



A publication of the Friends of the National Arboretum

# ARBOR FRIENDS

SUMMER 2022



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

*The waiting is the hardest part—Tom Petty*

There is no doubt that waiting is the hardest part. I’ve been at FONA for close to 3 years, and I wasn’t sure I would ever get to experience a Garden Fair. From the day I took the job, I heard all about how important it is to FONA, the Arboretum, and our visitors. We even went through all the planning for months before deciding to cancel it in 2020. In 2021, we tried to figure out a way to have the Garden Fair, but it just didn’t make sense, and we cancelled it once again. So, we waited....

We knew this year would be different, so we called the band (aka Garden Fair Committee) back together to start the planning anew. It was important to rethink many of our past decisions in order to make sure we kept the risk low for both our guests and our team. We decided to limit the fair to one day and offer new activities around the Arboretum so kids and adults alike could find something interesting to do.

We had to reestablish all the relationships with our vendors and reach out to new ones to reclaim our reputation of having some of the most interesting and unique offerings for attendees. There were many hurdles to overcome, from COVID uncertainty to plant availability, but we had generous sponsors, a willing partner in the Arboretum, cooperation from our vendors, and incredible weather to help with the solutions. In the end, the Committee pulled it off with a mix of our reliable standards and new ideas to return our signature event to the calendar.

It was a great experience with all our plants finding new homes, but what I take away from my first Garden Fair is the incredible work of the Committee, our committed group of volunteers, and the FONA team, who made it all happen. To see our FONA members return and enjoy the day put a smile on my face, so I send my thanks to you, most of all. While the waiting was certainly the hardest part, in the end, how it turned out made it all worthwhile. 🌳

*Craven*

Craven Rand, Executive Director  
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**ON THE COVER** Crapemyrtle flowers are a sure sign that summer is here. Find these trees lined up in the Arboretum’s research fields.

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LETTER FROM THE ARBORETUM DIRECTOR

Just go ahead and garden...



“GARDENER” is an all-encompassing and inclusive term. At the National Arboretum, we garden. We tend, cultivate, and

otherwise nurture plants. Whether they are priceless bonsai specimens or tender annuals, herbs, vegetables, or long-lived trees and natural areas, we garden. We aren’t particularly hung up on professional monikers, most of them anachronisms in today’s parlance, that further divide us. I’m not sure when I last used agrostologist or olericulturist to introduce folks. We are gardeners. We garden.

That by no means minimizes or belittles our efforts. Our gardeners are the cream of the crop, excuse the pun. The National Arboretum is an Accredited Level IV Arboretum through ArbNet, an interactive global network of arboretums. Of 527 accredited institutions, only 39 have attained this highest level of accreditation. We were also the first garden in North

America to have a National Collection accredited through the American Public Garden Association. Not only that, but the National Arboretum has also been an integral partner and funder, helping to train-the-trainers and advise on the program. We have since added other collections, including magnolia, maple, and oak collections, and we’re working on more. These professional benchmarks are not merely a statement on the quality of our plants and collections, but a reflection of our staff expertise and professionalism in curating and managing the collections. Our gardeners truly are great gardeners.

Increasingly, we are gardening on a grand scale as we come to grips with a domesticated planet. There is no place left untouched by humans, whether it’s plastic bags in the deepest ocean trenches or pollutants in Antarctic ice cores. Effects on ecosystems are actively studied by others, but here at the Arboretum, we see these effects in the time spent removing invasive weed species, the cost in tree removals from canopy decline, and even collection management decisions based on future climate scenarios. For instance, we no

longer actively curate a spruce collection, because rising temperatures and urban heat island effects are not conducive to growing these high-elevation or latitudinal species in D.C.

So, we garden. We garden for the current and future visitor. We garden more and more through a lens of ecosystem management rather than landscape maintenance. The Friendship Garden around the Arbor House and the Springhouse Run restoration are examples of putting this into practice as we do our part to support dynamic and sustainable landscapes. Connections and access are core principles of our strategic plan. Tending and nurturing plants, and ultimately people’s relationships with plants and our institute are critical.

