



A publication of the Friends of the National Arboretum

ARBOR FRIENDS

SPRING 2019



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS !**

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, April 27: 12pm - 4pm

Sunday, April 28: 9am - 4pm

MEMBERS ONLY

Saturday, April 27:

9am - 12pm

IN THIS ISSUE: Special Garden Fair Edition

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

FONA's members are the heart of all we do to support the National Arboretum, not just financially, but also as volunteers, visitors, and advocates for the Arboretum. While helping to make a difference in the Arboretum's future is a wonderful reason to be a member of FONA, there are other, more tangible, benefits as well.

I'm very pleased to announce that we've added a **new FONA member benefit this year—exclusive Members-Only Nights on Tuesday evenings in June, July, and August**. On those nights, we will keep the Arboretum open for members beyond its normal 5:00pm closing time so that they can enjoy a pleasant evening exploring the grounds. You'll find more specifics on our website and in our e-mail newsletter as summer approaches.

One of FONA's top long-term goals is improving access to the Arboretum by extending its operating hours and also by getting the long-closed gate on M Street NE reopened. This summer's Members-Only Nights are a small first step in doing just that.

On a similar note, the Arboretum's Gift Shop will be closed for renovation during 2019. FONA is working closely with the Arboretum staff to bring an upgraded gift shop in 2020 that will provide visitors with food and drinks as well as merchandise and serve as a place for members to connect more closely with FONA and happenings around the Arboretum.

Please be sure to visit us as Spring brings the Arboretum to life. We'd love for you to enjoy this wonderful spot—and see firsthand the things that your membership support makes possible.

And thank you again for all you've done to support FONA and the National Arboretum. 🌳



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

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
Linda A. Findlay
Chandler Goule
Virginia Kromm
Grant Leslie
Anne MacMillan
Bill Matuszeski
Scot Medbury
Paul Meyer
Esther Mitchell
Tim Petri
Pamela Raymont-Simpson
J. Landon Reeve IV
Barbara Shea
Lou Slade
Michael Stevens
Peggy Strand
Ann Wroblewski

FONA Staff

Tom McGuire, *Executive Director*
Claire Broderick, *Membership Program Manager*
Susan Chapin, *Operations Manager*
Jake Dacks, *Garden Manager*
Catherine P. Kerkam, *Director of Philanthropy*
Thea Klein-Mayer, *Garden Educator*
Nadia Mercer, *Program Director*
Melinda Peters, *Volunteer Programs Manager*
Brianne Studer, *Education Manager*
Crystal Williams, *Communications and Events Manager*

Arbor Friends

Claire Broderick, *Managing Editor*
Laurie Cullen, *Copyeditor*
Nicole Hamam, *Design*
Contributors: Claire Broderick, Virginia Kromm, Bill Matuszeski, Tom McGuire, Kevin McIntosh, Nancy Moitrier, Pierre Moitrier, Dr. Richard Olsen, Barbara Shea, Brianne Studer, Taffy Turner, Mike Welsh, Karen Zill

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

On planting...



WE GARDENERS ARE AN OPTIMISTIC LOT. Even the grumpiest horticultural naysayers are a positive force at their core. Despite too much or too little sun, imperfect weather, less-than-perfect soils, marauding wildlife, unchecked pests, and annoying neighborhood covenants, we plod on. We devote tremendous time, effort, and income to planting plants for ourselves and our neighbors to enjoy. And the U.S. ornamental horticulture industry contributes an estimated couple

hundred billion dollars per year (conservative estimate) to provide what we need.

In truth, we plant because we think of what can be. Our vision manifests as a bounty of flowers, fruits, shade, and peaceful respite—and enhanced well-being. A dear friend once spoke to a packed auditorium on the virtues of gardening, and his theme was that gardening is part and parcel of the human condition. I like that thought and have incorporated it into my conversations with gardeners around the country: to garden is to be human.

The U.S. National Arboretum exists to facilitate our gardening efforts and improve the human condition. I assume that you, too, cannot imagine a neighborhood or city without plants. As part of the USDA, ornamental plants and gardens often play second, third, or fourth fiddle to cows, sows, and plows, the big guns of agriculture. However, I have always argued that our products in ornamental horticulture make communities livable and deserve our greatest attention as we move forward in the twenty-first century.

