Summer Interns Arrive at the Arnold Arboretum

Every year, sometime between the last blooms of Arnold’s Promise and the first lilacs, a new crop of horticultural interns arrive at the Arboretum. Their arrival is as sure a sign of spring here as the magnolias and in many ways, as welcome by the staff. They are eager and full of enthusiasm; a diverse group who come to the Arboretum with a wide range of objectives. “Looking for practical hands-on training,” “to get a background in the skills that go into the making of a public garden,” and “an opportunity to explore possible career choices,” are among the reasons why they apply to our horticultural training program. Many are students of horticulture, botany, or landscape design. Some are career changers—people who are finally able to realize their dream of working with plants. They come from all over—Germany, Canada, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Washington—and they range in age from eighteen to over fifty. But despite these apparent differences they have one important factor in common, a love of plants and a desire to learn more about them.

The Arboretum’s Horticultural Training Program is designed to give people interested in careers in horticulture an opportunity to learn about plants and public garden maintenance in both a hands-on and a classroom setting. This year’s program offered eighteen positions in several different areas: the Dana Greenhouse, the library, the plant records department, the Hunnewell Pinetum in Wellesley, grounds maintenance positions at the Case Estates and Jamaica Plain and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. The new positions at the Federal Reserve Bank will enable two interns to learn about the special challenges involved in maintaining a city roof.

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From The Director
By Bob Cook

On a warm Sunday morning in early June, we took a walk in the Arboretum. One year after the dedication of the Linda J. Davison Rhododendron Path, I join Terry Colligan along with family and friends of Linda Davison to tour the new plantings at the north base of Hemlock Hill. Gary Koller, our chief horticulturalist, gave a wonderful portrait of the design of the Path including the collections of rhododendrons and groundcovers that we planted the week before. Walking along the path, we could hear the babbling of Bussey Brook as it gently rippled over stone dams beneath a whispering canopy of tall hemlocks and white pine.

In the midst of this setting of tranquil beauty, my mind kept conjuring up quite a contrary vision: the rusting hulk of an abandoned Volkswagen half submerged in a swamp. As noon approached, we left the Rhododendron Path and walked the short thirty yards to the edge of the Arboretum at the South Street Gate. Four or five autos were parked outside, litter decorated the roadside weeds, and broken glass sparkled in the sunlight. A pair of cars racing down South Street flashed past the gate as I began to speak.

"In back of us lies the Davison Rhododendron Path, a contemplative space of wonderful serenity. In front of us, on the other hand, lies a derelict, rubble-strewn tract of swampland, into the midst of which someone, many years ago, drove a stolen Volkswagen to set it afire among the cattails. There is no better contrast of images to embody our critical need to have a master plan for the future of the Arboretum."

The "urban wild" known as the South Street Tract is half owned by Harvard University and half by the City of Boston. It will be one of a number of knotty urban issues addressed by Sasaki Associates, Inc., the consulting firm working with us on long-range planning. Together we will be identifying ways to bring this forbidding terrain under the control of the Arboretum, and integrate it into our existing landscapes.

Sounds complicated, and it will be. That is why we sought the quality and experience that Sasaki can bring to a master plan. Not surprisingly, producing this plan for the whole of the Arboretum will be expensive. But then, you get what you pay for; and we want a plan as far-sighted as the original vision created by Olmsted and Sargent.

Fortunately, for the third year in a row, the Institute of Museum Services has awarded the Arboretum a General Operating Support grant for $75,000 which we will allocate to partially cover the costs of creating the master plan. We will need to raise more money to complete the job. However, preserving the immeasurable qualities of the Arnold Arboretum, symbolized by the Davison Rhododendron Path, is far too important to be constrained by financial considerations.
Mike Dirr teaching his class Woody Landscape Plants for the Landscaper

MICHAEL DIRR AT THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

A Putnam fellowship has provided the opportunity for the staff of the Arnold Arboretum to benefit from Mike's exuberant and knowledgeable presence. Author of Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation, and Uses, the most widely use teaching text in the country, and its companion volume, Photographic Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, Mike is an old friend of the Arboretum. While here as a Mercer Fellow in 1978-1979, Mike worked with Gary Koller to write Street Trees for Home and Municipal Landscapes, and the third revision of his manual.

Currently on sabbatical from his position as Professor of Horticulture at the University of Georgia, Mike is here to study the Arnold Arboretum's "fabulous living collections," work on a fourth edition of his Manual of Woody Plants and a revision of Street Trees, interact with staff, and teach in our education program. He is also considering projects on cold hardiness testing and a photo essay book on the Arnold Arboretum's most notable trees.