So just garden. The more inclusive our efforts and tending and nurturing are, the better off we all are. 🌳

All the best,  
Richard T. Olsen, Director  
United States National Arboretum

26th Annual Dinner Under the Stars

Join us **Tuesday, September 20, 2022** from 5:30pm to 8:30pm for FONA’s 26th annual Dinner Under the Stars. Enjoy cocktails in the National Arboretum’s Ellipse Meadow and a tented dinner in view of the Capitol Columns.

By attending the Dinner, you support FONA’s work supporting and promoting the National Arboretum.

You can sponsor a table or purchase a ticket. See [www.fona.org/dinner/](http://www.fona.org/dinner/) for more details and to RSVP.







# Summer

Karen Zill

*Staying in town for the summer?  
As Washington shifts its seasonal gears,  
even those who enjoy the slower pace and  
lighter traffic in the city might want to take  
a break from their urban surroundings.*

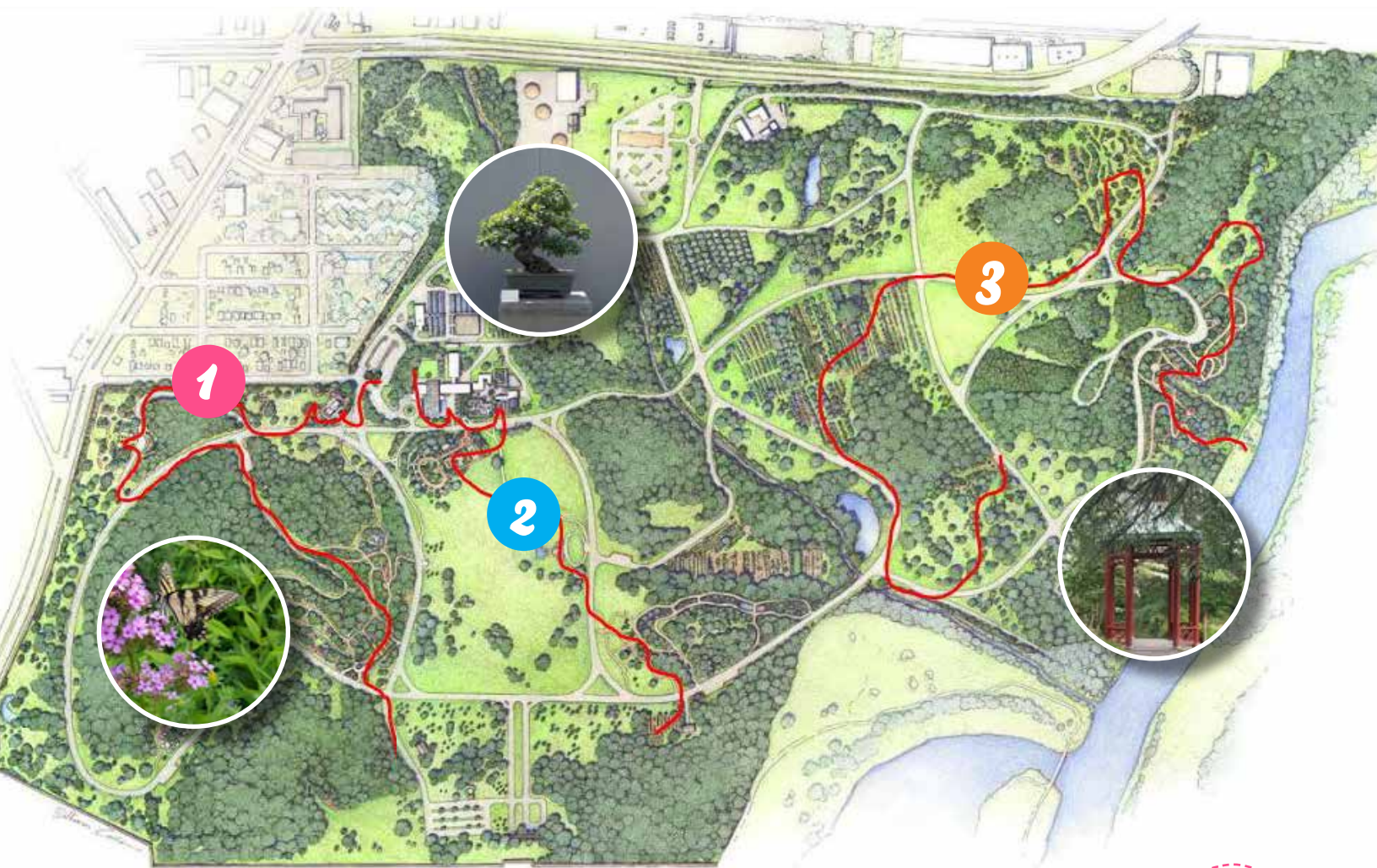
# Splendor

**ONE WAY TO DO THIS IS WITH A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF THE ARBORETUM.** The entire 451 acres would be a lot of ground to cover in one visit, but the tours described here offer more manageable options. Each one is limited to a specific part of the Arboretum and can be completed in about half a day. See the map for help with navigation. Whether following one of these options or combining a little of each into a do-it-yourself tour, you will be treated to an abundance of the Arboretum's summer beauty.

The Gardens & Collections page of the Arboretum web site (<https://www.usna.usda.gov/discover/gardens-collections/>) contains short, informative descriptions of the collections and areas in each tour. You can also explore with ABE, the Arboretum Botanical Explorer (<https://www.usna.usda.gov/abe/>) showing the location of specific plants. In addition, a plant finder and interactive map of the Arboretum are available on the free Arboretum app, which contains a large variety of tours throughout the Arboretum and suggestions of what to see and what's in bloom in each season.