We certainly do our part as plant pushers. Each spring, FONA hosts the annual Garden Fair & Plant Sale, the culmination of a year of planning, accumulating, and ordering new plants as well as old stalwarts for DC-area gardens. Many of the plants are donations to FONA collected during the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show held in Baltimore in January. The plants are gifts from our colleagues in the nursery industry throughout the country, and they help support the National Arboretum in whatever way they can. Please come shop at our Garden Fair and do the same!

Continuing the theme of more plants, our garden staff have procured nearly 18,000 plants for the final planting of the Friendship Garden at the Arbor House. Much of that effort was made possible by our friends at the National Capitol Area Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs, Inc. For more than six decades, they have been a vital part of the growth and support of the National Arboretum. Together with FONA and the National Bonsai Foundation, they form a trifecta of stakeholder support for our mission, the seeds of which were sown many decades ago and are bearing more and better fruit each year.

It's springtime in DC. Come join our friends and staff at the National Arboretum and enjoy the beauty you have helped create. 🌱

Richard T. Olsen, Director
The U.S. National Arboretum

Since we were unable to receive mail from mid-December to late January due to the government shutdown, the Winter issue of Arbor Friends went to print before all the 2018 gifts could be recorded and acknowledged. Here are the updates and corrections to our 2018 Thank You to Donors list.

DAVID FAIRCHILD SOCIETY MEMBERS

Director's Circle \$10,000+

Betty and Alex Boyle

Benefactor \$5,000 – \$9,999

Joseph and Lynne Horning

Patron \$2,500 – \$4,999

Liz Dugan and Daniel Rotrosen

Donor \$1,200 – \$2,499

Suzie and Rich Bissell

Clara and Tom Jurczak

Sukie Kuser

Shirley and Frank Nicolai

Kat and Andrew Norris

Liz Shriver and Jon Blake

Jeffrey K. Stine and Marcel C. LaFollette

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Venable Foundation

\$1,000 – \$4,999

Azalea Society of America, Northern VA Chapter

Cal and Linda Dooley

Jack Krumholtz

\$500 – \$999

T.E. and Julie Gingrich

Robert and Elizabeth Huffman

Paula Knepper

Mary Reyner and Brian Steinbach

Rita Thompson

\$250 – \$499

Alan and Becky Dye

Jill Eckart

Judith Hecht and Dennis Barry

William and Leigh Kerkam

Timothy and Hannah Mullen

Susan Robeson

\$125 – \$249

Thomas Neale

J. Denis and Joan O'Toole

A Sneak Peek Into the 2019 Garden Fair

Spring has sprung and it's time to celebrate!

And what better way than to join us at the 2019 Garden Fair and Plant Sale at the U.S. National Arboretum? The Fair will again be held on the north terrace behind the Administration Building, and FONA will have an amazing variety of plants for you to purchase. From annuals to perennials to woodies and rare collector's plants, there will be something for everyone.

As a reminder, the Garden Fair now runs on Saturday and Sunday. This year's sale will be held from April 27 to April 28. This change to a weekend format (rather than Friday and Saturday) seemed to work well last year, and we hope that made it easier for you to spend some time perusing the plants. The Fair will open at 9:00am and close at 4:00pm on both days. Note that Saturday from 9 am to noon is for FONA members only (hint: this is the best time to get those Collector's Corner rare finds). If you are not already a FONA member, there is still time to become one so you won't miss out on the best plants. Join online at fona.org or you can register in the Administration Building on Saturday morning.

And don't forget to stop by the East Terrace, where FONA will be selling garden books, and The Herb Society will have more than 85 varieties of herbs. We've also got lots of great vendors lined up. After you've found the perfect plants and herbs for your garden, join us on Meadow Road (adjacent to the Bonsai Museum) for food, coffee, music, other plant vendors, and LOTS of other fun finds.

