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DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

There is no better place to enjoy the summer explosion of color than the U.S. National Arboretum. In fact, there is no better place to find plants in bloom 12 months a year! While the Arboretum may be best known for its spring display of azaleas, the list of historic heritage collections is lengthy and impressive, from the National Boxwood Collection and the Gotelli Dwarf and Slow-Growing Conifer Collection to the Asian Collection, the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection, and the most diverse collection of flowering cherries in the country.

Last year, Friends of the National Arboretum announced efforts to preserve the Azalea and Boxwood Collections. That effort continues in concert with our overall goal of preserving and enhancing all of the Arboretum’s historically significant heritage collections. This April, Director Colien Hefferan announced the Arboretum’s first “Living Collections Policy,” to describe the purpose and procedures for the Arboretum’s decisions and practices related to the collective horticultural heritage at the Arboretum. This plan, which reflects guidance from the scientific and broader stakeholder communities, will help the Arboretum continue the conservation of plants for research, discovery, and visitor enjoyment into the future. FONA commends the Arboretum for taking this step, and I encourage you to read the policy in full at the USNA website.

Obviously it will take more than a Living Collections Policy to preserve the beautiful collections at the Arboretum and enhance the peaceful green space that so many of us enjoy. With increasing constraints on government spending, Federal funding alone will not be enough for maintenance of the public gardens and plant collections, or for educational programming and visitors’ services. FONA is working now on plans to build an expanded national base of fundraising support that will preserve public access over the long term and meet the challenges and the needs of the Arboretum as they emerge and change over time. So please, come out and enjoy this beautiful season at the National Arboretum and continue to support FONA by giving as generously as you can.

Linda Dooley
Chair, Board of Directors
In Memoriam: Sally Boasberg

NATIONAL LONG-TIME FONA BOARD MEMBER (1996–2012) Sally Boasberg died on March 28 after a battle with cancer. Her deep knowledge of horticulture, garden design, and the workings of the District of Columbia government will be very much missed; her intelligence, energy, concern for excellence, humor, and irreverence are, in a single person, irreplaceable.

She contributed her professional knowledge of horticulture and landscape design unstintingly. Her beautiful home shade garden, generously shared, was a model of the genre.

Sally’s leadership was not limited to FONA. Her involvements were many: Chairman of the American Horticulture Society, founder of Green Spaces for DC, Co-Chair of the Cultural Landscape Foundation, LaGasse medal honoree of the American Society of Landscape Architecture (ASLA) for her leadership in conservancy of natural resources and public landscapes, Fellow of ASLA, and a member of the Garden Committee of All Hallows Guild at the National Cathedral. These have all been enhanced by Sally’s participation.

At FONA, Sally served the board tirelessly, as vice-president, as chair of the Garden Fair, and on numerous board committees. She continued as our ongoing expert in plant ordering, liaison with the nursery industry, and contact with the DC Government and Fine Arts Commission. She knew and was respected by all the key players.

Fiercely dedicated to the Flowering Tree Walk, Sally led that committee in its more than ten-year labor to bring the first half of it to bloom. It is very much hoped that the second half of this most popular Arboretum installation will be completed in her memory.

—MARY GENE MYER

THE FLOWERING TREE WALK...FINISHING THE LOOP

Thanks to Sally Boasberg’s persistence and strength of character, the completion of the Flowering Tree Walk as originally planned has been set in motion. Finishing the loop will make for a wonderful path around the heartland of the Arboretum for families with children and strollers, those in wheelchairs, and anyone wishing for a leisurely walk among the flowering trees. It will allow easy connections to adjacent gardens: to the Capitol Columns, to the azaleas, to Fern Valley, and to the Washington Youth Garden.

TRIBUTE GIFTS FOR 2012

In memory of Sally Boasberg, the following have contributed funds for the completion of the Flowering Tree Walk: Lucy and Gordon Ambach
Elinor Bacon
Vincent Chiappinelli and Suzanne Bakshian
Frederic and Marion Ballard
William and Jessica Barrick
Wilma and Stuart Bernstein
Avis Bohlen and David Calleo
Bruce Brennan
Katherine Stark and
Richard Clark Bull
Jeanne Connelly and Martin Scherr
Ralph Cunningham
James Downey
Kathryn Eckles
Tony and Eileen Essaye
Charles and Linda Findlay
Thomas Fox
Kindy French
Alfred and Marie Louise Friendly
William and Margaret Greer
Milton Grossman
Mrs. Gilbert Hahn, Jr.
Melinda Halpert and Geoffrey Aronow
Doreen Hamilton
John and Ann Hargrove
Richard and Kay Hobson
Nancy and Andrew Ireland
Elliott Jones
James Kingsbury
Jeremiah and Sandra Lambert
Curtis and Anne Large
Mary Kae Larose
Bill and Blair Lawlor
Cathy Livingston and Nick Netchvolodoff
Charles Lord
Susan McGregor
Norman and Nancy Metzger
Rob Miller
Gregory New and Rachel Jackson
Rindy and Frank O’Brien
Henry and Virginia Paige
Richard and Mary Jo Parrino
Woodruff Price
William Rees
Charles Robertson

