IN THIS ISSUE: Special Garden Fair Edition

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Friday, April 28: Free & open to the public
1pm - 4pm
Saturday, April 29: 9am - 4pm
MEMBERS ONLY
Friday, April 28:
10am - 1pm
DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

As I walk around the Arboretum, there are many signs of spring and new beginnings. In that spirit, I wish to welcome FONA’s new Executive Director, Tom McGuire. Tom brings a rich and diverse set of experiences and skills in fundraising, marketing, and management in both nonprofit and private sectors—from the National Wildlife Federation and the World Wildlife Fund to his own nature-focused business eNature. The diversity of his experience will be integral to moving FONA to the next level of scale and impact. To learn more about Tom, please read the accompanying interview by Karen Zill.

I wish to thank all of you who made our year-end appeal such a success. Many of you have joined the David Fairchild Society or given in other ways. We are grateful to all of you. Your generosity allows us to support the Arboretum in many ways. Since its beginning, FONA has raised funds to augment projects such as the Capitol Columns and Flowering Tree Walk, to operate the Washington Youth Garden, and to support research, plant explorations, collections maintenance, and educational programming.

This spring our annual Garden Fair and Plant Sale will be located in and around the Administration building right in the heart of the Arboretum. The sale will be as fantastic as ever with a wide variety of hard-to-find plants and some old favorites. You will be able to visit many of the Arboretum’s most popular attractions before and after loading up your car with your wonderful plant purchases.

This year the Arboretum will be celebrating its 90th year. FONA needs your financial support now more than ever. Join us as we celebrate the Constitution and visit often as we continue our garden journey at the National Arboretum.

Those of the National Arboretum. As we move forward in 2017, please engage with us and visit often as we continue our garden journey at the National Arboretum.

Barbara Shea
Acting Executive Director

A Garden is Never Finished

This spring the Olsen family will move into our third home in 10 years in the DC area—our first single-family detached home. This past year, we also helped my parents move out of the Olsen homestead in North Carolina, where we lived and gardened for more than three decades. Although not my first garden—that was a drab back yard in Wisconsin—it was a seminal garden, where I plied my rapidly growing textbook knowledge of horticulture under the real-world conditions of hot and humid Southern nights, mumifying dry shade of southern sugar maples, and brutal ice storms and hurricanes that could turn the ideal high-shade canopy of loblolly pine for camellias and azaleas into a full-sun garden in an instant.

Over the years that garden, like all gardens, was never finished. It served not only as a testing ground for the first plants I propagated and collected, but more importantly, has sheltered precious memories of the family, friends, and relationships engendered through the act of sharing plants among fellow gardeners. As we start our new garden, I will be bringing many of these plants and their associated memories along, and some I’ll leave behind or share with others. This association with people and places, of life-defining experiences, is renewed each time we encounter and engage plants in our gardens. I have found that even the most ardent plant collectors have devoted space in their gardens for seemingly boring or commonplace species that are tied to precious moments in their life.

Gardens not only cultivate plants but also the connections between plants and people. The garden is never finished and is always evolving. As the National Arboretum begins its 90th year, we are still growing and refining our collections, advancing the science of horticulture and agriculture, and evolving and adapting our methods of connecting people with plants. These efforts will rely more and more on the engagement, collaboration, and leadership of Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA).

The annual Garden Fair and Plant Sale is one such effort that brings together the DC gardening community in support of the National Arboretum’s programs. Not only will FONA volunteers have amassed an incredible collection of garden-worthy, unique ornamentals for sale, but they themselves are a collection of some of the greatest plant experts in the DC area who dedicate their time, energy, and knowledge to supporting FONA and advancing the mission of the National Arboretum.

So I hope to see you on April 28-29 at the Garden Fair and Plant Sale. I’ll certainly be looking for plants for my own new garden, but more importantly, advocating for those of the National Arboretum. As we move forward in 2017, please engage with us and visit often as we continue our garden journey at the National Arboretum.

Richard T. Olsen
The U.S. National Arboretum

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE EVENING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 6, and join us as we celebrate the Great Lakes States during the National Arboretum’s 90th Year (1927-2017)! The Annual Dinner Under the Stars, sponsored by Friends of the National Arboretum, will salute the Great Lakes States 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 will be our honored guests. The delicious dinner will feature an outstanding farm-to-table menu.

