice that something about FONA looks different...

This year FONA went through a rebranding process with Humankind Studios. As a result, the FONA brand has a new look, which you’ll see on our website and printed materials. We’re still the same FONA, with the same mission and work, same benefits to members, and the same address. Note that your membership cards with the leaf logo are still valid.

FRIENDS
OF THE
NATIONAL
ARBORETUM

The Gotelli Collection

Karen Zill



In the northeast corner of the Arboretum, across from the Dogwood Collection, is a seven-acre site containing one of the world's largest collections of dwarf conifers in the world. This is the Gotelli Collection of Dwarf and Slow-Growing Conifers, donated to the Arboretum in 1962 by New Jersey businessman William T. Gotelli. He had spent 15 years collecting plants both domestically and internationally and amassed more than 800 varieties of conifers. Because many of his imported plants came through the quarantine station in Glenn Dale, Maryland, Gotelli developed a connection with Arboretum staff. This, combined with the Washington, DC, climate—which allows for the growth of conifers from near-Arctic to almost subtropical climates—led him to donate his entire collection to the Arboretum.

While the Gotelli Collection includes a natural woodland setting with a pavilion, it is the only collection at the Arboretum designed as a rock garden. Gravel and small boulders grace the ground plane in the garden beds, helping to create interesting contrast with the display plants. A small pond is situated along the road where a weeping form of our native bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum* 'Pendula') can be viewed. One of the few varieties of deciduous conifers, bald cypress trees often develop the fascinating protrusions known as "knees."

Unusual features such as witches' brooms and

sports can be found on many plants throughout the collection. The former is a ball of compact branches densely packed so they resemble the bristles of a broom; the latter is a part of a plant that shows morphological differences from the rest of the plant, such as a variance in foliage shape or color, flowers, or branch structure. Both are often the result of genetic mutations and present exciting propagation possibilities such

While the Gotelli Collection includes a natural woodland setting with a pavilion, it is the only collection at the Arboretum designed as a rock garden.

as dwarfed habit or variegated foliage. Many interesting conifers in the trade today were the result of someone propagating a witch's broom or branch sport via cuttings or grafting. Arboretum staff are always on the lookout for these as opportunities for potential plant introductions.

Several research projects are underway in the Collection. One of these involves momi firs (*Abies firma*), a tree that can handle the heavy soils and hot, humid summers of the Washington DC region. It is hoped that other, less adaptable

Slow-growing blue spruce *Picea pungens* 'Hunnewelliana' borders a path through the collections.



During the winter of 2009-2010, the Gotelli Collection suffered major damage from “Snowmageddon.” Although some of the plants are from regions where snow is a common occurrence, others are not adapted to bearing the heavy weight of 20 inches of snow. Following the storm, staff went to work pruning, propagating, and removing plant material. Propagating specimens of value was critical to preserving the historical and genetic significance of the collection, especially if damage necessitated removing a specific plant from the garden. Many plants required cabling even when branches didn’t break, because the weight of the snow caused them to become severely misshapen. Even today, eight years after the event, there are still signs of Snowmageddon. New small plants adorn empty spaces where large trees once stood, missing branches expose trunks and reveal old pruning wounds, and chainlock holds many specimens together.



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE US NATIONAL ARBORETUM



fir species grafted onto *A. firma* rootstock will have improved success in producing fir cultivars that have unique ornamental characteristics. In the laboratory, work is ongoing to find a treatment for boxwood blight using extracts of various spruce species against the fungus that causes the blight. In addition, plants are regularly chosen for propagation for different reasons. Since the Collection showcases the Arboretum’s crapemyrtle introductions, some plants such as *Lagerstroemia* ‘Pecos’ are propagated to be represented in the Collection, and others that are wild collected, rare, or have good provenance are propagated to ensure that there are backups.

