MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, April 24: Free & Open to the Public 1 pm – 4 pm;
Saturday, April 25: 9 am – 4 pm
Members only Friday, April 24: 10 am – 1 pm

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

As I write this message to you, I am at home, snowed- and iced-in, and wondering if spring will ever arrive. The peak blooming of the cherry blossoms has just been announced as April 11–14, a sign that Nature will do its own things in its own good time.

Some things can't be postponed, and the Friends of the National Arboretum’s annual Garden Fair and Plant Sale is one of them. April 24 and 25 will find FONA with several dozen volunteers and several thousand eager customers at the Arboretum to welcome spring into our lives, seeking new plants of every kind plus other items for work or play in our personal yards and gardens, and maybe in our own arboreta. The Garden Fair is one of the two major events organized by FONA (the other is our Annual Dinner under the Stars on June 9) that result in significant net income for FONA as it works to support the Arboretum. But the Garden Fair is also a wonderful rite of spring (without Stravinsky) that reassures all of us that the growing season is upon us and that we are in the midst of beauty. I want to thank Linda and Spinner Findlay for their leadership in organizing this major project, and the many volunteers who take ownership of the working parts of this multi-day event.

We are also pushing hard to have another rite this spring: reopening of the National Arboretum to its full seven days a week. At this moment, I cannot say when this will happen, but I can say that we are getting close to what we need in terms of commitments to begin the reopening. So stay tuned to your radio and television and keep an eye on your newspaper, as FONA works hand-in-hand with the Arboretum to turn this corner and renew this covenant with the DC community and its many visitors.

Finally, whenever you are at the Arboretum, stop by and see the wonders of our Washington Youth Garden as its many food crops begin to break ground and grow into nutritious as well as beautiful fruits and vegetables. The WYG staff has been busy all winter with its school programs and gardens in the eastern half of the District, working with Food Corps members to achieve the greatest impact on students. Summer will bring more onsite programs, including the Green Ambassadors, high school students selected through a competitive process who will work with WYG staff on tending the gardens, working with visitors, and working in the community. Our plan is to have the Green Ambassadors program become a year-round program.

Visit the National Arboretum. Make us part of your weekly routine. And remember that I would like to hear from you.

Warm regards,

Thomas M. Costello, Executive Director
Friends of the National Arboretum
tcostello@fona.org
202.544.8733

ON THE COVER Camellia ‘Winter’s Joy’, introduced by Dr. William Ackerman, USNA. Photo courtesy of David Park, Camellia Forest Nursery.
HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED WHAT IT TAKES TO PUT ON THE ANNUAL FONA GARDEN FAIR where more than 10,000 plants are sold in just two days? Garden Fair 2015 is right around the corner, but organizing the event has been going on for the past year.

A core group of 16 people have pored over plant catalogs and researched new and exciting cultivars—all to ensure that Garden Fair attendees have a variety of plant material available, from the most recent introductions to the most reliable cultivars for the D.C. metropolitan area. In conjunction with the ordering, every plant has been thoroughly researched, and signs have been prepared that provide information to help buyers make informed purchases.

Many hours of logistical planning were required to develop the layout of the site, order tents and tables, and address other infrastructure needs. Careful consideration has been given to which outside businesses should be invited to have a booth, thus ensuring that vendors enhance the Fair without duplicating FONA’s offerings.

More than 125 volunteers—including plant experts—will be at the Arboretum during the week of the Garden Fair. Their work starts with setting up the tents and tables on Monday, unloading plant deliveries Tuesday through Thursday, pricing every single plant and moving them into place, keeping the plants watered and happy, and having everything ready when we welcome our members on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m.! Read on for a peek at what you can expect to see at this year’s Garden Fair.

Linda and Spinner Findlay have been the co-chairs of the Garden Fair Committee for the last two years. They moved from Alexandria, VA, to Massachusetts, but with their leadership, the Committee hasn’t skipped a beat.

Interested in volunteering in this year’s Garden Fair? We could really use your help!

We need help the week before the Fair Monday through Thursday April 20-24, receiving, unloading, and setting up in preparation for the sale. Come and spend time with fellow garden enthusiasts and be the first to see what FONA plans to sell at the Fair!