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 Kathy Horan at fona@fona.org or 202-544-8733. Information, including sponsorship materials and ticket prices, is also available online at fona.org/dinner.
A Sneak Peek Into the 2017 Garden Fair

On behalf of the Garden Fair Committee, I would like to welcome you to this year’s Garden Fair and Plant Sale which will take place Friday, April 28, and Saturday, April 29. Remember that Friday from 10am to 1pm is for FONA members only!

This year’s fair will differ from previous garden fairs in a number of ways.

First, we are holding the event on the North Terrace behind the Administration Building/Visitor Center. The New York Avenue site will not be available to us this year or for the next 3 years because of construction of the new China Garden. We are very excited about the new location because it is more centrally located and provides many of the amenities previously lacking at the New York Avenue site. Although the new site is a little smaller than the previous site, we plan to offer a similar number of the great annuals, perennials, and woodies as in previous years. The entrance to the fair will be through the lobby of the Administration Building.

A second change is that we will not have vendors this year with the exception of the Potomac Unit of the National Herb Society, which supports an intern at the National Arboretum as in previous years. The entrance to the fair will be through the lobby of the Administration Building.

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As in previous years, we have offered remaining plants at a 50% discount on Sunday morning but that will not happen this year because there are other events taking place at the Arboretum on Sunday.

Please come join us at the Garden Fair! Despite the changes I’ve described, it will in many ways be the same fair we’ve offered for many years, with Arboretum experts on hand, garden books for sale in the lobby, great plants for your garden, and delicious food for you and your friends. This is an excellent opportunity to support your National Arboretum because FONA will use all proceeds from this sale to support Arboretum activities. We thank you for your support!

Kevin McIntosh is the chair for this year’s Garden Fair.

If you are looking for new and exciting plants, you’ve come to the right place! The Collector’s Corner will offer specialty plants that are unavailable at your typical nursery or big box store. Some of these plants are untested in our area (although all are rated as being cold-hardy to zone 7!) to be aware that you are part of an experiment! I welcome feedback on the performance of these plants in your garden (kmac53@verizon.net). This information will influence what we order in future years.

We will have some terrific perennials for the sale, including Beesia delphyllea, Phygelius cultivars, eight different types of Cyripedium orchids including ‘Hank Small’ (multiple flowers on each spike), ‘MPK’, ‘Chew Pinkepunk’, ‘Gabriela’, ‘Edie’, ‘Wilson’, ‘Kristi Lyn’, and ‘Pubescens xPKParv’ (all blooming size), several Disporum longistylum cultivars, including ‘Night Heron’ and ‘MonLif’, Saxifraga fortunei cultivars ‘Berry Bright’ and ‘Pink Elf’, and Gentiana acaulis hybrids, which produce huge outsized blue trumpet-shaped flowers (donated by Edelweiss Perennials). This information will influence what we order in future years.

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Looking for the perfect perennials for your garden? Do you want to be the first to have the newest varieties or do you want plants that are tried and true? Is your garden in full sun, part shade, or the deer population's best places to dine list? Do you want to support pollinators or go native? The FONA Plant Sale is your answer. You would have to look far and wide to find the most reliably hardy gardenia for this early age Gardenia jasminoides 'Kleim's Hardy' – the most reliably hardy gardenia for this area, great in smaller spaces or containers, blooms at an early age

VARIEGATED FOLIAGE

Daphne × transatlantica Eternal Fragrance – deer resistant, evergreen to 0 degrees, long bloom season
Spring Scent and Sensibility – dwarf lilac 2´ to 3´ tall, full sun, good for small landscapes, deer resistant
Rhododendron 'Fragrant Star' – extremely fragrant azalea, snow white flowers, heat tolerant, part sun
Wisteria frutescens 'Amethyst Falls' – for smaller spaces or containers, blooms at an early age
Gardenia jasminoides 'Kleim's Hardy' – the most reliably hardy gardenia for this area, great in smaller spaces or the foreground of borders, evergreen, deer resistant
Gelsemium sempervirens – NATIVE vine for container, trellis, fence or arbor, yellow flowers.