Visitors to the Gotelli Collection can find something to engage the senses in every season. With or without snow, winter provides a scene of stark and lovely contrasts, with the bare branches of deciduous plants mingled among the varied colors and textures of the conifers. During spring, emerging bulbs burst from the ground with color, and the larger tree specimens show off their fresh new foliage. In summer, crapemyrtles, scattered throughout the garden, are laden with heavy blooms. Autumn is the

Visitors to the Gotelli Collection can find something to engage the senses in every season.

season of reds and gold, as the conifers are complemented by the rich fall color of the Japanese maples. The grove of deciduous dawn redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) turns a brilliant orange-bronze, a gorgeous sight on early- to mid-November afternoons. As the sun gets lower in the sky and the days grow shorter, already vivid shades of red, orange, and yellow become even more prominent. Indeed, the Gotelli Collection offers a palette of color all year long. No matter the time of year, beauty abounds in this garden of conifers. 🌲

KAREN ZILL is a DC-based freelance writer. Her work includes discussion guides for film and public television programs, memoirs, essays, and nature writing. For this article, Arboretum staff **JOSEPH MENY** (Horticulturalist of the Gotelli Dwarf and Slow-Growing Conifer Collection), and **GEORGE WATERS** (Agricultural Science Research Technician) were interviewed about the Gotelli Collection.



Previous page: The 2009-2010 “Snowmageddon” winter storms dropped unusually high amounts of snow, the weight of which broke branches and damaged trees. Many plants had to be removed, but staff worked swiftly to propagate and preserve the significant genetic material. **Top:** *Cedrus deodara* ‘Aurea’

Meet Our Interns

In 2018, the National Arboretum was thrilled to welcome more than a dozen interns. The annual program offers on-the-job training in horticulture, botany, research, education, facilities management, and public garden administration. We would like to say thank you to all of this year's interns. Your incredible hard work and seemingly unending enthusiasm helped us accomplish so much. We would also like to thank all of the participating partner groups and institutions who so graciously sponsored the interns, and without whom this program would be impossible. Funding these internships is one of the ways FONA members and David Fairchild Society members support the Arboretum in a tangible way, enhancing the capacity of the Arboretum.



LUCAS BENDIT

Asian Collection
Montgomery College-Germantown (2018), Environmental Science
General gardening tasks such as weeding, pruning, and planting. Identified plants for tourists to view in the future and documented various monthly blooms by marking off their flowering ranges. Next year, visitors will be able to find the interesting parts of the collection more quickly and efficiently.
What's next: Return to school to study plant identification and attend the University of Maryland-College Park to study Environmental Horticulture and Plant Science in the spring.
Funder: FONA



MAX FEDELI

Springhouse Run
University of Vermont (2017), Environmental Studies, with a minor in Sustainable Landscape Horticulture
Helped with our twice-per-week volunteer efforts to plant native shrubs and perennials along the stream. Maintained the site by helping with invasive weed control, watering, mowing, and pruning and conducted weekly water quality tests at several locations along Springhouse Run, along with tests for pH, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, *E. coli*, and water clarity.
What's next: Stay in Washington, DC, and find a job within the horticultural field
Funder: FONA



KEVIN GIBNEY

Gotelli Conifer Collection
Rutgers University (December 2018), Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behavior
Help maintain the grounds of the Conifer Collection; help remove invasive plants, reversion, and dead pruning to ensure overall specimen health; and support curators by updating records and organizing volunteers. Created an interactive weed identification key to train future volunteers, interns, and staff and developed content for the Arboretum mobile app.
What's next: Seeking a position as a curator or environmental consultant.
Funder: FONA



MCKENNA KORZENIEWSKI

Introduction Gardens
University of North Florida (December 2018), Global Environmental and Religious studies
Basic garden maintenance such as weeding, pruning, and watering to ensure overall specimen health. Updates records and labels throughout the garden and helped develop content for the Arboretum's app.
What's next: Work in sustainability and environmental education to better equip the world to survive climate change.
Funder: FONA



KRISTEN LAWLESS

Azalea Collection
University of Rhode Island (May 2020), Landscape Architecture
Maintain gardens by weeding and pruning to improve aesthetics and environmental and ecological aspects. Ensure that the gardens look neat and inviting for the visitors and deal with issues like washouts from too much rain. Work on the Here and Now portion of the Arboretum app (which highlights the plants of interest in the collection at any given time) specifically for the Azalea Collection.
What's next: Return to school to begin the fall semester.
Funder: FONA



