It is this breadth of purposes which poses the greatest challenge for the Arboretum.

the role of the Arboretum as a place of scientific discovery which contributes to the sustainability of landscapes by improving the environmental, economic, and aesthetic value of plants. The environmental horticulture research programs are built on taxonomy, development of new plants, and protection of woody and ornamental plants against known and unknown pathogens and threats. The National Arboretum also maintains a substantial herbarium and extensive living collections to support plant breeding and other programs of its scientists and colleagues throughout the world.

But we all know the Arboretum is more than its essential science programs. Dating back to its congressional authorization in 1927, the National Arboretum was created to foster the linkage of science and education concerning trees and plant life. Since the Arboretum opened its gates to the public more than 60 years ago, the institution has become one of the most frequently visited public gardens in the United States, with collections highlighting long-term research programs (azaleas and flowing trees among the most popular), unusual and iconic collections such as the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, native plants in Fern Valley, and the National Herb Garden, to name only a few. The National Arboretum is also the source of research-based guidance for home gardeners, collaborative opportuni-

FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, a team of horticultural science and public garden experts have met to develop a strategic plan for the U.S. National Arboretum to guide our programs, priorities, resources, and relationships over the next five years. The formal plan, now posted on the National Arboretum’s website, has engendered a new slogan, “Rediscover the National Arboretum... Where Science Meets Beauty.” The fundamental premise and promise of the plan is to reaffirm

Strategic Planning in Challenging Times

Books and Garden-Related Sundries at the Garden Fair

Thanks to our generous donors, the FONA booth is well stocked again. Whether it be ten books or a hundred, whether one vase or a garage-full of tools, please know that these donations keep our popular booth and fundraiser for US National Arboretum programs flourishing. We are grateful. And it’s not too late to give. Donations are accepted at the FONA office until April 19. Or call 202-544-8733 for pickup.

Many books are in wonderful condition with intact dust jackets. Some are out of print or hard to find. You’ll find English and American writers, garden history in England, France, and Italy, landscape design, rock gardening, perennials, shrubs, trees, bulbs, vegetables, wildflowers, ferns, flower arranging, botanical illustration, and general horticultural reference. All categories are here in variety and in abundance.

Garden sundries range from the practical to the frivolous, from antique French china to plastic garden labels. Count on the unexpected whimsy—Pots of every kind, vases, birdhouses, rakes and hoes, tea pots, glasses, trays—something for everyone and a delight for all.

Books are for sale year round; some are at the FONA office, and several hundred are shelved off site. You are welcome to browse any time. Please call 202-533-1956 for an appointment.

—Mary Eugenia Myer and Sherry Houghton

FONA Board members


FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

Are you a fan of Trip Advisor? I have become a frequent user, posting my own reviews and relying on the reviews of others to plan my next excursion. I took a look to see what visitors are saying about the Arboretum and here, in words more eloquent than mine, are a few samples from some of our delighted visitors.

“A wonderful way to spend a few hours while in DC”

“Linda Dooley

Chair, Board of Directors

ON THE COVER: Daphne calcicola. Photo courtesy of Arrowhead Alpines.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

BOOKS AND GARDEN-RELATED
SUNDRIES AT THE GARDEN
FAIR

Dear Friends:

Spring 2013

SPRING 2013

Garden sundries range from the practical to the frivolous, from antique French chin..
Diverse and Smaller Gardens in a Warming Climate

The April 26–27 FONA Garden Fair and Plant Sale caters to our members’ diverse horticultural interests in the metropolitan Washington region. While continuing to offer proven selections that fit well in a traditional mixed border or cottage garden, Garden Fair 2013 has much more.

Rock garden mavens and anyone with a small urban yard will discover familiar plants in smaller sizes and new species to try. Curious gardeners (and aren’t we all?) will find neo-tropical plants that some of us have carried through recent winters. Last year’s stunning selections of conifers return in larger sizes as well as some small gems from Iseli Nursery.

