

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM:

There are never enough ways to convey thanks. Looking back with pride at our accomplishments, we note that 2012 was a year in which FONA and the U.S. National Arboretum achieved many significant milestones. So this issue of *Arbor Friends* is dedicated to all of our amazing supporters who put their trust in our collaborative efforts. Our annual appeal generated 25% more revenue than the year before, and we exceeded our annual goal by 13%! As we continue to shift our focus of support to a stronger private base, let me thank you and try to convey the direct benefit of these gifts to the Arboretum.

Out of the azalea and boxwood crisis and under Dr. Hefferan's leadership came a comprehensive *Living Collections Policy* that will guide any difficult decisions to be made in the future. FONA also made its first significant gift in the amount of \$110,000 for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing these two cherished collections. Further, the endowment structured to support the collections and a designated boxwood and azalea fund continue to grow more robust each day, promising sustenance in perpetuity. FONA was able to fund a 13-month graduate-level internship for the Asian Collections as the first disbursement of our Meyer Kidder Endowment as well as fund the Arboretum's top priority internship position. This internship will be tasked to the Introduction Collection, which will be re-established in the garden next to the newly renovated administration building. In spite of disappointing delays, the \$9 million renovated building, when it opens this winter, will inspire all of us to continue to move forward on behalf of our "priceless green asset," so named by the Washington Post's Adrian Higgins.

On behalf of the staff and the board, let me say that we're expecting even more great things for 2013. The Washington Youth Garden and the environmental cleanup projects at the Arboretum are just two examples of the energy that's in the air. A clever new exhibit called "Grass Roots" is in the works and promises to entertain as well as educate. Most importantly, the Arboretum and FONA will be guided by a strategic plan that will help balance the esteemed research for which the Arboretum is so well known with the preservation of the heralded green place we love for its ability to restore our spirit. With heartfelt thanks, we ask you to continue the journey with us. 🌱

Linda Dooley

Linda Dooley
Chair, Board of Directors

ON THE COVER Top left: *Nadia Mercer, Garden Manager at the Washington Youth Garden with program participants.* Top middle photo: *FONA Board Member, Bill Matuszeski enjoying the Garden Fair with his granddaughter.* Middle right photo: *A Washington Youth Garden participant very focused on planting.* Lower middle photo: *FONA Board Member Jeanne Connelly enjoying the Cookout with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and his wife, Christie.*



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Connecting People and Plants



GRASS ROOTS, A NEW EXHIBIT and program initiative, will open at the U.S. National Arboretum in 2013. The exhibit, near the entrance to the Arboretum, will feature the latest innovations in turf grass research and management

and will help visitors understand the ever-evolving role of grasses in our landscapes and culture. It will also provide a venue to learn how to use turf and ornamental grasses to create beautiful lawns, functional parks and playgrounds, and sustainable environments.

sibility, or for the sheer joy of driving a riding mower before you had a driver's license. We expect to support the Grass Roots initiative for 4 years and would like to post a new story on the Arboretum's website each month of the program, beginning in advance of the opening of the display in the summer of 2013. We hope to publish at least 50 stories.

We are seeking your help in finding stories and encouraging authors to share how taking care of lawns helped shaped their life. While we are not prescribing a format, we want authentic experiences, not necessarily all pleasant, though curiously universal and reflective, of how

We are seeking your help in finding stories and encouraging authors to share how taking care of lawns helped shaped their life.

Our Nation's long love affair with lawns—both public and private, for beauty and for function—has also been a personal opportunity and commitment for many citizens. As part of the Grass Roots initiative, we would like to develop a series of short stories of how working to maintain lawns has contributed to the development of an entrepreneurial spirit, work ethic, appreciation of labor, or simply a chance to earn money at a critical time in one's life. Our staff named the series "Sowing, Mowing, and Growing a Great Life." For now, I am just calling it "Personal Grass Roots."

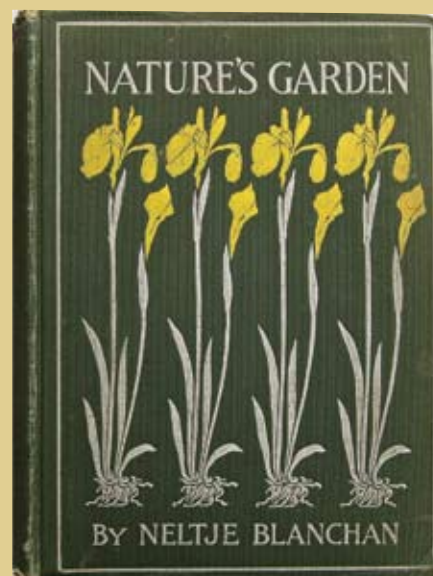
We are seeking 300-500 word stories about life lessons learned from taking care of lawns as a paid job, a family respon-

work, especially outside in the natural elements, improves our understanding and appreciation of the world immediately around us. We would appreciate stories from a wide range of people and hope to include in that mix a few familiar names from the political, sports, entertainment, business, and media worlds.

