FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

As I write this letter, it is 21 degrees outdoors and the ground is covered with snow. Hopefully by the time you receive this edition of “Arbor Friends,” signs of spring will be everywhere. By then, you will be thinking about which of the many choice plants you’ll purchase at the FONA Garden Fair.

FONA has good reason to celebrate spring 2014—we finally have a new Farm Bill. At FONA’s request, Congress inserted language that directed the Secretary of Agriculture to use his discretion to approve donor recognition, which should help nonprofits such as FONA recognize donors who support the Arboretum. That should provide a big boost to FONA, the National Bonsai Foundation, and the National China Garden Foundation as they try to raise money for enhancements, additions, and maintenance at the Arboretum. Further changes to some of the more limiting donor recognition rules will encourage greater private donations to the cash-strapped Arboretum.

Another cause for celebration is that the Azalea and Boxwood heritage collections have been saved, thanks to the efforts of our supporters combined with a major donation. FONA has been able to fund two additional gardeners and several interns to help maintain these two collections. The public support for the azaleas encouraged USDA to supply additional funding of $125,000 that allowed the Arboretum to fund removal of invasive plants and excess saplings and pruning of the lower branches of the remaining trees in the azalea area to improve light conditions and reduce root competition. After last year’s rejuvenation, the azaleas are now much healthier. Work is underway to replant gaps in that area with masses of Glenn Dale hybrid varieties so we can look forward to many more years of glorious blooms.

The public support that helped save the boxwoods has also facilitated more research and leveraged further funding. The Arboretum has received hundreds of thousands of dollars in Floral and Nursery Research Initiative monies to develop a program for creating blight-resistant boxwoods. Two postdocs are now working on that project—one focused on understanding diseases and one focused on genetic diversity mapping and verifying hybrids. Last spring, the first controlled pollinations were made with the eventual goal of achieving disease resistance. As you can see, you do make a difference. Please continue to help us ensure the sustainability of what is truly a national gem, the US National Arboretum.

Thank you.

Barbara Shea
Chair, Board of Directors

ON THE COVER Yuki Cherry Blossom Deutzia - Proven Winners® ColorChoice®

ARBOR FRIENDS
Grasses, particularly turf grasses, have been a long-standing focus of publicly supported research to enhance their environmental qualities, durability, ease of maintenance, and functional value. Turf research, supported by the golf and home lawn industries, has resulted in refined turf grasses that thrive across a broad range of climates, stresses, uses, and environmental constraints. Much of this research has been conducted by the Agricultural Research Service, in collaboration with public universities and with extensive private trials. Scott Warnke, a plant geneticist at the Arboretum, is currently conducting research on creeping bentgrass, which requires fewer pesticides and less fertilizer and water. This grass is particularly well suited for use on golf course fairways and putting greens because of its tolerance to low mowing.

The Grass Roots initiative will create an extensive display garden and interpretive program that integrates two strategic goals—the research and educational functions of the Arboretum. This initiative is the result of collaboration with the National Turfgrass Federation, substantial private support, and design from Rain Underground (a Baltimore-based landscape architecture firm) under the direction of our Gardens Unit leader, Scott Aker. The Grass Roots one-acre living exhibit will comprise an extensive range of ornamental grasses not routinely seen in a single area. The exhibit will help visitors understand the workings and importance of green roofs, irrigation, fertilization, turf diseases and pests, sports turf, golf turf, grass types, and new breeds of turf and ornamental grasses. As part of the Grass Roots Initiative, the Arboretum plans to hold a series of meetings and events to highlight evolving research needs, application of findings to environmental issues such as maintenance of water quality in the Chesapeake Bay, and innovations in lawn management and equipment. Grass Roots will be an Arboretum-wide effort with improved turf management and use of special grasses across the grounds. And, since grass is a great place to play, Grass Roots will provide a new venue for both fun and learning. Come by, and please walk on the grass.

Colien Hefferan, Director
U.S. National Arboretum
An Interview with Chris Upton, Horticulturist for the Asian Collections

Scott Aker

Arbor Friends occasionally interviews staff members at the U.S. National Arboretum. In this issue, Scott Aker (SA), Head of Horticulture and Education at the USNA, spoke with Chris Upton (UPTON), Horticulturist for the Asian Collections.

