The Arnold Arboretum

SUMMER • NEWS • 1997

Celebrating the Close of Our 125th Year

Members and supporters of the Arnold Arboretum are invited to attend this final event in our year-long 125th anniversary celebration on Friday, October 17. Join us at the Arboretum to tour the Hunnewell Building, meet the staff, view the new Science in the Pleasure Ground exhibit, and hear a lecture by renowned British horticulturist Roy Lancaster.

Plant collector, British television personality, and gardener extraordinaire, Lancaster has authored books on his explorations in China and Nepal, on Mediterranean plants and gardens, on plants for connoisseurs, and most recently, What Plant Where. For our anniversary, he will present a slide-talk on Japan and its plants in autumn color. We hope you’ll join us in celebrating 125 years of discovery while taking an inside look at the Arnold Arboretum and spending an evening with one of the world’s most distinguished plantsmen. An invitation along with RSVP form will be sent to all members in September.

5:00–7:00 P.M.
OPEN HOUSE
AT THE HUNNEWELL BUILDING

7:30 P.M.
LECTURE BY ROY LANCASTER AT THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE LABORATORY,
305 SOUTH STREET, JAMAICA PLAIN
(near the Arboretum’s Forest Hills Gate)

The Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies

Robert E. Cook, Director

This fall the Arnold Arboretum will launch a new enterprise, the Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies. It is a natural outgrowth of our six-year collaboration with the National Park Service. The mission of the Institute will be to develop and disseminate information about cultural landscapes and their conservation to practitioners and the public. We believe that the Institute will become an important organization throughout the New England region and the nation.

What is a cultural landscape? In practical terms, cultural landscapes are parcels of land that have experienced historic land uses of continuing importance to the community and often have significant natural and economic value as well. The Arboretum, of course, is a cultural landscape, one whose cultural history forms the central theme of our recently opened exhibit, Science in the Pleasure Ground, on display in the Hunnewell Building. Other examples might be the highly designed and documented gardens that surround historic houses such as the Longfellow House in Cambridge, or Fairsteds, the home of Frederick Law Olmsted in Brookline.

But the concept of a cultural landscape embraces a much broader range of land uses. A large, working dairy farm in southern New Hampshire not far from a growing suburb of a major city may have been held in a single family for half-a-dozen generations. It may also have been the scene of a significant engagement or troop movement in the Revolutionary War. Finally, it may once have been the seasonal center of a native American settlement, and its soils today could contain abundant archaeological evidence of this past.

Through case studies, conferences, and selected field projects, the Institute will collaborate with a number of organizations actively involved in protecting natural and historic resources, such as the Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, and The Trustees of Reservations. Our goal will be to produce new information leading to practical solutions to difficult problems that arise when both cultural and natural resources are important for parcels of land whose economic value is changing. We hope to make this information readily available to practitioners in formats that are accessible and easy to understand. We also believe that such information, when provided through the Internet, will become increasingly valuable to citizen volunteers who serve their communities. Whether those volunteers work through local government or local land trusts, the Institute will support their commitment to preserve one of their most important resources—the land and its traditional uses.
Summer Interns of 1997

The interns of 1997 came from as far away as California, Michigan, and Canada, and from as near as Connecticut and Maine. Pictured here are the interns and a project some worked on under the leadership of Arboretum apprentice Alistair Yeomans. Over the last few years, the death of trees associated with increased foot traffic and mountain-bike activity has accelerated erosion on the eskers located between the greenhouse/nursery area and the legume collection. Using wood downed in the blizzard, they installed a series of "check dams" on some badly damaged slopes. Much of the interns’ other work this year was created by the April Fool’s Day Blizzard.

Instruction in woody plant identification, horticultural maintenance, and plant propagation, visits to Walden Pond and the Olmsted National Historic Site, and a walking tour of the Emerald Necklace as well as other field trips, classes, and lectures supplement the interns’ hands-on training.

New Staff

Matthew Davies has joined the Arnold Arboretum as staff assistant in the development department. Matt comes to the Arboretum from Suffolk University, where he provided administrative support to the director and assistant director of development on all aspects of annual giving. His experience includes event planning and coordination and database management.

Life on a Limb

“Harvard Hero” takes on added meaning with the recognition of Arboretum head arborist John Olmsted for outstanding service to the University. Initiated by Sally Zeckhauser, Harvard’s Vice President for Administration, the “Harvard Heroes” program recognizes employees for work of exceptional quality and commitment.

