Notes from the Arnold Arboretum

Memorial Gifts and Plantings

The Arnold Arboretum, in its very name a memorial, was created with a bequest from the estate of James Arnold of New Bedford, Massachusetts, and has been developed and operates to this day through the generous support of the Friends of the Arnold Arboretum, past and present. Over the years many individuals have requested that their gifts be used as memorial funds to care for the living collections, to acquire special plants for the grounds or books for the library. Funds have been established for special purposes, such as work in plant propagation, plant introduction, memorial lectures, the care of the rhododendrons or dwarf conifers and others. The Arboretum staff welcomes such gifts. The wishes of the donors are accepted and such funds are, in fact, permanent memorials.

Gifts of five thousand dollars or more can be added to the Arboretum endowment as a named capital fund with the income to be used for special purposes. Thus the Arboretum has, today, Fellowships named for Martha Dana Mercer and James R. Jewett; the William Judd Fund for plant propagation; the Irving W. Fraim, and George R. Cooley funds for staff travel and exploration; the Isabel Shaw Fund for the care of the rhododendrons; and the Mary Sargent and Charles Sargent funds to purchase books in special categories for the library, to name but a few, recognizing either the donor or the person to be memorialized.

The Director, or a representative of the Arnold Arboretum, is always willing to discuss the needs of the Arboretum with anyone wishing to establish a named memorial fund. Gifts are accepted by the Trustees of the Arboretum, Harvard University, and are tax deductible.

In the past smaller gifts have been accepted and a memorial plant has been designated by the staff within the collection of the Arnold Arboretum. Such plants are marked with a specially
embossed aluminum label which carries appropriate wording such as “In Memory of , the gift of 1973”. The Memorial label is located on the plant along with the Arnold Arboretum record label which has data important to the staff regarding the plant. The gift and the plant involved are also recorded in our permanent record files. The staff tries to select and locate the plant in accordance with the wishes of the donor. Thus, memorial conifers, crabapples, lilacs, rhododendrons and fringe trees are to be found in the regular collections and in the woods, or near a pond or at a scenic outlook, as requested. The gift is added to the funds available for the general care of the living collections.

The labels chosen are long lasting and not conspicuous or destructive of the beauty of the plant. We regret that we cannot accept specially cast labels or more prominent ones for such labels are vulnerable to damage by defacing, bending, or removal.

An alternative suggestion which has been accepted by some as a memorial is the purchase and designation of a book for the library. The books chosen by the staff carry a special bookplate with the name of the person to be remembered and the donor. We also will accept gifts of books, if needed for our library, bearing the personal bookplate of the owner, to which we add the Arnold Arboretum bookplate and the name of the donor and the date of the gift. The librarian is willing to aid in the selection of appropriate memorial volumes. The books within the excellent library of the Arnold Arboretum have restricted circulation, but the library is available for research and special use by qualified individuals.

The staff is deeply appreciative of the support it receives from the Friends of the Arnold Arboretum and is willing to cooperate in these special ways.

Richard A. Howard
PLANTED IN MEMORY OF
JOHN DOE