MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, April 29: Free & open to the public 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 30: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MEMBERS ONLY
Friday, April 29:
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

Spring brings the flowering of possibilities and new growth, and we find both in the Friends of the National Arboretum. FONA has long supported the National Arboretum through improvement projects, special needs initiatives, and the outreach and education programs of the Washington Youth Garden. In 2016, we will also be providing direct financial support for Arboretum operations for the first time, with funding for internships included in our budget. Arboretum staff has shrunk by more than 35% over the last several years, dropping from 110 to 70 employees, because of federal budget constraints. Much of the loss of personnel and expertise has occurred in the area of collections care. Interns fill part of the gap by helping to maintain the collections throughout the summer growing season. But for FONA’s contribution to achieve optimum impact, we must raise an additional $60,000 to cover stipends for a sufficient number of interns.

In 2015, FONA committed to staffing the visitors desk in the Administration Building as a way of supporting the Arboretum’s reopening of its gates a full seven days a week. In 2016, we are expanding our coverage of the visitors desk from two to three days a week. A Volunteer and Visitor Services Manager position was created, and Jillian Aldebron was hired for this position. Eventually, FONA volunteers supervised by staff will assume full responsibility for the visitor services counter seven days a week. This commitment, too, requires raising additional operating funds.

How will we do this? First and foremost, we count on the generosity of individuals like you who are reading Arbor Friends, through annual giving and membership. Second, we are seeking increased donations from businesses whose products and services are closely associated with the work of the Arboretum and with agriculture. As an incentive, we are offering additional benefits for membership and annual giving that reflect our appreciation of your contributions to the Arboretum’s future.

Commitment. Leadership. Growth. So much is happening, and there is so much to accomplish. But we can succeed only with your help.

I hope to see you at the Garden Fair April 29-30, at our Annual Dinner June 14, which this year celebrates the National Arboretum’s contributions to agriculture, and at our members’ evenings this summer!

Warm regards,

Thomas M. Costello, Executive Director
Friends of the National Arboretum
tcostello@fona.org
202.544.8733
It’s all about the plants...

EIGHTY-NINE YEARS AGO, on the date that I’m composing this letter—March 4—President Coolidge signed the National Arboretum Bill, authorizing the purchasing of nearly 400 acres of land encompassing Mount Hamilton and Hickey Hill in Washington, DC, to “establish and maintain a national arboretum for purposes of research and education concerning tree and plant life.”

This simple statement has guided the National Arboretum through its first nine decades of development and serves as a reminder that plants are our raison d’être. This seems like common sense, but in this era of fiduciary constraints, public gardens risk losing their authenticity by having to focus on their bottom line and not their mission, which results in significant mission creep and loss of identity. The partnership between FONA and the National Arboretum allows us to balance these realities and create synergistic programming for our visitors that relays the value and necessity of plants in their daily lives. Our plants are our greatest strength, forming the collections that enable our researchers to make discoveries that benefit the American nursery industry and also inspire our visitors to be better gardeners, designers, and environmental stewards. In fact, the reason we exist at all is because of a joint effort to establish a National Arboretum led by the gentlemen of the American nursery industry, the ladies of The Garden Club of America, and the scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Today, these groups are still championing the mission of the National Arboretum as a flagship institution for America’s original green industry—the environmental horticulture industry representing all aspects of nursery, greenhouse, and floral production; turf production, maintenance, and related products; landscape design, construction, and maintenance; and the wholesale and retail garden centers that make all of this available. Recent economic studies on the impacts of the green industry, combined with the latest USDA Census of Horticultural Specialties, reveal a robust industry based on cultivated landscape plants that has evolved and recovered from the recent recession. Collectively, the green industry contributes nearly $200 billion to the U.S. economy, with $120 billion added to the gross domestic product in 2013. Production of nursery, greenhouse, and floral crops accounts for $20 billion of the total and includes significant increases in sales and diversity of products since the last census. And the National Arboretum is a direct contributor to this diversification, serving as a pipeline of new plants, new plant genetics, and new plant science that contributes to the success of this important segment of American agriculture. Our 16,000-plus accessioned plants are an invaluable genetic and cultural resource that has contributed to diversifying, sustaining, and enhancing American landscapes and gardens. As you peruse the plants at this year’s Garden Fair or your local garden center, reflect on the diversity of plants available in the American nursery industry and the impact of your National Arboretum.