At the ceremony, before family and friends, John was lauded for maintaining the Arboretum’s trees with dedication, initiative, and fortitude. John has characteristically gone beyond expectations since joining the staff in 1990. He was also commended for the training in arboricultural techniques he gives to Arboretum interns.

Matt will provide administrative support to the director of the Arboretum and members of the development department.
Roy Lancaster, plantsman, author, and British television personality, will offer a slide-talk on Japan and its plants, Friday, October 17. He is seen here with *Rhododendron falconeri x sinogrande* 'Fortune'.

**The Arboretum Campaign Goes Public**

On Friday, June 13, 1997, Harvard President and Mrs. Neil Rudenstine, members of the Director's Advisory Board, Arboretum director Bob Cook, and 90 longtime Arboretum friends and donors gathered for a special dinner in celebration of the public phase of The Campaign for the Arnold Arboretum.

Campaign chairman Francis O. Hunnewell announced that in this first fundraising campaign since 1927 (following the death of Charles Sprague Sargent), the goal is to raise $8.2 million for the Arboretum’s endowment and capital projects, of which $3.8 million has been committed to date. Campaign objectives include adding significantly to the endowment for the living collections and establishing permanent endowments for two critical Arboretum programs in the areas of children’s science education and international biodiversity conservation. The campaign will also raise funds to build and endow a new garden for sun-loving vines and shrubs.

Speaking at the June dinner, President Rudenstine underscored the campaign’s priorities while reflecting on the Arboretum’s significance to the University and the larger community. The campaign, Rudenstine noted, aims to “sustain the Arboretum and its programs at the level of excellence that has been established and maintained. It will sustain the Arboretum’s vital educational efforts for both children and adults. And it will contribute directly not only to the understanding of our natural surroundings close to home, but also to research on important questions of biodiversity abroad and to the larger goal of environmental protection.”

“The cause could not be better,” Rudenstine added, “because the Arboretum touches on so many different aspects of our lives: natural beauty and the beauty of design; the process of teaching and learning; the discovery of new knowledge, driven by deep curiosity about the natural world; and the effort to improve the environment we live in.”

We plan to complete the fundraising effort by the conclusion of Harvard University’s comprehensive campaign on December 31, 1999. For more information about The Campaign for the Arnold Arboretum, contact Lisa M. Hastings, Director of Development, at 617/524-1718 x 145.
Ketko Satoh

I arrived in Boston from autumn in Canberra, Australia, just in time for Lilac Sunday, to take up a one-year appointment as a Putnam Fellow at the Arnold Arboretum. I was quite prepared for the New England weather because just four years ago I graduated from Mount Holyoke College in western Massachusetts. During my year here, I will be working under Sheila Connor's guidance on the E. H. Wilson and plant distribution archives and, with Stephen Spongberg, editing an unpublished manuscript by E. H. Wilson. Written in the late 1920s, its subject is the species that he considered his best introductions into cultivation. Another part of my project is the creation of a computer database of Arboretum plant distribution records, which were kept on index cards from 1910 to 1970. The database will track information on Arnold Arboretum plant introductions. In addition, I will be producing botanical illustrations of Sorbus for Dr. Spongberg.

Having lived in several different countries by virtue of my father's diplomatic postings, I have had many opportunities for travel and extraordinary experiences. I received my first exposure to the world of taxonomy and training in nomenclature when I curated shells (Architectonicidae: Gastropoda) at the National Natural History Museum, Leiden. This in turn led me to undertake a Master of Science course in biodiversity and taxonomy of plants at the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. It was there that I learned a great deal about the Arnold Arboretum and E. H. Wilson through my classmate Andrew Bell, himself a former intern and Putnam Fellow (summer 1995). Also during that time I was able to meet Dr. Spongberg and Susan Kelley on their respective trips to the Garden.

Working on the Wilson material offers me more than professional interest: it teaches me a great deal about the history and culture of my home, Japan, and also of China, where my great-grandparents were posted at around the same period as Wilson was traveling there. Many of his photographs depict aspects of those countries that have since changed drastically or disappeared.

Arnold Arboretum
Open House

The Arnold Arboretum once again cordially invites the public to an Open House on Saturday, October 18, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. The day's events will include tours of the landscape and a behind-the-scenes peak into the greenhouse led by Arboretum staff (at 11:00, 12:00, and 3:00), a maple tree activity for families (from 1:00 to 3:00), and opportunities to talk with Director Bob Cook and other staff about Arboretum plans and programs.

For information or directions, call 617/524–1718 x 100.