## Tour 1

Starting at the R Street parking lot near the Administration Building, walk toward Arbor House to visit the **Friendship Garden** with its variety of year-round perennials. From here, take **Azalea Road up the hill to the National Boxwood Collection**. Continue on that path to reach the **Perennial Collections**, where numerous summer flowers will be at their showy best. Peonies and Baptisia are showstoppers and, unless the deer have struck, there is a plethora of daylily varieties of seemingly every color. Cross Azalea Road and follow one of the landscaped trails to the **top of Mt. Hamilton** for a view of the U.S. Capitol. As you descend through the azalea collection, admire the **Capitol Columns** across the meadow. End the tour with a picnic at one of the tables in the Grove.

*NOTE: Until late summer, access to the top and back of Mt. Hamilton is restricted to protect the Arboretum's nesting bald eagles.*

## What's in Bloom?

<b>ALL SUMMER</b> herbs, annuals, hydrangeas, grasses, ferns	<b>JUNE</b> daylilies, Satsuki azaleas, mountain laurels, rhododendrons, amsonia
	<b>JULY</b> hostas, wildflowers
	<b>AUGUST</b> plum leaf azaleas



## Tour 2

Start at the **Administration Building** and the surrounding pool with its array of aquatic plants and large, graceful koi fish. Step into the cool shadow of the towering Japanese cedars lining the entrance to the **National Bonsai & Penjing Museum** and continue through the museum's pavilions full of diminutive trees. From there, it's a short walk to the **National Herb Garden**, filled with heritage roses and 800 kinds of herbs from around the world. Cross the **Ellipse Meadow** and look up at the **Capitol Columns**. A short way down the Ellipse Road are gravel paths leading into the shade of **Fern Valley**, where the native plants are so diverse that something is blooming every month of the year. Visit the nearby **Washington Youth Garden** where FONA's program team engages children in garden science and exploration.