DAVID RIZWAN

National Bonsai and Penjing Museum
Carnegie Mellon University (2010), Chemical Engineering and Philosophy
Maintain and style bonsai trees, many of which have been "in training" for hundreds of years, and water, prune, wire, and repot them.
What's next: Establish a new collection within the existing Bonsai Collection that shows what high-quality bonsai looks like and create my own novel works. Share my passion and appreciation for bonsai by helping people discover how bonsai can be a beautiful addition to their life.
Funder: the National Bonsai Foundation



ZACHARIE JACKSON

National Boxwood and Perennial Collection
Marymount University (2018), Biology
Maintain the Boxwood Collection and Friendship Garden by weeding and pruning.
What's next: Seeking a full-time position as a research assistant or lab technician.
Funder: FONA



MATTHEW BRANDON

Floral and nursery plants research under John Hammond
Funder: FONA



JOSHUA RAJAN
Floral and nursery plants research under Qi Huang
Funder: FONA



PROFILE: MAX FEDELI

Since March of this year, Max has been part of the team working to restore Springhouse Run. As a FONA intern, he has worked closely with curator Joan Feely and gardener Angela Magnan in propagating, selecting, and planting new young plants along the restored waterway. If you have volunteered with FONA at Springhouse Run in the last year, you have probably met and worked alongside Max.

A 2017 graduate of the University of Vermont, Max majored in Environmental Studies with a minor in Horticulture. He first interned at the Arboretum in the summer of 2015, working in the Introduction Garden next to the Administration Building. There he was involved in basic gardening tasks such as watering, pruning, and weeding. On the Springhouse Run project, he has enjoyed seeing plants from their earliest growth through flowering, and he has learned a great deal about how to design and make planting decisions from working alongside Joan and Angela.

A highlight of Max's post-college life was a trip to Cuba in January 2018, where he toured farms in the tobacco-growing region of Vinales and saw how the leaves are fermented before being rolled into the famous cigars. In the island's farms and botanical gardens, he learned about some new and unique plants and their usefulness to the local region, such as the mamey apple tree (*Mammea americana*), which has culinary, medicinal, and insecticidal uses.

With interests in both sustainable agriculture and sustainable design, Max is considering various options as he looks to the future. He finds himself leaning toward a career in landscape architecture, but his ultimate choice remains to be seen.

—KAREN ZILL

NOT PICTURED:

JAIMIE WOLL
Dogwood Collection and Fern Valley
New Mexico State University (2017), Horticulture
Maintain the gardens and flower beds by weeding, transplanting, watering, mulching the beds, and propagating dogwoods. I am mastering the art and science of identifying plants and training my eyes to identify weeds.

EMILY PENN
Research under Sue Bentz
Funder: Arboretum agreement with Ohio University.

GRECHKA FIGUEROA NAZARIO
Research under John Hammond
Funder: Research grants

ANDREW FANGMEYER
Herb Garden
Funder: Herb Society of America

CORNELIUS E. FONJOCK
Germplasm
University of the District of Columbia (2018), Urban Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
Helped propagate and conserve threatened tree species *Morus rubra* and *Mallus coronaria*

What's next: Return to school to continue my studies.
Funder: Government of the District of Columbia

BEN WOLFSON
Research under Scott Warnke
Funder: Arboretum agreement with University of the District of Columbia

The Heritage Society: What Will Your Legacy Be?

YEARS AGO, A WOMAN NAMED ROSALIE KOCH included FONA in her estate plans. Her legacy gift, with FONA's leadership and the guidance of friends like Sally Boasberg and many others, resulted in the construction of the Flowering Tree Walk surrounding the Arboretum's meadow and majestic Capitol Columns. Rosalie's passion for the Arboretum resulted in something special which is now a defining part of the Arboretum. Hundreds of thousands of visitors each year benefit from her generosity and belief in the future of the Arboretum.

As we look toward the Arboretum's 100th anniversary in 2027, it is important to think about the role the Arboretum and FONA play in our lives. The Arboretum's library of genetic material (in the gardens and preserved in the herbarium) is a global resource for scientists as we face the effects of climate change. Research on pests and pathogens and the creation of new cultivars benefit each of us, our gardens, and our nation's landscaping industry. In today's fast-paced world, the Arboretum's 446 acres is an oasis of peace and solitude, where one can escape the noise of the city and restore a healthy balance. Its gardens and open spaces offer a chance for adults and children alike to explore, learn, and connect with nature.

