



A publication of the Friends of the National Arboretum

ARBOR FRIENDS

SUMMER 2018



IN THIS ISSUE

4 Springhouse Run **8** Volunteer Opportunities **10** Summer at the Arboretum **12** Book Review **14** WYG Training

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

As the fast pace of spring segues into the summer doldrums here at the Arboretum, it's a great time to look back on FONA's busy spring and look ahead to our fall schedule. One of FONA's most important goals is to increase the size of our circle of support, and events are an important means of doing that. FONA, with the support of members like you, has done a lot this year—and we're only halfway through 2018!

Our busy spring season began with a Full Moon 5K Run on March 31. We had more than 200 runners complete the course through the Arboretum under a bright full moon. On a similar note, we have been hosting three or more nights of Full Moon Hikes for FONA members and the public every month. Check the FONA website for dates and other information if you are interested in joining us. And don't hesitate to sign up. These popular hikes always fill up quickly.

In April, FONA hosted our largest ever annual Garden Fair and Plant Sale on the grounds surrounding the Arboretum's Administration Building. We had more than 20 vendors in addition to FONA's large plant tent, and it was such a hit that we are planning something similar with plant vendors for this fall's Oaktoberfest event.

Those events are just two of many, and something special has been happening almost every day. For instance, all through the spring, we have had volunteers planting native plants every week along Springhouse Run and working in the Washington Youth Garden, which has hosted hundreds of school kids during the week and dozens of families on Saturday Family Garden Days.

This fall we'll be hosting a number of events at the Arboretum, including Oaktoberfest, our fall festival; more volunteer planting days; and lots of hikes and tours of the Arboretum. Keep your eyes on our website and email newsletters for more details.

I hope you'll come out to join us for some or all of these events—and invite your friends and neighbors to come along. Your support of FONA and participation in our events are the keys to our current and future success.

See you soon on the Arboretum grounds! 🌿

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*
Bill Matuszeski, *Vice Chair*
Charles W. Findlay, *Secretary*
Lynne Church, *Treasurer*
Robert A. Bartlett, Jr.
Suzanne Bissell
Deborah E. Bowles
Katherine Stark Bull
Zandra Chestnut
Martha Van Dale
Elizabeth Dugan
Marsha Echols, Esq.
Linda A. Findlay
Chandler Goule
Jennifer Hatcher
Douglas Jemal
Grant Leslie
Anne MacMillan
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 Wroblewski

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, *Design*
Contributors: Claire Broderick, Bill Inglee,
Tom McGuire, Nancy Moitrier, Pierre
Moitrier, Dr. Richard Olsen, Brienne Studer,
Karen Zill

ON THE COVER A bee investigates the inflorescence of a great coneflower '*Rudbeckia maxima*'

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

A not so simple tree planting...



ON FATHER'S DAY, my wife indulged my botanical obsessions and let me purchase a rather expensive summer camellia, or Japanese stewartia (*Stewartia pseudocamellia*), from our local garden center. With the able assistance of my 8-year-old son, I planted it in a new bed where in my mind it already takes center stage, although it is years away from growing into full magnifi-

cence. It was worth every penny and then some, because it's a true multi-season plant with large white, camellia-like flowers in summer, spectacular red-orange color in the fall, and exquisite exfoliating and marbled bark in winter. I realize I'm on the far right of the botanical bell curve for garden center customers because I'm familiar with the virtues of the plant and willing to pay whatever it takes to get a stewartia through the nursery production process.

Nurseries produce only what they can sell. Stewartia are notoriously difficult to produce from cuttings, they often have low seed set and viability, and production processes are slow with high losses. Thus, when I purchase a 5-foot plant at the garden center, the nursery needs to recoup its considerable cost in high wholesale prices, which are passed on to the consumer along with an additional markup from the garden center for providing expertise and knowledge to discerning gardeners. Because the price is high, there is not much demand for stewartias, so few nurseries bother with their production.

Why does this matter to the National Arboretum? Because

first and foremost, we are a USDA facility dedicated to enhancing the economic, environmental, and aesthetic value of ornamental landscape plants through long-term research and conservation. We support an industry and its efforts to diversify American landscapes, including outreach and education regarding underappreciated and underutilized garden plants, stewartias being a prime example. There are approximately 20 species worldwide, with two endemic to the southeastern United States. Unfortunately, the American species, silky (*S. malacodendron*) and mountain (*S. ovata*) stewartias, are extremely difficult to cultivate, which is frustrating since their flowers are among the showiest of the genus. Furthermore, in the wild, their status is uncertain, given recent droughts, habitat loss, and poor regeneration. So planting a native stewartia is an option only for the greenest of thumbs and those willingly to pay the price.