**ALL SUMMER**  
meadow and prairie flowers, waterlilies, herbs, roses, plus vegetables and flowers in the Washington Youth Garden



**JULY**  
pepper collection, hydrangeas, sweet pepperbush



**AUGUST**  
pepper collection, Sweet Pepperbush, cardinal flower



## Tour 3

This tour focuses on the **eastern part of the Arboretum**. From the **small parking area on Holly Spring Road**, begin with a walk through the **Holly and Magnolia Collection** and enjoy the sweet fragrance of southern magnolia flowers. Continue to the **research fields where crapemyrtles grow** in straight lines, evidence of the scientific study for which they were planted. Stroll up to the **Gotelli Conifer Collection** to see the assortment of colors, forms, and textures of its pines and firs. More crapemyrtles (all hybrids introduced by the Arboretum) grow among the conifers. In the nearby **Dogwood Collection**, some of the late-blooming dogwoods may still have blossoms, and if not, look for the fleshy red fruit of the Japanese dogwoods (*Cornus kousa*). From the **overlook pavilion**, look for boaters and birds moving along the Anacostia River. Proceed through the camellias to the **Asian Collection**, where something blooms every month of the year. A path through the garden leads down to the Anacostia River itself. Before you wrap up your tour, spend a few relaxing moments in the **pagoda**.

**JUNE**  
southern magnolias, Chinese dogwood, rhododendrons



**JULY**  
crapemyrtles, conifers, hydrangeas



**AUGUST**  
crapemyrtles, conifers



KAREN ZILL is a DC-based freelance writer. Her work includes discussion guides for film and public television programs, memoirs, essays, and nature writing.





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# Spring at the National Arboretum

1 Blooming azaleas attracted crowds of visitors this spring. The Arboretum implemented a temporary traffic plan to keep pedestrians safe.

2 In-person field trips to the Washington Youth Garden resumed this spring. Science- or nutrition-based lessons connect youth to the land.

3 The bald eagle nest at the Arboretum had a new resident - the nestling dubbed DC9 (or 'Takoda') hatched and grew while thousands watched on the 24/7 live-stream eagle cam <https://naeaglecam.org/>. (Photo credit: Jim Campbell-Spickler).

4 FONA's Native Plant Sale was held on a chilly March day, in connection with the Arboretum's virtual Lahr Native Plant Symposium.

5 Beavers took up residence in Springhouse Run, building a lodge and dam. Visitors can spy them from the path, but please don't stand on either structure.

6 FONA's annual Garden Fair & Plant Sale returned this April. Thanks to the hard work of the Garden Fair Committee and volunteers, over 4,000 people came to the event. (Photo credit: Matthew Rakola).

7 Flowering cherry trees planted throughout the Arboretum drew visitors seeking blooms beyond the Tidal Basin.





# Singing With Spring

**FROM A TREE HIGH ABOVE** the Asian Collections, a barred owl adds its deep voice to the nighttime music. Spring peepers chime in with their own high-pitched staccato notes from the streams snaking through Fern Valley. In the distance, trains, cars, and sirens create an urban audio backdrop. Among the Capitol Columns, the voices of the All Souls Choir rise to meet those of the evening around them to create a symphony.

*Off the Beaten Path* was a strolling choral performance this April that invited visitors to experience spring at the U.S. National Arboretum in a completely new way. This event was the first of its kind for FONA and was held in partnership with the choir from All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, DC. The choir serenaded attendees at different points

along a walking path that traversed several collections.

The choir worked with the land to create an immersive experience. At times, they sent their voices in a cascade down either side of the road as the audience stood in the middle, listening to the waterfall of sound created by the choir's singing in rounds. In the Ellipse Meadow, participants were invited to stand amongst the choral members, who were scattered like stars throughout the grassy field with flashlights pointing toward the sky. At other times, the choir stood in a traditional semicircle and projected their voices as one into the crowd and the forest beyond.

Whenever I get to spend an evening at an event at the National Arboretum, it always feels like a special privilege. Not just because the grounds close at 5:00pm and

after-hours access is special, but because it feels like I am stepping into someone else's home after the sun sets. The Arboretum is meant for people to enjoy during the day, but at nightfall, the Arboretum's plants and animals take back their space.

Luckily, there are plenty more opportunities this year for visitors to experience this feeling for themselves. FONA is hosting a nighttime Movie in the Meadow in July, an evening concert in August, and regular sunset and sunrise photography workshops throughout the year. Come experience the Arboretum after hours this summer. 🌿

**ANNE MCGARVEY** supports fundraising, marketing, and communications efforts at FONA. She is an avid crossfitter, baker, and outdoorswoman with a passion for pickling chili peppers.