CHRIS UPTON WAS BORN in Syracuse, NY, but moved to the Washington, DC, area when he was five. At the University of Maryland College Park campus, he took classes in chemistry, botany, philosophy, history, and English. He currently lives and gardens in Adelphi, MD. Many follow his thoughts on plants and poetry on his 1003 Gardens blog. Lately his posts have been infrequent, but he hopes to increase his blogging after his upcoming cataract surgery. Wife Karen and sons Max and Peter work together in garden design and installation, undoubtedly benefiting from Chris’s encyclopedic knowledge of plants. Chris worked in the Asian Collections at the Arboretum for a year and a half in the early 1990s and came back to the Arboretum in 2004 to work in the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection before his promotion to Horticulturist for the Asian Collections. Between stints at the Arboretum, he worked at Behnke Nurseries doing design and horticulture and worked as an estate gardener. Last year, Chris had a badly deteriorated hip joint replaced, and he’s glad to be more mobile and gardening without pain.

SA: Tell us how you found your way into horticulture.

UPTON: I’ve been growing plants since I was 12. My parents offered us little patches of ground in the yard for growing things. I built a greenhouse attachment to my room at age 16. My room was on the lower level and had windows at ground level, so I took the window out and built a small attached greenhouse. It was a cool but sunny growing space, so I grew a lot of cacti and succulents. I got into horticulture through nature. At the time, nature and horticulture didn’t necessarily go hand in hand. Horticulture was all about mastery of nature, not working with nature. I’ve always designed and worked sustainably with my gardens. My parents were both gardeners and so was my grandmother. Gardening was everywhere for me growing up. I have houseplants that are now 50 years old. I guess that’s unusual, but I still enjoy those plants and wouldn’t willingly part with them.

SA: You’ve worked in the Asian Collections and Fern Valley in your time here. Tell us how helping to develop these collections has influenced you.

UPTON: When I returned to the Arboretum, I assumed that I would end up in the Asian Collections. I had been in retail horticulture and garden design for a while and appreciated getting into Fern Valley when I returned. I was ready to experience native plants in a wilder setting. It was fun to come back to the Asian Collections and see how plants I planted when I first came here had developed. Lots of our staff have worked in the Asian Collections, so a lot of them have a stake in it. It’s great to have them working there from time to time.

SA: When you think back on your years at the Arboretum, what do you think are your most memorable accomplishments?

UPTON: We’ve done a lot in the Asian Collections over the past couple of years. We’ve focused on the big picture, so it’s hard to pull out single accomplishments. So much of what we do is collaborative. I can’t take the credit, but I’m proud of the trail work that has been done. Nathan Camp and Joey Goggin have done some great stone work that has really improved the garden. Joey built a wall to level a path and highlight a wonderful and very
old maple at the bottom of the Japanese Woodland. We’ve been spreading Asian groundcovers everywhere. Since we haven’t been collecting in Asia because of issues with the Convention on Biological Diversity, we’ve had the opportunity to fine-tune the garden.

SA: You’ve done a lot of garden design work. What approach do you take when tackling a design task?

UPTON: I try to listen to the client. You have to know what people want. Some designers are artistic and creative and confident in their own vision, and they can produce wonderful designs, but they may not be right for the client. I listen to the client and pay more attention than some designers. I love plants so much that I can understand when a client has a real passion for certain kinds of plants that I may not be particularly fond of myself. I like all gardens and can appreciate all tastes, and I try to reflect that in the design. Sometimes, when you’re designing for someone who has been in their home for a long time, you can take cues from what they like and what you see inside their home. Some want a utilitarian garden, others want a dream garden. It can be hard to achieve that, but you do the best you can.

SA: What makes your garden designs different from those of others?

UPTON: I use a wide palette of plants, and I’ve been around a long time, so I know a lot of plants and their needs. You won’t find a plant in one of my designs that doesn’t fit the conditions or that will struggle to survive. My designs are not always the most inspired or creative, but I focus on what works and works well in any given situation. I think of the garden over the long term and how it develops. Sometimes that means placing a Stewartia in a design, even though it won’t come into its own for 20 years.

