A New Board and Council

Robert E. Cook, Director

Over the past winter some friends of ours gathered together on several occasions to discuss the creation of a new organization of volunteers to support the work of the institution. These meetings grew out of a recognition that most museums and cultural organizations like the Arboretum enjoy the active involvement of a board of trustees. Such groups have proven immensely helpful in promoting knowledge of the institution's programs and in raising funds for annual operations and capital improvements. No such group exists for the Arboretum.

By tradition, the Director has reported to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at Harvard. Since 1989 my boss has been Sally Zeckhauser, Vice President for Administration, who in turn reports to the President. Also by tradition, the Arboretum has had a Visiting Committee appointed by Harvard's Board of Overseers to review the programs and progress of the organization and report back findings to the Overseers every three to five years. Basically, the Visiting Committee performs the vital role of communications with the administration of the University.

The new creation will begin regular meetings next fall and will be called the Director's Advisory Board. A group of fifteen to twenty-five individuals will meet through the year to provide counsel to the Director, recruit new volunteers, and develop strategies for raising funds for annual support and future programs. The Advisory Board will have several standing committees (executive, campaign, nominating), as well as committees focused on specific programs.

Our friends have also recommended the creation of a second, larger body called the Arboretum Council. This group will meet once or twice each year and will consist of three kinds of members: individuals new to the Arboretum who would like to learn more about its programs before volunteering the greater commitment required by the Board; individuals with limited time but great interest in the Arboretum; and former members of the Board and the Visiting Committee.

If you would like to become more involved in supporting the Arboretum and its programs, perhaps as a volunteer for one of these two new groups, drop me a note or an E-mail. I would enjoy talking with you about the possibilities.
The Arnold Arboretum is home to 278 acres of woody plants, many of which have proven to be beautiful, stress tolerant, free of serious pests and diseases, unusual, and yet adaptable to modern nursery production and landscape use. In order to make plants with excellent ornamental potential more widely available to nurseries and, eventually, to the gardening public, we have instituted a new Arnold Arboretum plant introduction, promotion, and distribution program. Our goal is to get exceptional woody plants now in the collections of the Arnold Arboretum into the hands of progressive nurseries and other botanical institutions. To achieve this goal, we will be selecting woody ornamentals with good landscape potential from the collections for increased promotion and direct distribution.

Each year the Living Collections staff will select plants of particular merit and distribute small quantities of scions and cuttings to professionals who can then propagate plants for trial and eventual sale to the gardening public. The excellent collections records at the Arboretum has enabled the staff to evaluate performance of these plants over a period of decades. Extensive records of propagation trials, in combination with ongoing propagation work at the Dana Greenhouses, also enable us to offer sound propagation recommendations.

Professional horticultural organizations and commercial nurseries are invited to subscribe to the Arnold Arboretum Plant Introduction, Promotion, and Distribution Program on an annual basis. Subscribers will be offered:

- Direct delivery of scions, cuttings, or seed of exceptional plants in the collections
- Written reports and plant profiles including: descriptions, propagation and cultural recommendations, and landscape performance history at the Arnold Arboretum
- An invitation to an annual Subscribers' Propagation Workshop, which will include guided opportunities to collect from much of the Living Collections.

Our 1996 selections are *Abies borisii-regis*, King Boris fir (USDA zone 5), *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Tulsa', a clone of bull bay magnolia selected by Lester Case of Winchester, Massachusetts (USDA zone 6), and *Prunus cyclamina*, cyclamen cherry, a highly ornamental species with unusual reliability (USDA zone 6, possibly 5). Funding generously provided from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and the Willowwood Foundation has made it possible for us to initiate this new program.

If you are a nursery professional or professional horticulturist interested in learning how to participate in the program, please contact Kim Tripp by fax at 617/524-6413.
Spring Planting 1996

Peter Del Tredici, Director of Living Collections

The one thing that can be said for certain about this spring’s weather is that it has been good for the plants. Unlike the past few springs with their below-average precipitation, this one provided substantial moisture at intervals that seemed to occur every other day. In addition, the cool temperatures in May held the plants back enough to allow the entire list of spring plantings to be dug in before leafing out. Were it not for a surprise snowstorm late in April, 1996 might qualify as a perfect spring for transplanting.

Among the highlights of the planting season was the completion of the replanting of the Chinese Path area, where we added more Corylopsis species, four specimens of Lindera obtusiloba, a young plant of Chimonanthus retusus (the Chinese fringe tree), and the relocation of a twenty-foot-tall specimen of Acer triflorum. The addition of these plants, together with containerized plants to come later this spring, will conclude the renovation of the area, making it not only more beautiful, but also much more accessible to pedestrians.