RAIN GARDEN CANDIDATES

Clethra alnifolia 'Hummingbird' – easily grown NATIVE in average to wet soils in part sun/part shade, prefers consistently moist acidic soils, fragrant blooms in late summer, attracts butterflies

Clethra barbara 'Variegatus' – red buckeye for full sun to part shade, likes fertile clay and moisture, attracts hummingbirds, grow as tree, screen, or hedge, tried and trouble-free

Cryptomeria japonica 'Black Dragon' – good vertical conifer for smaller places or containers

Picea abies – conifer shrub with compact, thick-textured deep green foliage, part shade

FRAGRANT WOODIES

Daphne × transatlantica Eternal Fragrance – deer resistant, evergreen to 0 degrees, long bloom season
Spring Scent and Sensibility – dwarf lilac 2´ to 3´ tall, full sun, good for small landscapes, deer resistant
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This year’s Garden Fair will feature a new location in the gardens adjacent to the Administration Building. This space, slightly smaller than normal, has led us to reduce the slow-movers and expand the sell-outs. And it will be just as full of surprises as ever, if not more so!

We have expanded a number of items in our “Plant Zoo” that were especially popular with children and sold out early last year. This means more butterfly plants (Deceptrum), five colors of kangaroo paws (Anigozanthos), a broader selection of rex begonias, more lion’s ear (Leonotis) and parrot’s beak (Leuco), and a wonderful selection of coleus “Under the Sea” types that mimic all manner of fish, corals, and other swimmers. Come early and bring the kids!

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We also have new and expanded offerings of other plants. Angelonia throws floral spikes up to 24 inches and is considered the best tall annual for our climate, and is in charge of ordering annuals. Look for him in the Administration Building by the entrance to both terraces where the Garden Fair is being held. We’ll have the usual excellent selection of books from garden history to planting seeds to pruning. We often have out-of-print books that are collectible or whose wisdom never goes out of date.

Each year we offer something special. This year we’re lucky enough to have been given a few copies of an erudite and beautiful book about English gardening. A Natural History of English Gardening. The author, Mark Laird, teaches at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and, although the book focuses on the material of its title, it is useful to any serious gardener in any location. The illustrations are exceptional, and the entire book has been beautifully produced.

From the flyleaf: “Inspired by the pioneering naturalist Gilbert White, who viewed natural history as the common study of cultural and natural communities, Mark Laird uncovers forgotten historical data to reveal the complex visual cultures of early modern gardening. Ranging from climate studies to the study of a butterfly’s life cycle, this original and fascinating book examines the scientific quest for order in nature as an efflorescence of ordering the garden and field.”

The illustrations alone are irresistible. We hope you’ll stop by and take a look! We have a few copies for sale at a very attractive price.

In addition, we have a new collection of splendid illustrated books on axiads—that staple of Washington area gardening. And of course all of the usual books on native plants, garden and landscape design, house plants, floral arranging, and travel!

On Saturday, our booth will be visited by madrigal singers from the Washington Revels and a harp-playing minstrel. A small section is devoted to carefully curated garden sundries. We have something for everyone! Please visit.
Can You Lend a Hand?

It takes a true village of volunteers to make the Garden Fair & Plant Sale happen… the entire week before the sale, through the sale, and several days after to put everything back in order! Shipments will be arriving and plants need to be unloaded. Strong backs are in demand! There are price tags to apply, plants to be watered, shopping carts to be collected, traffic to be directed, and a wonderful warm crowd of volunteers to meet and enjoy.

More Summer Evenings at the Arboretum

We’re expanding our Summer Evenings Concert Series! We will have many evening concerts with live musicians by the Herb Garden on Thursday evenings June–July. Keep an eye on the FONA website for more details about the musicians and dates.

Herbs Galore from the Garden to the Home

The Potomac Unit of the Herb Society of America, Inc. www.potomacunithsa.org

We will have more than 85 varieties of herbs for sale—annuals, biennials, perennials. Culinary, fragrant, ornamental, and medicinal herbs, as well as herbs for craft projects. Plus native plants and wildflowers. You will find them on the East Terrace. Profits from the plant sale provide funding for the National Herb Garden internship.

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Share your good energy with us. We need help starting April 25 through May 1. Contact Crystal Williams at cwilliams@washingtonyouthgarden.org or 202.245.2709.

Introducing FONA’s New Executive Director

Karen Zill

FONA welcomes Tom McGuire, who became the new Executive Director in February. In addition to an abundance of energy and enthusiasm, Tom brings an extensive background in marketing, communication, and fundraising to his new role.