Our germplasm efforts augment national-level initiatives toward conservation of useful plant species and their wild relatives. We are doubling down on these efforts and are working toward creating another scientist position to focus on evaluation and production protocols for recalcitrant native tree and shrub species to complement our breeding and germplasm programs. Recent increases in the Arboretum's permanent budget will help us strengthen our core research functions. So perhaps soon, our father-and-son duo won't be the only one planting a stewartia in the garden. And that's a future worth planting for. 🌿

Richard T. Olsen, Director
The United States National Arboretum

COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES AT THE U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Lovely 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.

For more information visit fona.org/bench 🌿



A large tree with white flowers in the foreground and a group of people working in a field in the background.

NEW LIFE

FOR

SPRINGHOUSE

RUN

Springhouse Run is on its way back to good health. After years of collaborative effort by the National Arboretum, the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), FONA, and local chapters of the Garden Club of America, Springhouse Run has been transformed from a concrete-lined and sediment-clogged channel to a meandering stream carrying clean water toward the Anacostia River.

Karen Zill

Last fall, Underwood & Associates, under contract to DOEE, completed major reconstruction of the waterway, moving and removing soil and adding multiple truckloads of gravel and hardwood mulch. Then the current stage of restoration began.

Recruited by FONA and the Garden Club of America and armed with shovels, gloves, and trowels provided by the Arboretum, volunteers have been participating in the planting of thousands of native shrubs, grasses, sedges, and trees along the banks of the stream. During a series of planting days from October to December 2017, **more than 150 volunteers** joined Arboretum staff and planted more than 5,500 plants. The work continued this year in April, May, and June, when **almost 200 more volunteers** pitched in to help.

All 30,000 of the Springhouse Run plants have been grown from seeds or cuttings collected from the region by Arboretum staff. They were started in one of the Arboretum's greenhouses, or

polyhouses—the plastic-covered structures near the Administration building that resemble Quonset huts—where they grew for up to 2 years before they were ready to plant along the stream. On a scheduled planting day this spring, when heavy rain prevented outdoor work, a handful of volunteers spent their time in Polyhouse 7 “plugging”—taking tiny plants from flats where they grew from seed and transferring them into multi-celled planters. Each plant will grow in its own cell for another year and then these individual “plugs” will be removed and planted along Springhouse Run.

The volunteers' work is guided by curator Joan Feely, who is largely responsible for choosing which plants go in which section of the stream, with significant input from gardener Angela Magan, who propagated about 95% of the plants. On one of the planting days in May, two dozen volunteers gathered to work on a section of the stream. Angela, with help from Max Fedeli (the Springhouse Run intern sponsored by FONA), had placed 1,000

Left page: USNA and FONA staff get their hands dirty at a staff planting day. Left: Sedges in their black pots are set up for volunteers to plant them in place. Right: Plants growing in the polyhouses. All photos courtesy of USNA.



plants along the streambed, each in the specific location where it was to go into the ground. Selected for planting that day were grasses, sedges, boneset, and fragrant goldenrod.

Joan provided instruction, demonstrating how to dig a hole, take the soil off the plant roots and shake it into large pots provided to collect the potting media, and how to level the ground around the plant. As the volunteers set to work, Joan answered their questions and helped them with any problems they encountered. The volunteers were a mix of experienced and first-time gardeners; several had never been to the Arboretum before. Among them were PEPCO staffers, students from St. Andrew's Episcopal School fulfilling their service requirements, women who volunteer regularly for FONA, and four Navy men stationed locally. (The Navy encourages its members to participate in community activities.)

About 10,000 plants remain to be planted, and more planting events are scheduled for this fall and next spring. Even after all of the planting is done, a lot of work will remain, especially weed control, which will be a major focus this summer. And deer management, which is an ongoing job.

The Springhouse Run project will have multiple benefits. In addition to sending clean water to the Anacostia River, it will provide visitors to the Arboretum with an opportunity to learn about the process of stream restoration and about the beneficial effects of the plantings: how the plants stabilize the banks of the stream and how their roots cleanse the water by absorbing nutrients and pollution; how they beautify the streambed and provide protection and habitat for several different species of animals.

