IN THIS ISSUE: Special Garden Fair Edition
DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

In one form or another, we all have a deep connection to our terroir. I grew up in San Jose before they discovered silicon in that valley. Fruit and nut trees flourished in nearby orchards and the garlic wafted through my window in the early mornings as I prepared for school. I traded Silicon Valley for a much bigger one—San Joaquin Valley—when, after college, I married Cal and joined him on his family's fourth-generation farm.

There, I discovered the joy of cooking what I grew (101 recipes for zucchini and eggplant—you know what I’m talking about), continued walks through walnut orchards (now with our daughters and golden retriever), and occasional substitute tractor driving (holiday, last resort, crooked rows, but the job got done). Being a steward of the land is a big responsibility, whether on a small organic farm or a medium-sized family farm in California. Inevitably, respect for sustainability grows strong.

When Cal was elected to Congress, our family left the farm and moved to the nation's capital. Long-time Arboretum advocates Tuckie Westfall and Jeanne Connelly introduced me to this national treasure and, once again, I found myself walking through magnificent trees, gazing in wonder at the vibrant azaleas, and finding solitude in the quiet, off-the-trail places. I became an advocate, too, joining the devoted board members of FONA—always in awe of the organization's real horticultural talents as a transplanted city girl who did a few years on the farm. This organization is fueled by enormous talents, and much work is taking place this year, from environmental restoration projects to collaboration on the Arboretum's long-term strategic plan; it's a very exciting time.

It's truly spring again and there is no finer place to experience this season of renewal than the National Arboretum. I particularly want to invite you to FONA's Annual Garden Fair and Plant Sale on April 27–28. Whether you are a professional horticulturalist or an amateur with a love of the terroir like me, you will be astonished by the bounty of this year's event. For FONA members only, the presale offers a select group of hard-to-find plants. You can go online right now to purchase in advance of the spring sale! In addition, FONA members are admitted to the sale Friday morning, before the crowds arrive. I started my shopping list last month after listening to the committee's exuberance over so many selections—rare plants, hearty annuals, herbs to enhance my zucchini and eggplant dishes, and those lovely French country tablecloths that you just can't have enough of! Please join me at the Fair and know how much all of us at FONA appreciate you and your support of our efforts to enhance the U.S. National Arboretum.

Linda Dooley
Chair, Board of Directors

ON THE COVER Loropetalum chinense ‘Zhuzhou Fuchsia’ Courtesy Pender Nursery.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

“NEW DRESS, NEW SHOES . . . WE’VE GOT A NEW ATTITUDE.”
—PARAPHRASED FROM PATTI LABELLE

Across the Arboretum, there’s a feeling of spring stirring, an impending newness, fueled by anticipation of the reopening of the Administration Building, the coming renovation of the Japanese Pavilion at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, and new displays exhibiting important research. Things are happening.

Margaret Pooler, Research Leader and geneticist, continues to expand the Arboretum’s tree breeding program to develop cultivars that function well in increasingly stressed environments, particularly in urban areas. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Japanese gift of cherry trees planted by First Lady Helen Herron Taft and the Japanese Ambassador’s wife Viscountess Iwa Chinda in 1912, the Arboretum released a new variety of flowering cherry tree, ‘Helen Taft’, part of our First Lady series and a cross between Yoshino cherries (one, a clone of a tree Viscountess Chinda planted) and the Taiwan cherry. ‘Helen Taft’ grows to 35 feet and has large pale pink flowers that turn darker in the center as the flowers mature.

As the renovation of the Administration Building progresses, we also plan to refurbish the terrace, bridges, and water gardens. Staff are working to re-conceptualize and re-design the Introduction Garden surrounding the Administration Building to consolidate and separate the visitor and public program areas from the offices and herbarium and improve the hardscape and gardens around the building.

Concurrent with re-opening of the Administration Building, the National Arboretum will host a photographic exhibit developed by The Cultural Landscape Foundation entitled “Every Tree Tells a Story.” It depicts endangered trees and tree groupings around the country, including the two century-old tulip poplars at Tudor Place in Washington, DC. This beautiful series of photographs focuses on the importance of trees and the vulnerability of our horticultural heritage.

The Power Plants display will be replaced by a new turf grass exhibit, showcasing improved varieties and environmental qualities of turf and turf management for home and community landscapes. The exhibit will be open for 3 to 4 years and will provide a backdrop for new programs for homeowners and professionals on environmental turf and lawn management, new and emerging research, a display of new lawn care equipment, and new ornamental grasses, among other things. This exhibit will have strong elements of both discovery and whimsy so that visitors can learn the value of science in horticulture while having fun playing in the grass. We will keep you updated as plans unfold.