Tom is a graduate of the University of Virginia, where he received a BA in history and an MBA from the University’s Darden School of Business. Tom has worked with both private and nonprofit sector organizations, from the National Wildlife Federation and the Electronic Frontier Foundation to American Express and the World Wildlife Fund. In many of those roles, he has been focused on education and communication, with a special emphasis on the intersection of nature and technology. “I’m an entrepreneur who enjoys building things,” is how Tom describes himself.

Tom’s excitement is evident when he talks about his overarching goal for FONA, which is to build a community of supporters of the Arboretum. To reach that goal, he has several new programs and initiatives in mind. His first priority is to encourage visitors to the Arboretum as well as enhance the visitor experience. One easy way to do this is to update and enhance FONA’s website, “Going online can’t substitute for a visit to the Arboretum, but it can stimulate interest in coming here,” he says. “And once visitors are here, it’s important to connect with them and help them become part of a community of regular supporters.”

Two other initiatives Tom would like to explore with the Arboretum staff are starting a docent program and deploying technology throughout the Arboretum to provide a richer visitor experience. Another area of possible collaboration between FONA and the Arboretum may be creating STEM projects to strengthen ties between local schools and the Arboretum. Currently, the Washington Youth Garden is the only formal program that engages local students in science-related topics and shows their work. Projects such as the Springhouse Run restoration could be useful platforms to broaden science learning by including technology and engineering activities that tie to the student’s curriculum. These and any other initiatives will require additional resources, and finding those resources is another top priority for the new Executive Director.

In general, Tom sees the need for an expanded role for FONA, comparable to that of Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ) at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo. He believes that if FONA could facilitate many of the Arboretum’s public programs with their associated outreach and education, it would free up the professional staff, already very stretched, to do the research and other scientific work that is their major focus. Since it doesn’t have the same budget and bureaucratic constraints as the Arboretum, FONA could move with nimbleness and speed to accomplish some of the more outwardly facing goals laid out in the Arboretum’s strategic plan.

As the new Executive Director, Tom is eager to put his ideas into action. Previous directors and boards have done a lot of the groundwork, but challenges remain. Tom says, “The need for FONA has never been greater.” As FONA’s leader, he is working on engaging and motivating the public to recognize and support the Arboretum, the first steps toward his vision of creating a constituency for this unique resource.
Among its many acres, heritage collections, and research fields, the National Arboretum has many rare and unusual plants on display. These are two rare plants on the Arboretum grounds that deserve a closer look on your next visit.

**HELEBORUS THIBETANUS**

_Helleborus thibetanus_, a charming late-winter bloomer, is actually an ephemeral. The flowers last 2-3 weeks and the foliage only 2-3 months, so if you aren’t out in the garden at the right time, you’ll miss it altogether. _Flora of China_ notes that it grows in forests in the shade of shrubs at elevations of 3,600 to 12,000 feet in various parts of the provinces of Gansu, Hubei, Shaanxi, and Sichuan. The Kew Gardens web page notes that Père David, the French plant collector, found _Helleborus thibetanus_ in Moupin in Sichuan Province, China, in 1869.

Only over the last 25 years or so has it begun to trickle into nurseries and out to the rest of us. The Arboretum has several plantings in the Asian Collections. One is under the Chinese Pavilion entrance. It came to us, unnamed, directly from a Japanese nursery in 1994; it may still be the only plant of its kind in the United States. Although _Helleborus_ can be difficult to propagate it so that plant lovers across the United States can some day enjoy contemplating this refined beauty in their own gardens.

**DAPHNE ODORA ‘GEISHA GIRL’**

_Daphne odora_ ‘Geisha Girl’ is among the rarest cultivars of an otherwise popular evergreen Asian shrub. The species is considered a garden classic for its peerless candy-sweet, late-winter or early-spring wafting floral perfume; it earns its keep for the rest of the year with a naturally clean, tidy appearance. Although no fewer than dozens of cultivars with variegated foliage have been named to date, most of them offer only some slight variation on the same theme: a yellow to white border of varying widths around a rich green interior. Among the variegated forms, _Daphne odora_ ‘Geisha Girl’ breaks the mold. The only ordinary green you will find on its multicolored leaves is in a thin, jagged line around each leaf. Within that is a broad area whose color might be described as pistachio-tinted custard; the leaves are accented by an irregular, two-toned center of soft grey-green. Even more drama comes from the striking twisted leaf shape, a consequence of the variegation pattern that makes the leaves look as though they are dancing. The sophisticated color palette and elegant form mesmerizes the eye and draws observers into deeper contemplation and study. By contrast, most other variegated cultivars tend to reveal all of their charms at a single glance.