In addition to being an active and well appreciated teacher and graduate student advisor at the University of Georgia, Mike also continues his research on the cold hardiness, stress tolerance, and propagation of woody plants. He has developed a tissue culture program which is investigating the micro propagation of ornamental woody landscape plants which are difficult to propagate by seed or cutting and thus difficult to obtain in the commercial nursery trade.

Beyond his vast knowledge and love of trees, Mike brings a personal vision and enthusiasm which are inspiring the staff to focus on the essential values of the Arnold Arboretum and move ahead with challenging projects. Dirr's passion for gardening is best summarized by the old Chinese proverb, "A garden cannot be made in a day or week or year, it must be planned for, waited for and loved into being."

**Bookstore New Arrivals**

**Spring Poster**

Our 1991 Spring Art Exhibition winner captures the beauty and timeless appeal of lilacs in a trompe l'oeil style painting by artist Lydia Martin.

*A poster produced from the painting is available for $19.20 ppd. (postage paid) members, $21.00 ppd. non members.*

**Arnold Arboretum Suncatchers**

These colorful additions to any window are molded of recycled glass and were designed especially for us to depict some of our most notable trees and shrubs in bloom.

*Available by mail in sets of four; Forsythia, Lilac, Magnolia, and Rhododendron; $20.95 ppd. members, $22.95 ppd. non members.*

**New Arboretum Mug**

This elegant white mug features a traditional lilac bloom with the words "Arnold Arboretum Lilacs" and an excerpt from Amy Lowell's wonderful poem "Lilacs".

*A set of 2 mugs is available by mail for, $13.70 ppd. members, $14.90 ppd. non members.*
FLORA OF THE LESSER ANTILLES

The Arnold Arboretum is proud to offer for sale the six-volume Flora of the Lesser Antilles, a long term project of Dr. Richard Howard, former director of the Arnold Arboretum.

These six volumes constitute the first comprehensive flora of the area, presenting keys to the genera as well as species. For each genus and species a complete modern description is given which includes color as well as measurements of floral parts. The descriptions are followed by a listing of each plant’s general distribution and its distribution within the Lesser Antilles. All volumes are profusely illustrated with line drawings that are both highly artistic and accurate. All known species reported from the Lesser Antilles, both introduced and native, are included.

Brunfelsia americana. Drawing by Dr. Ihsan Al-Shehbaz.

All volumes in the series are available, either individually or as part of a full set which is available at the special price, including shipping, of $260 (add $5 for shipping outside the US). For volumes 4, 5, and 6 only, the special price is $205.

Vol. 1 Orchidaceae $20
Vol. 2 Pteridophyta $25
Vol. 3 Monocotyledoneae $35
Vol. 4 Dicotyledoneae, 1 $75
Vol. 5 Dicotyledoneae, 2 $85
Vol. 6 Dicotyledoneae, 3 $85

Checks should be made payable to the Arnold Arboretum and all orders should be addressed to the attention of: Frances Maguire, Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-3519.

Summer Interns
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Summer interns gain some experience in interior plantscaping.

All of the interns are required to attend a series of classes on Woody Plant Identification, Landscape Design, and Horticultural Maintenance offered by the Arboretum’s education department. There are also a number of field trips and garden tours this year, three walks with Michael Dirr to supplement their classroom learning. This year the interns will have the opportunity for two week rotations to one or two departments other than their main assignment.

What happens to summer interns when they leave the Arboretum? Many return to school to complete their degrees—Doug Cygan ’89 returned to the University of Maine at Orono; Amory Haight ’89 is currently studying Landscape Architecture at Sheffield University in Sheffield, England; Carol Kohler ’90 and Mary Altermatt ’90 will begin Longwood Garden’s graduate program this fall. Others find employment in their fields: Dennis Harris ’67 and Mark Walkama ’71, Arboretum grounds crew, are both former interns; Jim Allen ’82 is employed as Senior Horticulturalist for the National Fire Protection Association; Ellen Meyers ’82 is Education Coordinator at the New England Wildflower Society; Deborah Cahill ’81 is a partner in a New York design firm; Tom Ward ’86 is the Assistant Plant Propagator at the Dana Greenhouse.

Over the years the internship program has helped many people find their “horticultural niche.”

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please write to Laurel Landers ’89 at the Education Department, Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-3519.