Walking on the temporary path along Springhouse Run, a visitor today is likely to see butterflies flitting nearby and hear a bullfrog's croak above the soft rush of the water. The revival is well underway. 🌿

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



Top left: Curator Joan Feely welcomes volunteers to a Planting Day and gives instructions; **Top right:** Board members are some of the regular volunteers at planting days; **Middle:** Hundreds of pots laid out to plant. Photo credit: USNA; **Bottom left:** Companies and groups can volunteer for a day of planting or weeding; **Bottom right:** Chevy Chase Garden Club members dig in!



MEET ANGELA MAGNAN



THIS SPRING, ANGELA MAGNAN WORKED AT SPRINGHOUSE RUN ALMOST EVERY DAY. Normally, as a gardener in the Fern Valley native plant collection, she engages in typical gardening tasks such as weeding and pruning, with one day a week devoted to propagation.

Angela grew up on a dairy farm in Vermont, where her brothers raised the calves, and she helped with testing samples of milk for pathogens. Her interest in science began at an early age. As a child, her favorite magazine was *3-2-1-Contact*, the companion to the PBS children's science series. At St. Anselm College in New Hampshire, she majored in biochemistry, and after graduating, she joined the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. She spent three summers working at state parks and winters working in visitor services at the National Building Museum.

Angela went on to earn an M.A. in science writing at Johns Hopkins University, but journalism jobs were scarce, and a period of searching ensued. In 2011, she began volunteering at the Arboretum. Internships followed in the Friendship Garden and in the Asian Collection. As a propagation intern, she started many of the plants destined for Springhouse Run and designed an Access database to track her inventory. She displayed a poster about her database at the 2017 National Native Seed Conference. In order to qualify for a federal position as a horticulturalist, she is pursuing a post-baccalaureate degree using Oregon State's online program.

Describing her work at the Arboretum, Angela says she is challenged to find the time and the manpower to do all that needs to be done, but the flip side is that "there is always something to do, I'm never bored, and I enjoy the variety and autonomy." 🌿

— KAREN ZILL



Come Volunteer with FONA!

MELINDA PETERS

FONA's new Volunteer Manager



We are thrilled to have Melinda Peters join the FONA staff in the new full-time position of Volunteer Program Manager. FONA kept her busy this spring with the Garden Fair and Springhouse Run plantings. This summer, she will be working with more volunteers, and in the fall, she will be training Full Moon Hike leaders, Arboretum docents, and volunteer water quality monitors.

A MESSAGE FROM MELINDA:

I am thrilled to be working with FONA, and what a whirlwind it has been so far! I'm excited to be working with the volunteers as a way of sharing and enhancing the Arboretum's mission. I started right before the Garden Fair and Plant Sale, which was a wonderful way to kick off this new adventure. Since then, I have been busy with Springhouse Run planting, helping out with the Annual Dinner Under the Stars, and taking over the Full Moon Hikes and the Guided Tour Program.

A little about me—I grew up in a small mountain town in Virginia, a place that was surrounded by trees. At James Madison University, I learned about plants and worked in the herbarium (dried botanical collection). From there, I traveled to North Carolina State University to pursue a master's degree in botany. I studied a species of Echinacea (smooth coneflower) that was on

the federal list of endangered species and learned about various molecular analysis techniques. I decided that lab work wasn't for me, so I went to Harvard University to work in their herbarium. I stayed for more than six years and enjoyed working in the collections, meeting researchers, and learning more about plants. While I was there, I got a master's degree in museum studies and focused on living botanical collections and outreach. Five years ago, I moved to DC to work with volunteers in the Smithsonian's US National Herbarium. I have spent a lot of time with dried plant collections, so it was nice to do something different and be among the "living" collections.

Stay tuned for upcoming events and be sure to stop by the Arboretum to enjoy a tree. I look forward to meeting you and hope you will join me in one of our many volunteer adventures! 🌳

🌻 FONA volunteer contact info: volunteer@fona.org

***Are you interested in learning more about the Arboretum and contributing in some way?
We have opportunities for you to get outdoors and help share the magic of this place.***



Springhouse Run

The 152-acre Springhouse Run watershed, which sits entirely within Northeast Washington, DC, is split between the grounds of the US National Arboretum (USNA) and an adjacent urban neighborhood. A portion of the stream on the grounds of the USNA was renovated to return it to its natural state, remove the channelization, and restore the natural streambed. The next phase was to plant native species along the banks of the stream. The current phase is to begin monitoring the water quality and to continue maintenance along the banks. Interested in learning about native ecological landscapes? Contact us!