As the Arboretum's primary private partner, FONA is the organization that brings all of this to life through exciting public programs, education, interpretation, visitor services, and more. FONA's fundraising efforts are critical to securing the funds necessary for all of this to happen. Together, FONA and the Arboretum have strong leadership and a collaborative partnership in place and a vision to secure the Arboretum as a world-class resource for scientists and visitors alike for generations to come.

Your support makes a difference! We hope you will continue with us on this journey to build something great in our nation's capital. As you think about your legacy, please consider including FONA in your estate plans and joining FONA's Heritage Society. In April, we will unveil our donor wall which, for the first time, will include our Heritage Society supporters. We would be honored to include you! 🌿

For more information or to discuss joining the Heritage Society, please contact Cathy Kerkam at Cathy@fona.org or go to www.fona.org/heritagesociety. If FONA is already in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may thank you and list you on the donor wall!

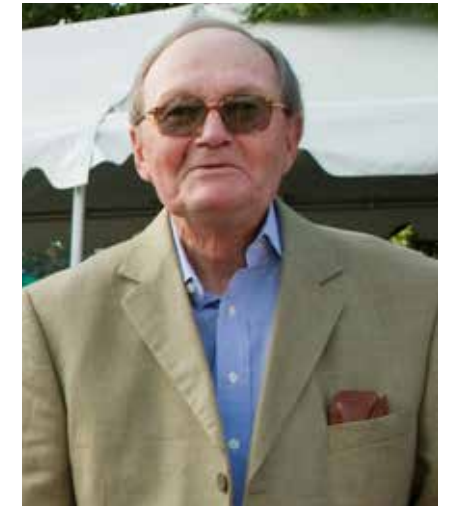


COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES AT THE U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Lovely 6-foot teak benches are available for purchase as a way to commemorate family, friends, and loved ones, or to honor an occasion such as a birth, wedding, or retirement.

When you purchase a bench, your support provides important funding to further the mission of FONA and the Arboretum, in addition to being a commemoration. Each bench will have a plaque mounted on it, engraved with your message or dedication. Your donation of a commemorative bench is tax deductible.

Please contact us for a brochure and more information at info@fona.org or 202.544.8733. 🌿



In Memoriam: Woodruff Murray Price

FONA'S BELOVED FORMER BOARD CHAIR Woody Price passed away on July 21, 2018, in Massachusetts after a short illness. A graduate of Harvard University, Woody was a senior staffer on the Hill and was deeply involved in drafting legislation that resulted in the deregulation of the U.S. freight rail industry. He served as Vice President of the Washington office of CSX for many years and was well thought of and popular with members of Congress and the regulators he dealt with. He was gregarious and charming which belied an intellect that was deep and a curiosity that lasted his entire life. He led the FONA Board for many years and worked tirelessly to sustain our mission and work within bureaucratic constraints.

Woody was so pleased to see the changes spearheaded by FONA and the Arboretum staff in the last few years. The Arboretum was always a source of rejuvenation for him. Woody would go for long walks, look for birds, and find peace and solace on the grounds. His commitment to FONA never wavered. We can't count the number of afternoons he spent stamping envelopes for the Annual Dinner Under the Stars, helping arrange vendor tents for the annual Garden Fair, or generally helping where needed. His loyalty to FONA continued after he retired to his beloved Dennis, MA. He returned every June for the dinner and would host a reunion of old friends. He was always first with a hug of greeting, followed by a note of congratulations to the staff for a job well done. The memory of Woody's unforgettable gravelly voice—and wry wit—will always warm the hearts of those who knew him. 🌿

—TUCKIE WESTFALL AND KATHY HORAN

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer Activities Update

Melinda Peters

IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE I STARTED and so much has happened! Thank you to all the volunteers who have come out to help with various activities this summer and fall.