Richard T. Olsen, Director
The U.S. National Arboretum
Calling all gardeners! Do you love your garden? Need a living Arbor Day gift for someone special? Want nectar-producing plants to support the birds, bees, and butterflies? Seeking a unique and perfect specimen that will make your garden friends sit up and take notice? Searching for something that is resistant to deer? Looking for a hardy, attractive groundcover for that pesky bare spot under the big shade tree? Longing for some knock-out container plants for your window boxes? How about some lovely long-blooming perennial or annual beauties?

Come to the 2016 FONA Garden Fair and Plant Sale on April 29 and 30 at the National Arboretum. You will find all of these and much more at Washington’s premier curated plant shopping opportunity for traditional favorites and rare plants from nurseries across the country. Whether you are an experienced gardener, a novice, or somewhere in between, you will find a wealth of interesting plants at a wide variety of price points to enhance your garden, however large or small. The Collector’s Corner has been expanded to include many more rare and unusual plants suitable for our Washington climate. Plus, you can get advice from Arboretum curators and horticulturists with specific expertise on what plants will thrive under your own growing conditions. Other great products such as poison ivy treatments and Jack’s Classic Fertilizer will be available. A full list of this year’s plant offerings is available on our website at fona.org.

And after you finish shopping, take time to enjoy the extraordinary beauty of the National Arboretum in all of its spring finery. As always, proceeds from all sales at the Garden Fair are used by FONA to support the Arboretum. Come enjoy the day and help FONA! 🌿

Nancy Bryson is a FONA board member and is a co-chair with Kevin McIntosh for this year’s Garden Fair.
This year the Collector’s Corner will be enlarged to feature even more of the rare and unusual plants the Garden Fair has to offer. We have combed through catalogues, horticultural magazines, and conventions for plants that are trending but may not be available for purchase on the East Coast. Because of their rarity, many plants in the Collector’s Corner sell out within the first few hours of the sale on Friday morning, so be sure to get there early!

This year we will be featuring several evergreen shrubs and small trees that will give your yard a bold tropical look. All of them are rated cold hardy to zone 7 (0°F) and will grow to heights and widths of approximately 6 feet when mature (unless otherwise indicated). Introduced to American horticulture by Dan Hinkley, Schefflera taiwaniana ‘Yuan Shan’ is from the high mountain areas of Taiwan and has been reported to be somewhat hardier than S. delavayii, which has been available in the plant trade for several years. ‘Yuan Shan’ prefers midday shade and extra water during the hottest parts of summer. We will be offering two other Schefflera relatives that have similar cultural requirements: Metapanax davidii from China and Pseudopanax laetus from New Zealand.

This year we will have several different cultivars of Fuchsia, all hardy to zone 7, including two Fuchsia magellanica cultivars, ‘Hawkshead’ (white flowers) and ‘Windcliff Flurry’ (red and purple flowers), as well as F. magellanica ‘Aurea’ (golden yellow foliage and red/purple flowers, featured on the cover). These are shrubs that should grow 3 to 4 feet tall and wide, and they will do best in shaded locations with adequate moisture. The Collector’s Corner will also feature four Phylgelius ×rectus cultivars with white, pink, and red blooms. These are perennials from South Africa, 2 to 3 feet tall, that are sometimes called Cape fuchsia because they display tubular flowers.

I must mention the hardy Cypripedium ladyslipper orchids we will have for sale. Last year, we had only a few of these plants and they sold out almost immediately. This year, we have obtained 4 plants of 4 different hybrids and 1 species, so our supply is much better (20 plants). All are spectacular and will flourish if you can provide shade and well-drained organic soil. We will be offering the hybrids ‘MPK’, ‘Philipp’, ‘Wilson’, and ‘Tilman’ along with the species cultivar C. reginae ‘Alba’.

These are but a few of the plants that will be featured in the Collector’s Corner this year. Please stop by and see our selection and ask us questions about these rare beauties. You’re sure to go home with something unique and wonderful!