For information, contact Chris Goulart at cgoulart@fona.org or at 202.544.8733
This page: Cypripedium kentuckiense ‘Kentucky lady slipper’, photo courtesy of Wikicommmons. Next page L-R: Cypripedium ‘Philipp’ (C. macranthos × C. kentuckiense), photo courtesy of Hillside Nursery; Cypripedium parviflorum var. pubescens, photo courtesy of Kevin McIntosh; and Eucomis ‘Dark Star’, photo courtesy of Terra Nova Nursery.
The Collector's Corner will be featuring plants for adventurous gardeners who like to grow unusual plants, push hardiness limits, and stump their gardening friends.

For those seeking the unusual, we will have a good supply of *Eucomis* ‘Dark Star’, a South African plant with very dark red-black foliage. It is hardy to zone 7 and appreciates full to part sun and good drainage. Drought tolerant once established, this dwarf pineapple lily will produce a pink flower spike in mid-late summer. For those interested in pushing boundaries, the Collector’s Corner will feature several cold-hardy palms. The needle palm, *Rhapidophyllum hystrix*, is hardy to zone 6 and will provide a unique sculptural element for your garden. This southeast native does not develop a trunk. A new palm, *Trachycarpus* ‘Landcraft’, is a hybrid of two of the hardest trunked palms, *Trachycarpus fortunei* ‘Bulgaria’ and *Trachycarpus takil*. This palm should be hardy to zone 7 and is worth trying out in the DC area. For best results, it should be planted in a protected site such as against the south wall of a house. For those with exotic tastes, we will have *Cypripedium* or Lady Slipper orchids for sale. These woodland plants are actually easy-to-grow, long-lived perennials. We are selling mature, heat-tolerant species (*C. kentuckiense*) and hybrids (*C. ‘Philipp’) grown for 5 to 7 years to ensure a high success rate when planted in the open garden. We are very grateful to Hillside Nursery for donating these orchids for this year’s Garden Fair. In addition to the plants already described, we will have donations from two extraordinary rare plant nurseries: Plant Delights and Far Reaches Farm. We will also have *Gentiana acaulis* hybrids bearing oversized trumpets of shocking blue flowers, courtesy of Edelweiss Perennials. Stop by the Collector’s Corner to pick up that special plant you can’t get anywhere else!

**Kevin McIntosh**
does his gardening in Ellicott City, MD, on a typical suburban lot with a host of atypical plants. His garden consists of various microhabitats allowing him to grow many species of hardy orchids, rock garden plants, and bog plants (including carnivores) to name just a few of his favorites. Kevin 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 these unusual plants. He suggests you get there early before he buys them all!
WHAT'S NEW IN ANNUALS AND TROPICALS AT THIS YEAR'S GARDEN FAIR?

A lot, starting with the name. As more and more beautiful and resilient tropical plants come onto the market, we add a few to our selections each year, treating them as annuals since they cannot withstand our frosts and winters. In the fall, they can be put to rest as mulch. But in many cases, they can instead be taken in during the cold season and kept in a warm sunny location where they often keep blooming. In the spring, they can be put outside in containers or even in the ground for another year. So now we have “Annuals and Tropicals.”

This year, as you will see, we have added a substantial number of new tropicals and have reordered your favorites from other years. More about that below. But first, we want to tell you about the regular annuals we will be offering. We have many new forms of impatiens, lavender, lobelia, nicotiana, pentas, salvia, senecio, and succulents, among others. Plus the return of many of your old favorites that are so hard to find elsewhere—annual coreopsis in four colors, the snapless Twinny snapdragons in five colors (best for our climate), a fabulous selection of begonias and geraniums, seven colors of twinspur (Diaschia barbeae), seven of annual toadflax (Linaria maroccana), and four varieties of bananas.

We continue to offer good value for your dollar, with nearly a thousand annuals priced at $3, including impatiens, salvias, vincas, and zinnias. Based on our success in offering mimulus in 6-packs last year, we will be offering annual asters, phlox, lobelia, and others at six plants for $5. And we have a great selection of plants to attract children to gardening, including Elephant Ears, Kangaroo Paws, Lion’s Ears, Monkey Flower, and Toadflax.

New this year is our Underwear Section, where we will sell six different annual groundcovers in 6-packs for $9. These include Swan River daisies, two dichondras, creeping Jenny, pilea, and sedum. These can be used in the base of containers and in hanging baskets, and many of them will cascade. Just look for the sign, “DON’T FORGET YOUR UNDERWEAR!”