I hope to see you among the blossoms this spring at the National Arboretum.

Colien Hefferan, Director, U.S. National Arboretum

WHERE COULD YOU GO...

Donations needed!
We would appreciate donations of garden books...garden ornaments...pots...tools...plates...candlesticks...what have you...anything that might warm a gardener’s heart for selling at the FONA booth at the Garden Fair. We are open from 8 to 5 on weekdays; please drop off your donations at the FONA Office at Arbor House. Pickup at your house is also an option. Call 202.544.8733

"NEW DRESS, NEW SHOES . . . WE’VE GOT A NEW ATTITUDE.”

—PARAPHRASED FROM PATTI LABELLE

SPRING 2012
It takes a village to hold FONA’s multifaceted Plant Sale, April 27 and 28. FONA’s intrepid plant sale committee has now put all of the elements of this phenomenal event in place: bequests from generous donors, a varied and appealing array of vendors, a host of volunteers and, of course, the plants! Months in the planning, this year’s selection of plants is over the top. Not only does it include many more annuals and perennials than in previous years, there is an amazing selection of what can only be called “rare and fantastic” plants. Again this year, a selection of choice plants in very limited quantities will be available to order pre-sale. Beginning March 19, first come, first served, members may order these plants online at FONA’s website: www.fona.org.
Vendors Expand Plant Sale Offerings

The Garden Fair and Plant Sale offers a hand-picked selection of independent vendors offering plants and garden-related merchandise.

NURSERIES
M&W Nursery (conifers, Japanese maples)
Nature by Design (native trees, shrubs, perennials, and vines)
Pine Knot Farms (plants for shady gardens and an extensive selection of hellebores)
Practically Organic (an organic CSA offering heirloom vegetable plants)
Spring Thyme Nursery (annuals and hanging baskets)
White’s Nursery (rhododendrons and a wide variety of azaleas)
Melwood Horticultural Training Center (“Gardens to Go” - potted annuals)
Carnivorous Plant Nursery (carnivorous plants and educational products)
Landreth Seed Company (heirloom vegetables, gardening tools and gloves, flower and herb seeds)

PLANT SOCIETIES
Chesapeake Chapter of the Holly Society of America (offering evergreen and deciduous hollies)
National Capital Daylily Club
National Capital Orchid Society
Potomac Unit of the Herb Society of America (85 kinds of herbs, tussie mussies, vintage vases and books, handmade rose beads and jewelry)
Potomac Hosta Club

FOOD VENDORS
Café Jefes Java Cruiser or CirqueCuisine while you watch the Washington Revels sing madrigals and dance the Maypole.

NON-PLANT VENDORS
Arbor House Gift Shop (garden-inspired gifts, books and pottery)
Bees by the Bay (a variety of honeys and beeswax products)
Janice’s Table (high-quality French linens)
Washington Gardener Magazine (find inspiration for your garden in this gardening magazine tailored just for the Washington region; subscribe or purchase back issues)

2012 GARDEN FAIR COMMITTEE
Charlie Flickner, Co-chair
Tuckie Westfall, Co-chair
Linda Findlay
Spinner Findlay
Kathy Horan
Sherry Houghton
Jim Hughes
Terry Lewis
Bill Matuszeski
Mary Gene Myer
Cindy Roscoe
Alan Rudan
Hannah Urrey
Christine Wegman

VOLUNTEERS
In 2011, more than 100 volunteers staffed the FONA Plant Sale, unloading trucks, pricing plants, arranging merchandise, putting up signage, directing traffic, working the checkout area, and helping shoppers. Most of all, they were available to answer horticultural questions that many people had when they came looking for that special plant.

Professional plant experts will be on hand again this year ready to help you find the perfect plant for dry shade, heavy clay soil, or the butterfly garden you’ve been yearning for. If you want to join this group of volunteers and lend a hand any time during the week of April 23–29, contact Jim Hughes, Volunteer Coordinator, at jhughes@fona.org or call the FONA office at 202.544.8733.
Not all of FONA’s rare and fantastic plants are in the Advance Sale. On April 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., FONA members have the first opportunity to purchase many other hard-to-find and choice shrubs, trees, and perennials.

ACER PALMATUM ‘BIHOU’
A favorite of Acer specialist Fred Hooks, this Japanese Coral Bark Maple selection with golden stems and orange-peach winter bark stood out at the 2012 Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show. This is the plant for your winter garden.

CALLICARPASA JAPONICA
‘SNOW STORM’ This lovely Japanese Beautyberry has four-season interest. In spring, the foliage emerges white, then fades to a speckled pattern of cream and green. Abundant pink flowers appear in midsummer, attracting butterflies and other pollinators.