KEVIN MCINTOSH and Nancy Bryson are co-chairs for the 2016 Garden Fair. Kevin is a FONA board member, grows many of the plants featured in the Collector’s Corner, and will be happy to give gardening advice to those who are interested in growing unusual plants.

Disclaimer: All of the plants mentioned in this article have been ordered and were described as being available from our suppliers. However, because of factors beyond our control, plant crops can fail or otherwise not be delivered, and we may not be able to offer all of the plants described here.
We have spent hours at the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) drooling over the new offerings in perennials and talking to growers. We have combed the catalogues for the newest, the tried-and-true, the spectacular natives, and the deer resistant. As always, we cannot say for sure what will be ready in time for the Garden Fair plant sale. I can promise you this: there will be many spectacular blooming specimens and others that will promise a show later in the year. You will be able to find the perfect plant for that shady nook or that sunny patch. There will be *Aquilegia* such as ‘Swan Blue and White’ in bloom and wonderfully architectural *Baptisia* such as ‘Grape Taffy’PPAF (Plant Patent Applied For). Look for the hard-working *Aristolochia* ‘Chocolate Shogun’ for that wet spot. There will be a plethora of *Dianthus* and *Echinacea* as well as hellebores and *Heuchera*. Look for *Heuchera sanguinea* ‘Snow Angel’ and *Monarda* ‘Leading Lady Lilac’PPAF. Please take home a few *Asclepias syriaca* to provide a food source for the monarch butterflies. Whatever your tastes or needs, you will find the perfect perennial at the Garden Fair. The signs will give you lots of information, and our plant experts will help you make the perfect choice. Happy shopping!

BARBARA SHEA is Chairman of the Friends of the National Arboretum and an avid gardener.
Professional photographers emphasize the importance of light in good photography. The same can be said for good gardening. Knowing the amount of light your garden receives will help you match the right plant with the right place. Before coming to the FONA Garden Fair, evaluate the light in your garden. If you are planning to plant a tree, add a shrub, or develop an entirely new space, record the time the sun reaches that area and note when the sunlight ends. Is it full strength? or is it dappled?

If you have 4–6 hours of full sun or more, consider it a sunny area and look for plants that will thrive in that environment, such as flowering apricots, *Prunus mume* ‘Dawn’ and *P. mume* ‘Kobia’. The first has pink double flowers whereas ‘Kobia’ is on the reddish pink end of the spectrum. Another hardy tree being offered for full sun is *Cornus angustata* ‘Empress of China’, which has a graceful yet vigorous habit with loads of white flowers. The tough, disease-resistant 6- to 7-foot conifer *Cryptomeria* ‘Black Dragon’ will fit nicely into city gardens. Check out *Hypericum* ‘Red Star’ if you are looking for shrubs that do well in a sunny spot. Covered with yellow flowers in spring and clusters of red berries in the fall, it is easy to grow and great for floral arrangements. Other sun-loving shrubs being offered are *Viburnum plicatum tomentosum* ‘Summer Snowflake’ with pure white blooms that start in June and don’t know when to quit; *Daphne* ‘Moonlight Sonata’, an improved version of ‘Briggs Moonlight’ with greater contrast in variegation and more vigor; and *Cotinus coggygria* ‘Golden Spirit’ with foliage that emerges lime green and matures to brilliant gold and then coral orange in the fall. Consider *Lonicera* ‘Peaches and Cream’ for a care-free honeysuckle vine with exceptional fragrance that requires only mild support to climb a fence, lamp post, or trellis.

If your garden is more on the shady side, *Camellia sasanqua* ‘Kanjiro’ (pink and slightly fragrant) and ‘Setsugekka’ (white and semi-weeping in habit) will provide fall blooms with glossy, dark green foliage. *Mahonia* ‘Winter Sun’ is a statuesque evergreen shrub that can be a focal point in a shady area. Drought tolerant and deer resistant, it develops sprays of fragrant yellow flowers in early winter. *Sarcococca confusa* is a 3- to 4-foot handsome shrub that has white sweet vanilla flowers in late winter/early spring with glossy evergreen foliage. Protect it from hot afternoon sun. Little pruning is needed other than the occasional removal of dead or broken branches in the spring. A stunning vine for the shade is *Schizophragma hydrangeoides* ‘Moonlight’. It has silver-green leaves with dark veining and midsummer creamy flowers with a fragrance like apples and lilies mixed.