SA: Where do you feel the greatest opportunities lie for the Arboretum in the future?

UPTON: Our future lies in our role as a public garden. We need to maintain germplasm collections, and I would argue that putting that germplasm in the aesthetic matrix of a garden ensures that the plants will be maintained over the long term. We are close to decision makers, and we need to embrace our mission as a public garden and promote the value of public gardens as we move into the future. New technologies like Asset Bank (digital image management software) and the Arboretum Botanical Explorer are so accessible and hold so much promise for the future. With these advances, our wealth of records that have been internal for so long will finally become available to the public. The Plant Collections Committee is an important development, since it allows us to focus on collection development in a purposeful way and work on refining our gardens and collections, and it will give us clear direction on where the collections are headed.

I’ve always designed and worked sustainably with my gardens. My parents were both gardeners and so was my grandmother. Gardening was everywhere for me growing up.
Don’t Miss the 2014 FONA Garden Fair and Plant Sale!

This year’s Garden Fair and Plant Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the National Arboretum, promises to be the best yet. The range and novelty of the annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees being offered in the FONA tent is unparalleled. Add to this the variety of other vendors who come with their specialties in plants, containers, and other offerings, and it will truly be an event you will not want to miss.

As usual, the Fair is for FONA members only from 10 am to 1 pm on Friday, April 25, and is then open to the public until 4 pm and all day Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm. If you are not a FONA member, you can easily join by visiting fona.org which will allow you first choice of these dazzling options for your garden. You may also join at the Fair.

This year’s theme for the FONA offerings is “The Greatest of the Latest and the Best of the Rest.” Your Garden Fair Committee has been busy for months garnering the very finest plants and spending most of the first week of January at MANTS, the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show, an enormous gathering in Baltimore. There they met with growers, saw the latest offerings, arranged orders, solicited donations of display plants and, in a few cases, actually purchased full displays of plants for care and storage at the Arboretum in anticipation of the Garden Fair. Additional orders were developed and placed with nurseries during the rest of winter to ensure that the most special and desirable plants were reserved for us.

The results will impress you with their variety and singularity. Each section of the FONA offerings will provide lots of new cultivars as well as the best and most reliable stock of those you already know. Just be there at the opening bell to be sure to have the best selection.

We ❤ Volunteers and the Garden Fair needs lots of them!

We need help the week before the Fair, Monday through Thursday, April 21–24, receiving, unloading, and setting up in preparation for the sale. Come and join us. What could be finer than spending the week with lovely plants and good people?

For information, contact Denis O’Toole at dotoole@fona.org or 202.236.3969.
ANNUALS

Annuals used to be seen as a rather predictable set of plants that bring color throughout the growing season and expire with the first frost. But in recent years, the excitement level has risen. First, more and more colorful and unusual tropical plants are being grown in greenhouses and being offered for sale as annuals; many of them can be taken inside and held over the winter in a bright sunny spot. Second, there is a range of cool weather annuals that used to be sold only in northern latitudes but that have now been bred for warmer climes. They provide gorgeous instant color to the spring garden and, after a period of summer rest, often return with more color well into the fall. The Garden Fair will offer a very special collection representing each of these new trends in annuals, as well as a group of traditional types selected for colors and forms you may not find elsewhere.

Among the plants from tropical sources, FONA will have African mallow (Anisodontea capensis), which was very popular at last year’s Fair. And new this year are kangaroo paws (Anigozanthos hybrids) in four colors, the South African foxglove (Ceratotheca triloba), and our favorite, the variegated Ganges primrose (Asystasia gangetica). We will also have four varieties of banana plants (Musa cultivars), all low-growing so they don’t top your house.

For those who can’t wait for a display of spectacular color this spring, we have expanded the offerings of cool season annuals. Assuming all the orders come through (and it was a long hard winter), there will be seven colors of Diascia, seven of toadflax (Linaria), and fourteen of Nemesia. These should be in full bloom and ready to go into your garden before May Day. And after a few years of seeing the results from the various species that are called African daisies, we have settled on Osteospermum as the one with the best chance of surviving summer hereabouts and making a new display come fall. We have ordered fifteen unusual colors, including bicolors and blossom centers of blue and other contrasting hues.