So please come join us at the Garden Fair! This is an opportunity for you to support your National Arboretum because FONA donates all profits from this sale to the Arboretum. If you would like to volunteer during the sale or help us out with setting up the week before, please contact the FONA office for more information. We look forward to seeing you there! 🌿

Co-chair KEVIN MCINTOSH has been in charge of Collector's Corner for years and loves growing rare and unusual plants. VIRGINIA KROMM, a FONA board member co-chairing the Garden Fair for a second time, is eager to see the tent full of plants.





L-R: *Cypripedium parviflorum*, photo courtesy of Kevin McIntosh; *Yucca rostrata*; *Gentiana* hybrid, photo courtesy of Kevin McIntosh

First, a few words about Collector's Corner.

We will be located to your left as you enter the main tent at the Garden Fair. Our rare and unusual plants are divided into three groups: hardy garden plants (zone 7a and colder), marginally hardy plants (zone 7b, may be suitable for DC), and non-hardy plants (zone 8 and warmer). Many of our plants come from the Pacific Northwest and are untested on the East Coast, so these plants should be considered “experimental” regarding their ability to survive here, much to the delight of adventurous gardeners who enjoy challenges and trying new things.

This year we will have an exceptional selection of *Cypripedium* orchids comprising 10 species and cultivars, including *C. kentuckiense*, *C. pubescens*, *C. reginae*, and *C. candida* and the hybrids ‘Gisela’, ‘Joyce’, ‘Michael’, ‘Aki’, ‘Anna Beckman’, and ‘PK’. Most of these have been selected for heat tolerance since these orchids are more susceptible to being killed by high temperatures than low temperatures. These lady slipper orchids are notoriously expensive because they take at least 5 years of culture from seed before they are blooming size. This year, we have obtained, at reduced prices, a number of 3 to 4 year old seedlings that should flower in 1 to 2 years, and we are passing on the savings to you!

We will also have an interesting selection of South African plants for sale, including *Agapanthus*, *Phygelius*, and *Eucomis* as well as drought-tolerant (yes, it will get drier) plants, including *Yucca rostrata* (with trunks), agaves, *Hesperaloe*, *Euphorbia*, and *Lewisia*.

For those of you with lots of shade, we'll have *Disporum*, *Fatsia*, begonias, a good selection of unusual rhododendrons, and the aforementioned *Cypripedium*.

And don't forget the scented daphnes (*Daphne ×transatlantica* Eternal Fragrance®, *Daphne genkwa*, and the *Daphne odora* cultivars ‘Mae-jima’, ‘Aureomarginata’, and ‘Zuiko Nishiki’) and the beautiful gentians (*Gentiana acaulis* hybrids) with incredible blue flowers shaped like trumpets.

Finally, special surprises have been donated by rare plant and specialty nurseries: Edelweiss Perennials, Far Reaches Farm, Plant Delights Nursery, and the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

Please drop by the Collector's Corner, and don't hesitate to ask questions about any of the exciting plants we have for sale. But shop early because these plants sell out quickly! 🌱

KEVIN MCINTOSH is a FONA board member, grows many of the plants featured in the Collector's Corner, and will be happy to give gardening advice to those who are interested in growing unusual plants.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER



Looking for the perfect perennials for your garden?

One thing that makes a cold and dreary February in Baltimore easier to bear is the stack of perennials catalogues and availability lists I have before me. There seem to be more new and exciting varieties on the pages along with many of the plants that are stalwarts in mid-Atlantic gardens. I wish I could tell you exactly what you will find inside the FONA tent at the end of April, but much of it depends on a multitude of factors at the nurseries. Adverse weather or hungry deer could eliminate my top choices. On the other hand, a mild spring could offer plants that normally are not available. By mid April, the lists of plants that will be for sale at the Garden Fair will be available at www.fona.org/gardenfair.

What I can tell you is a little bit about how we choose what you will find at the sale. Like most people, I am seduced by those new and hard-to-find perennials. Every year, the growers offer new and improved varieties. The trick is to get the orders in before those special plants are sold out. I also look for the tried-and-true plants that will not disappoint any gardener, novice or expert. Deer-resistant plants are always high on the list, as are plants for pollinators. We plan to have a variety of sun and shade plants, spring and summer bloomers, and of course a huge selection of native plants. Rest assured that there will be beautiful columbines in bloom, new hellebores and *Epimedium* to tempt you, and *Baptisia*, *Heuchera*, ferns, grasses, and more. Come early to get the best selection and return later to fill up another cart. Perennials will reward you with years of enjoyment.