A number of woody trees and shrubs will thrive with a mixture of sun and shade. The Japanese maple, *Acer palmatum* ‘Bihou’ will be the highlight of your winter garden with its coral yellow bark. If you are looking for a conifer that likes a dappled, partly sunny spot, our sale will have many *Chamaecyparis* to pick from. *Microbiota decussata* ‘Celtic Pride’ is another lower-growing conifer that can handle some shade. *Edgeworthia chrysantha* is a tropical-looking, hardy shrub that grows quickly and provides winter interest with its dangling clusters of buds waiting for a warm spring day to open. ‘Troja Black’ is a new drought-tolerant cultivar of *Diervilla rivularis* that has purplish-tinted new growth on its arching branches. Highly deer resistant, *Leucothoe fontanesiana* ‘Rainbow’ loves part shade. Its red, white, medium green, and cream foliage is exceptional.

Garden experts in the woody section of our plant sale will be on hand to help you find the perfect tree or shrub for your garden. Just remember, the first question they will ask is, How much sun do you have?  

**JIM HUGHES**, a self-proclaimed plant addict, is a former FONA board member, past curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, and current treasurer of the National Bonsai Foundation.
As you enter the Fair, you will first encounter the most varied and unusual annuals ever brought to the sale. Last year’s favorites have returned in larger numbers and more colors. New cultivars have been added, some you will not have seen before—have you ever heard of a Torelus™?

Last year, one thing we ran out of early was kangaroo paws—Anigozanthos. The kids loved them and they were gone in a wink. This year, they are back in larger numbers and five colors: red, yellow, orange, burgundy, and pink. We have also expanded our rex begonia offering to ten types with names such as ‘Denver Lace’, ‘Escargot’, ‘Marmalade’, ‘River Nile’, and ‘Chicago Fire’. Digiplexis®, the fabulous cross of foxglove and a Canary Island cousin that we were the first to offer last year, is back in three colors mixing yellow, orange, and pink in different ways. Our salvia offerings in annuals will include ten tall types in purples, blues, and oranges, and the red-golden pineapple sage. And our “Underwear” collection of annual ground covers has been expanded after selling out the first day last year. We now offer eight types of six-packs, some evergreen and the rest a mix of colors and textures.

There will still be plenty of bargains. We aim to have a thousand pots for sale at $3 each—from Antirrhinum (snapdragons) to zinnias. And we are expanding our popular $5 six-packs (83 cents per plant) to include asters, browallia, cosmos, lobelia, Mimulus (monkey flower), phlox, and wallflower.

Among the many exciting additions to the FONA offerings is a new section of hanging plants. The annuals offered there will include arctotis, night-blooming jasmine, Episcia, lemon vine, and Russelia equisetiformis. We have also added five types of morning glories and moonflower for those looking for annual climbers. Ornamental peppers will be another addition; we have ordered seven kinds with leaves and peppers of all colors, including purples and blacks. New this year will be the Torelus™ mentioned above; it is a recently developed cross of Torenia and Mimulus.

For years we have tried to order the tall and fragrant Nicotiana alata—flowering tobacco—that folks love to have at the back of the border, but they are never ready to market in time because they are tall and are late bloomers. This year, by special arrangement with Quality Greenhouses in Pennsylvania, we will be offering five types in white, pink, red, and green, not necessarily in bloom for the Garden Fair, but well along enough to put in your garden.

Finally, we will be featuring, for the first time this year, combos of three different annuals in bloom ready to be slipped into hanging baskets for a fraction of the cost of buying the baskets already put together. Add a couple of buys from the hanging plant display and you’re in business. Then take your savings to Collector’s Corner or the special display of pollinator plants and pick out something really special!

BILL MATUSZESKI is a longtime board member and a member of the Garden Fair Committee. He has been poring over catalogs for months and is in charge of ordering annuals. Look for him in the Annuals and Tropics section of FONA’s tent at the Garden Fair.
FONA salutes the businesses and foundations that support the Garden Fair. Their donations are vital to our success.