The more traditional annuals will also offer a lot of temptation. New this year is Asclepias curassavica, the butterfly weed that draws the monarch butterflies. The usual wide selection of coleus will be expanded by eleven new patterns from the Under the
Vendors

NURSERIES

Hickory Hill Heath & Heather—Oxford, PA
Heaths, heathers, and companion plants with a wide variety of color and foliage

Pine Knot Farms—Hillsborough, NC
Hellebores and plants for shady gardens

Nature by Design—Alexandria, VA
Native trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, vines, plants for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife

Radical Roots Farm—Keezletown, VA
Heirloom fruit and vegetable plants

Spring Thyme Nursery—Dillsburg, PA
Wide array of annuals and premium hanging baskets

White’s Nursery—Germantown, MD
Rhododendrons and a wide variety of evergreen and deciduous azaleas

PLANT SOCIETIES & NONPROFITS

Casey Trees—Washington, DC
Nonprofit organization committed to restoring and protecting DC’s trees through education, planting, advocacy, and research.

District Department of Environment—Washington, DC
The RiverSmart Homes program offers incentives to homeowners interested in reducing stormwater pollution on their property

Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens—Washington, DC
Aquatic plants and expert advice

Holly Society of America, Chesapeake Chapter—Towson, MD
Cultivars of evergreen and deciduous hollies

Melwood Horticultural Training Center—Upper Marlboro, MD
“Gardens to go”—lovely assortment of annuals ready to be planted in your garden or in containers

Potomac Unit of the Herb Society of America—Springfield, VA
Large selection of herbs including outstanding cultivars of basil, lavender products, potpourri, and herb wreaths

Potomac Hosta Club, Inc.—Fairfax, VA
Wide variety of the genus Hosta

NONPLANT VENDORS

Cherry Grove Farm—Lawrenceville, NJ
Fresh raw-milk cheeses handcrafted from grass-fed dairy cows raised in organic-certified pastures

Chesapeake Compost Works—Baltimore, MD
High-quality compost and compost-based products for the discerning gardener and farmer

FONABOOKS—Whatever your gardening interest, chances are that the FONA book stall will have something for you . . . and interesting sundries, too.

Mayan Dream Imports—Bridgeport, CT
Hand-painted glazed pottery and rustic clay pieces from Mexico

Washington Gardener Magazine—Tacoma Park, MD
A garden magazine published specifically for the Washington, DC, metro area, zone 6-7; meet the publisher Kathy Jentz

Contributors

FONA salutes the businesses and foundations that support the Garden Fair. Their donations are vital to the success of the sale. The following donations have been received as of March 1, 2014.

INDIVIDUALS AND FOUNDATIONS

Robert A. Bartlett, Bartlett Tree Experts
Katherine Stark Bull and Quarryhill Botanical Garden, Glen Ellen, CA
Richard Lewandowski and Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, Orange, TX
Paul Meyer and Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, PA
PepsiCo, Inc., Raleigh, NC
J.C. Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh, NC
J. Frank Schmidt Family Charitable Foundation, Boring, OR

RETAIL NURSERIES

Camellia Forest, Chapel Hill, NC
Merrifield Garden Center, Merrifield, VA
RareFind Nursery, Jackson, NJ
Susanna Farm Nursery, Boyds, MD
Tiny Treasures Nursery, Salem, OR

WHOLESALE NURSERIES

Bizon Nursery, Wilsonville, OR
Blue Sterling Nursery, Bridgeton, NJ
Commercial Nursery Company, Inc. Decherd, TN
Conard-Pyle Company, West Grove, PA
Hawksridge Farms, Hickory, NC
Klyn Nurseries, Perry, OH
Manor View Farms, Monkton, MD
Monrovia Nursery, Azusa, CA
North Creek Nurseries, Landenberg, PA
Piedmont Carolina Nursery, Colfax, NC
Pleasant Run Nursery, Allentown, NJ
Sampson Nursery, Godwin, NC
Saunders Brothers Nursery, Pinet River, VA
TSW Nursery Sales, Inc. Wilsonville, OR

Special thanks to FleishmanHillard for providing many hours of public relations assistance in promoting the Garden Fair.
Sea series, with names like 'King Crab’, 'Langostino’, 'Molten Coral’, and 'Lime Shrimp’. There will be seventeen unusual colors and forms of *Calibrachoa*, including nine doubles, up from just two last year. *Lantana* offerings will expand to seventeen, as well, and there will be up to ten colors of ‘Profusion’ zinnia, including new doubles.

