James Baldwin once said, “Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.” In order for the U.S. National Arboretum to reach its potential as a premier public garden, FONA must grow as an organization. Simply put, we must step up our game. The work has begun. Kathy Horan will continue as executive director and Dana Faulkner, former director of development, will be full-time chief executive officer. We’re extremely fortunate to have their complementary skills and complete devotion to the Arboretum.

I want to personally thank you for including the Arboretum, through FONA, in your philanthropic giving last year. FONA ended the year with an incredibly strong showing of financial support. This was preceded by the most generous campaign in FONA’s history—your response to place the Azalea and Boxwood Collections on solid footing. Although these collections are not “out of the woods” yet, your gifts give us hope and confidence that we will succeed. The azaleas and boxwood are but one example of the Arboretum’s bounty.

Please mark your calendar! The Garden Fair and Plant Sale will be held on April 27–28 and the Cookout Under the Stars, celebrating the state of North Carolina, takes place on June 19. Last, but not least, two undedicated benches remain along the Flowering Tree.

Among these roles is the collection, maintenance, preservation, and sharing of germplasm to support scientific investigations in horticulture in the United States and throughout the world. At the same time, we are committed to integrating science-based knowledge into the exhibits, displays, and programs at the National Arboretum and emphasizing breakthroughs and new thinking about plants and their use in the landscapes around us. Still another role is to demonstrate the sustainability of public and private gardens to help people make enduring choices for land use. Finally and simply, we must maintain the National Arboretum as a place of beauty and serenity.

As we develop a new strategic vision for the National Arboretum, we are eager to implement new scientific efforts, exhibits, programs, and partnerships. Come by this winter to see what’s happening with the renovated Administration Building. Stroll in the enhanced boxwood collection, and enjoy the new and revitalized gardens at the R Street entrance. Come early and come often.

Collen Heffernan
Director
U.S. National Arboretum
SEASONAL SPLENDOR

Seasonal Splendor: Winter Bloomers, Few and Cherished

By Carole Ottesen

OCTOBER USUALLY USHERS IN THE FROST that shrivels most of the garden. Fortunately, at least a few sturdy ornamentals are frost-proof. Cherished for their scarcity, these plants flower between October and April. Among them, fall and winter blooming camellias (Camellia sasanqua, C. oleifera, and hybrids) light up gardens from September to February. A host of cultivars make it possible to have flowers all winter. New forms—from prostrate to fastigiate—offer a range of landscape uses.

Suitable for residential landscapes, the native witchhazel (Hamamelis virginiana) is a small tree that flowers just as its leaves fall. Dangling yellow petals also overlap with the bold flower spikes of mahonias and the first of the hellebores to bloom, Helleborus niger.

Later, Daphne and sweetbox (Sarcococca hookeriana var. humilis) infuse the late winter garden with sweet perfumes, followed by Edgeworthia with nodding buds that open to waxy blooms, scenting the last, dark days of winter. Finally, winter aconites (Eranthis hyemalis) appear to announce: Winter is officially over.

CAROLE OTTESEN is a gardener and writer with an interest in native plants. She has written and photographed for the Time-Life gardening series and countless magazines, including Martha Stewart Living and Country Living Gardener. Her latest gardening book, A Guide to Smithsonian Gardens, was published in March 2011. Her first mystery, Dying for the Christmas Rose, will appear in May, 2012.
Once Again, Bartlett Tree Experts Pitches In

By Roberta Gutman

Earlly one chilly fall morning, a long convoy of yellow trucks rolled down R Street into the National Arboretum. After months of identifying need with Arboretum staff, it was the start of an in-kind “day of service” provided by Bartlett Tree Experts.

Following coffee and donuts provided by FONA, the 75 Bartlett staff spread out and began to prune, fertilize, stabilize, mulch, and promote the long-term health, safety, and beauty of the Arboretum collections. I chatted with Bartlett and Arboretum staff to observe and learn first-hand what the highly trained arborists do.

In the Grove of State Trees, the arborists, supervised by Alan Jones, Bartlett vice-president and regional manager, went straight to work doing structural pruning—taking out dead, diseased, and crossing/rubbing branches—and eliminating suckers. They were careful to leave some low hanging branches for visitors, including children and the wheelchair bound, to inspect up close.

To the sound of chain saws and falling branches, arborists swung high in the native tree canopy in Fern Valley, searching for pruning prospects and cutting away problems. Noting the risks, Arboretum gardener Michael Rayburn said that that portion of Crabtree Road had to be cordoned off to Arboretum visitors. Arboretum gardener Michael Rayburn said that that portion of Crabtree Road had to be cordoned off to Arboretum visitors.