Donations have been received as of March 2, 2016.

Vendors

PLANT SOCIETIES AND NONPROFITS

Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington, DC
Aquatic plants and expert advice...Blue Flag iris, Cardinal Flower, Verbena hastata, Sarracenia Pitcher Plants, and much more!

Melwood Horticultural Training Center, Upper Marlboro, MD
A wide variety of indoor and outdoor plants...jade, begonias, African violets, scented geraniums, and lots more!

Potomac Unit, Herb Society of America
Over 100 varieties of herbs, native plants, and wildflowers as well as handmade tussie mussies and expert advice from members of the Potomac Unit.

The Potomac Rose Society, Rockville, MD
Offers 40 varieties of roses, including award-winning classics and varieties seldom seen commercially.

Potomac Valley Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society, Greater DC Area
The Chapter will be selling rock gardens in troughs. Troughs are ideal for balconies and space-limited back yards, and they make lovely displays on your outdoor table.

The Washington Youth Garden
Bring your children to their booth to paint pots and plant French sorrel, an interesting culinary herb with a tangy lemon flavor that children love.

NON-PLANT VENDORS

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

District Department of the Environment, Washington, DC
RiverSmart Homes program offers incentives to homeowners who want to reduce stormwater runoff from their property. Visit this booth and learn about all the incentives available to you.

FONABOOKS and Sundries
Whatever your gardening interests, chances are the FONA book stall will have something for you…and interesting sundries, too.

NEW! The National Arboretum
Conifers and various other plants at the Garden Fair this year! You will find them in the woodies section of the FONA Plant Tent. Come by and take home a U.S. National Arboretum plant!

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

W.S. Jenks & Son, Washington, DC
Our new neighborhood gardening center will be selling gardening tools, organic potting soil, and other useful home and garden items.

Enjoy lunch and ice cream at our café. Rocklands Barbeque will serve coffee and lunch on Friday; DC Taco will join us on Saturday.

NURSERIES

Nature by Design, Alexandria, VA
Native trees, shrubs, perennials, and vines as well as plants for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Pine Knot Farms, Clarksville, VA
Dick Tyler and Judith Knott Tyler have been working on hellebore breeding since the early 1990s and will be bringing an extraordinary variety of them to the Fair.

Radical Roots Farm, Keezletown, VA
Specializes in certified organic, locally grown garden starts...vegetable transplants and fruiting shrubs.

Spring Thyme Nursery, Dillsburg, PA
A beautiful array of annuals and hanging baskets.

White’s Nursery, Germantown, MD
Large collection of evergreen azalea varieties such as Glenn Dale, Bowie Mill, Satsuki, and Robin Hill along with a wide selection of deciduous and native azaleas and rhododendrons.

INDIVIDUALS AND FOUNDATIONS

Robert Bartlett, Bartlett Tree Experts, Stamford, CT
J. Landon Reeve, Chapel Valley Landscape Company, Woodbine, MD
J. Frank Schmidt Family Charitable Foundation, Boring, OR

RETAIL NURSERIES

Marjac Nursery, Monroeville, NJ

SPECIAL THANKS to FleishmanHillard for providing many hours of public relations assistance in promoting the Garden Fair.
On the Move With FONABOOKS—
At the Garden Fair and Beyond

“New leaf, new life, the time of frost is o’re.”

THE TIME OF FROST IS O’RE INDEED
and we celebrate! FONABOOKS is mobile—showing up in new places and times as well as at the Garden Fair. First—at the Fair! This year it has a new location just outside the FONA tent and near the FONA checkout! Easier than ever to find!

Once there, linger over the books and garden sundries, our ever popular white elephant table curated by Sherry Houghton. Enjoy madrigals by Heritage Voices of the Washington Revels and and join in as they dance around the Maypole on Saturday!

Thanks to our generous donors, the shelves have the usual excellent selection of hard-to-find books on every aspect of gardening—the environment, landscape and garden design, garden history, horticulture, and practical gardening—along with flower arranging and botanical art. Yes, you’ll find deservedly popular books—a Dirr and some Henry Mitchell. These will sell quickly but many many others with seasoned advice or glorious-to-look-illustrations or just plain good reading await your pleasure.

