Endowment for Endangered Plants

Robert E. Cook, Director

Nearly a decade ago the Arnold Arboretum was home to the birth of the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC). This organization was conceived to facilitate a collaboration between selected botanic gardens around the country for the preservation of endangered plant species. It was a simple idea. Each participating garden would bring into cultivation a genetic sampling of endangered species capable of growing in its region. This collection would preserve the germplasm of each species and provide the basis for reintroduction into the wild, should the species become extinct in its native habitats. The Center would raise funds to support the maintenance of the national collection and to establish an endowment for future maintenance.

In the Hunnewell Visitor Center, the Arnold Arboretum provided a home for the administrative operations of the national headquarters of CPC for the early years of its operations and growth. Over the years the Arboretum has brought into its collection a total of twenty-one species.

When administrative space at the Arboretum became a critical resource for the Center in 1991, it reached a decision to relocate to the Missouri Botanical Garden to receive direct administrative support as part of the Garden. The Center also launched a nationwide fundraising campaign to endow its national collections, and it encouraged participating gardens to support this effort.

With this endowment need in mind, I approached a group of our volunteers, known as the Arnold Arboretum Associates, to solicit their support for endowing the collection of endangered plants at the Arboretum. In December they made a magnificent gift to us which,

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Endangered Plants at the Arnold Arboretum

A Fund-Raiser for the Children's Field Study Program

On March the Boston Junior League Garden Club hosted two events to benefit the Children's Field Study Program. On both occasions Gerald Allan Doell and M. Christine Klim Doell, garden historians and landscape preservation planners, presented a slide lecture, A Garden in Good Order, Two Centuries of Garden-Making at the White House, that traced the evolution of the "President's Square" from rubble-strewn expanse to romantic landscape. The Boston Junior League Garden Club has worked to support children's field studies at the Arnold Arboretum since 1984. Coordinated with the Boston Public School Science Curriculum, the program serves more than 3,000 elementary schoolchildren and teachers each year. Thanks to the efforts of the Boston Junior League Garden Club, the Arboretum Committee, and other local organizations, the program is now entering its tenth year of operation.

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when matched by grant funds at CPC, will completely endow the Arboretum's collection for the future. We are immensely pleased, and deeply appreciative, of the generosity of the Associates. This gift, and the endowment it creates, ensures a future for these critically endangered plants.

Al Fordham

Al Fordham Named Fellow of IPPS

Alfred J. Fordham, Arnold Arboretum Research Horticulturist, retired, whose career at the Arnold Arboretum began in 1929 as a student trainee, has been named by the Eastern Region of the International Plant Propagator's Society to their second class of Fellows. During twenty of his nearly fifty years at the Arboretum Al carried the title of Plant Propagator. He continues to pursue research interests, especially seed dispersal mechanisms and abnormal growth in trees.

Spring Plant Dividend

Each year the Friends of the Arnold Arboretum are invited to enhance their own gardens with a membership benefit, the Spring Plant Dividend. This year more than 2,500 bare-rooted cuttings of Magnolia x loebneri 'Leonard Messel' were carefully packaged and shipped, thanks to the efforts of volunteers Frank and Doris Ahearn, Richard Brooks, Louise Cies, Dorick Corbo, Charles Doherty, Helen and Lillian Hagopian, George Hibben, Isabel Horan, Sophie Kulik, Dan Linehan, Nod Meyer, Eileen McNeil, Abby Nelson, Pauline Perkins, Joan Poser, Bob Reed, Bob Reynolds, Robert Siegel, Doris Smith, and Loretta Wilson; Arnold Arboretum interns Joan Mullins and Jason Diauto; and staff members Jim Gorman, Mike Gormley, Jim Papargiris, Richard Schulhof, and David Seiks.

A fragrant and beautifully flowering tree, visitors to the Arboretum can see a mature specimen by Meadow Road. It should be in bloom in early May, and it will be featured at our Annual Plant Sale in September.
Certificate in Gardening Arts Ceremony Held at Faculty Club

On November 12, twenty-one students received Certificates in Gardening Arts from the Arboretum. A luncheon and graduation ceremony was held in their honor at the Harvard Faculty Club, with remarks by Gary Koller, Senior Horticulturist at the Arboretum, and Richard Schulhof, Assistant Director for Education and Public Affairs.

Certificate recipients were James M. Bilderback, Mary Buscher, Judith Lang Day, Judith Dembsey, Diana Demuth, Caroline G. Donnelly, Frances Doyle, Elizabeth Ann Fagan, Matthew P. Giroux, Mary Harrison, Roberta Jean Hodson, Keith Kurman, Mary DeBlasi Mady, Margaret W. Millar, Madeleine Messina, William Noble, Christine O’Connor, Linda O.-Finer, Catherine Schwenk, Denise Stiller, and Mary Faith Wilson. The Arboretum thanks student advisors Paul Martin Brown, Laura Eisener, Darrell Probst, and Ruthanne Rogers.
This spring National Park Service Rangers (from left to right) Alan Banks, Chris Lamond, and Tim Maguire will lead tours of the Arboretum landscape. Sponsored by the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, the program will explore the Arboretum's rich design history with a focus on the contributions of Olmsted and Charles Sprague Sargent. The tours are part of the Arboretum's ongoing collaboration with the Olmsted Site and will be offered, free of charge, beginning at 2:00 PM on May 1, 8, 15, and at 5:00 PM on May 29 and June 5. For more information, call 566-1689.

Celebrate Roses in the Bradley Rose Garden

Each year since its installation in 1985, the Bradley Rose Garden has become more beautiful, the species roses more graceful and floriferous. On June 13, from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM, the Education Department will offer talks, slide presentations, and walks among the roses with rose experts from the Arboretum, who will be joined by Stephen Scanniello, Rosarian of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Mr. Scanniello joins us just prior to his departure to serve as chairman of judges at the rose trials in Bagatelle, France.

Luncheon will be served in the Rose Garden following the morning of talks, after which the Arboretum's own rose care specialist will provide a demonstration of proper pruning techniques for species roses. The afternoon will end with a stroll among the roses, an informal discussion of the species roses in the garden and the other members of the rose family that grow nearby.

Among the roses that are expected to be at their best at this time are *Rosa gallica*, *R. multiflora*, *R. pimpinellifolia*, *R. roxburghii*, and *R. hugonis*. The speakers will describe the hybrid descendants of these and other species that thrive in the New England climate, providing outstanding bloom with little of the chemicals and work that roses often require.

*Sunday, June 13, from 10:00 AM-3:30 PM. Call the Education Department, 524-1718, ext. 162, to register. Preregistration required.*