# Return of the Garden Fair

**FONA'S ANNUAL GARDEN FAIR & PLANT SALE** returned this spring! After two years of cancellations, it was such fun to resume this popular event.

We want to say a big thank you to those who attended. It was a beautiful day and a great event. Thousands of people came through to shop, peruse, and explore. More than 20 vendors joined us to sell a variety of products, from jewelry to garden art, food, and plants. We are extremely grateful to DC Child Care Connections for orchestrating the ARTboretum family activities and supporting many event operational expenses, such as the shuttle service. The Garden Fair is an important annual fundraiser for FONA, as well as a community event connecting people to

nature at the National Arboretum.

Our sincere gratitude and congratulations go to our Garden Fair Committee volunteers and the volunteers who helped put on the event. The Garden Fair could not happen without them.

**Calling for 2023 Garden Fair volunteers!** We're already planning for next year's spring Garden Fair. In addition to plant experts serving on the Garden Fair Committee, we'll need help directing visitors, moving carts, and running checkout. No experience necessary. Please fill out the volunteer interest form at <https://bit.ly/FONAvolunteer>. 🌿



## Special thanks to



**FRANK & EVELYN SCHMIDT FAMILY FOUNDATION**  
for sponsoring this event!

### In-kind sponsors:

- American Plant
- Edelweiss Perennials
- Far Reaches Farm
- Foxborough Nursery
- JC Raulston Arboretum
- Terry Macfarlane
- Kevin McIntosh
- Plant Delights Nursery

The Garden Fair had activities for kids, including a demonstration honeybee hive. The event could not happen without wonderful volunteers! Dozens of outside vendors sold plants and goods at the fair. By the end of the day, all the plants were sold! (Photo credit: Matthew Rakola)





FONA PROGRAM TEAM

Ashley Rattanawan

Educator Coaching Program: supporting school gardens

**OUR SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS** have rapidly changed to meet the needs of our community and provide the tools that schools need to have thriving, sustainable school garden programs. This is primarily done through our Educator Coaching Program (ECP). The program’s vision is for school gardens and healthy food to be a fundamental part of each school, **led by the school community**, and integrated into each school’s culture and learning environment. One focus for the program is to build capable school garden teams that are a cross-section of the school community—teachers, non-teaching staff, parents, and administrators—to lead their school garden programs instead of relying on a single school garden champion.

The ECP is built from our annual 4-day summer training by the Summer Institute for Garden-Based Teaching. Schools send members of their garden teams to the Institute so they can develop their skills in garden-based teaching and build sustainable garden programs. They then have the opportunity to apply to the ECP for continued and targeted support throughout the school year.

Through this program, FONA helps co-



2nd graders at Hendley Elementary School planted flower bulbs in their school garden.

ordinate regular meetings throughout the academic year with school garden teams to identify and execute key goals specific to their school and community. Partner schools pledge to have 2 to 4 people committed to serving as the core of their school’s garden team, and FONA provides support in garden education and coordina-

tion through school-specific garden goals. School goals vary widely based on each schools’ unique needs, but here are some sample goals that school garden teams can achieve:

- Garden basics: Develop garden maintenance plans, establish garden agreements and expectations,

- and improve gardening skills and knowledge
- Planting plans: Schedule what to plant and when
- Food distribution: Share best practices for organizing and facilitating food distributions
- Scheduling and logistics: Organize volunteer workdays and reservation calendars, create outreach materials, and develop evaluation systems
- Garden-based teaching: Encourage hands-on, garden-based activities through co-teaching, materials (such as our Grow@Home Kits), curriculum development, and SPROUT Field Trips to the Washington Youth Garden
- Partnerships: Connect the school’s garden team to FONA’s partner organizations and garden resources in the area

