The Renovation Nears Completion

Robert E. Cook, Director

The essence of the Arboretum is nowhere captured more fully than in the design of the new entrance to our just-renovated Hunnewell Building. The challenge here was to develop a means of surmounting our original set of eight slate steps with a wheelchair ramp that was consistent with both the spirit of the 1992 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the mission of the Arboretum. Through a creative design by landscape architect Carol Johnson, our new entrance seamlessly weaves a gently rising and accessible sidewalk into the historical character of our 1892 building.

The effective solution lay in the use of earth for elevation. Now as you look at the entrance from the road out front, you see a set of new, bluestone steps, straddled on each side by black, wrought-iron railings. They rise up nearly eight feet to an elevated plaza edged with elegant wooden benches. Behind this platform stand our historical oak doors, newly restored with their oversized iron hinges and black metal grills. To each side of the seating area a grassy berm drops gently to the ground.

Climbing the steps, you realize that accessibility has been achieved with a branch in the sidewalk that splits from its beginning at the road to follow the berm of earth along its ridge, rising to enter the seating arena at its edge. A slightly sloping bluestone bridge carries the visitor past the massive wooden doors into the building.

The entire landscape has been planted with mature woody specimens that have been chosen to illustrate the long historical interest of the Arboretum in the flora of Asia and its close relationship to the flora of eastern North America. This provides an exceptional opportunity to conduct an excursion into the collections within one hundred feet of the entrance.

The renovation, as beautifully captured in this new entrance, has successfully integrated the regulatory requirements of a modern research and educational facility serving the public interest while preserving the historical integrity of our landmark building. It is a fitting symbol for an institution committed to the highest quality in its programs consistent with the preservation of its traditional mission to advance our knowledge and understanding of trees.
Japanese Delegation Tours Arboretum

On June 30 the Arboretum was honored with a visit by the Japanese Association of Botanical Gardens. Comprised of directors of Japanese Botanical Institutions, the delegation is touring major American gardens to learn about our methods of curation and management.

Archaeologists Dig the Arboretum

Richard Schulhof,
Assistant Director for External Relations

Thousands of years before Charles Sprague Sargent began planting the Arboretum, the landscape was home to a number of prehistoric settlements. This past spring City Archaeologist Steven Pendery of the Boston Landmarks Commission (seen on the left in the photo) investigated this history with a dig conducted in the vicinity of Bussey Brook valley.

Working with a grant from the National Park Service and support from the Arnold Arboretum, Dr. Pendery uncovered evidence that the area has been inhabited repeatedly over the past six to eight thousand years. Of the site and its significance he reports, “The Spring Village site
appears to have been occupied periodically over thousands of years precisely because of its strategic setting with ready access to food and water resources. Its relationship to other natural resources and sites within the surrounding 265 acres can still be studied. This type of site probably survives nowhere else so close to Boston.

The project was greatly assisted by an energetic group of volunteers that included thirty Boston teachers who participated through a collaboration between the Boston Public Schools and the National Faculty Program.

Chris Strand
Joins
Arboretum Staff

The Arboretum is pleased to announce that Chris Strand has joined the staff as Outreach Horticulturist. Chris is a graduate of the University of Delaware's Longwood Program and previously served as an interpretive horticulturist at Callaway Gardens in Georgia. At the Arboretum, he will work with visitor education, orientation, and public services programs, and pursue his special interest in the interpretation of botanical collections.

As always, summer brought interns to the Arnold Arboretum. Their training here includes hands-on experience in grounds maintenance, labelling and mapping, and plant propagation. They also participate in plant identification classes and join Arboretum staff members for tours and talks. 1993 interns are, from left to right, Angela Cerruti, Jochen Martz, Sandra Chuck, Joan Mullins, Alana Dudley, Keith LeBlanc, Tracey Goldberg, Jason Diauto, Mark Dugan, and John Evers. David Giblin is missing from the photo.
Choice and Unusual Plants for New England Gardens

Annual Plant Sale, Auction and Members' Bonus of The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

Sunday, September 19, 1993

TO BE HELD AT THE CASE ESTATES
135 Wellesley Street, Weston, Massachusetts
For more information and plant sale catalogues, call (617) 524-1718.

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Tables close sequentially beginning at 11:00 AM

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