Container gardening is on the rise, and we have plants that will fit your pots—we also have pots from Frager’s Hardware that will fit your plants. Rain gardens are coming to the Arboretum, and we have a small group of plants for those wet areas in your own garden. Looking for plants that require minimal water? We have more selections that are heat and drought tolerant when established. If four-season interest is your ambition, we have plants that will take your breath away in winter and others that bloom all summer.

FONA members can purchase unusual plants that are normally available only from connoisseur mail order nurseries such as Arrowhead Alpines in Michigan, Avant Gardens in Massachusetts, Plant Delights in North Carolina, and RareFind in New Jersey. We also have a larger selection of regional native shrubs, trees, and perennials.

Most of our plants will continue to be displayed in alphabetical order in the Annuals, Perennials, and Woody Plants areas of the FONA sale. This year you will find seven exceptions, three of which are new.

A display of perennials and woody plants considered tender, but that have survived several seasons in parts of the metro area, will be located near the entrance. Inside the big tent, look for a section of fascinating rock garden plants, carefully selected by our experts. Specially priced shrubs and trees (one of each) will be grouped outside in the Woody Plants area.

Quarryhill Botanical Garden in Sonoma County (California) again expects to donate a collection of choice woodyies propagated from wild-collected plants from East Asia. This is your only opportunity to acquire these unique selections. Lastly, FONA’s display of conifers returns, better than ever, and is described elsewhere in this issue.

Charlie Flickner
Rock Gardens, Too!

That's right, this year there will be a separate section of plants at the Garden Fair that should do well in local rock gardens. So, what is rock gardening? At the core, it deals with modifying a site to encourage a particular subset of plants to survive, even thrive. Rock gardens characterized by rocks or stones as major showcase elements of the landscape composition. But just as important are the multitude of microhabitats that provide a wide range of potential plant habitats. This multitude of microhabitats nourishes the “sport” of rock gardening—the combined challenge and allure of selecting an appropriate plant or even pushing the envelope and using plant species that might not normally grow in your locale, along with finding the right spot to secure survival.

At the FONA Garden Fair, we will have a diverse selection of rock garden plants selected for survival in our region. Special plants will come from Arrowhead Alpines and other nurseries. Near the rock garden plants will be a table staffed by members of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS) to answer questions and provide advice about rock gardening and plant selection. What fun plants will you find and purchase?

FONA salutes the businesses and foundations that support the Garden Fair. Their donations are vital to the success of the sale.

Special thanks to Fleishman Hillard for providing many hours of public relations assistance in promoting the Garden Fair.

INDIVIDUALS AND FOUNDATIONS
Robert A. Bartlett, Bartlett Tree Experts
Katharina Stark Bull and Quarry Hill Botanical Garden, Glen Ellen, California
PepsiCo, Inc.
J. Frank Schmidt Family Charitable Foundation

RETAIL NURSERIES
Arrowhead Alpine Nursery, Fowler, Michigan
Avant Gardens Nursery, North Dartmouth, Massachusetts
Broken Arrow Nursery, Haddon, Connecticut
Camillus Forest, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Merrifield Garden Center, Merrifield, Virginia
Moss Acres, Monseed, Pennsylvania
Oliver Nursery, Fairfield, Connecticut
Plant Delights Nursery, Raleigh, North Carolina
Rosa Find Nursery, Jackson, New Jersey
Susanna Farm Nursery, Boyd, Maryland
Tiny Treasures Nursery, Salem, Oregon

WHOLESALe NURSERIES
Bison, Wilsonville, Oregon
Blair Sterling Nursery, Bridgeton, New Jersey
Briggs Plant Propagators, Elma, Washington
Conard-Pyle Company, West Grove, Pennsylvania
Greenleaf Nursery, Colfax, California
Hawksridge Farms, Hickory, North Carolina
Heritage Seedlings, Salem, Oregon
Klyn Nurseries, Perry, Ohio
Monrovia, Arroyo, California
Piedmont Carolina Nursery, Cofax, North Carolina
Pleasant Run Nursery, Allentown, New Jersey
Saunders Brothers, Pinney River, Virginia