- Thanks to our volunteers who helped with our **Summer Concert Series**. The concerts were a hit, and we couldn't have done it without the help of you folks!
- We have been developing our list of volunteer guides. These trained guides help with **Full Moon Hikes**, **Forest Bathing** events, and **private walking tours**. We need more tour leaders, so sign up and join us for winter training days. Learn about the history of the Arboretum and current happenings and become a guide to share your love of this place.
- **Springhouse Run Volunteer days!** With the help of more volunteers this fall, we have hosted several planting, weeding, and general maintenance days. The plants that went in last fall and this spring are doing well, growing tall, and have attracted many creatures. Volunteers are also contributing to a water monitoring project supported by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.
- **OAKtoberfest**—Sending our thanks to the volunteers that help the October 27 fall festival run smoothly!
- **Washington Youth Garden** volunteers continue to support the garden in all its glory! They help with everything from planting, mulching, weeding, and composting to teaching. Thanks again to all!

It's been a pleasure working with all of you and I look forward to meeting more of you and continuing these relationships. Be sure to sign up on our volunteer page or email volunteer@fona.org if you are interested in helping out with future events. Get in touch and let's chat! 🌿

MELINDA PETERS is the Volunteer Program Manager.



Volunteers have planted thousands of native sedges along Springhouse Run this year. Individuals and groups got their hands dirty, weeding, planting, and pulling invasives to help maintain the area.

What's in Bloom?

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK TO FIND OUT!

The Arboretum is ever-changing, and the highlights change week to week as plants flower and grow, wildlife visits, and the weather alters. To stay updated on what's in bloom, follow @FONArboretum on Instagram and Facebook, search #WhatsInBloom. Additionally, sign up to get email updates on events and news at fona.org

Eastern tiger swallowtail glides across the meadow, sipping nectar from yellow *Bidens polylepis* flowers.

Photo Credit: MGR Photography



Call for Used Book Donations

IS YOUR BOOKSHELF FULL OF GARDENING BOOKS? Are they ready for a new home? Consider donating your used books to FONABOOKS. Our volunteers prepare books for resale in the lobby of the Arboretum's Administration and Visitor Center building and at special events like the Lahr Symposium and the Garden Fair. Your donation is tax deductible, and all proceeds from the book sales go toward supporting the Arboretum. Please reach out to us about book donations at info@fona.org.



WASHINGTON YOUTH GARDEN

2018 Green Ambassador Program: Growing Together

Jake Dacks

PICTURE THIS: IT’S 95 DEGREES OUTSIDE IN MID-JULY. Five teenagers from DC public high schools are putting the finishing touches on today’s lunch: squash blossom risotto with a celery and date salad paired with lemon balm iced tea. Another two are arranging flowers for the table settings, and eight more are hard at work in the garden. Some of them are weeding the bean plants that will provide next week’s lunch. That on its own is an impressive enough feat in my opinion, but it’s not what makes this moment special. They’re also drenched in sweat, confronting fears of bugs, getting their shoes dirty and, most importantly, working together; all this while listening to one of their co-worker’s hip hop songs. Welcome to the 2018 Green Ambassador Program.

This summer’s cohort of 15 students from nine different schools joined Washington Youth Garden for the six-week program to grow and cook food, learn construction skills, and connect with the city’s green industries. Some of them live in the Arboretum neighborhood, and others were paired with us through the city’s youth employment program. For each of them, and for us, it was a summer spent expanding comfort zones and creating connections.

The Green Ambassadors spent most of their time working in the garden and building new features for our demonstration or school gardens. Those shared, and usually new, experiences then give us a basis for expanding the focus beyond the garden. We facilitated communication workshops during which the Green Ambassadors gave and received feedback about their roles on the team; they had conversations with community organizations about the oppressive conditions many farmworkers face; and they talked about how their actions can be part of the problem or the solution.

De’Jeune Anderson, a senior at McKinley Tech said in his first week, “I’m looking forward to seeing the stuff that we’ve planted grow and seeing people benefit from our labor by donating the food we grow to food banks. I’m excited to be able to see how all this work actually helps people.”

Only six weeks later, he had witnessed all of that. We view the garden as a vector—one that creates a connection to the land, the food that comes from it, and the people, near and far, who get that food on their tables. Washington, DC, now has fifteen new young people who are part of that process. 🌱

JAKE DACKS (aka “Farmer Jake”) is the WYG Garden Manager. He mostly plays in the dirt all day.

Top: Applying lessons on woodworking, Green Ambassadors built new arbors for the Youth Garden entrances; **bottom:** Planting, weeding, and harvesting were regular tasks in the Youth Garden and five partner school gardens.



