FONA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, membership-based organization established in 1982 to assist the U.S. National Arboretum in its mission to serve the public need for research, conservation, and education and outreach. Since its inception, FONA has helped support the Washington Youth Garden, Capitol Columns, Flowering Tree Walk, horticultural and research internships, restoration of Springhouse Run, and much more.

David Fairchild (1869 – 1954) was one of the most influential leaders in the field of plant science and exploration. Avocados, Meyer lemons, durum wheat, soybeans, dates and figs are just a few of the foods that are now staples of the American diet, thanks to Fairchild’s leadership at the USDA.

In 1914, Fairchild was appointed to the “National Arboretum Committee,” whose work set the stage for Congress’s vote in 1927 to create the National Arboretum. Perhaps best known for bringing the iconic Japanese flowering cherry trees to Washington, Fairchild extended his impact far beyond ornamental plants and trees. His efforts brought over 100,000 new plant accessions to the United States, a number of which have become mainstays of U.S. agriculture as well as forming an important part of the collections at the Arboretum.

The U.S. National Arboretum
Located in NE Washington, D.C., on 446 acres just over 2 miles from the Capitol, the National Arboretum contains important collections of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants from around the world. As a public garden, the Arboretum offers education and public programs to encourage visitors to explore and learn about the gardens and collections, to enjoy one of the city’s largest open spaces, and to appreciate the important role plants play in our lives, a healthy environment, and the nation’s economy.

As a premier research facility, the Arboretum supports our nation’s agricultural industry with new plant introductions, researches pests and pathogens, and preserves hundreds of thousands of plant species in its living collections and in its world-class herbarium, providing a critical genetic resource to the scientific community.

With your support, FONA will ensure a sustainable future for the Arboretum and its recognition as a premier resource for scientists and visitors alike.
Join the David Fairchild Society in Support of the U.S. National Arboretum

The David Fairchild Society is a community of dedicated people passionate about the U.S. National Arboretum. Membership in the Society reflects the highest level of support for Friends of the National Arboretum, the Arboretum's primary private partner. As a member of the Society, you’ll enjoy camaraderie with old and new friends through exclusive events and experiences.

FONA needs your support! We invite you to join the Society with a minimum donation of $1,200, or more.

The Arboretum has played a significant role in horticultural research since its founding in 1927. It is a living laboratory of plants collected from around the world. You may have Arboretum plant introductions, such as crapemyrtles, camellias and hydrangeas, in your garden!

The Arboretum’s 446 acres, along the Anacostia River, are open year-round and free to the public. It provides restorative green space, lovely wooded paths and streams, and important gardens for visitors to enjoy. It is home to the Washington Youth Garden, the Capitol Columns, and National Bonsai Museum. It is a peaceful place in a busy city where people can unwind and exercise as they explore, learn and connect with nature. The Arboretum is critical to the health and well-being of area residents and visitors which number over 700,000 each year.

FONA, with contributions from generous supporters, works to secure the future of the Arboretum as a national, world-class arboretum.

FONA and the Arboretum work as partners with a joint vision in place. FONA supports the Arboretum’s mission of science, education and conservation while playing a critical role in bringing the Arboretum to life through public programs. The Washington Youth Garden, FONA’s education program, provides nature-based education to over 7,000 underserved youth annually. FONA also collaborates with partners on environmental restoration efforts on the grounds and promotes the interests of the Arboretum on Capitol Hill and within D.C.

We need your support! Please join FONA’s David Fairchild Society and help secure the success of the U.S. National Arboretum for future generations.

David Fairchild Society Benefits

Whether you visit the Arboretum often with your friends, family or your dog, or only visit occasionally, numerous benefits await you as a Society member, including:

- **Listing on the Donor Wall at the Arboretum** and ongoing recognition.
- **Invitations to exclusive events**, garden tours, full moon hikes, and more.
- **Opportunities to meet with Arboretum horticulturalists and scientists.** Get the inside scoop on plants, trees, science, history, and more.
- **Complimentary copy of a biography of our namesake, David Fairchild - Fruits of Eden: David Fairchild and America’s Plant Hunters.**
- **Reciprocal admission privileges and discounts** at 300+ American Horticultural Society gardens and arboreta with your FONA membership card.
- **Discount of 20% on FONA and USNA programs.**
- **FONA’s informative quarterly newsletter, Arbor Friends.**

You Can Make a Difference

As a member of the Society, you will help ensure the Arboretum’s success. Your generous support will enable FONA to:

- **Plan for the National Arboretum’s 100th anniversary in 2027** and build a strong community of support.
- **Host public programs:** Full Moon Hikes, Forest Bathing walks, Summer Evenings Concert Series, Spring Garden Fair, and more.
- **Renovate the Washington Youth Garden** and expand its educational programs to reach more of Washington’s underserved youth, families and teachers.
- **Lead efforts to restore the historic Capitol Columns on the grounds of the Arboretum.**
- **Fund internships** to launch horticultural and other plant-based scientific careers.
- **Improve water quality of the Anacostia River and Chesapeake Bay** by restoring and maintaining two streams, Springhouse Run and Hickey Run.
- **Promote the Arboretum's interests** on Capitol Hill and to the D.C. government.

Thank you for your support! When you join the Society, you will join David Fairchild, who helped establish the Arboretum in 1927, and fellow members, secure the Arboretum’s future as a world-class Arboretum in our nation’s capital.