Finally, we round out our selections with a set of tropica that are new this year. Assuming our suppliers have been able to withstand the winter winds and chill, we will offer, for the first time, a cross of common foxglove with a Canary Islands relative (Digiplexis™) in three flaming colors—orange, gold, and raspberry, three shades of Mexican heather (cuphea), and a glory bower in blue or white that grows several feet each season (Clerodendrum ugandense). There is also a beautiful skyflower (Duranta erecta) that blooms all season long with large violet flowers with a white picotee edge, the blue marguerite (Felicia amelloides), a Brazilian snapdragon also in blue (Onacanthus azureus), the pink plumed mulla-mulla (Ptilotus exaltatus), and the yellow firecracker plant (Russelia equisetiformis).

All of which is to say, Annuals are Fun! And Tropicals are Fun, Too! See you at the Garden Fair! 🌺

Bill Matuszeski
*Diascia* ‘Coral Belle’, photo courtesy Wikicommons.
Perennials Will Keep You Coming Back

THIS YEAR WE HAVE ORDERED MORE SPECTACULAR PERENNIALS THAN EVER. As I write this, the temperature is in the single digits, so I am not sure that absolutely everything will arrive at the Garden Fair. We have ordered a stunning variegated Acanthus ‘Whitewater’, several new baptisias, delicious dianthus, the latest daylilies, an incredible collection of heucheras, amazing new mildew-resistant phlox, and sedum, just to name a few. We have ordered many new and exciting varieties as well as some tried-and-true winners. Suffice it to say the plants will be beautiful, and you will find many perennials you have never seen anywhere else. There will be spring plants in luscious bloom and others that will show the promise of a colorful summer or glorious fall. As always, we will have large signs explaining everything you need to know about the plant and a picture to let you know exactly how it will grace your garden. There are many native plants and even some the deer won’t eat. There are plants for sun and plants for shade. There is guaranteed to be a shopping cart full of plants that you absolutely must have. I know, because I am my own best customer.

BARBARA SHEA is Chairman of the Friends of the National Arboretum and an avid gardener.

Children are cordially invited to the Garden Fair

On Saturday, visit the Washington Youth Garden booth at the Garden Fair. The WYG staff and volunteers will have all the materials on hand. The children will plant a strawberry plant in a pot to take home and watch it grow (remember to water it!).

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.
NO MATTER HOW BIG OR HOW SMALL YOUR GARDEN SPACE IS, it needs woody shrubs and trees. They are the backbone and foundation of well-designed outdoor areas, providing enclosure and shade where you want it. Many of them provide multi-season color, attractive bark, detailed leaf texture, fragrance, and dazzling flowers. The 2015 FONA Garden Fair and Plant Sale has a wide selection of hardy, reliable, pest-resistant choices for the discerning buyer.

For the shade area, many regional gardeners use *Aucuba japonica*. But have you tried the mottled *Aucuba japonica* 'Cecil Alice' introduced by Tony Avent of Plant Delights, or 'Picturata' with its dark green leaves and large splashes of solid golden yellow centers? Once established, *Aucuba* thrive, even in dry, dark shade. Another woody shrub for the shade is *Fatsia japonica*, an underused evergreen shrub that adds a tropical feel to the garden. Check them out at the entrance to the bonsai museum at the National Arboretum where they have thrived for more than 25 years. Another underused shrub with a tropical look that thrives in part sun is *Edgeworthia chrysantha*. Fragrant, with plumeria-like leaves, easy to grow, and not commonly found in local nurseries, it will be a stunning addition to your garden. Try to get to the sale by Friday for the exceptional evergreen azalea 'Hilda Niblett'. It sells out quickly. Its exceptional 4-inch multi-colored blossoms combine pink and white. For a sunny spot, try *Viburnum bracteatum* 'All That Glitters', fragrant and deer resistant, with blue fruit/berries in the fall and glossy leaves that shimmer throughout the summer. *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Ruby Slippers', a dwarf, compact hybrid released by the U.S. National Arboretum, is well suited for the urban garden. Held upright above the foliage, flowers open white, turning pink and rose during the summer. Foliage is a brilliant mahogany in autumn. Finally, for an easy-to-grow, thornless shrub with dynamite brilliant red berries rich in antioxidants, choose *Lycium barbarum* 'Firecracker'. Its berries are sweet and juicy when fresh and can also be dried or frozen.