BARBARA SHEA is a FONA Board Member and avid gardener.

PERENNIALS

Top: *Aquilegia*; Bottom: Tables full of perennials for sale.



Wholesale nurseries from across the country come to display their new plant introductions

at the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) every January. At the end of the trade show, more than a dozen vendors generously donate woody plants (shrubs and trees) to FONA for the Garden Fair. These interesting and limited one-of-a-kind plants will go quickly Saturday morning during the Members-Only sale.

Here are a few examples to whet your appetite:

- Dozens of conifers, small and large.
- Several nice *Camellia japonica* and *C. sasanqua* cultivars.
- Many different cultivars of *Ilex* (hollies).
- Several new cultivars of *Distylium*, a great evergreen shade-tolerant alternative to boxwoods or Japanese holly.

And here are just some of plants the Garden Fair Committee has ordered in greater numbers:

- *Actinidia arguta* 'Issai' —hardy kiwi; a deciduous, fast-growing, twining woody vine.
- *Aesculus parviflora* —native to open woodlands in eastern areas, shade tolerant, great summer flowers, fall color.
- *Calycanthus floridus* 'Aphrodite' —called sweetshrub, a deciduous native, large fragrant bright red blooms.
- *Cleyera japonica* —broadleaf evergreen shrub or small tree, fragrant white flowers bloom in late spring, followed by shiny black fruit, an unusual and hard-to-find plant.
- *Cotinus coggygria* Winecraft Black® —rich deep-purple foliage turns brilliant orange in the fall, a nice dwarf cultivar.
- *Danae racemosa* —poet's laurel, 4-inch-long evergreen stems with thick waxy green leaves, marble-size reddish-orange ornamental berries in fall, great for shade.
- *Enkianthus campanulatus* 'Showy Lantern' —delicate, elegant, and understated, slow-growing shrub with pink bell-shaped flowers for part sun.
- *Edgeworthia chrysantha* —tropical-looking leaves drop in mid December to reveal beautiful bark and large, silvery, terminal flower buds that open in late winter (pictured at right).
- *Euonymus americanus* —a unique native plant not commonly available in garden centers.
- *Ficus carica* 'Brown Turkey' —produces tasty brownish purple fruit in late spring through summer, root hardy and prolific in zone 7.
- *Genista lydia* Bangle® —Masses of shocking yellow snapdragon-like flowers and thread-like foliage form mounds of color in early spring.
- *Hydrangea arborescens* Invincibelle Wee White® —the first dwarf form of an 'Annabelle' variety.
- *Lepedeza thunbergii* 'Gibraltar' —bush clover, a deciduous semi-woody plant with an arching habit, rose-purple pea-like flowers in late summer.
- *Leucothoe fontanesiana* 'Zeblid' Scarletta® —purple new leaves on a tidy, low, compact mound of shiny deep-green foliage in spring, great fall color.
- *Lycium barbarum* Big Lifeberry® —goji berry with extra-large fruit, easily grown in full sun, great in the ground or grow it in a patio pot.
- *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Carolina Compacta' —broadleaf evergreen, compact and narrow, fragrant showy white flowers.
- *Syringa* Bloomerang® Dark Purple Lilac —classic lilac fragrance, re-blooms from mid-summer to fall.
- *Viburnum awabuki* 'Chindo' —excellent tall evergreen for hedge or specimen planting 🌿

TAFFY TURNER and MIKE WELSH

longtime members of the Garden Fair Committee, are looking forward to another busy plant sale.

***Edgeworthia chrysantha*, photo courtesy of Monrovia Nursery.**





ANNUALS

Calibrachoa 'Million Bells' Blueberry Scone, photo courtesy of PAC Elsner/Westoff.

The variety of annuals at the Garden Fair this year will be greater than ever.

Some will be old favorites, returning with an expanded array of colors and sizes. *Calibrachoa* Million Bells® have flowers shaped like petunias, but they are smaller, more numerous, and self-cleaning. We will also have begonias and geraniums of all types.