Finally, we will welcome you with a fine selection of hanging baskets filled with annuals.

**PERENNIALS**

This year, as always, we will be offering a selection of new and exciting perennials as well as proven performers. We will have a great selection of grasses to complement the new Grass Roots exhibit at the Arboretum. Some of the grasses are at their best later in the season, but we will have experts on hand to encourage you to try some wonderful varieties, even if they are still struggling to emerge and look their best.

We will have a fantastic selection of ferns as well. They do wonderfully in our area and are mostly deer proof. Speaking of the little four-hoofed darlings, we have a wonderful selection of deer-resistant perennials. We are also featuring many shade-loving plants and a plentiful variety of natives.

Many of our plants will be in full bloom, but don’t neglect the perennials for summer and fall bloom. We will have colorful signs and expert advisors to point out later-blooming plants to brighten up your summer or fall garden. Foliage plants can also be a great addition to your perennial border or woodland garden. There will be something for everyone. As always, the members-only hours are the best time to find that perfect plant before someone else grabs it.

Happy Hunting.
We will be offering the largest selection of shrubs ever with so many temptations that it's difficult to choose examples. Likely fast movers will be *Polygala chamaebuxus* 'Rho-doptera', a prostrate shrublet with boxwood-like foliage and red and yellow blossoms in spring; *Edgeworthia chrysantha* 'Winter Gold', a daphne-related shrub that welcomes early spring with showstopping yellow and white fragrant blossoms; *Aucuba japonica* 'Picturata', a hard-to-find Japanese laurel selection that will brighten a shady space with green leaves sporting a large golden blotch surrounded by small yellow speckles; and *Salix* x boydii, a small and gnarled deciduous shrub with gray-green leaves, ideal for rock gardens.

Among the hydrangeas to be offered, we are bringing back several that have vanished very quickly at prior FONA sales, such as *Twist* and *Shout*®, a repeat blooming lacecap developed by Michael Dirr, and the compact and more diminutive oakleaf 'Ruby Slippers', a USNA introduction that thrives in sun, is accented with copious white-turning-pink blossoms, and has a dividend of mahogany-colored foliage in fall.

For the backbone of most gardens, do not miss the even more expanded variety of conifers than last year. They will include *Abies pinsapo* 'Hortsmann', a dwarf, globose plant with spikes of blue-gray needles that give it a cactus-like appearance and added flare in spring with red pollen cones; *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Gemstone', a statuesque, small, upright plant throwing occasional side branches; and *Pinus contorta* 'Taylor's Sunburst', a medium size pine with brilliant gold new growth in spring followed by red pollen cones. We will also be offering many of the Conifers of the Year selected by the American Conifer Society.
Chamaecyparis obtusa ‘Gemstone’ photo courtesy of Randall C. Smith/Iseli Nursery; Opposite page clockwise from top left: Abies pinsapo ‘Horstmann’ photo courtesy of Iseli; Pinus contorta ‘Taylor’s Sunburst’ photo courtesy of Iseli; and Hydrangea ‘Ruby Slippers’ photo courtesy of USNA.
Myriad new, unusual, or substantially improved tree cultivars have hit the market in recent years. The Garden Fair will feature several of these highly sought-after introductions. *Cornus florida* 'Appalachian Spring' is a remarkably disease-resistant clone evaluated by the University of Tennessee as being nearly immune to the ravages of dogwood anthracnose. It was derived from the lone survivor of a devastating anthracnose outbreak in Catoctin Mountain Park in the 1980s.

For smaller gardens, *Cornus florida* Red Pygmy™ 'Rutnut' is a definite winner. This dwarfish selection comes from the breeding work of Dr. Elwin Orton at Rutgers and features the stunning dark pink flower bracts of the best “red” dogwoods on a much smaller framework. It will mature at only 6–8 feet tall after several years and would easily fit into any mixed border or even a large container.

