Thank you to our friends and supporters!

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM,

Another year has flown by for FONA and the Arboretum. We have much to be thankful for. The Flowering Tree Walk has been completed, and we hope to have a celebration in the spring. Stay tuned. The restoration of Springhouse Run, a major stream that flows through the Arboretum, is near completion and will provide a glimpse into some of the wilder areas of the Arboretum. This project has many partners, including a dedicated group of local member clubs of the Garden Club of America. It will be an educational example of how plants work to clean our streams. Work has begun on the rain gardens in the R Street parking lot, the Arboretum’s next storm water management project. The renovation of the gardens surrounding Arbor House, a gift of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., is nearly complete and looks fantastic. The Washington Youth Garden Pavilion, generously funded by the Weissberg Foundation, is 95% finished and will be a wonderful addition to the garden. Please stop by and visit. Last but not least, the eagles are back! The EagleCam is up and running with video and sound. We will be eagerly watching for the first egg of 2017.

The bad news is that federal funding is likely to remain stagnant. The good news is that momentum for bigger and greater things! 2016, the National Arboretum is not only on track for a tremendous 2017, but gaining new Arboretum website and mobile app. Thanks to your engagement and advocacy in our efforts and more, FONA is funding and providing assistance to our coveted internship program. The long awaited Red Oak Run (aka Springhouse Run) restoration project with the D.C. Department of Energy and Environment is underway, thanks to guidance and leadership by FONA. Soon you will see rain gardens installed in our main parking lots, the opening of the Flowering Tree Walk and the new Washington Youth Garden pavilion, repaired Capitol Columns, and a new Arboretum website and mobile app. Thanks to your engagement and advocacy in 2016, the National Arboretum is not only on track for a tremendous 2017, but gaining momentum for bigger and greater things!  

As you know, I have been Acting Executive Director of FONA since September. We hope to have a new ED in place by the time you read this. Being in the FONA office every day has made me extremely optimistic about the future of FONA and the Arboretum. From these efforts and more, FONA is funding and providing assistance to our coveted internship program. The long awaited Red Oak Run (aka Springhouse Run) restoration project with the D.C. Department of Energy and Environment is underway, thanks to guidance and leadership by FONA. Soon you will see rain gardens installed in our main parking lots, the opening of the Flowering Tree Walk and the new Washington Youth Garden pavilion, repaired Capitol Columns, and a new Arboretum website and mobile app. Thanks to your engagement and advocacy in 2016, the National Arboretum is not only on track for a tremendous 2017, but gaining momentum for bigger and greater things!  

Richard T. Olsen, Director  
The U.S. National Arboretum

ENDURANCE, BEAUTY IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY, AND HOPE—three of the important virtues represented by the flowering apricot, Prunus mume. Originally native to southern China, the species has been cultivated since antiquity and is fully integrated in many Asian cultures for its medicinal, culinary, and spiritual uses. It is one of the most revered symbols of China, because it bears its fragrant flowers in the dead of winter when all else lies dormant, bringing beauty to a stark landscape and renewed hope for the coming year. It also happens to be one of my favorite plants and an underutilized ornamental landscape plant for our area. We have an historic and expanding collection of these cherry relatives in the Asian collection and overlooking the site of the future National China Garden.

The idea of having a National China Garden has been around for nearly two decades but is now becoming a reality. A ceremonial groundbreaking was held in October 2016 ahead of the final permitting, which should be in place by February 2017. This $120 million project is the largest in our history and will connect and unify many of our Asian-themed gardens and plant collections, expand our education and outreach opportunities, and provide much needed new restroom facilities. As you know, I have been Acting Executive Director of FONA since September. We hope to have a new ED in place by the time you read this. Being in the FONA office every day has made me extremely optimistic about the future of FONA and the Arboretum. From these efforts and more, FONA is funding and providing assistance to our coveted internship program. The long awaited Red Oak Run (aka Springhouse Run) restoration project with the D.C. Department of Energy and Environment is underway, thanks to guidance and leadership by FONA. Soon you will see rain gardens installed in our main parking lots, the opening of the Flowering Tree Walk and the new Washington Youth Garden pavilion, repaired Capitol Columns, and a new Arboretum website and mobile app. Thanks to your engagement and advocacy in 2016, the National Arboretum is not only on track for a tremendous 2017, but gaining momentum for bigger and greater things!  

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The U.S. National Arboretum
2016 Projects

2016 was a big year for construction projects throughout the grounds—some completed, some making progress, and new ones underway.

Washington Youth Garden Pavilion
The Washington Youth Garden has a permanent pavilion with a working sink, storage, and great space for programming thanks to the generosity of the Weissberg Foundation, McGraw Bagnoli Architects, Added Dimensions Construction, Loudon Construction, Eichberg Construction, Yachad, and the National Arboretum. Stay tuned for lots of celebrations this spring!