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, FONA partnered with 12 different DC schools in the ECP to help them meet their garden program goals. As of April 2022, we have collaborated with 46 teachers across our school partners, worked with more than 257 students in garden-based learning, coordinated 10 garden workdays or events, distributed 300 Grow@Home kits, facilitated 39 school garden committee meetings, and registered 30 SPROUT field trips. 🌱

ASHLEY RATTANAWAN is FONA’s School Garden Educational Coach



New signs for our half-century celebration

**A SPECIAL PROJECT TO MARK** the Washington Youth Garden’s 50th year is to create new signage for the garden. Signage is an important part of any garden because it helps identify plants, provide orientation, and engage visitors throughout the garden. In 2021, we partnered with former WYG staff member and graphic design consultant Thea Klein-Mayer to develop creative and innovative signage.

Our new crop signage takes drawings from our young program participants and puts them directly in the garden! After we collect the drawings of a specific crop from the children, their designs are laser-etched into wood planks. All signs name the crop in English and Spanish. To help with welcoming and wayfinding, we have also made new area signs, a garden map, and our garden agreements (a team favorite). After several rounds of ideas and designs, we tested some of the signs at our fall 2021 Garlic Planting Party to get feedback from visitors. Fabricated in Baltimore by a community maker-space called OpenWorks and installed as they are completed, these signs are made of cedar for durability and milled out by using a computer numerical control router for a stunning appearance. We hope you use and enjoy them at your next visit to the Washington Youth Garden. 🌱

EMILIA KAWASHIMA is FONA’s Garden Coordinator

“Mentorship from FONA was a blessing for us. After 5 months of meetings and virtual plantings with more than 200 children, we now have stakeholders in the community who are invested in a school garden program. Our garden boxes are a dream come true! We harvested our first vegetables in the summer and fall of 2021 and we can’t wait to plant again this year.”

—Sabina Malkani, Bruce-Monroe Educational Campus



# Help Stop the Spread of Spotted Lanternfly

Claire Broderick

**THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY** (*Lycorma delicatula*) is a quickly spreading, invasive pest in our region. Originally from Asia, the plant hopper was first observed in the United States in 2014. It has since been spotted in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. This insect is a hitchhiking species. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) program notes that spotted lanternflies lay “eggs on almost any surface, including vehicles, trailers, outdoor equipment, and patio furniture, and can be spread long distances when people move infested material” unawares. This insect poses an especial threat to U.S. grape, orchard, and logging industries.

The nymphs feed on and damage a variety of fruit, ornamental, and hardwood trees. The adults tend to feed and lay eggs on non-native tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) plants. It has no natural predators in North America. When the nymphs and adults feed by sucking sap from stems, branches, and trunks, they damage the plant. Oozing sap and honeydew excretions from the insects often result in sooty mold growth and attract more insects.

As a research center in the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the National Arboretum has 2 APHIS spotted lanternfly traps on the grounds that DC Urban Forestry checks on a regular basis during the flight season in summer and fall.



The USDA is appealing to the public to participate in stopping the spread. They have announced that “early detection is critical for preventing economic and ecological losses. The public has played a key role in detecting spotted lanternfly, and the success of stopping its spread depends on help from the public to look for and report signs of the pest.”

You can help stop the spread of spotted lanternfly!

- **Learn how to recognize the insect in all its stages**, from egg mass, to nymph, to adult. For more information about the spotted lanternfly, visit <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/hungrypests/slf>.

- **Report signs** of spotted lanternfly to your State Department of Agriculture or the Extension specialist near you. If possible, take a picture or preserve the insect in alcohol. To locate an Extension specialist, go to the USDA website at [nifa.usda.gov/Extension](http://nifa.usda.gov/Extension). If you see a spotted lanternfly in DC, report your sighting through DC Urban Forestry at <https://trees.dc.gov/pages/invasive-species-spotted-lantern-fly>.
- **Squish** the nymphs and adults or **scrape** the egg mass into rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer.
- **Remove non-native tree of heaven plants** from your property. 🌱



Nancy and Pierre Moitrier

# Up, Down, All Around

Visually enlarge your outdoor space with these proven design techniques:

**SEEK TEXTURAL VARIETY** not only in plant selection but also in the containers, furniture, walls, fencing, and even the ground plane. The richer and more varied the textures, the more experiential the space.