Candace Rolllins
Joseph Santarlasci
Margot Semler
Laura Sherman and Harvey Feldman
Raymond and Phyllis Sidorsky
John Silliman
Irene Sinclair
Margaret Stearns
Prudence Steiner
Bob and Jenni Stern
Molly Strauss
John and Kate Tabor
Mark and Maria Velleca
George and Louisa Watson
Tuckie and Don Westfall
Susan Willens
Kenneth and Dorothy Woodcock
Seymour, Gretta, and Mitchell Workow

In memory of Frank Cabot,
Penelope Wilson
In memory of Carole Geagley,
Ron Geagley
In memory of Nathaniel Hunt, Lois Hunt, Rachel Hunt
In honor of Spinner and Linda Findlay, Stephen Wuori
In honor of Mary Louise Granahan,
John Angel
In honor of Sister Patricia Hagarty,
Gregory Evans
In honor of Don Hyatt for his work on
the Save the Azaleas and Boxwood Campaign,
Four Seasons Garden Club, Gardening Consultants
Council, National Capital Area
Garden Clubs, District III,
The Rocky Run Garden Club
In honor of Bruce Murray,
Natalie Murray
In honor of Teresa Oleszewski,
Karen Anderson
In honor of Josh Rider, Joshua and
Kristina Kyle

This list reflects gifts dated through May 30, 2012. We apologize for any error. Please contact Kathy Horan to correct our records: khoran@fona.org or 202.544.8733.

SUMMER 2012
A Fond Farewell to Kaifa Anderson-Hall

Nancy Flinn

This spring marked the departure of Kaifa Anderson-Hall, program director for the Arboretum’s Washington Youth Garden (WYG). During her five-and-a-half-year tenure, more than 5,000 children took part in a unique year-round environmental science and food education program for DC youth and families. The program functioned in DC school classrooms in the winter, expanding each summer to involve some 1,500 children.

Herself a “graduate” of the WYG, Kaifa began her association with the garden as a fifth grader and credits first director, William Hash, with her “life changing” experience. Her path back to WYG was also prompted by friendship with Hash, whom she considers a model, teacher, and father figure. On return visits to the garden, she observed his capacity to grow—along with vegetables—compassion and love for countless young participants. “I was able to reflect on how important the gardening program was for me and could see up close its impact on the young gardeners participating.”

In 2005, Kaifa took a DC Master Gardening Course. Encouraged to volunteer at WYG, she did and remembers, “a light bulb went off in my head…to volunteer for the organization that had planted the seeds for my love of gardening. Getting involved again gave me goose bumps.”

“I was able to reflect on how important the gardening program was for me and could see up close its impact on the young gardeners participating.”

After volunteering, she studied under former WYG director, Kim Rush Lynch. When Lynch left in 2007, staff and volunteers encouraged Kaifa to apply for the position. “I didn’t have any educational background in horticultural science but could bring a community leadership role (having started a DC charter school) and, more importantly, (I could) bring my love and compassion for gardening and children.”

Through the WYG program, Kaifa saw young people come alive, changing their attitudes by taking care of and being successful with plants. In support of the Healthy Schools Act, some Washington Youth Gardeners, “able to translate the importance of their garden experience,” testified on the Hill. “My hope and desire is that people will recognize the importance of youth gardening here, and nationally, and support policy, legislation, and resources. We cultivate the next generation, creating interns and advocates with a better understanding of food. This makes the planet a better place.”

As she goes forward to a future that may include horticultural therapy, gardens, and—just possibly—a city agricultural charter school, Kaifa Anderson-Hall hopes the WYG will continue to thrive. She is “stepping down, but not walking away.”

The garden is touted by the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, as one of the great gardens in her Let’s Move program.