Perhaps you are on the move, too. Ready to travel? Need a guide? Check out our stock! Books on gardens from Australia to China to England and right here at home will inspire and delight. Guidebooks too! Take one home and dream about your next trip!

While the broadest selection of books can be found at the Garden Fair, FONABOOKS travels too! Where? To lectures at Arboretum classes and the March Lahr Symposium. Book donors often have special interests reflected in their collections. We try to get the books to those who’d be most interested.

Remember—you are welcome year round at the FONA office where books are shelved and sold between outside engagements. Are you looking for something special? Or would you like to donate books or garden sundries? Call Mary Gene Myer— inquire!*

MARY GENE MYER, MLA, is a former FONA board member and is the coordinator for FONABOOKS—Used and Collectable—that are sold to benefit Arboretum programs.

“New leaf, new life, the time of frost is o’re.” *The leading quote is taken from the front cover of the classic How to Know the Wild Flowers by Mrs. William Starr Dana. A copy is available for sale.
Washington Youth Garden’s 45th Anniversary

Ulises Zatarain and Morri Sands

This year, as the Washington Youth Garden (WYG) turns 45 years old, we will be celebrating many years of growing gardens and supporting healthy families in DC, starting with the new Arbor Day Fest!

For our first celebration in 2016, WYG is proud to host the Arbor Day Fest on April 29, in partnership with the U.S. National Arboretum, the Arbor Day Foundation, and a multitude of local organizations and institutions. This all-day event to mark National Arbor Day will feature panels and workshops on environmental issues followed by an evening celebration at the National Herb Garden featuring local food and live entertainment.

To conclude the day, join us for an evening reception in the Herb Garden and Meadow (5:30–8:30 p.m.) where you can hear local musicians and performances curated by Washington Performing Arts and Art Soiree, take advantage of a spring evening among the blossoms, and enjoy food, beverages, and good company!

Please visit washingtonyouthgarden.org/arbordayfest/ to purchase tickets and see the complete schedule.

We are grateful to all the organizations and institutions for their willingness to participate in the Arbor Day Fest. This truly is a testament to the rich history and legacy of the Washington Youth Garden and exemplifies our core values of collaboration and collective impact.

ULISES ZATARAIN & MORRI SANDS at the Washington Youth Garden are busy at work organizing the first Arbor Day Fest!
The eagle pair at home, as seen from Eagle Cam B. Inset: An infrared light filter provides clear images of the eagles and their two eggs from Eagle Cam A at night. Photos © American Eagle Foundation. 2016. Courtesy of Susan Greeley.
The Arboretum’s Bald Eagles

The Bald Eagle pair returned to the Arboretum, and the new “Eagle Cam” cameras allow scientists and the public a window into life at the nest.

Claire Broderick

THE EAGLES ARE BACK
The bald eagle pair whose arrival garnered so much attention last year have returned to their nest in a tulip poplar tree on Mt. Hamilton. After adding to last year’s nest, the female laid eggs on February 10 and 14. With an average 35-day incubation, the two eggs are expected to hatch in mid-March. You can watch the nest from anywhere in the world.

STREAMING EAGLE CAM
Last year the Arboretum developed an agreement with the American Eagle Foundation (AEF) to set up cameras for the nest. This installation was a risk because there was only a 50% chance that a first-time bonded pair would return to their first nest, where they successfully raised one eaglet last summer. Yet the gamble paid off. The eagles have returned, and two silent spy-like cameras record their nest life.

While the eagles were gone in August, several groups worked together installing equipment for a live streaming video feed. AEF provided two cameras, one above the nest and one at the side for a profile view, with an infrared light filter for filming at night. To power the cameras, the Arboretum turned to its long-term partnership with Alfred State SUNY College of Technology, which has worked on various alternative energy projects around the Arboretum grounds. Associate Professor Jeffrey Stevens and his students designed, built, and transported a trailer-based solar array to provide power to the cameras.

Now everyone can enjoy access to the 24/7 live streaming video at AEF’s website: www.eagles.org/dceagles. AEF staff also facilitate a chat room on Wednesdays 10–12 a.m., Friday 9–11 p.m., and Saturdays 2–4 p.m. Since the unveiling of the Webcam in February, the online audience has gone global. Hundreds of viewers at any given time check in on the pair dubbed “Mr. President” and “The First Lady.”