CERCIDiphyLLUM
JAPONICUM ‘MORIOKA WEEPING’ This weeping form of the East Asian Katsura Tree is a favorite of Sally Boasberg. Not a tree for a small yard, its blue-green senescing leaves smell of burnt sugar and cinnamon as they turn a golden yellow in autumn.

CERCIS CANADENSIS ‘SILVER CLOUD’ This native Eastern Redbud has white, green, and yellow variegated foliage. Also available is ‘Traveller’, a weeping form. This year FONA also offers the Arboretum introduction Cercis chinensis ‘Don Egolf’, a slow-growing, sterile selection covered from top to bottom with flowers.

DAPHNE ×MANTENSIANA
A challenging plant for collectors, this pink-flowering extremely fragrant small shrub often reblooms in the summer. This year, FONA also offers Daphne tangutica, whose rose-purple flowers are followed by orange berries, and Daphne odora ‘Mae-Jima’, the most dramatically variegated of the winter-blooming daphnes.

DISTYLIUM MYRICOIDES
This Blue Leaf Isu Tree, an evergreen relative of the witch-hazel, has an attractive lateral branching habit. Small crimson red flowers, clustered in the axils of the leaves, are seen through the bud scales all winter, emerging in spring. The dwarf littleleaf Distylium racemosum ‘Guppy’ is also on offer.

HYDRANGEA PANICULATA
‘LAVASTERVAL’ FIRST EDITIONS® GREAT STAR™
This large-panicle hydrangea features dramatic rounded panicles of star-shaped white flowers with long wavy petals.

LOROPetalUM CHINENSE VAR. RUBRUM ‘ZHOUZHOU FUCHSIA’ The hardiest of the loropetalums, this Fringe Flower produces deep burgundy to purple-black foliage from spring to fall and, in summer, mounded fringe-like flowers in fuchsia. The distinctive blackish-maroon foliage retains its color throughout the year. FONA is seeking to make the Arboretum’s new white-flowered introduction ‘Snow Panda’ available this year or next.

PAEONIA ‘SMITH OPUS 2’ TAKARA™ After seeking a source for this exquisite Itoh intersectional peony for several years, FONA is finally able to offer Takara™. The blooms first appear mostly pink with bits of yellow, fading to pale white, with a large dark burgundy flare in the center.

ROSA ‘MEIKANARO’ SUNSHINE DAYDREAM™ The All-America Rose Selections winner for 2012, this new Grandiflora introduction from Meilland and Conard-Pyle’s Star® Roses has light yellow flowers that fade to cream, is highly disease resistant, and has a very long blooming season. An extra bonus, it is virtually self-cleaning and grown on its own roots. We have only ten of them, but other Star® Roses are available, too.

Charlie Flickner, a retired Senate and House committee staff member, has been on the FONA board since 2005 and has been co-chair of the Garden Fair since 2007. His current garden is in Arlington, VA.
Quarryhill Botanical Garden, Glen Ellen, CA

The 2012 FONA Garden Fair & Plant Sale is the recipient of a special collection of rare plants from Quarryhill Botanical Garden in the foothills of California’s Sonoma Valley. One of the largest collections of scientifically documented, wild-source Asian plants in North America and Europe, Quarryhill is donating eight species of woody plants from East Asia, including several stunning Acer pentaphyllum. Although some of these species are in cultivation in the mid-Atlantic region, descendents of storied expeditions by western plant explorers between 1880 and 1930, Quarryhill’s plants differ, having been propagated from more diverse collections in Southwest China over the past two decades. Look for more information about opportunities to purchase some of these extraordinary shrubs and trees on the FONA website and at the sale site on April 27.

Sambucus nigra ‘Black Lace’ Elderberry
Courtesy Monrovia Nursery

Acer palmatum ‘Bihou’
Courtesy Highland Creek Nursery

Prunus mume ‘Kobai’
Courtesy Camellia Forest Nursery

Daphne genkwa
Courtesy Pender Nursery

Hydrangea paniculata ‘Great Star’
Courtesy Bailey’s Nursery

Cercis canadensis ‘Silver Cloud’
Courtesy Monrovia Nursery
Expect to find a number of very special annuals at this year’s Garden Fair. In addition to a full range of unusual salvias, the latest angelonias, and a nice selection of Cape fuchsias, there will be new and unusual annuals for pots and hanging baskets. Among these are a trailing snapdragon, *Antirrhinum glutinosum*, which hangs to 12 inches and has a full season of white blooms with yellow centers over silver foliage. It is perfect with *Impatiens repens*, the first creeping impatiens, which trails up to two feet and provides hooded yellow flowers over deep burgundy semi-succulent leaves.