In addition to shrubs, trees provide major structural elements in the garden. They give architectural form and organization to the space. When you come to the Garden Fair, check out *Magnolia ashei* with its tropical-looking leaves; the new bigeneric hybrid *×Gordinia grandiflora* with 3- to 4-inch white, mid-summer blossoms; and the numerous Japanese maples. We offer *Acer palmatum* 'Mikawa Yatsubusa', outstanding in pots on a patio or in the garden; *Acer shirasawanum* 'Full Moon' with its lime-to-chartreuse tinged leaves; and *Acer tegmentosum* 'White Tigress', a cultivar with extremely white markings on its bark, which is best in part shade as an understory tree.

Another delightful source of garden structure is conifers. As in the past, we will have many varieties in different colors, forms, and textures. For example, *Xanthocyparis nootkatensis* 'Jubilee' provides a stunning vertical accent with arms seemingly draped in drooping sleeves. For the rock garden or miniature landscape, we will offer *Abies lasiocarpa* 'Duflon', an uncommon fir forming a dense globe that will not outgrow its space. *Pinus banksiana* ‘Schoodic’ is an adaptable low-growing, short-needle pine that performs well sprawling down a bank or other difficult area. *Cedrus deodara* 'Silver Mist' is a broad upright cedar with fluffy, silvery white foliage.

For added accent in your garden, weave a few clematis vines through your shrubs and small trees. *Clematis Still Waters™* has serene pale lavender flowers that rebloom throughout the summer. *Bignonia capreolata* 'Tangerine Beauty' is best on its own structure which it will quickly cover with fragrant, orange-red trumpet shaped flowers. It tolerates shade, but it flowers best in the sun.

Well-chosen trees and shrubs create a garden with sound structure that can be filled in with vignettes of perennials and annuals. All can be found at the 2015 FONA Garden Fair and Plant Sale.

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.
**NURSERIES**

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

**Pine Knot Farms – Clarksville, VA**
A family-owned nursery nestled in the forest on a former tobacco farm that has been in the family for six generations. They specialize in plants for shady gardens and have been working on a hellebore breeding program since the early 1990s.

**Radical Roots Farm – Keezletown, VA**
“We specialize in Certified Organic, locally grown garden starts. Everything we sell is grown on our farm with a focus on successful garden varieties. We carry more than 50 varieties of tomatoes, 11 kinds of peppers, and 16 kinds of vegetables, flowers, herbs, and fruiting shrubs. Everything you need for an abundant garden and landscaping. This year we are featuring all our favorites, plus John’s Elderberry for its abundant flowers and fruits, which attract pollinators and make wonderful immune-enhancing syrup.” —Lee O’Neil, Radical Roots

**Rare Find Nursery – Jackson, NJ**
A retail/mail-order nursery that offers unusual hardy plants, including rhododendrons, azaleas, native perennials, trees, shrubs, dogwoods, magnolias, conifers, Japanese maples, variegated plants, shade plants, and deer-resistant plants.

**Spring Thyme Nursery – Dillsburg, PA**
Offers a wide array of annuals and premium hanging baskets.

**White’s Nursery – Germantown, MD**
Will provide a selection of evergreen, native, and Exbury azaleas, including yellow and orange varieties. Many of their varieties can be found in the azalea collection at the National Arboretum. They will also bring their hardiest rhododendrons! All plants have been started at their nursery in Germantown, MD.

**PLANT SOCIETIES AND NONPROFITS**

**Chesapeake Chapter, Holly Society of America Inc. – Towson, MD**
Numerous cultivars of evergreen and deciduous hollies not normally available to the gardening public.

**District Department of the Environment – Washington, DC**
The River Smart Homes program offers incentives to homeowners interested in reducing storm water pollution on their property.

**Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens – Washington, DC**
Aquatic plants and expert advice! This year’s selection includes the small and hardy Blue Flag iris, the moisture-loving Cardinal Flower, Verbena hastata, a selection of Sarracenia Pitcher Plants, and more!

**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, Herb Society of America**
Will have more than 100 varieties of herbs and 40 to 50 varieties of native plants and wildflowers, including 10 different varieties of basil, 8 varieties of lavender, 10 varieties of mint, 4 varieties of oregano, 7 varieties of rosemary, 6 varieties of sage, and 8 varieties of thyme. Also featured will be many herbal crafts and handmade tussie mussies, all sold by their knowledgeable members who include horticulturists, garden curators, and master gardeners.

**Non-plant Vendors**

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

**FONAbooks and Sundries – Washington, DC**
Whatever your gardening interest, chances are that the FONA book stall will have something for you… and interesting sundries, too.

**Jacqueline Handley Designs – Annapolis, MD**
Unique and classic designs of the finest quality along with reasonably priced jewelry, scarves, and other lovely arts and crafts.

