

# NEWS

FROM THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

## PLANTS, GARDENS, AND LANDSCAPES AT THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

An unparalleled array of unusual plants at the Annual Plant Sale on September 17, a major design exhibition, and a series of special lectures and symposiums on gardens and landscapes are all part of activities at the Arnold Arboretum this Fall.

## PLANTS, PLANTS, PLANTS (THIS YEAR MORE THAN 5000!)

The opportunity to obtain the rare, the unusual, and the recently introduced is key to the yearly popularity of the Arnold Arboretum's Annual Plant Giveaway and Rare Plant Auction (Sunday, September 17, at the Case Estates, beginning for members at 9:00 a.m.). The Arboretum has a long-standing reputation for its plant introductions (more than two thousand over the years), and this year's plant sale will include some first-time offerings to North American plant enthusiasts. Plants collected by staff members in China and Japan; herbaceous perennials from shy to rampant; trees, shrubs, vines, conifers, and a few house plants - all will be waiting in the Barn at the Case Estates (no telephone orders, no advance sales!) Also on the program are the Arnold Arboretum Associates competitive Silent Auction of specially donated plants and the Rare Plant Auction at 1:00 p.m. when the "best of the best" go on the block. ■

**GERTRUDE JEKYLL: A VISION OF GARDEN AND WOOD** — October 14 - December 1: Hunnewell Visitor Center of the Arnold Arboretum. An exhibition curated by Michael R. Van Valkenburgh and Judith B. Tankard and made possible through the support of the Art Program of Bank of Boston.



*Pollarded Willows in winter, 1887. College of Environmental Design Documents Collection, University of California, Berkeley*

Beginning in 1885, English garden designer Gertrude Jekyll photographed gardens. This exhibit shows the evolution of her own garden, her fascination with the rural Surrey landscape, and her wide range of interests in the decorative arts. As her own eyesight deteriorated, she used the accurate vision of the camera to capture landscape images that she could no longer clearly see. Included in the exhibit are previously unpublished photographs of architecture and plant combinations as well as records of her design work at Millmead. A sequence, "The Seasons of Munstead Wood," presents 48

pictures of her own garden over several decades.

"Gertrude Jekyll: A Vision of Garden and Wood" will be on display in the Hunnewell Visitor Center of the Arnold Arboretum seven days a week from **October 14 to December 1**. ■

In association with the exhibit architectural historian **Judith Tankard**, co-curator with Michael Van Valkenburgh and co-author of the book "*A Vision of Garden and Wood*," will present a slide-lecture on Gertrude Jekyll: on Tuesday, October 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hunnewell Visitor Center. ■

# Three Thursday Evening Lectures

What southern plants should northern gardeners be growing today? Which of our native southern shrubs and vines are not only hardy in the northeast but provide new interest in a familiar palette of plants? Is the southeastern United States indeed becoming "the hub" when it comes to new plants and gardening techniques?

The University of Georgia is home to Dr. Michael Dirr, horticulturist, author, (*Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, *Photographic Manual of Woody Plants*, *The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation*) and former Mercer Fellow at the Arnold Arboretum.

Opinionated, outspoken, and immensely knowledgeable, Michael Dirr will make a rare appearance in Boston when he takes "A Fresh Look at Southern Plants for the Northern Garden" in the first of the Arboretum's three Thursday evening lectures, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. This program will be held in the Frechette Conference Center of the State Laboratory Building, 305 South Street, Jamaica Plain. The auditorium is immediately adjacent to the Forest Hills "T" station. On-site parking is available for this lecture. ■



The long career of Fletcher Steele, who made his first garden in 1915, his last in 1970 a year before his death, is a landmark in the history of American gardens. The designer of Miss Choate's garden at Naumkeag (the Blue Steps, the Afternoon Garden), Steele called himself a "landscape sculptor." He created more than 700 gardens, and wrote over a hundred articles and two books on subjects from history to horticulture. His work is consid-



Fletcher Steele  
Collection  
SUNYCESF,  
Syracuse, N.Y.

ered an important link between 19th-century Beaux Arts formalism and modern landscape design. Throughout his career his gardens had historical references, though in his later works color and the shaping of abstract space were of increasing importance. "In the spring," he wrote, "one can have sheets of flat daring color that leave the frantic cubist painter speechless."

Robin Karson, a Contributing Editor of *Garden Design* and *Landscape Architecture*, has written the first critical biography of Fletcher Steele. She will lecture at the Hunnewell Visitor Center at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 26, on "The Garden-making of Fletcher Steele." ■



When virtually any aspect of the plants and gardens of Ireland is considered, the name of Charles Nelson comes to mind. Taxonomist to the National Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin,

Dublin, Dr. Nelson is also a garden historian, writer, lecturer, television gardening "guru," and plant collector.

Foundation chairman of the Irish Garden Plant Society, he is well known for his many books and articles on the history of gardening and garden plants (see *Arnoldia* Winter 1982-83, "Augustine Henry and the Exploration of the Chinese Flora") and has collaborated with botanical artist Wendy Walsh on a series of books about Irish garden plants including, "An Irish Flower Garden" (1984) and two volumes of "An Irish Florilegium." The Arnold Arboretum has joined with The Trustees of Reservations to co-sponsor a lecture by Charles Nelson, "Irish Gardens and their Plants, A Heritage of Beauty" on Thursday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hunnewell Visitor Center. An informal reception with Dr. Nelson will follow the lecture. ■