Contributors
Life in urban areas has many advantages…but lots of green space for growing things may not be one of them. At this year’s Garden Fair, you will find things to plant and cultivate no matter whether you have a tiny yard or no yard at all but you do have a window box, a patio, or balcony. This year Frager’s Hardware will be selling several sizes and styles of containers. Buy a container, put it in your cart, and then shop around the vendor village and the FONA plant tent to fill it. There are herbs, heirloom vegetables, geraniums, and beautiful blooming annuals, ferns, and shade plants. There are plant experts at the ready with good advice. There is so much joy in gardening….don’t let a lack of green space curtail your desire to garden!

Carole Ottezen is a gardener and writer with an interest in native plants. She has written and photographed for the Time-Life garden series as well as published several garden books, including The Native Plant Primer, Ornamental Grasses: the Amber Wave, The Herbal Epicure, and The New American Garden. She was also the associate editor of American Gardener.

Photos courtesy of Nancy Lowry Mottier
Conifers for Structure and Year-Round Foliage

Spinner Findlay

The Garden Fair will again feature a collection of rare conifers ranging in size from larger conifers to miniatures suitable for rock gardens. Among the smaller varieties, the dwarf Cedrus atlantica ‘Sapphire Nymph’ sports small, blue-green needles with creamy-white new growth on horizontal branches, and the award-winning Picea abies ‘Pusch’ which displays red young cones in spring. Other rock garden treasures—dwarfs Abies nordmanniana ‘Golden Spreader’ and Cedrus deodara ‘Divinely Blue’ add brilliant golden yellow and soft blue to the garden, as their names suggest.

Larger growing Thujopsis dolabrata ‘Variegata’ is just one of several options with striking green and white variegated foliage. Sculptural, well-established specimens of Chamaecyparis obtusa cultivars ‘Chirimen’ and ‘Reis Dwarf’ with their statuesque, irregular structure are sure to draw attention, as will Xanthocyparis (syn. Chamaecyparis) nootkatensis ‘Jubilee’, a veritable exclamation point eventually exceeding 15 feet, with drooping arms draped in blue-green foliage. Another eye-catcher will be Pinus mugo ‘Jacobsen’ which has clumps of needles set against a prominent trunk and branches giving the appearance of an established bonsai.

Setting this year’s sale apart, gardeners will have the opportunity to acquire liners rooted from a wide range of specimens in the National Arboretum’s Gotelli Collection of Dwarf and Slow Growing Conifers.

CHARLES “SPINNER” FINDLAY is retired after working 35 years in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice. He joined the FONA Board in 2011 and has been woody plant captain at FONA garden fairs since 2010.
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.

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**HAPPENINGS**

For more information visit [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov) or [fona.org](http://fona.org)

**FONA’S 2013 GARDEN FAIR & PLANT SALE**
Free and Open to the Public: Friday, April 26 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Members Only: Friday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL EXHIBIT**
Free and Open to the Public: April 5 – 12

**POTOMAC BONSAI FESTIVAL**
Free festival admission
May 3 – 5

**WORLD BONSAI DAY**
Open House May 11

**THE PIN GOLF CLASSIC**
May 20
Black’s Family Foundation is sponsoring a golf tournament to benefit the Washington Youth Garden. 11 a.m. Shot Gun Start, 4-person scramble, includes deli lunch, snacks, and a dinner catered by the Black Restaurant Group. Register at [https://www.blacksfamilyfoundation.org/golf-registration/](https://www.blacksfamilyfoundation.org/golf-registration/) Fee.

**WE WOULD APPRECIATE DONATIONS OF YOUR CAR, TRUCK, OR BOAT**
Your donation is fully tax deductible. Call the FONA office at 202.544.8733 for more information.

**Give. Dedicate. Endow. Bequeath. What will your legacy be?**

Please include the Friends of the National Arboretum in your estate plans. It’s easy. Our 501(c)(3) federal tax identification number is 52-1257712. Questions: Contact Kathy Horan at 202.544.8733 or khoran@fona.org