You will find a full range of colors in *Petchoa* (pronounced “pet-ko-a”), a recent cross of petunias and calibrachoas, which is getting rave reviews for combining the best of both. One catalogue calls them an “annual-lover’s dream-come-true,” while another simply says they are the best annuals for pots ever developed.

For those looking for the highly unusual, there will be three colors of *Stachytarpheta*, or Porterweed, a Caribbean medicinal that blooms all summer, grows to four feet, and attracts clouds of butterflies.

Bill Matuszeski joined the FONA board in 2007. He is Chair of FONA’s Environment Committee and this year, he is championing annuals and is responsible for ordering very special ones for the Garden Fair.

A dazzling selection of conifers in an array of colors, shapes, and sizes include color showoffs like *Abies koreana* ‘Golden Glow’, a fir sporting yellow needles with white undersides and late winter buds with a purple cast; *Chamaecyparis obtusa* ‘Blue Feathers’ with downy looking muted blue foliage; and *Juniperus chinensis* ‘Daub’s Frosted’, which sends golden yellow feathers in all directions over interior blue-green sprays. Shapes will range from the spectacularly sculptured *Callitropsis nootkatensis* ‘Jubilee’, which develops an upright, spire-like main trunk with draping arm-like branches, to *Pinus strobus* ‘Donna’s Mini’, ideal for a small, sunny niche with its short-needled, pincushion conformation. Sizes will vary from the large (when mature) pyramidal *Pinus strobus* ‘Louie’, which has long yellow needles contrasting with interior green foliage, to miniature, unnamed *Chamaecyparis obtusa* selections that Iseli Nursery made from 50,000 seedlings and that are too small to be commercially viable. Another exceptional conifer being offered at the advance sale is *Picea abies* ‘Pusch’, which was named Collector’s Conifer of 2008 by the American Conifer Society. This dwarf spruce has bright red cones on short shoots in spring and develops into an upright, broad shape with age.

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.

Charles Findlay

*ARBOR FRIENDS*
SOME OF THE SPECIALTY PLANTS at the FONA plant sale are suitable for rain gardens because they are adapted to short periods of flooding. There are many to choose from, including willows (Salix spp.), Tartarian dogwood (Cornus alba), sweet flag (Acorus gramineus), Joe Pye weed (Eutrochium purpureum), Virginia sweetspire (Itea virginica), and summersweet (Clethra alnifolia).

Rain gardens filter stormwater runoff and also help reduce the volume of water entering storm sewers. Just as the Arboretum will install five new rain gardens in the R Street parking lot to clean up runoff, you can help detain and filter runoff from your roof and driveway by building a rain garden.

Be sure to site it away from basement walls where excess soil moisture could be a problem. Test the soil by doing a percolation test—simply dig a hole about a foot deep and fill it with water. If the water drains through soil at a rate of an inch per hour, it is suitable for a rain garden. Construct a berm to retain the water, and add your plants.  

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**SCOTT AKER**, Garden Unit Leader at the U.S. National Arboretum, writes the “Garden Solutions” and “Gardening Q & A with Scott Aker” columns in The American Gardener magazine.
A GIFT TO OUR MEMBERS...

We invite our members at the $125 level and above to stop by the membership tent at the Garden Fair and pick up a gift of thanks. As a token of appreciation for your loyal support, please enjoy your choice of two beautiful flowering Arboretum introductions: Prunus ‘Dream Catcher’ or Viburnum ‘Chesapeake’. Members at this level will receive a certificate in the mail. Please bring the certificate with you to collect your plant at the Garden Fair.

If you are not a member or need to renew your membership, you can do so via the envelope provided in this newsletter or online at fona.org. Please consider joining at the Outdoor Enthusiast level.
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

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION
April 6 thru April 22
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily
The Washington D.C. Chapter of Ikebana International will exhibit flower arrangements representing a variety of ikebana schools. This year the exhibit will include flowering cherry branches.

BEYOND THE TIDAL BASIN: INTRODUCING OTHER GREAT FLOWERING CHERRIES
March 20 thru April 27
Take a self-guided tour of the Arboretum’s diverse collection of flowering cherries.

FONA GARDEN FAIR & PLANT SALE
April 27 and April 28
Free & Open to the Public – Friday, April 27 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members Only – Friday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

POTOMAC BONSAI FESTIVAL
May 4 thru May 6
Annual festival co-sponsored by the National Arboretum, the National Bonsai Foundation, and the Potomac Bonsai Association.
For a complete list of activities, see the Arboretum’s website www.usna.usda.gov or call 202.245.4523.

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.

The Friends of the National Arboretum invite you to celebrate North Carolina’s rich history with a special event taking place this June.

COOKOUT UNDER THE STARS
Tuesday, June 19, 2012
Please visit www.fona.org for more details.