Washington Youth Garden

You don't need to have experience, but you must be willing to make friends with the soil and the bugs! Our volunteers strive to work in the garden 3 hours per week on various organic gardening tasks, such as weeding, planting, pruning, mulching, and pest control. We have regular garden days on Tuesday and Saturday. If you are interested in some of the educational outreach components of the youth garden, we would love to have you out here. Contact us!

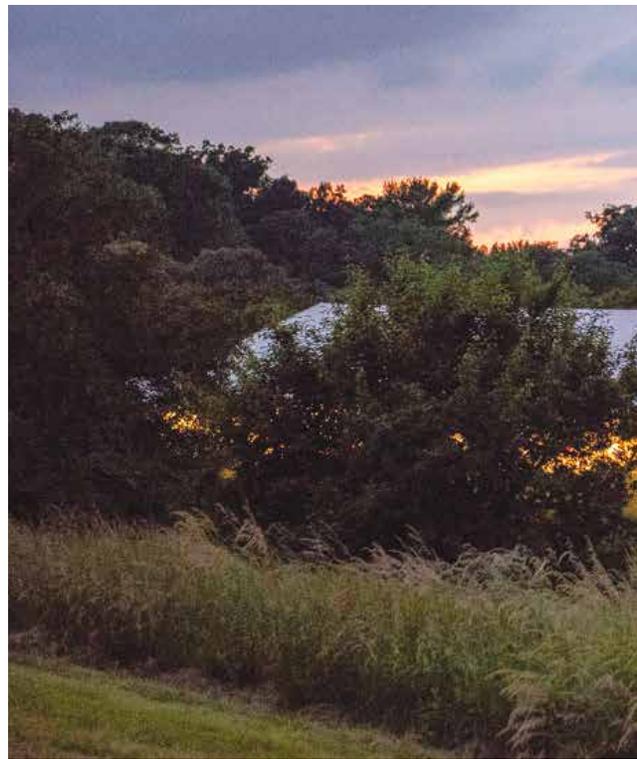


Docent-led Tours

Do you love talking to folks and love the Arboretum? Maybe you should sign up to become a docent to combine those two loves. We need leaders for our Full Moon Hikes and other special tours around the grounds of the Arboretum. This is a great opportunity to learn the history of the Arboretum, become familiar with the plants on the grounds, and support a wonderful place. Contact us!

Special Events

Do you want to help out with special events like the Summer Concert series, or the annual Garden Fair and Plant Sale? We need folks to help us ensure that these events run smoothly. Contact us!





Summer at the National Arboretum

1 FONA's Garden Fair and Plant Sale in April welcomed huge crowds and raised funds to support the National Arboretum.

2 David Fairchild Society members were invited to a tour of the Azalea Collections during peak bloom.

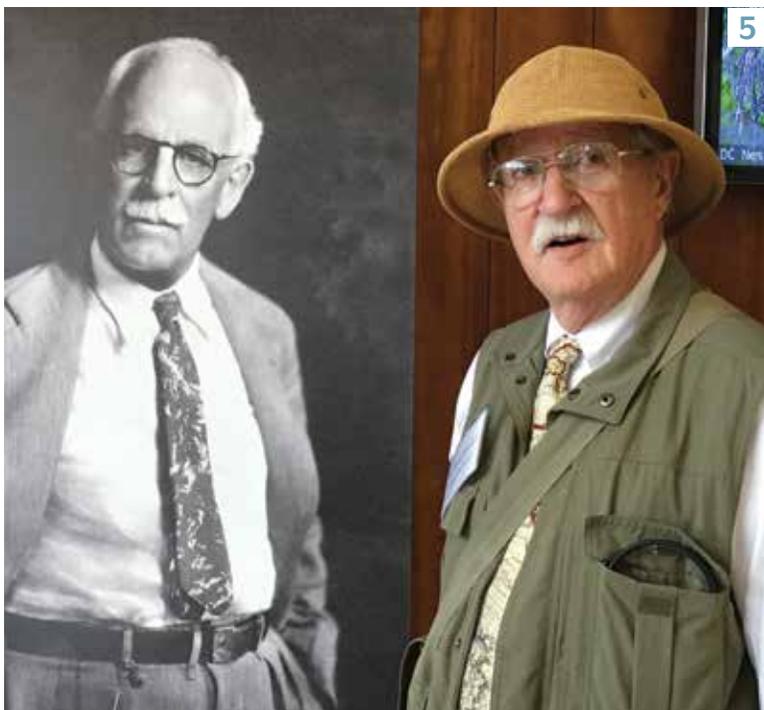
3 Two new eaglets have grown up in a nest at the Arboretum. "Victory" and "Valor" have been the stars of the 24/7 Eagle Cam this season at www.dceaglecam.org. Photo Credit: American Eagle Foundation

