

The Arnold Arboretum

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Projects, Programs, and Research: Planning for the Future

Robert E. Cook, Director

Rising out of the ground below the Dana Greenhouses is a visible harbinger of change at the Arnold Arboretum. On a sloping, three-acre site, massive fieldstone walls that were constructed over the summer have formed a series of terraces to hold a new collection of sun-loving shrubs and vines. Soon a steel-framed, wood-covered pavilion will be erected to provide a shady resting place overlooking the collection beds and the great lawn that runs down the center of the garden. This project is one of several major landscape improvements that will be completed over the next two years.

These physical transformations will be accompanied by other significant changes in the programs and operations of the Arboretum. New goals, consistent with our traditional mission of research and education, are emerging from the long-range planning process that have engaged the staff over the past ten months. One goal will include a renewed commitment to improve the physical setting and, therefore, the image of the Arboretum in the eyes of the public. The shrub and vine garden described above will set a new standard of excellence to be followed in renewing the older parts of the grounds—the gates and walls, the benches and pathways, location and directional signage.

We are also contemplating a significant expansion of the

Arboretum's public and professional education programs. The Radcliffe Institute (formerly Radcliffe College) has approached us about the possibility of merging their programs in landscape design and landscape design history with our existing adult education programs. Through a series of rigorous courses and studios, the Radcliffe programs have for 35 years offered part-time and continuing education students a curriculum that leads to a certificate in landscape design and landscape design history. Providing a home at the Arboretum for the programs would greatly enhance our educational activities.

Finally, the planning process has revealed significant dissatisfaction with the future prospects for scholarly work at the Arboretum, which currently includes research on the living collections in Jamaica Plain, herbarium and library research in Cambridge, and research conducted in foreign settings such as the tropical forests of Southeast Asia. It is unclear that the existing criteria for research appointments and the related support systems truly serves the long-term interest and international reputation of the institution.

Alternative configurations of the research model are not easy to envision because of the complicated relations between the Arboretum and academic units at Harvard. At the very least, the

long-range plan will include a call for change in the model and an outline of the benefits that such a change might bring to our programs of research and education on woody plants around the world.

Mary Gibson Henry Medal Honors Carroll Wood



Carroll E. Wood, Jr., professor of biology emeritus at Harvard University, is among the first recipients of the Mary Gibson Henry Medal, presented on September 7 at the Henry Botanic Garden in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Wood has enjoyed a long association with Harvard Univer-

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sity and the Arnold Arboretum. He received a master of arts from Harvard in 1947 and a doctorate in 1949. After serving as a biology instructor for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences from 1949 to 1951, Dr. Wood became an associate curator for the Arboretum in 1954 and a curator in 1970, a position he held until his retirement in 1988. He lectured on taxonomy at Harvard between 1964 and 1972, when he was named a professor of biology. Dr. Wood continues to focus his energies on the completion of his *Generic Flora of the Southeastern United States*. Since its beginning in 1954, 162 papers of this prodigious work have been published, both in the *Journal of the*

Arnold Arboretum and the *Harvard Papers in Botany*.

While a student at the University of Pennsylvania in 1942, Dr. Wood became acquainted with Mary Gibson Henry during a collecting trip for the University's *Flora of Pennsylvania*. Their common interest in native plants kept them in contact over the years, beginning with a gift of Arizona yuccas and cacti he sent to Mrs. Henry during the war years. Later, he provided scientific support for some of her plant discoveries, including writing the Latin description for *Lilium iridollae*, the pot-of-gold lily. (See Mary Harrison's article "Mary Gibson Henry, Plantswoman Extraordinaire" in *Arnoldia*, vol 60, no.1.) Around the time of Mrs. Henry's

death in 1967, Dr. Wood became a member of the Board of the Henry Foundation for Botanical Research and has been instrumental in the acquisition of additional land and of nonprofit status for the Foundation's gardens.

The Henry Botanic Garden honored Dr. Wood and three other medal recipients with a ceremony and reception at the Henry Foundation for Botanical Research, where, on 50 acres, a wide variety of plants grow in naturalistic woodland and hillside settings and research gardens promote genetic diversity. Dr. Wood, who contributed wild-collected plant material to the garden's collections, was cited for his "extraordinary contributions to botanical research."

Albert J. Fordham, 1911–2000

Al Fordham, who retired in 1976 as head propagator and research horticulturist of the Arnold Arboretum, passed away last December at the age of 89 in Norwood, Massachusetts. He had been affiliated with the Arboretum for nearly 50 years. Al will be remembered for his many contributions to horticulture, including the many new cultivars of dwarf conifers he developed and his work on woody plant seed germination.

Al began his career at the Arboretum in 1929 as a student intern to propagator William H. Judd. In 1936 he spent a year studying European horticultural practices at the Royal Botanic Garden in Kew. After three years of service in the U.S. Army Infantry during World War II, Al returned to the Arboretum as assistant superintendent of grounds. From 1958 to 1976, he was the sole plant propagator at Harvard University, and it was during this period that the propagation department of the Arboretum was reorganized and the Dana Greenhouses were designed and built.

Al's work was distinguished by a willingness to test new methods of propagation and by his fastidious recording of experimental results. In addition to teaching and lecturing extensively on propagation, he published more than 100 research papers between 1958 and 1975, many in the pages of this magazine. His research topics included the barriers that hinder



Photograph courtesy of the Arnold Arboretum Photographic Archives.

germination of woody plant seeds, the role of physiological juvenility in plant propagation, and methods of seed dispersal. He also studied microclimates as they relate to plant survival.