Other plants and gardens lectures at the Arboretum this Fall include **Italianate Gardens in the New Hampshire Landscape**, a survey of the elegant formal gardens near Cornish, New Hampshire, and the designs of Charles Platt, Rose Standish Nichols, and Ellen Shipman, as well as the gardens of Stephen and Maxfield Parrish and Augustus Saint-Gaudens (Wednesday, October 25, 2:30 p.m. HVC) and a continuation of the *Home and Garden* series in **Great Gardens of Britain in the 20th Century**. Three lectures will explore public gardens and the role of conservation; garden design and modern literature (the gardens of the "Bloomsbury" literary set); contemporary plantspeople and their private gardens: Christopher Lloyd, Penelope Hobhouse, Rosemary Verey, and Marjorie Fish. (3 Thursdays, November 2, 9, and 16/ 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. HVC). ■



*Woody Plant Identification class at the Arnold Arboretum*

This year's summer interns included students from California, Iowa, Virginia, Washington, and Nova Scotia, Canada. During their time at the Arboretum, trainees worked alongside the staff in the greenhouse, on mapping and labelling, and in grounds maintenance. They attended classes in Horticultural Maintenance, Woody Plant

Identification, and Landscape Design Principles as well as field trips to private and public gardens. Recent trainees have come from Australia, New Zealand, Germany, and England as well as all regions of the United States. Applications for 1990 will be available in October and are due by February 1, 1990.

Two all-day garden design symposiums will be offered by the Arboretum this fall. **Landscaping with Perennials: the Cultivated Choice** on October 14 and **European Garden Style: A Contemporary Interpretation** on November 11. **Perennials** this year considers the many benefits of combining herbaceous perennials, bulbs, and annuals in the garden. Experts from London's Chelsea Physic Garden, New England, and the Southeast are among the speakers. A new symposium topic, **European Garden Style** examines the influence of classical stylistic elements and discusses their applications for the contemporary American garden designer. For further information on lectures and symposiums contact the Education Registrar at the Arnold Arboretum. ■



*A 100-year-old penjing specimen of Ginkgo biloba recently purchased from Mr. Hu Yun-hua of Shanghai Gardening Service, China. Photo by Racz and Debresczy.*

## BONSAI AUCTION TO BENEFIT ARBORETUM

New England Bonsai Gardens, Inc. in South Natick will auction three specimen-quality bonsai trees on Saturday, October 14th, at 4:30 P.M. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from these sales will be donated to the Arnold Arboretum to benefit the

Arboretum's Larz Anderson Bonsai Collection. The auction is one of several events featured during New England Bonsai's weekend-long fall celebration. For further information call 508-653-6330 or 617-237-5111

## HOW DOES YOUR GAURA GROW?

As some of you know, this year's Plant Dividend mailing was not a complete success. Approximately 10% of the plants did not arrive in good condition. We improved our packaging and



*Gaura lindheimeri*. Illustration by G. Nagy 1989

sent replacement plants, but even some of those were beyond salvage, and many of you remain disappointed. We have learned the hard way that mailing perennials requires special packaging. Rather than send more plants in a third mailing attempt, we have offered the two following options to members who have reported problems with their *Gaura*.

(1) Three *Scilla pratensis*, "Meadow Squill" bulbs will be mailed to you in mid-September. Although not a newcomer, this late-flowering bulb is still unfamiliar to most gardeners and will bear brilliant, mildly fragrant, veronica-violet flowers on an 8 inch stalk in late May and early June. (2) You may pick up a live and healthy *Gaura lindheimeri*, or any other yellow-tag plant,

at the annual Plant Sale on September 17. When you arrive at the Plant Sale, pick up a coupon at the Membership Sign-Up desk before entering the Plant Sales area.

Members who sent back the pink response card enclosed with the *Gaura*, notifying us of their plant's demise, will automatically receive bulbs unless they call to notify us otherwise.

If you received a badly damaged *Gaura* which did not survive, but have not yet notified us, and want to receive bulbs or a replacement, please call or write Jeanne Christianson, 524-1718, as soon as possible.

Again, we apologize for any inconvenience and disappointment and promise that next spring will bring you a dormant, but healthy, *Actinidia kolomikta*. ■

## THE CONTRIBUTORY PORTION OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

On July 1, 1989, the Arnold Arboretum, in anticipation of Internal Revenue Service requirements,

began identifying for Harvard University the contributory portion of membership dues paid, i.e. that amount in excess of the actual cost of benefits offered.

Some of you have already received gift acknowledgements from Harvard, thanking you only for the contributory portion of your membership dues. These acknowledgements are intended for your use as a tax receipt. Gifts over and above your membership dues are 100% tax deductible and will be acknowledged as such. These include gifts to the Spring and Fall Appeals.

Following is a list of the Contributory portion of dues paid for each category of Friends Membership.

Individual	\$ 8
Family	\$ 20
Sustaining	\$ 67
Organization	\$123
Sponsor	\$162
Patron	\$459
Donor	\$959
Benefactor	\$4959

## ATTENTION ARNOLDIA SUBSCRIBERS

Why not become a member of the friends of the Arnold Arboretum and receive additional benefits? A recent evaluation of the costs associated with publishing *Arnoldia* has forced us to realize that we cannot continue to offer subscriptions to *non-members* at the previous rate. Therefore, as of January 1990, the subscription rate for *Arnoldia* will be \$20 for domestic subscribers and \$25 for foreign.

As an individual member of the Friends of the Arnold Arboretum (\$35), you would receive a number of exciting benefits in addition to

*Arnoldia*: an Annual Rare Plant Dividend each spring, a free plant at the Fall Plant Sale, members-only Rare Plant Purchase Opportunities, discounts on courses and in our Shop, access to the Plant Information Hot Line, the Library, and the Plant Identification Service, a free Arnold Arboretum window decal, and a map of the grounds.

Watch for the membership application form enclosed with your *Arnoldia* subscription renewal notice in November, or request a membership application form right now by calling 524-1718.