Nancy Flinn is a contributing writer, gardener, and frequent visitor to the Arboretum.
Rain Gardens Planned to Cleanse Parking Lot Runoff

Scott Aker

Design work is nearly complete for five new rain gardens that will filter most of the runoff from the R Street parking lot. Three of the rain gardens will be clustered near the north end of the parking lot, close to the Arboretum's greenhouses, one will be located near the tram kiosk, and the largest of the rain gardens will be located in the circle in front of the Administration Building.

The District of Columbia Department of the Environment contracted with LimnoTech, a company that specializes in projects that improve water quality, to develop the design for the rain gardens. Each will be constructed so that water coming from the impervious surface of the parking lot will pass through a mixture of sand and organic matter in which a variety of plants that can tolerate brief periods of being in waterlogged soil will be planted. This will remove nearly all of the pollutants found in water originating in parking areas—grease, oil, gasoline, antifreeze, and metallic dust from brake pads.

A portion of the runoff will be temporarily stored in each rain garden to delay the arrival of stormwater into Hickey Run. This delay will help reduce the peak flow associated with rain events, which in turn will help reduce bank erosion.

The Friends of the National Arboretum and the National Capital Area Federated Garden Clubs have helped Arboretum staff review the plans. The total cost for the rain gardens is projected to be under $75,000. Construction is expected to begin sometime within the next year if funding and donations are sufficient to cover construction costs.

Scott Aker, Garden Unit Leader at the U.S. National Arboretum, writes the “Garden Solutions” and “Gardening Q & A” columns in The American Gardener magazine.
GCA chapters actively support the Springhouse Run restoration project.
THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA: A Pivotal, and Early, Partner of the National Arboretum

Roberta Gutman

Beauty and inspiration surround the Arboretum visitor, thanks to USDA staff, FONA, volunteers, and numerous other supporters. Of great importance are the many behind-the-scenes contributions of the Garden Club of America and its chapters, which have been supporting, and even fighting for, the Arboretum since the early twentieth century. Next year, the GCA celebrates its 100th anniversary and will hold its annual Shirley Meneice horticultural symposium, expected to attract 180 horticulturists from garden clubs around the United States, at the Arboretum. What an appropriate place for the GCA’s big birthday!

In a sense, the Arboretum owes its very existence in its current location to the efforts, beginning in 1914, of the GCA. Back then, there were calls for a national arboretum, with strong support for a Rock Creek Park or East Potomac Park location. But the USDA, having maintained an early version of an arboretum on the Mall, supported the extensive and varied terrain surrounding Mt. Hamilton and bordered by the Anacostia River. With the fierce and persistent advocacy of GCA members and the political support they engendered, the Mt. Hamilton location won.

The GCA has been an ardent supporter ever since. It has funded, among other things, a gazebo in 1963 to mark the GCA’s 50th anniversary, several ravine plantings, and internships (currently for the boxwood collection). It also helped bring the Capitol Columns to the Arboretum.

GCA members join USNA staff and representatives of the FONA Environment Committee, the DC Department of the Environment, and the Anacostia Watershed Society to plan the Springhouse Run restoration project.
Currently the GCA’s efforts are focused on the restoration of Springhouse Run, a badly degraded stream that runs for nearly half a mile through the Arboretum. Local GCA chapters, including the Chevy Chase, Georgetown, Perennial, and Trowel garden clubs, are playing a key role in providing funding and training for the project.

The Springhouse Run stream currently emerges from a pipe under New York Avenue that carries runoff from several hundred acres beyond the Arboretum and directs the effluent into an open channel through Arboretum land, emptying into Hickey Run.

The DC Department of the Environment is working with Arboretum staff and the FONA Environment Committee, led by Bill Matuszeski, to reconnect the stream to Springhouse Pond, near New York Avenue, and Heart Pond, a small pond near the center of the Arboretum. Plans call for creating a natural watercourse between the ponds, with meanders, pools, and riffles (coarse streambeds to alter water flow) that will flow into several acres of newly created wetlands. The naturally cleaned and filtered water will then course into Hickey Run and eventually the Anacostia. The Springhouse Run project could serve as a pilot program for a similar, larger Hickey Run project and also demonstrate the importance and feasibility of cleaning up local water-

The Garden Club of America has funded, among other things, a gazebo in 1963 to mark the GCA’s 50th anniversary, several ravine plantings, and internships (currently for the boxwood collection). It also helped bring the Capitol Columns to the Arboretum.

Above, the springhouses which gave their name to the polluted and scarred stream that today runs by them and is the focus of a major restoration effort; they served for many decades as one source of drinking water for DC residents.
ways that currently wind up in and pollute the Chesapeake Bay.