4 Enjoying music in the Meadow after hours—what could be better? FONA hosts free concerts every Thursday night in the summer (June 14–Aug 2). RSVP for the remaining concerts at fona.org/events/summer-evenings/

5 David Fairchild come to life! Board member Bill Matuszeski came to the David Fairchild Society spring reception dressed as the society's namesake, where he regaled the attendees with stories about the plants Fairchild brought back to America from his world travels.

6 Among the annual Dinner's attendees were Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue (third from left) with Rep. Bruce Westerman (far left), Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (second from left) and Rep. Buddy Carter (right). Photo credit: Nancy Kleck

7 FONA's annual Dinner Under the Stars celebrated the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and honored New Jersey Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen. Photo credit: James K. Pleasant



Recommended For Your Bookshelf:

The Food Explorer

Claire Broderick

“Thanks to Fairchild’s work and Lathrop’s sponsorship, we can easily put watermelon, seedless grapes, nectarines, zucchini, dates, and avocados on our plates every day.”

WITH ADVENTUROUS TRAVELS TO EXOTIC LANDS, espionage, and celebrity appearances, *The Food Explorer* is an entertaining summer read—more surprisingly, it’s a nonfiction book about David Fairchild, a nineteenth century USDA employee and global plant explorer.

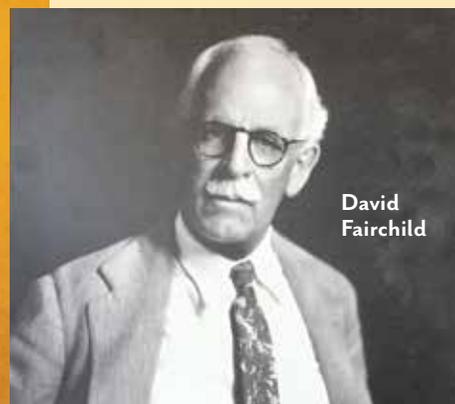
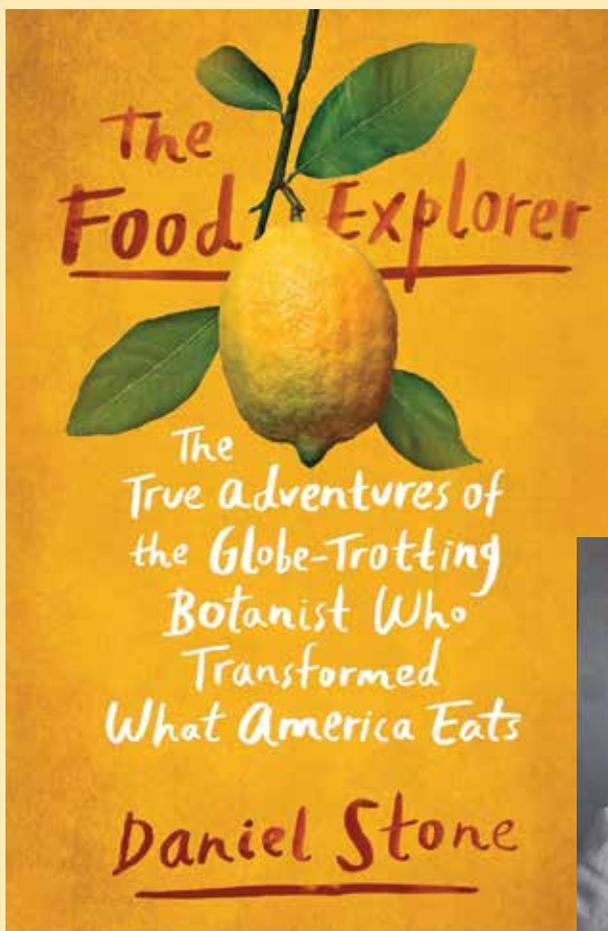
Fairchild was a keen botanist who was ready to spend his career in a laboratory studying plants and their diseases, when Barbour Lathrop, a world traveler of great wealth and vision, convinced him he could do more good for American farmers and the public by bringing back foreign crops. The economic value of those plants would be a boost for American farmers and markets. Moreover, eating new foods would be a great gustatory pleasure for people who had become used to a limited variety of bland fruits and vegetables. Thanks to Fairchild’s work and Lathrop’s sponsorship, we can easily put watermelon, seedless grapes, nectarines, zucchini, dates, and avocados on our plates every day.

