The main reason that the Arnold Arboretum look as good as it does is because of the work of the Grounds Crew, pictured here, from the left: Patrick Willoughby, Superintendent of Grounds, Maurice Sheehan, Jim Nickerson, Mark Walkama, John Olmsted, Bruce Munch, Jim Papargiris, Michael Gormley, Bob Famiglietti, and Luis Colon. Missing from the picture are David Moran and Ken Clarke. Photo by P. Del Tredici.

Botanic Garden Meeting in Seattle

This June, six staff members of the Arnold Arboretum took part in the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta annual meeting hosted by the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Richard Schulhof gave a hands-on demonstration of the Arnold computer mapping and display system and its integration with the Arboretum’s plant inventory through BG Base. This mapping application was recently developed with the support of an Institute of Museum Services grant. Jennifer Quigley led a discussion of institutional considerations in developing a computer mapping system. The presentations were part of a sold-out pre-conference workshop on computer developments for botanic gardens. Gary Koller and Richard Schulhof spoke in the session “Plant Potpourri,” where they presented Sasaisetii, Asarum splendidens (formerly Asarum magnificum), and Rubus lasiostylus var. hibiensis. Nan Sinton, who serves on the Professional Staff Training and Development Committee, led off the “Education Marketplace” meeting with a presentation on “Building New Audiences for Botanic Gardens.” Also attending meeting were Arboretum Director Bob Cook and Tour Coordinator Jim Gorman.

The four-day meeting brought together nearly five hundred botanic garden professionals from North American public gardens. In addition to attending a varied schedule of workshops and conferences dealing with all aspects of botanic garden operations, the participants visited major gardens in the Seattle area and explored the gardens and nurseries of the Pacific Northwest. Next year’s meetings will be in Minnesota.
The LEAP Program
by Dr. Robert Cook

While I was director of Cornell Plantations, the National Science Foundation awarded us a grant to create an elementary science curriculum using plants as a friendly medium to teach children basic concepts in biology. Called LEAP (Learning About Plants) this K through 6, hands-on curriculum is currently being successfully employed in the Ithaca, New York school district. Key to this success has been the training of teachers in a new pedagogical philosophy upon which the lessons are built. In 1991 the Arnold Arboretum, with seed money provided by a generous gift from the Stratford Foundation, will initiate a program of teacher training to bring this curriculum and its philosophy to the Boston area.

LEAP is unique because it is based on our current understanding of the way children learn. The young mind, even at the earliest ages, comes to the classroom with many misconceptions about the way the world works. Children will cling tenaciously to their personal world view despite the efforts of teachers because these misconceptions explain things from the child's perspective. Lessons in school are superficially learned only to achieve good test scores, and misconceptions persist. Only when the child confronts the contradictions between his or her own explanation and the actual way something works can meaningful, long-term learning occur. Thus teachers, to be truly effective, must begin with an understanding of the diversity of misconceptions in the minds of children. LEAP, when combined with professional training, can equip teachers with classroom strategies designed to help children confront their misconceptions and successfully construct more accurate conceptions.

Why should the Arnold Arboretum start training teachers? First, we already provide assistance to many schools through the excellent work of Diane Syverson in our Children's Program. LEAP will simply be an expansion to professionalize our efforts. In addition, there is a national crisis in science education. Teachers are without the means to provide science instruction, and we have a moral responsibility to address this problem with our considerable resources and experience. We are, after all, an organization that has always been dedicated to professional training. Finally, I suppose, this director of the Arnold Arboretum is at heart a teacher himself, and he believes in extending a hand to professional colleagues in a time of great need.
ENDANGERED
PLANTS EXHIBITION

Original artwork portraying endangered plants was selected in cooperation with the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) from artists in the Boston area. The works may be viewed daily in the Hunnewell Visitor's Center from 10 am to 4 pm through October 20th.

THE HERB GARDEN
AT THE CASE
ESTATES

In May of this year, The New England Unit of the Herb Society of America, in cooperation with the Arnold Arboretum, created a small display garden near the front steps of the Schoolhouse at the Case Estates. The purpose of the garden is to increase visitors' knowledge of herbs and to introduce the delights of growing and using them. More than twenty-two varieties of fragrant and medicinal plants are attractively arranged with stepping stones, around an ornamental bee hive. Visitors are invited to enjoy the remarkable variety of leaf colors, shapes, textures, and fragrances in the garden.