Another possibility for those with limited space is a dwarf columnar European hornbeam known as *Carpinus betulus* 'Monument'. Possibly the same plant as ‘Columnaris Nana’, this dense, slow-growing clone offers the look of *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata' but on a plant reaching only 10–12 feet tall by 4–6 feet wide at maturity. Also available will be the cute, congested *Ginkgo biloba* ‘Troll’. A witch’s broom originally discovered growing on a much larger specimen, ‘Troll’ features deep jade green foliage and an annual growth rate of only 3–4 inches. Specimens to be available at the Garden Fair have

Clockwise from above left: *Carpinus caroliniana* ‘American Hornbeam’ photo courtesy wiki commons; *Lagerstroemia ‘Crape Myrtle’* Tonto Bark photo courtesy Hawksridge Farms; *Cornus florida* ‘Appalachian spring’ photo courtesy Hawksridge Farms; *Chionanthus Virginicus* photo courtesy Hawksridge Farms and *Diospyros virginiana* ‘Persimmon’ photo courtesy Wiki commons. Opposite page: *Lagerstroemia*, ‘Cherry Dazzle’, photo courtesy of Pender Nursery.
been top grafted onto a small standard to raise the curiously contorted habit of ‘Troll’ above the surrounding greenery.

Alongside these rarer offerings will be an excellent selection of the fantastic clan of crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia* hybrids) introduced by the USNA over the last few decades. These will include tried-and-true landscape standouts like ‘Arapaho’, ‘Catawba’, ‘Natchez’, and ‘Tonto’. Plan ahead for a glorious display of late summer color!

Finally, the native plant craze is in full swing, so don’t miss out on some of our finest native trees like pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), and *Ilex opaca* ‘Satyr Hill’—arguably one of the finest American hollies available.

* * *

Your Garden Fair Committee hope that these glimpses of this year’s sale will make you want to surrender to the temptations of the offerings of FONA and the other vendors. A list of all plants to be offered by FONA at the Garden Fair will be posted online at [www.fona.org](http://www.fona.org) in April. Remember to be here early on Friday to get the best selection. And bring your friends and sign them up as members on the spot.

LINDA FINDLAY, SPINNER FINDLAY, BILL MATUSZESKI, BARBARA SHEA and JASON VEIL contributed to this article.
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 or fona.org

EXHIBIT: THE ART OF JAPANESE FLOWER ARRANGING
April 4 – April 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Fri and Mon only)

TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP
April 5, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Rain date, April 12)
Watch professional climbers compete for prizes in five different events. Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arborists. Free.

PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING
April 8, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.
Ginkgo: The Tree That Time Forgot by renowned botanist and author Sir Peter Crane. Free, but registration is required.

FONA’S 2014 GARDEN FAIR & PLANT SALE
Friday, April 25 – Free and open to the public from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Members Only 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 26 – Free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

POTOMAC BONSAI FESTIVAL
May 2, 3, and 4, 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Festival includes free demonstrations, special exhibitions, vendors, workshops, and family activities. Free.

What Are You Doing the Evening of Tuesday, June 17?

Please mark your calendar for the evening of Tuesday, June 17, for the Great Arboretum Cookout sponsored by the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA). Join fellow Arboretum supporters under a festive tent in full view of the Arboretum’s spectacular Capitol Columns as we honor the great state of Missouri. Members of the Missouri Congressional delegation will be our honored guests, along with senior Administration officials. The delicious dinner will feature an outstanding menu made from favorite Show-Me State recipes.

This annual event raises funds to enhance and protect the Arboretum by enabling FONA to make direct contributions to the Arboretum’s public education and research programs, the Heritage Collections, and environmental projects on the grounds.

The U.S. National Arboretum needs your support now more than ever. If you are a regular visitor, this is an opportunity to view it lit up for a spectacular evening. If you haven’t been back for a while, or have someone special you would like to impress with a unique Washington experience in an unusual setting, please join us.

For further information and registration materials, please contact Hannah Urrey at hurrey@fona.org or 202.544.8733.