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

**The Potomac Hosta Club – Burke, VA**
A nonprofit organization created to promote education in and enjoyment of the number one best-selling perennial plant in the United States, the genus Hosta.

**The Potomac Rose Society – Rockville, MD**
For 75 years, they have been bringing together a diverse group of people who love roses. At this year’s plant sale, they will offer more than 25 varieties of classic roses, all of which have been consistently highly rated by members of the American Rose Society as well as other growers. All roses will be sold in 3-gallon containers. Types of roses will include hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras, climbers, shrub roses, old garden roses, and even miniatures.

**Potomac Valley Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society – Greater DC Area**
Rock garden plants are characterized by their small size, interesting foliage, and amazing flowers. The Chapter will be selling these “little gems” in troughs made of hypertufa. Troughs are ideal for gardeners who have a balcony or for those with limited yard space—Where else can you grow a dozen plants in less than one square foot of space?

**The Washington Youth Garden**
The Washington Youth Garden invites you to bring your children to their booth to paint pots and plant strawberries to take home.
2015 Garden Fair 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, 2015.

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
The Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden, Federal Way, WA

WHOLESALE NURSERIES

American Trees, Harpers Ferry, WV
Babikow Greenhouses, Baltimore MD
Baucom’s Nursery, Charlotte, NC
Blue Sterling Nursery, Bridgeton, NJ
Clement, Baltimore, MD
Frankart Nurseries, Inc., Little Compton, RI
Hackney Nursery, Greensboro, FL
Hawksridge Farms, Hickory, NC
Heritage Seedlings, Inc., Salem, OR
Iseli Nursery, Boring, OR
Klyn Nurseries, Inc., Perry, OH
Landcraft Environments, Ltd, Mattituck, NY
Manor View Farm, Monkton, MD
Medford Nursery, Medford, NJ
Pender Nursery, Inc., Garner, NC
Pleasant Run Nursery, Allentown, NJ
Piedmont Carolina Nursery, Colfax, NC
Rhode Island Nurseries, Middletown, RI
Rare Tree Nursery, Silverton, OR
Saunders Brothers Nursery, Piney River, VA
Spring Meadow Nursery, Grand Haven, MI
Taylor’s Nursery, Raleigh, NC
Youngblood Nursery, Salem, OR

RETAIL NURSERIES

Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, CT
Camellia Forest Nursery, Chapel Hill, NC
Edelweiss Perennials, Canby, OR
Edgewood Gardens, Exton, PA
Far Reaches Farm, Port Townsend, WA
Hillside Nursery, Shelburne Falls, MA
RareFind Nursery, Jackson, NJ
Rohsler’s Allendale Nursery, Allendale, NJ
Merrifield Garden Center, Merrifield, VA
Plant Delights Nursery, Inc., Raleigh, NC
Susanna Farm Nursery, Boyds, MD
Sylvan Nursery Inc., Westport, MA

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE NURSERIES

Garden Design Nursery, Danielsville, GA

OTHER

& Pizza, Washington, DC
Harvest Automation, North Billerica, MA
PepsiCo, Inc., Raleigh, NC
Perfect Settings, Landover, MD

Special thanks to FleishmanHillard for providing many hours of public relations assistance in promoting the Garden Fair.
Spring Garden Tips

Nancy and Pierre Moitrier

• APPLY A LAYER OF COMPOST to garden beds before applying your annual 1½-2” layer of mulch.
• COMPLETE ANY MULCHING of gardens before perennials begin to grow and woody plants leaf out.
• PRUNE ROSES according to type for good growth and maximum bloom.
• PRUNE OUT broken and winter-damaged branches of your trees and shrubs.
• Before leaves emerge, FINISH FORMATIVE AND STRUCTURAL PRUNING of summer and fall flowering trees and shrubs.
• TEST VEGETABLE GARDEN SOIL and make adjustments to the pH. As soon as the ground has dried out and can be worked, incorporate compost or other organic matter into vegetable garden beds.
• After the incorporated compost has settled for two weeks, SOW SEEDS of arugula, beans (fava, bush, pole), beets, carrots, chicory, collards, endive, kale, lettuce, onions, parsley, parsnips, radish, and Swiss chard directly into the ground.
• DEADHEAD PANSIES regularly to prevent seed formation and promote flower production. Liquid feed pansies with 15-30-15 or bloom-boosting fish emulsion.
• PULL COOL-SEASON WEEDS like Chickweed, Hairy Bittercress, and Dandelions while they are small before they go to seed and multiply; remember “One year seeding, seven years weeding.”
• REMOVE SPENT FLOWERS from early blooming bulbs, but leave the foliage! Allow the leaves to ‘ripen’ (turn yellow) before removal. This will allow the bulbs to store nourishment promoting a good bloom next year.
• TAKE PICTURES OF BLOOMING BULBS. This will make it easier to remember where they are located and to color coordinate your fall-planted spring-flowering bulbs for next year.
• APPLY DEER REPELLENTS REGULARLY, especially on daylilies, hybrid lilies, roses, yews, coral bells, and other susceptible plants.
• PRUNE BACK (by one third) SHRUBS with gray buds such as Butterfly Bush (Buddleia davidii), Blue Mist Spirea (Caryopteris × clandonensis), Russian Sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia), and Wormwood (Artemisia spp.) after new growth has just begun to elongate.