Some of the most unusual and dramatic plants from earlier years will also return, including such favorites as kangaroo paws (*Anigozanthus*) in five colors, South African and Canary Islands foxgloves in their unusual subtle shades, and the one most popular with children: *Acmella oleracea* 'Peek-A-Boo'—the “eyeball plant” that puts out long stems, the ends of which appear to be looking at you!

There will also be many new versions of popular plants available for the first time, including *Gazania rigens* 'New Day Mix', a South African daisy now in pink, red, orange, yellow bronze, and multiple mixed colors. We'll have a full array of colors in the new Lantana Landscape Series in which the plants reach 30 to 40 inches. The new *Cuphea llavea* or bat face cuphea

is scary indeed and doesn't look like any other cuphea you have ever seen.

Finally, the Garden Fair will have many annuals that are completely new this year, including *Alstroemeria* or Peruvian lily in a beautiful light orange. Peruvian lilies are on sale as cut flowers in almost every supermarket, but now you can grow your own. There will also be *Celosia argentea* var. *cristata* 'Dracula', which has dark red flowers over purple-black foliage, and two others, *Russelia equisetiformis*, known as coral fountain, which has bright red spikes tumbling down over bright green foliage, and *Talinum paniculatum* 'variegated jewels-of-Opar', which must be seen to be believed. So come to the Garden Fair and take home some annuals you won't regret! 🌱

BILL MATUSZESKI is a long-time board member. He has been poring over catalogs for months and is in charge of ordering annuals. Look for him in the Annuals and Tropicals section of FONA's tent at the Garden Fair.

Herbs Galore from the Garden to the Home



**THE HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA,
POTOMAC UNIT**
www.potomacunithsa.org

One of the Arboretum's partners, The Herb Society of America will be selling over 85 varieties of herbs, native plants, and wildflowers. Proceeds support an internship in the National Herb Garden. Find their booth on the East Terrace and ask any of the Society members for expert advice. 🌿

FONABooks at the Garden Fair!

Stop by the FONABooks booth to browse through a wealth of books about gardening, native plants, landscape architecture, gardening design, gardens of the world, plant reference books, and so much more! 100% of the earnings from our sale of wholly donated stock supports the National Arboretum's programs. Browse the shelves in our booth on the East Terrace, between the Administration building and the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. 🌳

The FONABooks tent will be full to the brim with a great selection of books to browse and take home.



Vendors

PLANT VENDORS

Cherry Grove Farm	RareFind Nursery
Deep Roots Farm	Radical Roots
The Herb Society of America, Potomac Unit	Seven Bends Nursery
Maharlika Traditions	White's Nursery
Orchid Enterprise	Wood Thrush Native Nursery

OTHER VENDORS

Compost Cab	Little Red Bird Botanicals
DAFNI Greek Gourmet	Love & Carrots
FONABOOKS	Printed Wild
Full Circle Plant Food	Shade Metals
Garden Metalworks	Three Stone Steps
gus + bean	Washington Garden Magazine
Habeebah's Herbals	
K&S Wood Crafts	

Contributors

INDIVIDUALS AND FOUNDATIONS

- Robert Bartlett, Bartlett Tree Experts, Stamford, CT
- J. Landon Reeve, Chapel Valley Landscape Company, Woodbine, MD
- J. Frank Schmidt Family Charitable Foundation

NURSERIES/WHOLESALE NURSERIES

Adcock Nursery	Pender Nursery
Clement's Nursery	Piedmont Carolina Nursery
Garden Design Nursery	Pleasant Run Nursery
Manor View Farm	Taylor's Nursery
Monrovia Nursery	



Among the tallest of the magnolias in the collection, *Magnolia virginiana* is one of two native evergreen species. Photo courtesy of USNA.

Magnificent Magnolias

The Holly and Magnolia Collection, one of the oldest collections at the Arboretum, began more than 75 years ago. The hollies were planted first in 1937, with initial plantings of magnolias in 1943. Today, the 10-acre site containing the Collection is filled with majestic trees that provide a multi-season display of berries, flowers, and fragrance.