**CHOOSE DUAL-PURPOSE PIECES** to enlarge usable space and reduce visual clutter. Low retaining walls can double as seating which eliminates the need for furniture. When not in use, a fire pit with a flat cover can double as a coffee table. A ceramic garden stool can also work as a side table.

**BORROW VIEWS: A CHURCH STEEPLE, AN ATTRACTIVE TREE, INTERESTING ARCHITECTURE NEXT DOOR.** These are inexpensive assets that can easily give the appearance of a larger space.

**APPLY PREPOSITIONS TO THE DESIGN.** Think: UP the steps, OVER the bridge, UNDER the pergola, AROUND the tree. The more prepositions, the larger a space will feel.

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.

**INTEGRATE DIAGONAL PATTERNS INTO THE PAVING.** Diagonals are dynamic and easily break the rigidity of a rectilinear space.

**USE A SUBTLY PLACED MIRROR TO MAGICALLY INCREASE THE SIZE OF A SMALL SPACE.** For example: sneak a mirror into a circular opening on an ivy-cloaked wall.

**EMBRACE CRAFTSMANSHIP AT ALL LEVELS.** From decorative drain grates and doorknobs to elegant chair cushions and artful hose bibs. Small spaces become larger with special attention to details.

**CONCENTRATE ON PLANT QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY.** Use fewer but exceptional plants that display intriguing branch structure, unique form, unusual foliage, and four seasons of interest.

**USE PLANTS WITH FINE-TEXTURED FOLIAGE** to visually enlarge your space, which creates a feeling of distance and choose cool colors like blue, green, and white which recede.

**CONCENTRATE ON EXCEPTIONAL, ATTRACTIVE, AND CONSISTENTLY HEALTHY FOLIAGE.** Flowers are often fleeting.

**CHOOSE PLANTS THAT ARE APPROPRIATELY SIZED** for the site and will not outgrow the space as the years progress.

**EMPLOY THE ART OF ESPALIER.** With limited real estate, every square inch becomes valuable, and walls present opportunities for increasing the breadth of your canvas.

**USE “FASTIGIATE” (NARROW VERTICAL) PLANTS** and vines to draw the eye upward and enlarge your composition. 🌿





# FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

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*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

For more information, visit [usna.usda.gov](https://usna.usda.gov) or [fona.org](https://fona.org)

The calendar of events is updated regularly at [FONA.org](https://FONA.org).

### MOVIE IN THE MEADOW

**Wednesday, July 13, 9pm – 10:30pm**

Join us for an outdoor showing of “Calamity,” directed by Rémi Chayé (2021), in French with English subtitles. This family-friendly animated film follows a family’s journey through the American West in the 19th century and explores the nature and wildlife of the Great Plains. The event is held in partnership with the French Embassy. Free, but registration is required.

### U.S. NAVY BAND SUMMER CONCERT

**Wednesday, August 10,  
7pm – 8:30pm**

Enjoy an evening summer concert by the U.S. Navy Band in the Ellipse Meadow. Free, but registration is required.

### DINNER UNDER THE STARS

**Tuesday, September 20,  
5:30pm – 8:30pm**

The 26th annual Dinner Under the Stars fundraiser supports FONA and the Arboretum. Enjoy cocktails in the National Arboretum’s Ellipse Meadow and a tented dinner in view of the Capitol Columns.

### YOGA

Find your flow on Sunday mornings with Bluebird Sky Yoga. Register online.

### FOREST BATHING

Meditative forest bathing sessions are offered several times a month on a pay-what-you-can pricing model. Register online.

### GET UPDATES BY EMAIL AND ONLINE

Sign up for the FONA Field Notes email newsletters at [FONA.org](https://FONA.org) to get regular updates from the Washington Youth Garden, behind-the-scenes stories, pictures of the Arboretum, and the latest events.