In addition to leaf variations, degrees of difference in plant vigor or flower color are sometimes noted among the cultivars. Some strains are considered to be relatively weak growers, which may be the result of infection by a virus. The flower typically comes in one of twoenticing flavors: pink buds opening to white flowers with a pink exterior (‘Geisha Girl’ is of this type), or somewhat less commonly, pure white in both bud and bloom. No one seems to have rigorously evaluated all of these varieties to determine how they actually compare, but the National Arboretum certainly has some of the most distinct forms in its collections.

None of the selections of _Daphne odora_, however numerous, are likely the product of seedling variation. Unlike other _Daphne_ species, it never seems to make seed through natural or artificial pollination. This may be occurring because there is either no genetically distinct mate available, or because the plant itself is sterile. In either case, all of the cultivated forms likely arose over time as branch mutations and might ultimately derive from just one ancient individual. In spite of its long history in gardens, the natural origins of the species are still a mystery. It could be long extinct in the wild, or its native range might still be awaiting discovery; it may even have arisen through the hybridization of other species. A resultant lack of genetic diversity and breeding prospects would greatly increase the overall vulnerability of _Daphne odora_ to diseases and pests and might also make it challenging for plant breeders to generate more genetically diverse offspring.

Our lone plant of ‘Geisha Girl’ (NA 64419) is a compact specimen located in the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, growing at the foot of a _Podocarpus_ near the moon gate in the Chinese Pavilion entrance. It came to us, unnamed, directly from a Japanese nursery in 1994; it may still be the only plant of its kind in the United States. Although _Daphne_ can be difficult and slow to root from cuttings, with some luck, we will be able to propagate it so that plant lovers across the United States can some day enjoy contemplating this refined beauty in their own gardens.

**CHRIS UPTON** has gardened in many capacities, both as an amateur and as a multifaceted professional, for more than 50 of the nearly 60 years he has lived in Washington. He is currently the horticulturist in the Asian Collections.
Laugh and Learn: Another Season of SPROUT Field Trips

Nadia Mercer

SPRING IS UPON US! Washington Youth Garden is diving into another busy season growing food and engaging students in the process. Our amazing On-Site Education Coordinator, Taylore Willis, has completely booked our spring SPROUT field trip slots with eager classrooms awaiting their chance to come help us in the garden by planting seeds, observing bees, and eating the harvest, of course! Last year we saw more than 3,000 students in our SPROUT program from April through October, and this year we already have more than 2,000 students scheduled before June 16!

Our growth is a testament to the quality educational experience we provide.

What’s responsible for the increased demand? Our growth is a testament to the quality educational experience we provide. It is reflective of our community’s desire to “get away from the noise of the city” and is a result of partnerships with local organizations that are working to elevate the importance of and increase access to the National Environmental Literacy Program, which includes experiences at Washington Youth Garden, where students learn about food and nutrition, plant parts, and honeybees and pollination.” –Bridge Public Charter School, Environmental Literacy Leadership Cadre Snapshot, 2016

• Live It Learn It reserves, on average, 10 trips a year to bring students from Title 1 schools to Washington Youth Garden for our nutrition-themed SPROUT trips. What’s great about this program? Not only do they provide transportation for all their students (bus costs are one of the biggest barriers to get students out here), they also prepare students for their field experience with classroom lessons beforehand, and then help students remember and retain knowledge through post-trip classroom lessons. EXCELLENT!
• National Park Trust—The Buddy Bison school program engages Title 1 school children with local parks to teach environmental education and the benefits of outdoor recreation. They bring student groups to visit the National Arboretum and participate in our SPROUT program every year. Their slogan: “Every kid in a park.”
• We’re incredibly grateful for this network of community partners, and many more not listed in this article. Check them out, and don’t forget to pay us a visit next time you’re in the Arboretum.

SPRING IS UPON US!