Arbor House and Friendship Garden
The front of Arbor House is referred to as the New American Garden, and its renovations are the responsibility of the Arboretum. The National Garden Club fund invested $130,000 in the Friendship Garden renovation which includes the sides and rear of Arbor House. Oehme, von Sweden & Associates (the landscape firm that originally designed the Friendship Garden) did the renovation design, which included the planting plan, the plants, the hardscape, and the soon-to-arrive replacement benches. Renovation of the public restrooms will move forward this spring!

Stabilization of the Bald Eagles Nest
While the eagles were away this summer, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Eagle Foundation took the opportunity to check out the stability of the nest and determined that it required reinforcement. AEF and Excel Tree Experts stabilized the nest with a false tree limb in time for the return of Mr. President and the First Lady, our resident eagles.
**Springhouse Run**

The cleanup of Springhouse Run is a partnership among the U.S. National Arboretum, Department of Energy and the Environment, FONA, and local chapters of the Garden Clubs of America. The plan is to use the cleanup of this stream, which runs through the Arboretum into the Anacostia River, to educate the public about the process for cleaning up polluted streams and to demonstrate how critical these supporters are to the process. Construction began in October 2016, and restoration and planting will be an ongoing process. Walk by now and then to view the progress.

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**Flowering Tree Walk**

Hooray! The Flowering Tree Walk is complete. The Walk is the meandering path that circles the Meadow and connects to the Capitol Columns. Next step: planting trees and shrubs and an event to toast Sally Boasberg and the donors who supported this project in Sally’s memory.

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**China Garden**

This multi-year project officially began with a groundbreaking ceremony in October 2016. The design documents have been submitted; the next step will be submitting construction documents. To learn more about this project, please visit www.usna.usda.gov/ChinaGarden/About.html Photo credit Jerry Hagstrom/The Hagstrom Report.

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**Japanese Pavilion in the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum**

One last detail remains: the tables for the trees are scheduled to be finished in time to open the Japanese Pavilion this spring.

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**Koi Pond**

Not ready for the fish to return yet… A plan is in place for solving the current design issue, and the fish are waiting patiently.

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**A new contract just awarded**

New LED lighting for the Capitol Columns and correction of electrical and pump issues for the fountain will take place in early spring.
YOU MIGHT BE FAMILIAR WITH THE WONDERFUL Ackerman camellias that bloom in late November and early December, but one of the toughest of the camellias introduced by the National Arboretum was bred by former Gardens Unit Leader Skip March, and it blooms in spring. ‘Anacostia’ is truly one of the nicest Camellia japonica cultivars you can grow. It can survive cold weather better than most camellias and has sailed through temperatures as low as -10°F without injury. It is also more compact than most, growing into a rounded dense shrub twelve feet tall and seven feet wide after 30 years without any pruning. It is the flowers that really make ‘Anacostia’ a winner. There are often half again as many blooms as there are on other camellia shrubs, and they are a soft, saturated pink color with darker pink veins and golden stamens. The petals have heavy substance that allows the flowers to persist for many days, even when assaulted by wind and rain. When it’s not in bloom, the glossy, dark green foliage and its compact habit make ‘Anacostia’ a great accent for a semi-shaded location. Give it a spot with moist, well-drained acidic soil, and it will bloom faithfully every spring.

Scott Aker

Camellia ‘Anacostia’ is one of the beautiful spring-blooming camellias introductions to come from the US National Arboretum

CAMELLIA ‘ANACOSTIA’

Winter Garden Tips

Nancy and Pierre Moitrier

CLEAN TOOL HEADS AND MECHANISMS, sharpen shovels and blades, and apply boiled linseed oil to wooden tool handles to moisturize wood and prolong tool life.

SPRINKLE POPPY SEEDS AFTER SNOWFALL. Poppies need a cold treatment (stratification) to germinate. Their seeds are tiny; sowing over a fresh snow improves visibility for equal distribution.

ORDER OR PURCHASE SWEET PEA SEEDS to be sown on or around St. Patrick’s Day. Prior to sowing, soak the seeds in water overnight to aid germination.

FOR BEST SELECTION, ORDER SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS like Caladium, Canna, Colocasia, Dahlias, Gladiolas, and Lilies.

PLAN TO SHEER HOLLIES in your garden around St. Patrick’s Day to increase density of spring growth.

PRUNE OAKS in the dormant season to reduce incidence of oak wilt disease (avoid pruning oaks from April through July).

STUDY ROSE PRUNING TIPS to prepare for annual rose pruning, which should be done around St. Patrick’s Day, once temperatures become more stable.

INVITE BIRDS INTO YOUR GARDEN with non-freezing water and a steady supply of seed in clean feeders. Our psyches need these creatures and so do our soils. Beneficial microbes are carried on birds’ feet; these microbes, in conjunction with bird poop, actually aid in boosting the microbial activity of the soil and in turn help plants build defenses. Remember that garden area that was so difficult to water with the sprinkler? Be proactive: INSTALL SOAKER HOSES now while perennials are dormant and easy to navigate.