This book emphasizes the adventure and danger of Fairchild’s collecting mission. Exploits of espionage, theft, disease, and danger are central parts of Fairchild’s work to bring seeds, fruit, branches,

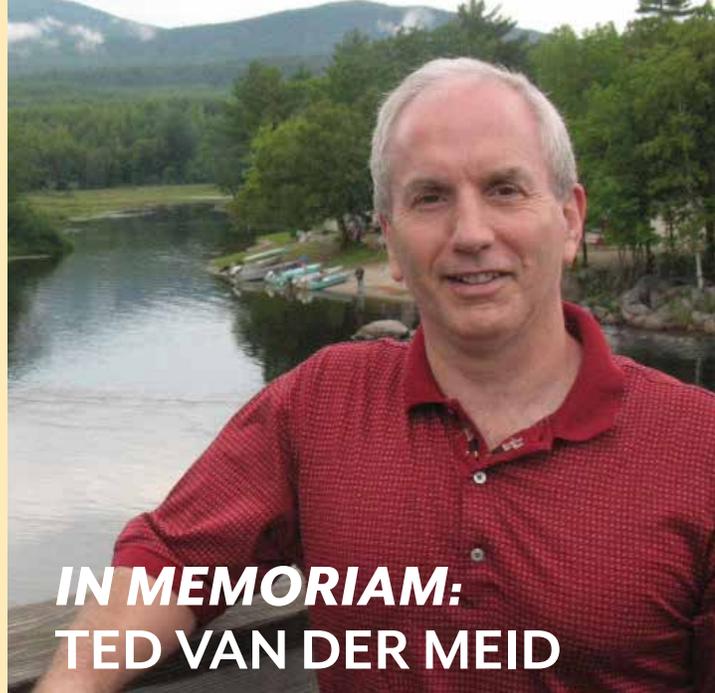
and other plant materials to the USDA Office of Seed and Plant Introduction. He established this office as the American home base where he could send plant material for study, breeding, and distribution. Eventually, Fairchild took over the office and

trained new explorers to send into the field, including Frederick Meyer, of Meyer lemon fame.

The book’s author, Daniel Stone, is a Washington, DC, resident who is a writer for *National Geographic* magazine. The author makes excellent use of Fairchild’s letters and primary sources and incorporates them without making the writing stodgy. The details he provides help flesh out the narrative and give this nonfiction book the flavor of a novel, with interesting tidbits about the main character, events in his world, and his reactions to

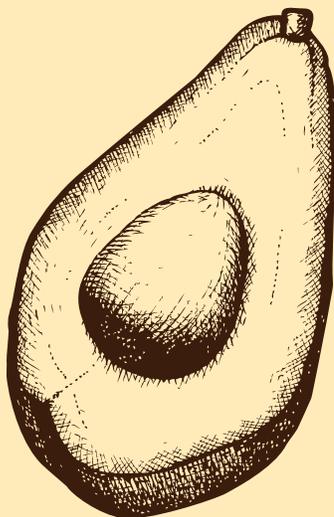


David Fairchild



IN MEMORIAM: TED VAN DER MEID

those events. Unlike other biographies that give only the bare facts about his courtship and marriage to Marian Bell (daughter of Alexander Graham Bell), here we see the infatuation and courtship unfold, read excerpts from their letters, and learn the specifics about which favorite plant Marian had made into a boutonniere for Fairchild on their wedding day. Covering many phases in Fairchild's life, some chapters read like magazine essays, connecting the dots between Fairchild's America and changing trends in American history, culture, and attitudes. The brief but frequent tangents to fascinating historical facts illustrate the author's thorough research and his personal enchantment with history. For example, a page that starts with Fairchild traveling by boat on the Suez canal includes a paragraph on the novelty of the canal, another on how the project that would become America's Statue of Liberty was originally conceived of as a statue for the Suez, and then returns to Fairchild's surprise at the more revealing traditional garb of some of his female fellow travelers.