While major funding for the project is coming from the city, along with a generous donation to FONA from corporate supporter HSBC, the GCA has awarded a “Partners for Plants” grant to local chapters to provide additional support (with thanks to Trowel Garden Club member Amy Jagodnik who helped to secure the grant). The grant will cover the costs of training 50 volunteers to collect seeds and cuttings for the new streambanks and wetlands. Training will occur June 14, after which the volunteers will join collecting expeditions to gather seeds and cuttings and then care for them as the plants take root and grow at the Arboretum. The volunteers will assist in planting the new areas in the spring and summer of 2013 as streambank restoration and the creation of new wetlands occur. A final phase will involve the control of invasive plants, with professionals taking the lead and the trained volunteers playing an ongoing role in keeping the invasives at bay.

GCA chapters have been raising money for elements of the final project that are not currently funded, including boardwalks through the new wetlands and, possibly, a new cypress garden in Springhouse Pond. In April, for example, the Garden Club of Chevy Chase held a “Treasure Sale” in a member’s home to raise funds for the Springhouse Run project. Valuable antique furniture, a silver tea set, and other items were purchased by a steady stream of customers who livened things up during a bidding war over a particularly attractive pair of Sheffield candelabras.

The Garden Club of America and its chapters will have much to celebrate during its 2013 spring symposium and centennial year when it sees the fruits of its past and current efforts here. And the Arboretum will have the opportunity to extend its hearty gratitude to the GCA and its network of dedicated gardeners and environmentalists whose contributions have added so importantly to the beauty and tranquility of this local and national treasure.

ROBERTA GUTMAN is a contributing writer, gardener, and frequent visitor to the Arboretum.
June 20 may be the official first day of summer but this year’s Cookout jumped the gun and celebrated the start of summer a day early—on June 19. Enjoying the riches of North Carolina, 600 guests feasted on the distinctive cuisine of the Tarheel state and took home gifts of its native plants. They rode the tram through the gardens, sipped cocktails in the National Herb Garden, and took leisurely strolls after dinner to the Capitol Columns.

1 FONA Board Member and Former Chair Jeanne Connelly, Christie Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, and FONA Chair Linda Dooley
2 FONA Board Member Robert Bartlett and FONA Board Member and Founding President Betty Rea.
3 John Collingwood, Eulada Watt, Representative Mel Watt, Janet Gregor, FONA Board Member Jerry Slominski, James Walter
4 What’s a garden party without a great hat? Guests from AT&T enjoyed the evening in style.
5 Representative Mike McIntyre and his staff enjoy the view from the Capitol Columns
6 FONA Board Member and Cookout Fundraising Chair Jack Krumholtz, Kevin DiLallo
7 A view of the tent.

Photography: An-Sofía Neely
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 on events, visit www.usna.usda.gov

WORKSHOP: Bonsai Basics With Tropicals
July 21-22; August 11-12; 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Create your own bonsai in this all-day class designed for the beginner. You will learn the horticultural, aesthetic, and cultural elements of bonsai and then apply your new knowledge in a hands-on workshop. All materials are provided. Fee. Registration required.

Master Gardener Plant Clinic
September 15, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Bring your lawn and garden questions to the Arboretum where DC Master Gardeners will assist you with diagnosis of and solutions to plant problems. Free.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE DONATIONS OF 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 fully tax-deductible. It’s easy, just call us at 202.544.8733.

Remember: It’s easy to include FONA in your estate plans. Call us today at 202.544.8733!

USED GARDEN BOOKS SOLD YEAR ROUND TO BENEFIT ARBORETUM PROGRAMS

Several Garden Fair customers were surprised to learn that FONA sells used garden books in its office at the Arboretum. Yes, our shelves are well stocked with choice titles on all aspects of gardening, design, and garden history. Many of our books are in pristine condition, thanks to the generosity of our reviewer donors. Many others are out-of-print and are hard to find elsewhere.

And yes! Not only do we sell year round, we also accept donations year round (pickup is possible). Come into the FONA office and browse our well-filled and labeled shelves!

Recommended title—“The Oxford Companion to Gardens,” a comprehensive reference book on the history and design of gardens all over the world, it is a must-have for your library. As Nigel Nicholson said “a perfect bedside book… each entry an evocation of someone’s achievement and joy.”

If you have books to donate to our collection, please contact Mary Gene Myer, book chair, 202.333.1196 (mgmyer@mindspring.com).