EAGLE CONSERVATION
Bald Eagles were officially removed from the Endangered Species List in 2007, but they are still legally protected by laws which prohibit “killing, selling, or otherwise disturbing eagles, their nests, or eggs.” Therefore, the Arboretum has restricted access to a prescribed 660-foot radius of the nest’s tree, protecting the birds from being disturbed.

Individuals from the Arboretum, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and The Department of Energy and Environment have been closely monitoring the eagles since they returned to the area in 2014. This nest is a sign of the improving health of the Anacostia River, since it can provide enough prey to feed an eagle family. This summer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife will put ID bands on the eaglets, and University of Maryland scientists will draw blood to determine the eaglets’ gender and test their toxin levels.

TIMES TO WATCH
Before the eggs hatch, you can see the eagles roll the eggs over and resettle on top of them every 20 minutes or so. Once the eggs hatch, though, both parents will be flying back and forth to the nest on food runs. Eagle chicks grow quickly, from a few inches to three feet tall in mere months.

Milestone moments to keep in mind:
• Hatching about 35 days after eggs were laid
• Sitting up at 4 weeks
• Brown feathers starting to grow at 6 weeks
• Reaching full size with brown juvenile plumage at 12 weeks
• Fledging at 80 to 90 days after eggs were laid, in June or July.

WHEN YOU COME TO THE GARDEN FAIR AND VISIT THE AZALEAS
The majority of the Azalea Collection is still open to pedestrians, so when you come to see the blooms this spring, stop by the Visitor Center as well to watch the monitor and see how the birds are doing. While you are on the grounds, you may see the eagles flying overhead to collect nesting materials from the meadow by the Capitol Columns, or to bring fish from the Anacostia back to their growing brood nesting comfortably here in the Arboretum.

CLAIRE BRODERICK is a recent graduate of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis’s M.A. program in museum studies. She is grateful to USNA staff, Susan Greeley, and Dr. Ramon Jordan for their generous help on this piece.
Spring Garden Tips

Nancy and Pierre Moitrier

Kick off this spring gardening season with a different motivation. Consider your parcel of the earth and how it fits within a larger context. As Doug Tallamy says: “Your patch of this earth is part of a larger ecological quilt.” Your patch of this quilt has an amazing capacity to help hundreds, if not thousands, of precious eco-creatures if you manage your land well. Start by taking inventory of your current gardening practices, assess how they support the ecology of your neighborhood, and then implement new ones.

• **DO RETAIN FALLEN LEAVES AND DEBRIS** from surrounding trees and some of your perennials to act as mulch, feed the soil, and keep the near invisible microbiology included in each handful of these fallen leaves exactly where nature intended, beneath its parent plant.

• **SET UP COMPOST BINS.** For under $100.00 you can purchase a five-tined pitchfork, twelve 5-foot T-stakes, and two rolls of 3-foot vinyl-coated wire fence. Create three 6-foot circular enclosures using four T-stakes each and attach the wire fence. Begin adding leaves and debris and turn from one bin to the next three times a year. The result: an annual supply of lush and delicious compost free from your garden for your garden.

• **CHECK YOUR GARDEN FOR VESSELS WITH STANDING WATER.** Empty them to eliminate places for mosquitoes to breed. Reducing mosquito breeding places during the spring rainy season will result in reduced populations during the drier summer months. Talk with your neighbors and encourage them to do the same. Black corrugated downspout pipes, even buried, are perfect mosquito breeding grounds and should be eliminated.

• **PROMISE TO PLANT AND PROVIDE NECTAR SOURCES FOR BENEFICIAL INSECTS.** The goal is to provide continuous bloom throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons. Layer annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees with a variety of blossom shapes and heights: dill (*Anethum graveolens*), sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*), and goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*), fall asters (*Symphyotrichum spp.*, *Eurybia divaricata*, *Aster tataricus*) and anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) are excellent small plants for attracting beneficial insects.