If you wish to send us a story, or if you know of someone who has a good story to tell, please contact me at the National Arboretum. We are eager to know and share your "Grass Roots." 🌱

Colien Hefferan, Director
U.S. National Arboretum
colien.hefferan@ars.usda.gov

USED BOOK DONATIONS



Two exceptional collections of garden and horticultural books—nearly 500 volumes—are the gift of Sarah Broley, well-known Washington landscape designer and Elizabeth Stanford, dedicated gardener, well-informed by her splendid book collection. From classics to contemporary—there is special strength in English and American writers, Italian garden books, and horticulture.

These new books, as well as some of Sally Boasberg's, are being sold off site. Call 202.333.1196 for an appointment. Many other books are shelved at the FONA office.

Tell your friends! Think of these books for gifts! Pass the word—quality is high, prices are low, and the Arboretum benefits! 🌱

—MARY EUGENIA MYER, MLA
FONA Board member and
Coordinator FONA Used Books



The interior of the Japanese Pavilion.

THE NATIONAL BONSAI & PENJING MUSEUM'S JAPANESE PAVILION: Past, Present, and Future

Jack Sustic



On March 20, 1975, while former Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi, U.S. Ambassador James Hodgson, and U.S. Arboretum Director John Creech were speaking at the Bonsai Presentation Ceremony in Tokyo, Japan, construction of the Japanese Pavilion at the U.S. National Arboretum was already underway. This new pavilion would house and display the 53 bonsai that the United States received from the Japanese people to commemorate our Bicentennial in 1976. In addition to the 53 bonsai, 6 *suiseki* (viewing stones) were also donated.

This Bicentennial gift, known as the “Green Mission of Peace,” required very special packing and handling. The carefully packed bonsai were flown from Tokyo to Washington, DC, on their own Pan American plane in what was most likely the largest and most expensive air shipment of plants ever made. Upon arrival in the United States, the plants were transported to the USDA Plant Introduction Station in Glenn Dale, Maryland, and placed in quarantine for one year. It was during this time that the new pavilion began to take shape.

Masao Kinoshita of Sasaki Associates, Watertown, Massachusetts, headed up the design for the new pavilion. His challenge was to design a pavilion befitting this gift. His goal was to respect traditional Japanese design while providing an American interpretation—a unique blending of two cultures. This new pavilion would also represent the first phase of a much bigger plan that would create a bonsai museum unlike any the world had ever seen.

A peaceful, contemplative mood would need to be set at the entrance to the pavilion. For this, the Japanese stroll garden was



designed. Beautiful azaleas and pines complemented with boulders strategically placed in this garden along its meandering stone path would indeed set the proper mood for viewing the bonsai.

Inside the new pavilion, the bonsai were displayed on redwood benches with neutral stucco walls as a backdrop. Wide gravel walkways guided guests, and a wooden fence was installed to keep inquisitive visitors from touching the bonsai.

Finally, everything was set for the opening ceremony on July 9, 1976. Some of the bonsai were on display in the new pavilion and some were moved to the administration building's terrace where the ceremony was being held. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, foreign dignitaries, bonsai masters from around the world, and many other guests were on hand to commemorate this auspicious event on a beautiful summer day.

As Arboretum Director John Creech (above) noted, “The bonsai complex will grow to maturity as a tribute to the Japanese people who so generously gave us their treasured gifts to commemorate our 200th anniversary.”