It was a particular pleasure to see the new plantings on Peters Hill, which featured numerous accessions of cherries, pears, hawthorns, and crabapples, thereby insuring the beauty of that area for future generations of Arboretum visitors. Over the course of the last three years, the Peters Hill area has undergone a nearly complete transformation that will be capped with a redesign of the summit sometime in 1997.

In addition to these two areas, the rest of the Arboretum was liberally sprinkled with a variety of new plants, including maples, alders, birches, the new Cornus florida x kousa hybrids from Rutgers University, oaks, redbuds, ashes, and the disease-resistant cultivar of the American elm, ‘Princeton’. Perhaps the most unusual specimen planted this year was a hackberry from China, Celtis vandervoetiana, which is perhaps the only one of its kind in North America. We hope this new generation of trees will in some measure compensate for the weather-related losses of the past two years.
On April 1, the Arnold Arboretum became part of the growing community of botanical gardens offering information over the World Wide Web. The web, as it is often abbreviated, is a global computer network that allows users to view images, send electronic mail, read articles, and query databases—all from a personal computer.

The Arboretum’s new home page is organized by five basic areas of content: living collections, library and archives, membership, public programs, and visitor information. Some of the page’s highlights include a library catalog, a detailed bloom schedule for the Boston area, an inventory of our living collections, course listings for spring and summer educational programs, and articles on woody plants and landscape design.

The World Wide Web is a convenient and potentially powerful way to communicate with new audiences. As of 1995 nearly 10 million users had accessed the web for information, and it is predicted that over 15 million will access the web in 1996. Most classrooms have or are acquiring connections to the World Wide Web, and our own children’s education program has begun a project called the Community Science Connection that will link sixteen schools to the Arboretum and one another through the World Wide Web.

To some of our members, this emphasis on technology may seem somewhat uncharacteristic. Although it is true that our website was unveiled on April Fool’s Day, we are serious in our commitment to find new ways to share the Arboretum with the public. After all, we are not proposing to create a virtual Arboretum—there remains no silicon substitute for walking beneath trees.
Annual Fall Plant Sale

Lisa Hastings, Development Officer

Planning is well underway for the Arboretum’s Annual Fall Plant Sale, which will take place this year on Sunday, September 15, from 9:00 am–1:00 pm at the Case Estates in Weston. One of the premier horticultural events of the fall season, the plant sale offers distinctive and unusual trees, shrubs, and perennials, many propagated from the Living Collections at the Arboretum. Our largest member event of the year, members receive a free plant dividend, discounts on all purchases, and early entrance to the sale.

A sampling of the plants to be offered this year include: Cornus florida ‘Xanthocarpa’, Pistacia chimonis, Abelophyllum distichum ‘Roseum’, Euonymus carnosus, Hypericum buckleyi, Ilex verticillata ‘Winter Gold’, Neillia thibetica, Prunus sinensis, Clematis serratifolia, Tsuga diversifolia, and Spigelia marilandica. A complete plant sale catalog, including plants in the Collector’s Choice category, will be mailed to all members in early August.

This year’s plant sale will also feature the return of the Silent Auction, to take place from 9:00 to 11:15 am, and the Rare Plant Auction at 11:30 am. The auctions, proceeds of which benefit the curation and maintenance of the Arnold Arboretum’s Living Collections, will feature rare and unusual plants donated by nurseries located throughout the United States. Finally, plant societies from around New England will participate in Society Row, located in the field and open from 9:00 am–1:00 pm.

If you have question about the plant sale or are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris Strand, 617/524-1718 x 125, or Kara Stepanian, x 129. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

In April, a young cork tree (Phellodendron amurenensis) was planted near Meadow Road in the former shade of the 121-year-old veteran that fell under the weight of twenty-two sixth-graders last fall. The five-year-old was welcomed with great ceremony, and Winsor School students presented Director Bob Cook with a $300 check to help ensure a long and happy life for the newcomer.

Wanted! Needed! Help!

The Arnold Arboretum is currently working on a permanent exhibit for the Hunnewell Building that will be unveiled in October. We are searching for two items that are intrinsic to our “story”: a 1950s-era wheelbarrow in relatively good condition and two or three empty burlap bags—preferably with no marks on one side.

If you can donate these items, you will receive a special invitation to the opening along with our heartfelt thanks. Please contact Chris Strand at 617/524-1718 x 125.
**Gone West**

We regret to announce that after this issue a name will disappear from the roster of our Editorial Committee. Richard Schulhof, Director of Education and Public Programs since 1992, has left the Arboretum to undertake the directorship of Descanso Gardens, La Cañada Flintridge, in his native southern California. Descanso boasts the world’s largest collection of camellias as well as an outstanding rose collection, but even more interesting botanically is its native vegetation. This includes an extensive area of chaparral and a pristine woodland of coastal live oak, *Quercus agrifolia*, one of the few that are publicly accessible in southern California. Descanso can be visited via the World Wide Web at [http://www.mobot.org/aabga/member.pages/descanso.html/](http://www.mobot.org/aabga/member.pages/descanso.html/).