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF WASHINGTON YOUTH GARDEN



He who plants a tree, plants hope. — Lucy Larcom

DESIGN

- Consider adding trees to improve your property aesthetically by screening unsightly views or framing attractive views.
- A well-positioned shade tree can help make outdoor areas more hospitable. Shade cast upon your home will cool your home naturally and reduce utility costs.
- Planting trees, with their expansive root systems, will help stabilize soils and control erosion. Tree canopies lessen the impact that storm water has on the soil and allow rain to gently reach the earth.
- A tree or evergreen hedge may help to dampen noise pollution from construction and increased traffic flow.

SELECTION

- Trees grow into a variety of sizes and a multitude of forms; they can be deciduous or evergreen. Take time to compare attributes of those types and determine which tree is right for your needs. Trees can be columnar, vase shaped, pyramidal, etc.
- Calculate 15 years of future growth. Tree placement must allow adequate distance from structures. Preserve 15 feet of clearance from power lines.
- The below-ground growing space must be adequate. Typically, a tree’s roots extend outward farther than the tree’s canopy.

SHOPPING

- Quality plants will grow into better specimens. Shop only at reputable nurseries and support your local garden centers.
- Select trees with strong and well-spaced branches.
- Reject trees with obvious girdling roots or a weak trunk/root ball connection.
- Avoid trees with scars on their trunks.
- Ensure the size of the root ball is adequate for the caliper of the tree (consult the American Standard for Nursery Stock).

TECHNIQUE

- Make a broad, shallow planting hole. Roots generally grow more horizontally than they do vertically.
- Depth of planting is critical. Locate the trunk flare and position the flare 1 inch above the surrounding grade.
- Before backfilling, adjust the tree so it is straight by moving the entire rootball as opposed to adjusting the tree by moving the stem.
- Skip staking of your newly planted tree. Staking is necessary only in excessively windy locations.
- Choose only ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Certified Professional Arborists to tend to your mature tree pruning needs. 🌳

NANCY AND PIERRE MOITRIER operate *Designs for Greener Gardens*, a boutique gardening company that specializes in designing, creating, developing, and maintaining distinctive gardens of all styles. Pierre hails from France and brings the charm of the Old World to their garden creations. Nancy’s 40 years of gardening experience combined with her design knowledge and innate artistic eye add a superior dimension to their garden projects. Follow *Designs for Greener Gardens* on Facebook.



FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002-1958

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WASHINGTON DC
PERMIT NO. 6503

The Friends of the National Arboretum is an independent, nonprofit organization established to enhance, through public and private sector resources, support for the U.S. National Arboretum.

HAPPENINGS

Check for events on the USNA's Events page at www.usna.usda.gov/visit/events-calendar



2019 DATES TO SAVE

MARCH 30

Lahr Symposium
and Native Plant Sale

APRIL 27-28

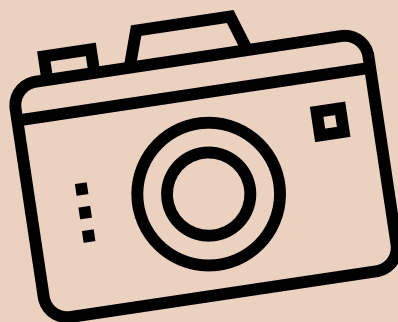
FONA's Annual Garden Fair

MAY 12

World Bonsai Day

JUNE 11

Dinner Under the Stars



WANTED: VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Do you love photographing the beauty and fun at the Arboretum? Ready to share your talents? If so, we could use your help filling our image library and documenting FONA events and activities. We are seeking a handful of photographers to volunteer at events throughout the year, take shots of the seasonal splendor, and help us show off the Arboretum. If you are interested, contact Melinda Peters at volunteer@fona.org.



Are you a federal, civilian, postal, or military employee or retiree? You can help preserve the National Arboretum by designating FONA through your payroll deduction today! To do so, donate through the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area's website. Our CFC number is #81610.



If you're an Amazon Prime member, please consider using the AmazonSmile program to benefit FONA at smile.amazon.com



Help us to go green! To receive your ArborFriends issues via email only, and not in the mail, go to fona.org/greenarborfriends