Over the past 37 years, the Japanese Pavilion has served us well. However, unlike bonsai that improve with age, the pavilion has not. The pavilion is showing its age and is in need of repair and upgrades. The Bicentennial gift of bonsai is just as precious today as it was in 1976, and the Japanese Pavilion should continue to provide the bonsai with the best home possible. 🌳

JACK SUSTIC is curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum. This article was originally published in *Bonsai: Journal of the American Bonsai Society*.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE JAPANESE PAVILION: A GIFT RENEWED

Jim Hughes

FOR FONA MEMBERS who frequent the U.S. National Arboretum, the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum is one of the most popular destinations. The Japanese Pavilion within the museum along with the Kato Stroll Garden which leads to that pavilion are the oldest structures in the museum and are in need of major repairs. In May 2012, The National Bonsai Foundation (NBF) began a \$2 million capital campaign to restore these adjoining areas. Construction drawings are now being finalized, and bids will be requested to begin construction in 2013. Detailed drawings of the renovation design, along with the total of funds received to date,

can be found at the NBF website www.bonsai-nbf.org.

Encouraged by a major lead gift from a local benefactor, NBF has received generous support from NBF board members, USNA staff, and bonsai clubs. Individuals and organizations in the local area, Mid-Atlantic region, the nation, and beyond have pledged their financial support.

Please consider joining these donors by making a generous contribution to preserve and restore this national treasure. Pledge forms are available on the website. Checks may be sent to National Bonsai Foundation, 3501 New York Avenue N.E., Washington, DC 20002. 🌲



JIM HUGHES serves on the Board of the National Bonsai Foundation and the Friends of the National Arboretum. He was formerly a curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.



BONSAI MUSEUM RECEIVES SPECIAL GIFT

The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum was pleased to accept the gift of two outstanding California Junipers (*Juniperus californica*) from Sze-Ern (Ernie) Kuo of Buena Vista, California. The trees will become part of the North American Collection and will be on display in the John Y. Naka Pavilion in the spring.

JOHANN F. KLODZEN, Executive Director
The National Bonsai Foundation



The 2013 Garden Fair is coming!

Linda Findlay

FONA'S ANNUAL GARDEN FAIR is not only an important fundraising event, it also represents what we all love best about the Arboretum—the magnificent selection of plants that graces its grounds. For the many who spend untold hours organizing the event each year, it is a true labor of love.

The Garden Fair Committee—a dedicated group of pros who have worked on the Fair for many years—met shortly after last year's sale to discuss “lessons learned” and to begin to plan for the upcoming year. The purchasing committee spent the summer scouring gardening literature to learn more about exciting new plants. Conversations began with the nurseries that supply our material, and many of those nurseries were visited over the summer and fall months. The goal is to continue to make this sale the best of its kind in the Washington, DC, area.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS.

Are you looking for a particular plant that we might be able to offer at the sale? While we can't guarantee we'll be able to obtain it from the growers we use, please feel free to send an email to: lfindlay53@comcast.net and we'll put it on the list of plants we're attempting to obtain.

Do you have general suggestions about varieties of plants you'd like to see offered that perhaps have not been adequately represented in past sales? Please speak up and we'll try to be responsive.



The poster features the Friends of the National Arboretum logo at the top left. The main title "2013 Garden Fair & Plant Sale" is prominently displayed in blue and yellow. To the right is a vibrant illustration of various flowers, including blue and red lilies. The event schedule is listed in two columns: "FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC" for Friday, April 26 (1pm-4pm) and Saturday, April 27 (9am-4pm); and "MEMBERS ONLY*" for Friday, April 26 (10am-1pm). A yellow banner at the bottom reads "Celebrate Spring with the Washington Revels on Saturday, April 27!". The location is given as "Located on the grounds of the U.S. National Arboretum • 3501 New York Avenue, NE • Washington, DC 20002".

THE MEMBERS-ONLY ADVANCE SALE RETURNS.

The Advance Sale will return for the third year. As we continue to develop and grow this option, we are working hard to perfect it. This coming year, we will try to get new material and increase the number of offerings. Please be sure to carefully read the description of each plant, particularly information related to the size of the plants. Some of the plants we offer are sufficiently rare that we can obtain only small sizes that need to be nursed along for a few years before finding a final resting place in the garden landscape.

AGAIN THIS COMING YEAR, WE WILL BE SEEKING DONATIONS FOR PURCHASING PLANTS FOR THE ARBORETUM GROUNDS.

Last year for the first time ever, FONA worked with the curators of the USNA staff to buy plants for the Arboretum

grounds. These efforts made up for the budget cuts the Arboretum's acquisition program experienced. This program—referred to as the “Curators' Wish List”—continues, and we ask all of you to be as generous as possible. What better way is there to support the Arboretum than by purchasing a plant for the grounds?

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE FAIR TO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.

FONA doesn't have an advertising budget for the sale. Word of mouth is the most important way to increase our attendance. Please help us by encouraging friends, family, and neighbors to attend.