APPLE HORTICULTURAL OIL at a dormant rate to plants with known insect populations to suffocate insect eggs and emerging insects like scale, mites, aphids, and whiteflies.

EVALUATE THE COHERENCE OF YOUR GARDEN STRUCTURES now while the garden is devoid of leaves. Garden structures include nonliving elements like arbors, walls, and paving and also include living elements like trees and hedges. Ponder deficiencies and possibilities.

CONSIDER THE SHAPE OF YOUR TURF. Turf with a clearly defined shape will become a garden element in all seasons. From within your home, determine your favorite window view and plan a winter garden. Designed well, a winter garden will bring pleasure during the short days of winter with forms, colors, textures, and even flowers.

CONTACT YOUR GARDEN DESIGNER NOW, while your mind is fresh and the pressures of daily living are lower. Your designer will be more relaxed and creative.

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.

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WASHINGTON YOUTH GARDEN

Washington Youth Garden Gets a New Outdoor Classroom

Jake Dacks

WASHINGTON YOUTH GARDEN IS excited to debut our brand new pavilion this spring! In addition to offering shelter for SPROUT field trip groups, high school Green Ambassadors, and guests, the pavilion also comes with some greatly appreciated amenities: a new storage area for cooking supplies, an industrial sink, outdoor chalkboards, a 1,000-gallon rain catchment system, and a rain garden with native plants.

The project, which will be completed in early spring, increases WYG’s capacity to teach nutrition lessons to our guests, allows us to use rainwater for most of our irrigation needs, and provides shelter from inclement weather for our visitors. We also recognize that its permanence represents a commitment from WYG, FONA, and the USNA to meaningfully serve the local community long into the future.

The road to establishing the pavilion hit a few snags. Before ground was even broken on its construction, an underground diesel tank was discovered while attempting to bring a portable water line to WYG. The tank, which had leaked into the soil, was part of a house that once stood in our butterfly garden. The ensuing cleanup was a laborious process that, in hindsight, was an impressive collaboration between many government agencies and contractors. That delayed construction for a few months, and the butterfly garden suffered as a result.

Despite this setback, we know that the garden will be much better because of this experience. Thanks to master horticulturist (and FONA Board Member) Holly Shimizu, the butterfly garden will be getting a full makeover when the ground thaws. We’ll need plenty of hands to work on it, so join us at our Tuesday and Saturday volunteer days in the spring!

The pavement project was made possible by the generous support of the Weissberg Foundation, McGraw Bagnoli Architects, Added Dimensions Construction, London Construction, Eichberg Construction, Yachad, and of course the U.S. National Arboretum. We are truly grateful to all of them. Keep an eye out for the ribbon-cutting event in May!

JAKE DACKS is the WYG Garden Manager. He mostly plays in the dirt all day, and his new favorite plant from WYG’s 2016 garden is the tulip.

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A Year in Numbers

Created by Thea Klein-Mayer

3,140 students visited the garden on nearly 100 SPROUT trips

2,510 students learned in their school gardens at 6 DC schools

13 incredible green ambassadors

915 pounds of produce donated to hunger relief organizations

90% of SPROUT participants tasted something new from the garden

107 amazing volunteers gave over 800 hours to the garden

107

WASHINGTON YOUTH GARDEN

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Thank you...
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 visit usna.usda.gov or fona.org

LAHR NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM
Saturday, March 25: 8:30am–3:30pm
This symposium will help you put together well-designed landscapes that actively connect with nature. Fee: $95 ($76 FONA). Registration required. To register, visit usna.usda.gov. Native plants will be on sale at the Arboretum, and symposium attendees get early-bird admission to the sale.

GARDEN FAIR AND PLANT SALE

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 29:</td>
<td>10am–1pm</td>
<td>Members Only! (Early Access)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 29:</td>
<td>1pm–4pm</td>
<td>Free and open to the public!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 30:</td>
<td>9am–4pm</td>
<td>Free and open to the public!</td>
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A favorite event for gardeners from novice to expert, the FONA Garden Fair and Plant Sale is held each April at the US National Arboretum.

FONA’S ANNUAL DINNER UNDER THE STARS
Tuesday, June 6
Join us as we celebrate the Great Lakes States! Invite your friends and share a table for a truly unique evening at the Arboretum. For more information, including ticket and table pricing, visit fona.org/dinner or contact Kathy Horan at 202.544.8733 or khoran@fona.org.

Watch the Arboretum Bald Eagles through the Eagle Cam. See 24/7 streaming video of the nesting pair available at eagles.org/dceaglcam.

*NEW* CAPITAL BIKESHARE STATION AT THE ARBORETUM
Check out our new Bikeshare station at the R Street entrance. Take a ride on our 9 miles of paved roads.

If you’re an Amazon Prime member, please consider using the AmazonSmile program to benefit Friends of the National Arboretum at smile.amazon.com.