After lunch, I made my way back to the Grove of State Trees and the Flowering Tree Walk to observe fertilization with a solution of Bartlett Boost™, the mulching of a Jefferson elm and young blackgums (Nyssa sylvatica), and some last-minute pruning of a Carolina silver bell (Halesia tetraptera).

Every Bartlett employee I talked with that day was friendly, knowledgeable, and hard-working. They all seemed to have found wonderful careers in an extraordinary company. The Arboretum is fortunate indeed to count Bartlett Tree Experts among its supporters.

Dr. Hefferan presented Mr. Bartlett with three Arboretum introductions, not yet available to the public. He gave Dr. Hefferan a long-sleeve “Day of Service” tee-shirt, noting that community service has always been a component of his nearly 105-year-old family business. “The more we give,” he said, “the better we do.”

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PLANNED GIVING
A wonderful way for anyone to make a lasting gift to FONA
by Dana Faulkner

MANY PEOPLE ASSUME that “planned giving” or “legacy giving” is a method of making charitable donations that is best left to those of substantial means. In fact, anyone—even those of quite modest means—can give themselves the joy and satisfaction of making a substantial and lasting gift by means of a bequest.

You can create a bequest to FONA through a simple statement in your will expressing your wishes. You can designate your gift as a fixed amount, a percentage of your estate, or all or part of the estate residue.

Consider making a lasting gift to a place you love by making a planned gift to FONA for the benefit of the US National Arboretum. Contact Dana Faulkner (dfaulkner@fona.org) or Kathy Horan (khoran@fona.org) at FONA or call our office at 202-544-8733 for more information.

FRANK CABOT
by Woodruff Price

WITH THE DEATH OF FRANK CABOT in mid-November, the US National Arboretum and FONA, as well as gardens and gardeners across America, lost a great friend and benefactor. He was a man of generous spirit and great vision who saw gardens not as mere decorative amenities to houses, but as public benefits and places of inspiration and restoration of the spirit. Not content with building two magnificent gardens of his own at homes in Cold Spring, NY, and Quebec, he was a founder and moving spirit behind the Garden Conservancy, which has done so much to preserve and support gardens in this country. Frank Cabot took an active interest in the Arboretum and FONA and gave generously of his time, money, and always sound and sensible advice. During his service on FONA’s Board of Directors, he consistently gave support and encouragement to his colleagues on the Board during the long and difficult negotiations that finally led to a new Memorandum of Understanding governing the relationship between FONA and the Agricultural Research Service of USDA of which the Arboretum is a unit.

He was a great and gracious gentleman—a patrician in the best sense of the word. It was a privilege for those of us at FONA who worked with him to have known him.

Woodruff Price served on the FONA board for 17 years; he was Chairman from 1999 to 2003. He currently resides on Cape Cod.

Tribute
In honor of Elizabeth (Betsy) Boyle Roger and Marguerite Sullivan
In honor of Catherine and Henry Bergerson Mary Davis
In honor of Don Hyatt American Rhododendron Society, Connecticut Chapter Victoria Melzer National Capital Area Garden Clubs Silver Spring Garden Club Wharton Memorial Fund, Bower Center for the Arts
In memory of Edmond May DuFfin Selma Sonesson DuFfin
In memory of Elizabeth Ann Price Richard Glaze
In honor of Francesca Reed Huxley Helen and Michael Heltz
In honor of Linda Derrick Mary Corley Rene Lanct Canfield Miller Jeanie Nadler James and Virginia Rendel
In memory of Mike Goldberg Bobby Ficler and Judy Joseph
In memory of Nathaniel Hunt David and Janet Beckmann James Connolly Lynn Denton Shain and Patricia Hennesse Klaustand and Associates David and Anne O’Brian
In honor of Sarah Foulston French Broad River Garden Club Foundation
In honor of Paula Casaye Mary Casaye
In honor of Raymond Udoule Gerald and Mary Ann Stonel
In honor of Steve Honning American Rhododendron Society, Susquehanna Valley Chapter
In honor of Veronica Lewandowski Rick Lewandowski

In honor of Franziska Reed Huxley

Planning for Garden Fair 2012 on April 27–28 is well under way. Committee members are scouring nurseries to locate new, unusual, hard-to-find plants suited to our area gardens that are not available at local nurseries.

Last year FONA initiated a members-only, advance, online sale of some of the choicest selections. This year’s advance sale will offer a greater variety of plants on a first come, first served basis. Details and a full list of plants will be published on the FONA website in late February. The online sale will begin on Monday, March 19 at 9 a.m. The following are some of the special selections we are asking growers to reserve for us.