Of note for FONA members, while attention is given to Fairchild's involvement in bringing flowering cherry trees from Japan to the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC, there is no mention of his efforts to gather support for and establish the Arboretum. Fairchild was a member of a "National Arboretum Committee," whose work set the stage for Congress's subsequent passage of a bill in 1927 that created the U.S. National Arboretum. We who know about Fairchild's role in creating the Arboretum can be additionally appreciative of Fairchild's legacy nationally and locally.

The Food Explorer: The True Adventures of the Globe-Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats, by Daniel Stone, 2018, Penguin Random House LLC. 🌿

CLAIRE BRODERICK is FONA's Membership Program Manager who thinks of Fairchild's exotic journeys when eating watermelon on a hot summer day.

On March 19, valued former FONA Board Member Ted Van Der Meid (61) passed away (he had pancreatic cancer). A dedicated and tireless supporter of the US National Arboretum, Ted joined the FONA Board in 2006 and served until 2011, enjoying every moment and believing the Arboretum truly was a special place. As an avid gardener, Ted cherished the beauty of the Arboretum grounds, its majestic trees, and its amazing Azalea Collection. For Ted, the Arboretum was a safe haven of calm and quiet amidst the hubbub of Washington where he spent nearly his entire career.

Ted was a senior professional on Capitol Hill, and he dedicated most of his working life to the care and protection of the US Capitol, Congress and its members, and the Capitol grounds. It was deeply satisfying to him that the historic original Capitol columns now reside at the Arboretum and overlook the great meadow.

Ted's professional career in Washington spanned many decades, and his even-handed and wise counsel was sought by congressional leaders at the highest levels, including the Committee on Ethics and the Office of the Speaker of the House. In his various capacities, his legal counsel became essential to the fair and equal treatment of all members of the House of Representatives. At the time of Ted's death, he was serving as the Director of Government Relations at the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Family and friends named the Arboretum as the recipient of memorial gifts, and a bench in his honor will be placed on the grounds. 🌿

BILL INGLEE served on the FONA board with Ted Van Der Meid.

WASHINGTON YOUTH GARDEN

Summer Institute for Garden-Based Teaching

Brianne Studer

WASHINGTON YOUTH GARDEN, in partnership with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), hosts our inaugural Summer Institute for Garden-based Teaching, July 9–12, 2018. There are more than 100 school gardens in Washington, DC, alone, and classroom teachers often request guidance and support on how to use their “living classrooms” as a valuable teaching tool. With more than 45 years of experience educating children and older youth in the garden setting, Washington Youth Garden is well equipped to train teachers on best practices for developing and teaching hands-on lessons in their school gardens.

Washington Youth Garden is well equipped to train teachers on best practices for developing and teaching hands-on lessons in their school gardens.

This summer, 30 classroom teachers from 11 DC elementary schools attended the Summer Institute as our inaugural cohort! Each school was represented by at least two teachers. Our goal is for more students in our community to be fully engaged in their own learning through kinesthetic and sensory experiences that extend beyond the classroom. During the 4-day program, teachers explored the key elements of a successful school garden and classroom management strategies for the garden, built their own standards-based garden curriculum, and established a support network for their school gardens. It is our hope that the teachers will feel more confident bringing their students into the garden for hands-on, active, outdoor learning. We wish them well as they head into the next school year! 🌱

BRIANNE STUDER is the Education Manager of the Washington Youth Garden.

WYG staff and classroom teachers discuss, listen, present, and explore best practices for developing and teaching hands-on lessons in school gardens.



Container Tips

Nancy and Pierre Moitrier

Are your container plants performing less than optimally?