Richard came to the Arboretum in 1989 as a Putnam Fellow and quickly took the role of coordinator of the master planning project. He was instrumental in interpreting both the cultural and scientific missions of the Arboretum, and to him goes credit for the National Endowment for the Humanities grants for the development of a permanent exhibit to be unveiled this autumn. Richard has been a much valued colleague; we wish him all the best.

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**New Staff**

The Development Department at the Arboretum announces the addition of two new staff members. **Kelly Harvey** replaces David Sieks as the Membership Assistant. In this newly expanded role, Kelly manages all activities related to the Friends of the Arnold Arboretum, including new member acquisition, special membership events, and the membership database. She joins us from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, where as office manager she coordinated the school’s computer helpdesk. She also brings prior experience in public relations and fundraising from previous work as circulation assistant of the Harvard University *Gazette* and as membership assistant for Harvard’s Sports Alumni Friends groups.

**Kara Stepanian** joins the Arboretum in the newly created position of Development Assistant. Kara’s activities will focus on our fundraising initiatives including the live and silent auctions at the annual fall plant sale, creating and managing a development database, donor research, and special events. Kara comes to us from Harvard’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association where she worked with the alumni advisory council, planned events, and wrote for the alumni publication. Prior to that, she worked in development for the Seattle Symphony in Washington State.
The Arboretum’s Education Department offers a wide variety of courses, programs, and lectures in horticulture, botany, and landscape design. A selection of summer courses is shown here. For a complete catalogue of programs and events at the Arboretum, call 617/524-1718 x 162. Please note that fees shown in boldface are for members of the Arboretum. For information about becoming a member, call 617/524-1718 x 165.

HOR 338 Basic Care for Trees and Shrubs  
*Joseph J. Camilleri III, Consulting Arborist*

Trees and shrubs are key structural elements in the landscape. Learn the basic techniques used to care for and enhance woody ornamental trees and shrubs, from identifying stresses to pruning and feeding.

**Session 1: Basic Anatomy and Physiology**
Understanding tree growth and function

**Session 2: Evaluating Trees and Shrubs**
Recognizing the signs and symptoms of insects, diseases, and environmental stresses; applying basic treatment tactics

**Session 3: Proper Care for Maximum Health**
Pruning, maintaining shrubs at desired sizes, fertilizing—what to use and when, mulching and root care, preventing mechanical injury, when to call a professional arborist

Fee: $45, $54

3 Mondays, July 8, 15, 22/ 6:30-8:30 pm (CE)

HOR 393 Planning the Drought-Tolerant Garden  
*Gary Koller, Senior Horticulturist, Arnold Arboretum*

The drought of 1995 took its toll on the gardens of New England and left many gardeners wondering how to proceed. This class will focus on design concepts of xeriscaping, or planning the garden for greater drought tolerance and less dependence on supplemental irrigation. Participants will look at the concepts of water conservation in the garden, designs that group plants based on watering needs, and plant selections that are both drought tolerant and efficient in water usage. Sessions will include discussion, practical planting layouts, and plant lists, as well as a walk to look at drought-tolerant plants growing in the Arnold Arboretum collections.

Fee: $58, $70

3 Wednesdays, July 10, 17, 24/ 4:00-6:00 pm (DG)

BOT 119 The August Landscape: Trees, Shrubs, and Vines  
*Richard Stomberg, Manager, Harvard University Herbaria Glasshouses*

The ornamental potential of plants in August can be overlooked when heat-dazzled Bostonians concentrate their attention on beaches and vacations. *Sophora japonica, Evodia danellii*, and *Clerodendrum trichotomum* will be among the plants explored on this warm-weather walk through the Arboretum.

Fee: $12, $15

Saturday, August 17/ 10:00–noon (DG)

HOR 136 Ornamental Grasses  
*Darrell Probst, Horticultural Consultant and Landscape Designer*

In the diverse world of ornamental grasses exist plants suitable for gardens of every size and for sunny, shady, wet, and dry locations. Some grasses are so large and dramatic that they can be used as shrubs or specimen plantings; others are miniatures, at home in the small-scale landscape. Their colors form a rainbow of greens, pinks, creams, blues, golds, and whites. This introduction to decorative grasses will focus on these versatile perennials.

Fee: $16, $19

Tuesday, August 20/ 6:30-8:30 pm (CE)
Lilacs 1996
A Cause for Celebration

Jack Alexander, Arboretum Plant Propagator and lilac specialist, with Outreach Horticulturist Chris Strand.