Together, the hollies and magnolias—both important landscape plants—herald the end of winter and the arrival of spring. Clusters of tiny flowers appear on the hollies' branches, their fragrance filling the springtime air. The Chinese holly (*Ilex cornuta*) is chiefly responsible for this lovely scent. The magnolias begin blooming at the same time, and they add a range of fragrances, from slight or barely detectable to the pleasant scents of the yulan (*Magnolia denudata*) and star (*M. stellata*) magnolias.

There are more than 200 species of magnolias. Characteristics vary; some are evergreen, some are deciduous. Some, like the lily magnolia (*M. lilliflora*) are relatively short and shrub-like, and others, such as *M. virginiana* grow to 80 feet or more. Native species are found in southeastern Asia, eastern North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and parts of South America.

What the magnolias may lack in olfactory appeal, they make up in a spectacular visual display of flowers in shades of pink, yellow, and white. The deciduous magnolias are particularly

showy because the flowers bloom before the leaves open. Magnolias enjoy a blooming season that begins in late February with the earliest Asian varieties such as *M. denudata* and *M. kobus*, although they risk the dangers of a late winter freeze. The Asian/native crosses such as *Magnolia* 'Elizabeth' bloom next and, unless winter has been mild, prime blooming season for most other magnolias is late March through early April. Those that are native to the Eastern United States (e.g., *M. virginiana* and *M. macrophylla* or bigleaf) flower in mid June. Depending on the type of magnolia, the blossoms last from one to three weeks. The Magnolia Society International website contains a complete listing of the varieties of magnolias, descriptions of their characteristics, and how to select a magnolia that's right for a particular garden.

The magnolia research program is one of the older programs in tree research at the Arboretum. In 1956, horticulturalist Dr. William Kosar began a magnolia breeding program to develop trees with a later blooming time to avoid bloom loss from late winter and early spring freezes. The result was eight hybrids

Among the Magnolias



CAROLE BORDELON, SUPERVISORY RESEARCH HORTICULTURIST

In her twenty-nine years at the Arboretum, Carole Bordelon has held several positions and had numerous responsibilities. After five years as a gardener in the Bonsai collection, she became a horticulturalist in the Asian Collections and the Holly and Magnolia Collections.

A native of Baltimore, Carole studied entomology and botany at the University of Maryland. She has worked for the Maryland Department of Agriculture in the Mosquito Control Program and for a small company that reared beneficial wasps for the control of the Mexican bean beetle, an agriculture crops pest. But her interest in botany won out.

Currently, she is one of the two Supervisory Horticulturists who provide oversight to the Asian Collections, the Bonsai & Penjing Museum, the Azalea Collection, the Flowering Tree Collection, and the Holly and Magnolia

Collections. Carole has had the opportunity to travel to China to collect, as part of the North America-China Plant Exploration Consortium. On other occasions, she has visited China and Japan to see what types of plants are available and to share knowledge with colleagues.

Carole says that seeing the development of the Arboretum's gardens—"the growth of the trees in the Asian Collection, the robust beauty of the camellias, the diversity of the magnolias"—is immensely satisfying.

A gardener for more than forty years, she does lots of it on the quarter-acre of property where she lives with her husband, a retired botanist. They like to hike and travel, and their trips invariably include visits to local botanical gardens—just what someone who loves gardening would do.

PATRICK LYNCH, AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

Although his day-to-day activities are primarily focused in the Holly and Magnolia Collections and the Asian Collections, Pat Lynch has duties throughout the Arboretum, such as mowing, equipment operation, and specialty pruning and planting. In the Holly and Magnolia Collections, he maintains the plantings through mulching, pruning, weed control, and inventory updates. He also tries to keep current on the newest cultivars of hollies and magnolias in the market.

Pat started as a FONA employee twenty years ago. Before coming to the Arboretum, he worked at a local nursery for fifteen years. He acquired his horticultural background through a three-year tech program in high school.

He credits his parents for instilling his interest in working with plants by giving him

part of their yard to plant a garden. (Pat thinks they did this to get him out from under foot, but whatever their motivation, the Arboretum undoubtedly has benefited from his early experience with gardening.)