Enkianthus cultivars
• Enkianthus is a heath family shrub from Asia. It is difficult to propagate and is therefore not very common in local gardens. However, it is a spectacular addition—it produces an abundance of dainty blossoms in May, has a lovely tiered branching habit and, in the autumn, its leaves turn a brilliant scarlet. The advance sale will include three cultivars:
  • Enkianthus kompassialis ‘Showy Lanterns’ has lovely pink-red blossoms.
  • Enkianthus perulatus has spectacular fall color and is adorned with delicate white blossoms in the spring.
  • Enkianthus perulatus ‘Compacts’ is a slow-growing dwarf and is exceedingly rare. It has interesting conformation, and does not blossom until fully mature.

A full listing of the offerings for the advance sale will be posted on the FONA website in late February. Limited availability makes early ordering essential.

Weather during this unusual winter will determine which selections in the advance sale will be ready for purchase by the end of April. Remember to check our website www.fona.org on March 19 and be the first to order some extraordinary plants!

Linda Findlay is an avid gardener, FONA Board Member, and one of several Garden Fair Committee members responsible for ordering plants for the FONA sale.

Rare/hard-to-find small flowering trees treasured not only for their striking flowers but also for their attractive habit, winter interest, and small size:
• Cornus mas ‘Spring Glow’—This J.C. Raulston Arboretum introduction has bright extremely abundant flowers in late winter. Its exfoliating bark provides year-round interest.
• Davidia involucrata ‘Sonoma’—With large blossoms that resemble white doves or handkerchiefs in May, this cultivar blossoms years before the standard variety.
• Magnolia stellata ‘Aurora’—This endangered native species bears fragrant 10-inch white blooms and huge, tropical-looking leaves.
• Magnolia ‘Daphne’—From Arboretum Wespeal in Belgium, this tree bears blossoms of the darkest yellow. It is smaller in stature but more flameflower than other yellow varieties.
• Polystichum sinensis—This rare tree is covered in abundant, fragrant pale yellow to white blossoms in midsummer, long after other trees have finished blooming. And although it’s considered a small tree, it can grow to a height of 30 feet.
The Friends of the National Arboretum extend our deep appreciation to our corporate and foundation communities for their continued generous support. We are very grateful for their time and commitment to these important institutions; and finally, our deepest gratitude to the staff of the U.S. National Arboretum for their dedication, hard work, and hospitality to all our visitors.

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William and Earle Ackerman
American Rhododendron Society
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American Rhododendron Society
Manor View Farm
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Mary Sherry and Frank Nicule
The Normandy Group, LLC
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American Rhododendron Society
Manor View Farm
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Angel’s Gift Farm LLC
American Rhododendron Society
Manor View Farm
Mary Pangalis and Theodore Myrta
Mary Sherry and Frank Nicule
The Normandy Group, LLC
Elizabeth Norman
O'Keefe Communications
J. Dustin and Juan O'Reilly
Pekoe Coke
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$1 – $4
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Laura Arntson
Angel’s Gift Farm LLC
American Rhododendron Society
Manor View Farm
Mary Pangalis and Theodore Myrta
Mary Sherry and Frank Nicule
The Normandy Group, LLC
Elizabeth Norman
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*This list reflects gifts dated as of December 31, 2011. We apologize for any errors that may be present. Contact Kathy Messers to correct any errors at kmessers@alumni.georgetown.edu or at 202 544 8733
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**

**USNA Conifer Workshop: Chamaecyparis or Calocedrus?**
February 15, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Registration required.
[www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov) or 202.245.4521

**USNA Lahr Native Plant Symposium and Sale**
March 31 at Beltsville Agricultural Research Campus
Native plant sale sponsored by FONA. Registration required.
[www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov) or 202.245.4521

**FONA Garden Fair & Plant Sale**
April 29 and April 30, [www.fona.org](http://www.fona.org) or 202.544.8733

**FONA Cookout Under the Stars celebrating North Carolina**
June 19, [www.fona.org](http://www.fona.org) or 202.544.8733

**WE WOULD APPRECIATE DONATIONS OF...**
Garden Books and Garden Ornaments to sell at the Garden Fair. Reasonable resale condition. No magazines, please. Pots, trellises, statuary, carts. We will pick up or you can drop off at the FONA office. Call Mary Gene Myer 202.333.1196 or mgmyer@mindspring.com or the FONA office 202.544.8733.

Your car, truck or boat...if your vehicle is no longer of use to you, FONA can benefit. Once you sign up, your car will be picked up free of charge, and FONA will receive a cash donation. Your donation is tax-deductible.

**THERE ARE TWO REMAINING BENCHES ALONG THE FLOWERING TREE WALK**
A $5000 donation will ensure that a special friend or family member will be long remembered by those who stroll along this beautiful path.

For more information on the items noted about please call the FONA office 202.544.8733 or hurry@fona.org