In 1963 Al began collecting and experimenting with seed from witches' brooms, which resulted in the introduction of several new cultivars of *Pinus banksiana*, *P. strobus*, and *P. resinosa*. He gave his cultivars native American names such as "Merrimack,"

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IMLS Grant Integrates Past and Present Collections

The Arnold Arboretum was recently awarded a \$49,000 conservation support grant from the federal government's Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington, D.C. As outlined in the proposal, written by Jianhua Li and Peter Del Tredici, the grant will be used to finish integrating data from the Arboretum's herbarium specimens into the living collections database (BG-Base).

The project will proceed in three interrelated steps. The first is to enter information into the database from each sheet (voucher) of specimens that have been collected on the Arnold Arboretum's grounds. The staff will then be able to generate a list of plants that have not been vouchered or whose specimens do not include diagnostic structures (mostly flowers and fruits), leading to the second step: specimen collection, preparation, and data entry for those plants. In the third step, data will be entered for existing herbarium specimens representing plants no longer growing on the grounds.

At its most basic level, the project will allow the staff to learn which plants now growing on the grounds are not adequately represented by specimens in the herbarium. In addition, it will expand the database to include not only plants currently living on the grounds, but also those that have ever grown here and are represented by an herbarium specimen. Our services to botanical and horticultural communities at home and abroad will also be enhanced since the database will be one of the most comprehensive voucher systems for large living collections in the world, a crucial component of meaningful scientific



Botanical drawing of *Salisburia adiantifolia* (*Ginkgo biloba*) from Siebold and Zuccarini's *Flora Japonica*, courtesy of the Arnold Arboretum Library.

research. The Arboretum staff have been working slowly and deliberately to achieve this goal for over ten years, but the IMLS grant will allow us to incorporate the last 24,000 herbarium specimens into the living collections database in timely fashion.

The project team, to be coordinated by Jianhua Li, will include Kyle Port, Susan Kelley, Irina Kadis, and Sara Straate.

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“Chippewa,” and “Neponset” in recognition of New England's tribal heritage. In 1985 Al himself was recognized for his pioneering work with conifers by the naming of *Pinus parviflora* ‘Al Fordham’.

Over the years, Al was honored for his achievements by a number of amateur and professional organizations. He was an honorary member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which awarded him its Jackson Dawson Medal in 1965. Other honors included awards of merit from the International Plant Propagators Society (1971), from the International Lilac Society (1973), and the American Conifer Society (2000). He also received a professional citation and certificate of appreciation from the American Horticultural Society.

In 1976 Al retired from his Arboretum duties but continued his horticultural research as well as writing, lecturing, and consulting. Among other post-retirement achievements, he published the *Arnoldia Manual of Propagation of Selected Conifers* in 1977 as a separate issue of this magazine.

Al Fordham's expertise and his insatiable curiosity about all aspects of plant development proved a timely fit for an institution that required a master propagator and a steady stream of new material for its living collections. Through his published work, his classes, and his lectures, he taught a generation of New England gardeners about plant propagation and left a legacy to horticulturists throughout the world.



Summer Interns

The 2001 Summer Interns in the Arboretum's largest white oak (*Quercus alba*), from left to right: John Backer, Rose Morgan, Sarah Carter, Sara Straate, Dan March, Bethany Knorr, Emma Stark Schiffman, Kim Rennick, Steve Egger, Nicole Napoleon, Marissa Farris, Whitney O'Hanian. Not pictured: Jean Gauthier.

Tides Foundation to Receive Plant Sale Donation

The Tides Foundation's 9/11 Fund will receive \$5,000 from the Arnold Arboretum to support relief efforts for the events of September 11. Director Robert E. Cook announced at the annual fall plant sale that proceeds from the live auction would be donated to assist those immediately affected by the tragedy, and that a *Quercus coccinea* (scarlet oak) would be planted on Peters Hill to commemorate the victims. The Tides Foundation was chosen by Arboretum staff as the recipient of the Arboretum's gift.

The Tides 9/11 Fund was established to meet immediate and long-term needs in the wake of

September 11 and to promote a just and peaceful national response to this crisis. As of October 22, over \$335,000 had been raised for this fund, and \$215,000 in grants had been allocated to 18 organizations. In crafting their grant-making strategy, the Tides Foundation has worked to blend their core values of social and economic justice with the pressing needs created in the aftermath of the attacks.

For more information about this fund or for a complete list of grantees, contact the Foundation at info@tides.org.

The James Arnold Society

The Arnold Arboretum is proud to announce the formation of the James Arnold Society, named for the benefactor whose bequest made possible the Arboretum we value so much today. This new society will recognize those who have made life income gifts or bequest provisions for the Arnold Arboretum. If you have included the Arboretum in your long-term charitable plans, we would like to welcome you into this special group.

Members of the James Arnold Society will be invited to events at the Arboretum and receive a complimentary invitation to any one of the Harvard University-sponsored financial and estate-planning seminars.

Please contact Anne McClintock or Amy Goldman of University Planned Giving at 800.446.1277 or pgo@harvard.edu to discuss your current gift arrangements or to explore ways to benefit the Arboretum through a life income gift or bequest. Your inquiry will be held in the strictest confidence.

For more information, please visit www.haa.harvard.edu/pgo.