Outside of work, Pat's activities are as varied as his job tasks. They include fishing, collecting glassware and art, cooking, and helping his five siblings with their many yard and landscape issues. Having grown up in the Baltimore-DC area, Pat enjoys having his family nearby. His chief love is spending time with his family, especially his twenty-one nieces and nephews.

The multi-skilled Pat is glad his job doesn't keep him indoors. "The most satisfying thing about my job," he says, "is that I'm outside and moving." 🌳



introduced in 1968. They are known collectively as the “girl magnolias,” named after the daughters of Dr. Kosar (Betty) and his colleague Dr. Francis de Vos (Ann, Judy, Randy, Ricki) and the wives of the Secretary of Agriculture (Jane) and the Director of the National Arboretum (Susan). The majority of these trees are located next to the main magnolia collection with others scattered throughout the Arboretum. In addition to blooming later, the smaller size of these hybrids makes them better landscape plants.

The breeding program ended in the 1990s, and research is no longer being conducted in the Magnolia Collection. Because of its long history, however, the Collection remains important for researchers and breeders who look to the Arboretum for its research history and the germplasm collection, which contains genetic material from the original plants, an important reference point for breeders. Much of the focus of current breeding efforts is on creating hybrids of tropical and temperate native varieties in order to introduce plants with a more lush appearance.



Although formal research has ended, the magnolias continue to be evaluated for release to the public. In addition, staff are always on the lookout for “witches’ brooms,” balls of compact branches densely packed so they resemble the bristles of a broom. These unusual growths are often the result of genetic mutations and offer exciting propagation possibilities such as dwarfed habit or variegated foliage. Because of their potential merit in propagating plants with new characteristics, witches’ brooms present opportunities for potential plant introductions.

Visitors who come to see the Magnolia Collection should be on the lookout for three huge trees, noticeably larger than the rest, that represent two native evergreen species—*M. virginiana* and *M. grandiflora*. Their towering size makes them easy to spot. In early spring, the magnolias surround the visitor with a dazzling floral display and a scent that’s a combination of magnolia fragrances. Regal, stately, and majestic are words used to describe magnolia trees. Perhaps the word that best describes the Arboretum’s collection is outstanding. 🌳

KAREN ZILL is a DC-based freelance writer. Her work includes discussion guides for films and public television programs, memoirs, essays, and nature writing.



Top: *M. stellata* 'Centennial' grows fragrant, silky flowers before its leaves every spring.

Bottom: The differences in flower color among magnolia varieties is visible each spring in the collection. Photo courtesy of the USNA.

WASHINGTON YOUTH GARDEN

Garden Science

Brianne Studer

“Ms. Allie, can we make this salad for our lunch every day?” We often hear comments like this after of our Garden Science lessons at KIPP Spring Academy. During our lessons, students learn about science and nutrition through the lens of the school garden and often find delicious new ways to enjoy eating healthy, nutritious foods.

DID YOU KNOW that Washington Youth Garden goes beyond the gates of the Arboretum? WYG has helped build and maintain nine school gardens at schools that serve high-needs populations throughout the District with our Garden Science School Garden Partnerships. We are currently supporting school gardens at these six schools: KIPP Connect and Spring Academies (KIPP Webb Campus), Center City Trinidad, Hendley Elementary School, Bishop Walker School for Boys, Smothers Elementary, and our newest garden partner, Friendship Armstrong.

Garden Science is about more than just the garden. Studies show that school gardens not only increase students’ willingness to eat more fruits and vegetables, they also have positive impacts on student engagement and academic outcomes, particularly in STEM areas. They support social and emotional learning, too. The power of a school garden comes from the way teachers and students use it. Our four FoodCorps Service Members who serve one-year terms at our Garden Science Partner Schools



Compost and worms are the props in a lesson on soil and decomposition.

work with their partner schools to determine how they can best connect students with garden-based learning.