From all of us on the Garden Fair Committee, thanks for your support of FONA and see you on April 26! 🌿

LINDA FINDLAY is a FONA Board Member and the Chair of the 2013 Garden Fair and Plant Sale.

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Grateful thanks to all our many wonderful 2012 contributors to the FONA and the Washington Youth Garden!



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Diane Winslow
Yes! Organic Market

This list reflects 2012 gifts received by January 10, 2013. We apologize for any error. Please contact Kathy Horan to correct our records: khoran@fona.org or 202.544.8733

TRIBUTE GIFTS FOR 2012

In honor of the marriage of Deborah Bowles and Derik Burgess

Jeanne Connelly and Marty Scherr
William Langley
David Oldfield and Merrilee Jassen
Susan Ritchie
Donald Romeo and Melanie Brick
Robin Villanueva
Judith and Richard Wurtman

In memory of Sally Boasberg; funds dedicated for the completion of the Flowering Tree Walk

Lucy and Gordon Ambach
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Vincent Chiappinelli and
Suzanne Bakshian
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George and Louisa Watson
Tuckie and Don Westfall
Susan Willens

Kenneth and Dorothy Woodcock
Seymour, Gretta, and Mitchell
Workov

In memory of Frank Cabot

Penelope Wilson

In memory of Edward S. Cohen

Fritzi Cohen

In honor of Spinner and Linda Findlay

Stephen Wuori

In memory of Ruth Frost

Betty Hurst
John Hurst
Terry and Janet Hurst
Joe and Sherry Martin
Sue and John Martin

In honor of Mary Louise Granahan

John Angel

In memory of Carole Geagley

Ron Geagley

In honor of Sister Patricia Hagarty

Gregory Evans

In honor of Stephen Henning

American Rhododendron Society,
New York Chapter

In honor of Sherry Houghton

Donald and Margaret Franz

In memory of Nathaniel Hunt

Kimberly Cupp-Moreno
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In honor of Don Hyatt for his work on the Save the Azaleas and Boxwood Campaign

Four Seasons Garden Club
Gardening Consultants Council
National Capital Area Garden Clubs,
District III
The Rocky Run Garden Club

In honor of Lois Jackson

Patrick and Mary Bifaro

In honor of Michael Lanahan

Rob Lanahan

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Kelsey De Sostoa

In honor of Bruce Murray

Natalie Murray

In honor of Teresa Oleszewski

Karen Anderson

In memory of Elizabeth Ann Price

Richard Glaze

In honor of Josh Rider

Joshua and Kristina Kyle

In honor of Tuckie Westfall

Elizabeth Noyes
Cynthia Roscoe



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PERMIT NO. 6503

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.

This newsletter was printed using 80# Sappi Flo, Matte Text and is FSC-certified using 10% post-consumer waste. 100% of the electricity used to manufacture Flo sheets at their Cloquet Mill is generated using Green-e certified renewable energy. Printed by Delmarva Printing, Inc.

HAPPENINGS

EXHIBIT: HONORING ASIAN VIEWING STONE TRADITIONS

February 2 – March 17, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Members of the Potomac Viewing Stone Group, a regional organization dedicated to stone appreciation, will display Chinese, Japanese, and American stones from their private collections. Join members on Sunday, March 17 at 1:00 pm for an informal tour of the exhibit. National Bonsai & Benjing Museum. Free

HOLLY COLLECTION TOUR

February 23, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Cure cabin fever by touring this tucked-away collection of nearly 200 different hollies with horticulturist and holly curator Carole Bordelon. Fee: \$12 (FONA \$10) Meet at the Holly and Magnolia Collections parking lot. Rain/snow date: March 2, same time.

LAHR NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM AND SALE

March 23, 2013, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The symposium moves back into the newly renovated Administration Building and the sale will be on the Arboretum grounds. Come enjoy the excellent speakers and exclusive early admission to the plant sale. Fee.

For more information visit www.usna.usda.gov



Ensure the vitality of the U.S. National Arboretum through a planned gift to the Friends of the National Arboretum. Remember FONA in your will.

Contact us at 202.544.8733 or khoran@fona.org or consult your financial advisor.



WE WOULD APPRECIATE DONATIONS OF YOUR CAR, TRUCK, OR BOAT...if

your vehicle is no longer of use to you, FONA can benefit. Once you sign up, your car will be picked up free of charge, and FONA will receive a cash donation. Your donation is fully tax-deductible. It's easy, just call us at 202.544.8733.