- **Did you change your potting soil at the start of the season?** Old soil is compacted and will not provide sufficient pore space in the root zone.
- **Is there an adequately sized drainage hole?** Is it clogged? Is it in direct contact with the surface the container is placed upon? Solutions to drainage issues include enlarging the drainage hole or adding new holes, clearing the drainage hole with a screwdriver, or elevating your container with pot feet. We like to use rubber furniture slides as pot feet; inexpensive and inconspicuous, they elevate the container just 3/8" and allow water to exit freely.
- **Regular fertilizing** will make the difference between a photo-ready container and a lackluster one. We like to use slow release Osmocote at planting time and a weekly liquid feed with organic fish emulsion.

Are you designing a new outdoor space and envisioning that space with containers?

- **Include container placement in your design process.** Consider designing with nothing smaller than 20" diameter containers and preferably larger, up to 30".
- If your design includes built-in planters, realize that **deeper containers allow for better drainage.** Be generous with the proportions: about 8" wide x 10" deep is as small as you should go. Otherwise you will become a slave to the watering wand.
- Remember to **consider the element of growth** in your container placement. At a minimum, during the growing season, a well-tended container planting will double in size.

Are you bored with the same fluffy annual containers, needy for water and greedy for food?

- **Succulents** are xeric plants that **love the hot sun and require only minimal watering.** Textures and colors of foliage provide interest as spectacular as flowers. The dynamic shapes and plant forms of this plant group are as interesting as the coral at the bottom of the sea. Plant succulents in low, wide bowls with a quick-draining soil. We use a 50/50 mix of Turface MVP and regular soil-less potting medium. Fertilize with a half-strength fertilizer every three weeks.
- **Use multiples of identical plants** to create appealing but low-maintenance containers. Create a dramatic, modern feel with linear and symmetrical plant placement. Use evergreen plants for year-round combinations. Boxwood are available in a diversity of simple shapes. The sculptural forms and colors of dwarf and unusual conifers are dramatic by themselves. Evergreen perennials have exquisite foliage. Use pine bark-based potting mix traditionally used for growing perennials and woody plants. Apply slow-release fertilizer twice a year. Although these are not xeric plants, they will be much less needy for water than container combinations of traditional annuals. 🌿



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 events on USNA's Events page at <https://usna.usda.gov/visit/events-calendar/>

SUMMER EVENINGS CONCERTS

Thursday nights, June 14–Aug 2,
7:00pm–8:30pm

Pack a picnic and escape to the cool Arboretum meadow.

Free but reservations are required.

Go to fona.org to reserve your spot.

FAMILY GARDEN DAYS

Aug 11, 10:00am–noon, “Watersheds”

Sep 8, 10:00am–noon, “Herbs”

Oct 13, 10:00am–noon, “Grains”

These monthly classes are for all members of the community and their families to join Washington Youth Garden staff in our one-acre fruit and vegetable garden. During this guided 2-hour program (10:00am-noon), families explore garden themes through learning games, nature crafts, garden work, and fresh garden snacks. Activities and content are designed for children age 5 and older to do together with parents or adult family members. **Suggested donation is \$5 per individual. Only 30 spots are available per class. Pre-registration is required at washingtoneyouthgarden.org/fgd**

NEW USNA PROGRAM SERIES: HERBAN LIFESTYLES

Aug 4, 1:00pm–4:00pm, “Herbal Bitters: Sweeter than You Think!” (free drop-in)

Aug 11, 10:00am–12:00pm, “Herbal Salves: They’re the Balm!” (Fee: \$35; \$28 FONA members)

Aug 18, 10:00am–12:00pm, “Hot, Hot, Hot! The Secrets of Herbal Aphrodisiacs” (Fee: \$35; \$28 FONA members)

Herbs fit into almost every facet of our culture, from healing to high fashion. Join professional herbalists and herbal artisans for the National Arboretum’s Herban Lifestyles series to learn new ways to incorporate herbs into your everyday life. Each week has a different activity and may require registration and a ticket (fee). **Register and see more details at usna.usda.gov/visit/events-calendar/**

UNDER THE ARBOR: LEMON HERBS

Sep 8, 1:00pm–4:00pm

A refreshing drink or tasty citrus cookie... What could be better? Discover how the South Jersey Unit of the Herb Society of America creatively incorporates lemon-flavored herbs into everyday culinary fare. **Free, drop-in at the Herb Garden. No registration required.**

OAKTOBERFEST 5K FUN RUN AND FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 20

More details to come this fall. Keep an eye on your emails and fona.org.



HELP US TO GO GREEN! To receive your *ArborFriends* issues via email only, and not in the mail, go to fona.org/greenarborfriends