Spring Garden Tips

Nancy and Pierre Moitrier

• Plant annuals after May 15, the official last frost date in our area. Houseplants can be moved outdoors. Plants that have been indoors should be placed in full shade and gradually moved to sunnier areas because the leaves may scorch if the plant is abruptly exposed to full sun.
• Remove pansies and plant summer-loving annuals now while plant selection is greatest. Pansies thrive during the cool seasons, but they will not thrive in our hot and humid summers.
• Support your independent garden centers when purchasing plants and supplies. You will be rewarded with better-quality materials and interactions with knowledgeable staff, eager to help.
• Take pictures of spring blooming bulbs. Photographically recording the locations and colors of your spring blooming bulbs now will aid in good placement of additional bulbs later in the fall.
• Remove spent flowers from spring bulbs, leaving the foliage to die back. Fertilize bulbs with bone meal scratched into the soil surface.
• Order fall-planted, spring-blooming bulbs while the memories of this season’s display are fresh in your mind.
• Plant summer-flowering bulbs such as cannas, lilies, dahlias, gladioli, and calendulas.
• Pull weeds before they finish blooming, form seeds, and multiply. You know the saying: One year seedin’, seven years weedin’.
• Prune early-flowering shrubs, vines, and trees, if necessary, just after blooming.
• Feed roses every two weeks to promote abundant blooms.
• Be on the lookout for aphids, which appear this month. They especially love tender new growth on roses. If you see aphids, hose them off with water instead of toxic chemicals.
• Refresh bird bath water every three days to reduce mosquito populations early in the season. Your birds will be happier too!
• Be attentive and empty water from objects that inadvertently hold water to reduce mosquito reproduction opportunities: the overturned trash can lid, the wash bucket, the tarp protecting your patio furniture, and the grill cover.
• Apply deer repellents regularly, especially on emerging perennials and bulbs.

Mark the date: attend the FONA Garden Fair and Plant Sale Friday April 28 and Saturday April 29 and find that special plant you have been looking for!

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.
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

VIEWING STONE EXHIBIT: LEGACY OF JAPANESE SUISEKI IN NORTH AMERICA
March 5–May 7, 8:00am–5:00pm
National Bonsai & Penjing Museum Exhibits Gallery
Viewing stones, known as suiseki, have been revered in Japan for centuries. They are natural stones that remind us of mountains or waterfalls, but are small enough to sit on a table. Free.

EXHIBIT: THE BONSAI SAGA: HOW 53 JAPANESE BONSAI CAME TO AMERICA
Now through October 1, 10:00am–4:00pm
National Bonsai & Penjing Museum Exhibits Gallery
In 1976, to celebrate our nation’s 200th birthday, we received 53 masterpiece bonsai from Japan. This exhibit features images and film from our archival collection to tell the story of this incredible gift—which led to the establishment of the first museum in the world dedicated to miniature trees. Free.

EARLY-MORNING TOUR OF THE ASIAN COLLECTIONS
April 23, 7:30am–9:30am
Get a chance to see the Asian Collections in the calm of early morning, before the crowds arrive. Horticulturist Chris Upton will lead you through the spectacularly beautiful diversity of plants growing on the picturesque slopes of Hickey Hill. Fee: $15 ($10 FONA). Registration required.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP: MOONRISE OVER THE ARBORETUM
May 9, 7:00pm–9:00pm
Arboretum Grounds
David Luria, Director of Washington Photo Safari, will lead a photography workshop for 14 amateur photographers. Includes brief lecture on techniques of photographing landscapes at sunset and moonrise, and time to photograph the moon through the Capitol Columns. Check fona.org or call the office for registration details. Fee: $60 ($40 FONA). Registration required.

AZALEA COLLECTIONS TOURS
April 25, 10:00am–12:00pm
April 26, 4:30pm–6:30pm
May 2, 10:00am–12:00pm
May 14 (Mother’s Day), 1:00pm–3:00pm
Meet in the Visitor Center
Stroll along wooded hillside trails amid a brilliant spring display of blooming azaleas with Barbara Bullock, curator of the renowned Arboretum Azalea Collections, who tells the story of how Arboretum research has contributed hundreds of new varieties for gardeners, gives expert advice on all aspects of growing azaleas, and answers your questions. Fee: $15 ($12 FONA). Registration required.

For more information visit usna.usda.gov or fona.org

HELP US TO GO GREEN! To receive your ArborFriends issues via email only, and not in the mail, go to fona.org/greenarborfriends