FALL BOUNTY AT
THE ARBORETUM

From a first-hand report on progress in developing a sustained-management strategy for the tropical rain forest to illustrated lectures on American garden history, through hands-on propagation workshops, the Arboretum offers a rich cornucopia of outstanding programs to fit a wide range of interests. Here are some highlights of the Fall season: Dr. Peter Shaw Ashton, professor of Dendrology at Harvard University, and former Director of the Arnold Arboretum, has come back recently from meetings in Southeast Asia, where he worked with an international group of concerned social scientists and biologists to plan long-term management of the tropical forest. "Report from the Rain Forest," his slide-lecture at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 25, at the Hunnewell Visitor Center, will bring up-to-the-minute details of this unprecedented multinational effort to save a global resource.

Three propagation seminars attest to the popularity of this activity in Arboretum circles. Jack Alexander, the Arboretum's Chief Plant Propagator, will run an all-day session starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 20, at the Dana Greenhouse on "Rare and Hard-to-Propagate Woody Plants." In this seminar-workshop horticultural professionals and advanced amateurs will learn specialized propagation techniques, take part in discussions, and collect on the Arnold Arboretum grounds.

David Smith, former Director of Horticulture at White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Connecticut, will give a lecture/demonstration workshop on "Classic Plants for the Mixed Border"—Russell lupines, Simons-Jeune phlox, and Frank Bishop delphinium hybrids, as well as shrub roses and tree peonies, in two all-day sessions beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 21 or on Monday, October 22 at the Dana Greenhouse. Participants will get hands-on experience propagating perennials and will get to keep the results of their efforts.

Dr. John Einset of Enimont, America, Inc., and former staff member at the Arnold Arboretum, will explore the latest developments in plant tissue culture at an all-day seminar to be held from 9:30 - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 3 at the Hunnewell Visitor Center. He will discuss methods and equipment for clonal multiplication of plant material in "The Latest in Micropropagation Technology and Research."

In an entirely different vein, Ruthanne Rogers, garden historian and president of the New England Garden History Society, will present a slide-lecture on the development of the designed American landscape, from the native American garden through 20th century. "American Gardens: A Proud History" will be offered on Wednesday, November 14, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Hunnewell Visitor Center.

For further information on these and other programs contact the Education Registrar at the Arnold Arboretum.
RECYCLING CONFERENCE

On Saturday, November 10, 1990 at the University of Massachusetts, Boston Harbor Campus, the Massachusetts Audubon Society is sponsoring a conference on RECYCLING FUTURES, designed to give participants hands-on ways to respond to the regional, economic, and environmental aspects of recycling. With an emphasis on the economics and environmental values of recycling at home and in the workplace, the program will address a variety of topics through workshops with visual presentations and guest speakers.

For more information contact:
Conference Coordinator; South Great Road; Mass. Audubon Society; Lincoln, MA 01773

BOOKSTORE OFFERINGS

The Arboretum Bookstore will celebrate the Fall season with the following new publications:

A Reunion of Trees: The Discovery of Exotic Plants and Their Introduction into North American and European Landscapes by Stephen A. Spongberg. Published at $35.00, special member's price: $27.50 until 12/30/90.

Botany for Gardeners: An Introduction and Guide by Brian Capon $29.95

The Healing Forest: Medicinal and Toxic Plants of the Northwest Amazonia by Richard Evans Schultes and Robert F. Raffauf: $59.95

Stop by the store 10 am to 4 pm daily or call (617) 524-5383 for mail order information.

MEMBERS' SPECIAL LECTURE AND RECEPTION

A Reunion of Trees, Thursday, October 25, 7:00 PM.

Dr. Stephen Spongberg, Horticultural Taxonomist for the Arnold Arboretum and author of this soon to be published book about plant exploration and introduction (see excerpt this issue) will discuss the creation of his book and describe the two other forthcoming volumes of this guidebook series by librarian Sheila Connor and curatorial associate Ida Hay. Following the brief lecture, members are invited to join Director Dr. Robert Cook and other staff for wine and cheese while Dr. Spongberg signs copies of his book, available to members at a special discount price.

Ginkgo biloba growing on Tian Mu Shan in eastern China

Arnoldia editor Peter Del Tredici attended an international conference on "The Tree" (L'Arbre) in Montpellier, France during the week of September 10-15. He was joined by participants from Europe, Africa, the Soviet Union, Asia and North America. Peter presented a paper on "The Architecture of Ginkgo biloba" which included some of the results of the recent research in eastern China. As well as being editor of Arnoldia, he is working toward his PhD in Biology at Boston University, and the ginkgo is the subject of his dissertation.