Through our programs this school year alone (August 2018 to February 2019), our Garden Science team has completed more than 250 lessons and 25 events,

connecting with more than 1,500 students and family members. Thanks to our Garden Science funding partners—DC Health, SNAP-Education, OSSE, and FoodCorps—our Garden Science team engages the whole school community in the following ways:

- Regular classroom and garden-based lessons
- SPROUT field trips
- Taste tests
- School garden and wellness events
- Garden open hours
- Developing garden committees
- Teacher professional development

At the end of the multi-year partnership, we continue to support the school’s garden committee to ensure they can continue to offer enriching garden-based experiences to their students for years to come. 🌱

BRIANNE STUDER manages Washington Youth Garden’s Garden Science Program. She has more than 10 years of experience in youth development and informal education, especially STEM and nature-based education. Her focus on gardening and food in education started when she realized that food is simply nature that we encounter many times each day.



Spring Garden Tips

Nancy and Pierre Moitrier

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time is now. —Chinese proverb

SELECTION

Choose plants carefully when purchasing to maximize success: once a bad plant, always a bad plant! Look for trees with a good, sturdy stem and a visible root flair. Select perennials with multiple stems and foliage that covers the surface of the container. Inspect roots whenever possible: healthy roots are usually white, pliable, and abundant. Be wary of pot-bound plants and girdling roots.

TRANSPORT AND HANDLING

Lift the plant while supporting the container, not by grabbing the stem of the plant. Shelter plants during transport in an enclosed vehicle or with a tarp, covering foliage and dormant buds to protect them from the force of the wind.

PLANTING

Take time and care to dig a million-dollar hole and your investment will pay off. Planting holes should be wide with tapered sides and never too deep. Never install a plant deeper than it was growing in the container because that will inhibit its establishment. If you discover girdling roots or an excessively tight root mass upon planting be sure to remedy these defects by loosening or even removing some problem roots altogether. When placing soil into the planting hole, pack soil firmly so your new plant will pass a gentle “tug test” but not so firmly that soil becomes compacted or resists water infiltration.

CARE

Always water new plants immediately after installation; thereafter, check regularly and allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings. Keep in mind that it is better to water plants less frequently but thoroughly and deeply. 🌱



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

For more information visit usna.usda.gov or fona.org

WORLD BONSAI DAY

May 11

The Arboretum's celebration includes demonstrations, workshops for beginners, curator-led tours, and bonsai vendors. This free event is sponsored by the U.S. National Arboretum, National Bonsai Foundation, and Potomac Bonsai Association.

SUMMER EVENINGS CONCERT SERIES

Thursday nights, 7:00–8:30pm

June 6, 13, 27

July 11, 18, 25

August 1, 8

Another series of summer evening concerts is in the works! Live music near the Herb Garden on most Thursday evenings. Registration and a full schedule will be available on the FONA website in May.

FONA'S ANNUAL DINNER UNDER THE STARS

June 11

Mark your calendar for the evening of Tuesday, June 11 and join us as we celebrate FONA's 25th annual Dinner Under the Stars. For further information and registration materials, please visit fona.org/dinner.

FULL MOON EXPERIENCES: HIKES OR FOREST BATHING

April 18, 19, 20, 7:30pm

May 17, 18, 19, 8:00pm

June 16, 17, 18, 8:00pm

July 15, 16, 17, 8:00pm

Sign up and come to the Arboretum after hours for either a brisk 2-mile hike with a tour guide or a meditative Forest Bathing guide. We have 3 nights of full-moon activities each month throughout the year. Registration and fee online at fona.org

FAMILY GARDEN DAYS AT THE WASHINGTON YOUTH GARDEN

May 11, 10:00am–12:00pm

June 8, 10:00am–12:00pm

July 13, 10:00am–12:00pm

At the Washington Youth Garden

On the second Saturday of each month, join classes for all members of the community and their families, led by Washington Youth Garden staff in our one-acre fruit and vegetable garden. Pre-registration required through www.washingtonyouthgarden.org/fgd/

BONSAI BLING: AZALEA BONSAI IN BLOOM

May 5–June 2, 10:00am–4:00pm

National Bonsai & Penjing Museum,
Special Exhibits Wing

This annual spring exhibit showcases the most spectacular examples of late-blooming Satsuki azaleas, miniature in form, but covered with full-sized flowers. Dates are subject to change, depending on the timing of this year's azalea flowering.