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.
Help Beautify the Arboretum Grounds

YOU COULD HAVE A HAND in adding sought-after specimens to the Arboretum collection. Three years ago, FONA initiated a program that runs in conjunction with the Garden Fair—the Curators’ Wish List program. Contributions to the program are deposited in a dedicated account that is used exclusively for purchasing plant material for installation on the Arboretum grounds. All the plants are chosen by the USNA Curators, who develop a “wish list” each winter. Since its inception in 2012, wish list plants have been added to the grounds, including a significant range of conifers in the Gotelli Collection. Please consider making your mark on this highly successful program. The Curators’ Wish List program has helped ensure that USNA continues to have the capability to add to its world-class collections. Donations are being accepted now or they can be made at the Garden Fair.

—LINDA FINDLAY

What Are You Doing the Evening of Tuesday, June 9?

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE EVENING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 9, for Dinner Under the Stars 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 South Carolina. Members of the South Carolinian congressional delegation will be our honored guests, along with senior Administration officials. The delicious dinner will feature an outstanding menu featuring Palmetto State specialties.

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. We are pleased to announce that Resolute Forest Products, International Paper, and Domtar will be our signature sponsors for the 2015 dinner.

The U.S. National 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.
HAPPENINGS  For more information visit usna.usda.gov or fona.org

NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL GREENSCAPE CORRIDOR BIKE RIDE
April 18, 11:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Join in the fun of an 11-mile bike ride through downtown DC that explores three landmark green spaces around our nation’s capital: Arlington National Cemetery, the National Mall, and the U.S. National Arboretum, exploring the traditions and rich history behind the three locations. The ride begins at 11:30 am at BicycleSPACE and is led by a team of bike ride marshals. Cyclists will then proceed to Arlington National Cemetery and finish at the U.S. National Arboretum and enjoy refreshments while exploring the Grass Roots exhibit, an interactive look at turf and science-based lawn management. Free. Registration required. Register through the National Cherry Blossom Festival website.

AZALEA COLLECTIONS TOURS
April 24, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
April 29, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
May 1, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
May 10, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Barbara Bullock, long-time curator of the renowned Arboretum Azalea Collections, will take you on a tour of the brilliant spring display of thousands of blooming azaleas and provide the story on how Arboretum research has contributed hundreds of new varieties for gardeners. $12 ($10 FONA members). Registration required. Register online at usna.usda.gov.

UNDER THE ARBOR: GARDEN CLASSICS—LAVENDER AND ROSES
May 30, 1:00–4:00 p.m.
National Herb Garden
The Potomac Unit of the Herb Society of America invites you to explore the National Herb Garden’s collection of over 60 types of lavender and dozens of vintage rose varieties. Enjoy demonstrations of soap-making with both plants and pick up information you can use to create soap at home. Free.

DINNER UNDER THE STARS
Tuesday, June 9, 2015
Save the date and sign up now. It’s FONA’s Annual Dinner under the Stars. Join us as we celebrate South Carolina! Invite your friends and share a table for a truly unique evening at the Arboretum. For more information, including ticket and table pricing, visit fona.org/sponsorship-and-ticket-buying/ or contact Lindsey Rietkerk at 202.544.8733.

ARE YOU CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS AND BOOKCASES IN ANTICIPATION OF SPRING?
FONA welcomes donations of your garden-related books and sundries. The sundries can range from the practical to the frivolous—pots, vases, birdhouses, rakes, and hoes. Donations are accepted at the FONA office or call us at 202.544.8733 for pickup.