• **EMBRACE THE RAINWATER THAT FALLS ONTO YOUR PROPERTY.** Creating a rain garden, or more simply building a 15-foot berm a few feet long in a specific location will help slow the flow of water. Collecting and allowing water to percolate on your property will help reduce runoff thereby diminishing erosion and pollution downstream.

Don’t stop there! Encourage your neighbors to do these things, and one garden at a time, patches of the quilt will start to connect for the benefit of all of us.

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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.
June 14—An Evening to Celebrate the U.S. National Arboretum’s Contribution to Agriculture

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE EVENING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 14, and join us as we celebrate the U.S. National Arboretum’s Contribution to Agriculture. The Annual Dinner Under the Stars, sponsored by Friends of the National Arboretum, will salute the Arboretum’s many contributions to agriculture, and we invite you to join us and fellow Arboretum supporters under a festive tent in full view of the spectacular Capitol Columns. Members of the congressional and agricultural committees and senior USDA Administration officials will be our honored guests. The delicious dinner will feature an outstanding farm-to-table menu and will also feature this year’s Herb of the Year— the pepper!

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 Arboretum needs your support now more than ever. If you are a regular visitor, this is an opportunity to view the Arboretum all 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 Lindsey Rietkerk at lrietkerk@fona.org or 202.544.8733. Information, including sponsorship materials and ticket prices, is also available online at fona.org/dinner.

GARDEN FAIR & PLANT SALE
April 29, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
FONA members only
April 29, 1:00–4:00 p.m. Open to the public
April 30, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Open to the public
The 2016 annual Garden Fair & Plant Sale features new, rare, and hard-to-find plants, garden supply vendors, books, children’s activities, refreshments, entertainment, and more. Bring your garden questions to National Arboretum staff members for expert advice. Free admission.

ARBOR DAY FEST—WORKSHOPS AND RECEPTION
April 29, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Evening reception at 5:00 p.m.
Washington Youth Garden presents Arbor Day Fest, a daylong conference on environmental-related issues impacting Washington, DC, residents. Panel discussions, workshops, and cultural programming efforts will be followed with an evening reception in the Herb Garden. Tickets will be available soon. Be sure to follow the Washington Youth Garden on Facebook or check out their website washingtonyouthgarden.org for tickets!

AZALEA COLLECTIONS TOUR
May 4, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
May 8, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Stroll along wooded hillside trails amid the brilliant spring display of thousands of blooming azaleas for a 2-hour tour with Barbara Bullock, long-time curator of the renowned Arboretum Azalea Collection. Fee: $12 ($10 FONA members). E-mail registration required. Visit usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html for more information.

WORLD BONSAI DAY FESTIVAL
May 13, 14, 15, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
National Bonsai & Penjing Museum celebrates bonsai at this annual festival that has something for everyone! Activities include demonstrations, special exhibits, vendors, workshops, family activities, and a free “Getting Started” booth for bonsai beginners.

WYG GARDEN PARTY—BRUNCH AT THE YOUTH GARDEN
June, date TBD
WYG invites you to celebrate 45 years of growing gardens and supporting healthy families in Washington, DC. Enjoy a summer brunch at the garden with games for the kids and kids at heart, garden tips and tours of the Demonstration Garden, plus yummy delights and recipes from WYG staff and volunteers. Tickets will be released later this spring. Visit washingtonyouthgarden.org for more information.

ANNUAL DINNER UNDER THE STARS—CELEBRATING THE U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM’S CONTRIBUTION TO AGRICULTURE
June 14, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
FONA’s Annual Arboretum Dinner welcomes friends and guests to a relaxing evening overlooking the Capitol Columns. With a cocktail reception in the fragrant National Herb Garden and a feast in the meadow, the Annual Dinner Under the Stars is a true delight and helps raise funding for the Arboretum’s mission and programs. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit fona.org/dinner. 🌟
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.

Children are cordially invited to the Garden Fair!

On Saturday, April 30, visit the Washington Youth Garden booth at the Garden Fair. Children will plant the culinary herb French sorrel, and take it home to watch it grow. French sorrel has a tangy lemon flavor that children universally seem to love. The WYG staff and volunteers will have all the materials on hand. Washington Revels will also perform on Saturday in the early afternoon. They will celebrate the arrival of spring with Maypole dancing, singing, and plenty of opportunities for audience participation.