

The Arnold Arboretum

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1872–1997: Celebrating 125 Years at the Arnold Arboretum

Robert E. Cook, Director

Nineteen ninety-seven will mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Arnold Arboretum. On March 29, 1872, the President and Fellows of Harvard College accepted from the trustees of the estate of James Arnold the gift of the Arnold Endowment to establish a scientific collection of shrubs and trees. It seems like an occasion for a year-long party.

The anniversary celebration will be launched this October 18th with the opening of our new permanent exhibit, "Science in the Pleasure Ground." Funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the exhibit will feature four themes that mark the cultural history of the Arboretum: the design of the landscape; plant collecting around the world; American horticulture; and the conservation of forests at home and abroad. The exhibit will be anchored by an eight-by-sixteen-foot scale model of the Arboretum, complete with detailed vignettes depicting the history of the land and people, funded by a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Appell, Jr.

In spring, 1997, we will further mark the anniversary with the release of our new lilac introduction, *Syringa x chinensis* 'Lilac Sunday', to be made available, appropriately enough, on Lilac Sunday, May 18, 1997. A large garden party to formally honor 125 years of achievement in science and edu-



Haying near Center Street, 1931.

Ernest J. Palmer



The meadow in flood, March 12, 1936.

Donald Wyman

cation will follow later in spring. Other celebratory events will include a special exhibit at the New England Spring Flower Show, publication of a special edition of *Arnoldia*, summer tours of extraordinary gardens, and creation of an anniversary T-shirt and poster.

The celebration will continue into the fall with our traditional

Fall Plant Sale and Auction on September 21, and a scientific symposium will wrap up the anniversary year in November.

While acknowledging our notable past, the 125th anniversary will also provide a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the promise of the future. We hope you will join us.

Meyer Gift to Support Children's Education

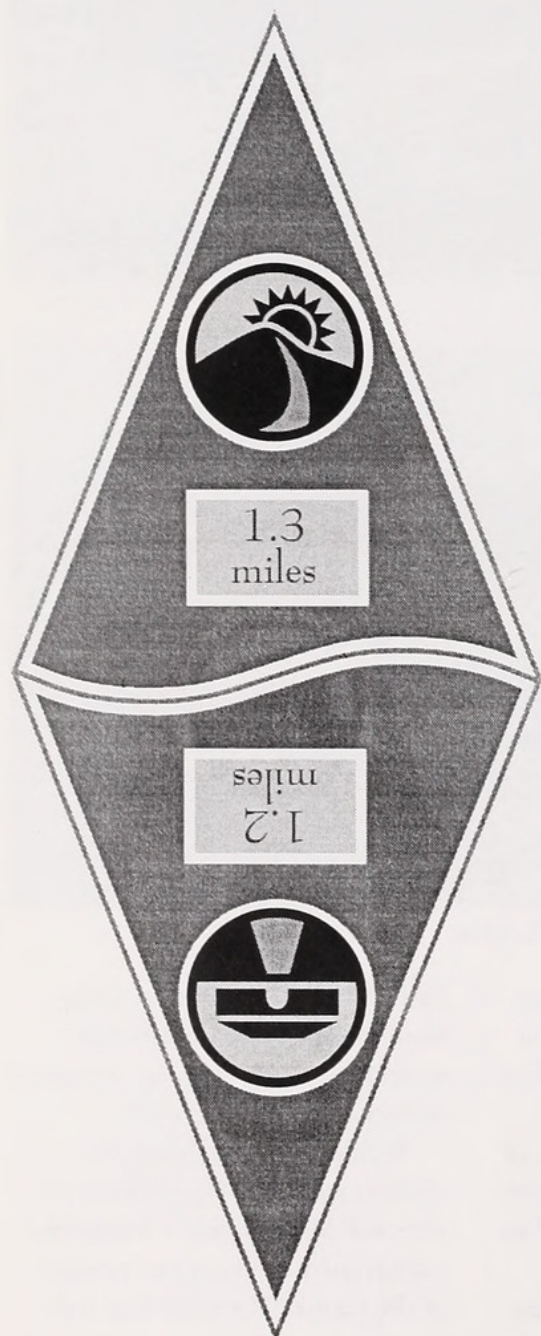
Henry and Nod Meyer, longtime friends of the Arnold Arboretum, recently established the Nature Study Fund for City Children with a generous gift that reflects the Meyers' interests in horticulture and children's environmental education.

In 1994, the Meyers initiated and funded a project to enable schoolchildren from Chelsea, Massachusetts, to participate in the Field Studies Program at the Arboretum. The Field Studies

Program introduces primary schoolchildren to science through a series of field trips to the Arboretum. "I firmly believe that the Arboretum is an ideal location for young people to learn firsthand their responsibility in preserving their and our environment," says Henry Meyer. "My primary interest is in helping the younger students while their minds are still open to positive inputs." The Meyers' gift to the endowment will support ongoing programs in

children's education with preference given to primary schoolchildren from Chelsea.

Nod Meyer has been actively involved with the Arboretum for over 20 years. An avid horticulturist, she has collected plant material from around the world and is best known at the Arboretum for her ongoing volunteer work at the Dana Greenhouses. Nod is currently a member of the Visiting Committee and the Fall Plant Sale Committee.



Wherever You Go, There You Are: The New Orientation System

The qualities that make the Arboretum so beautiful can also make it hard to navigate. First-time visitors can be quickly confounded by the sinuous road and path system, the changes in topography ranging from a low-lying marsh to one of the highest points in Boston, and the collection of 15,000 curated trees and shrubs interspersed with native woodland. With this in mind, the Arboretum's Orientation Committee hired Clifford Selbert Design of Cambridge to design a wayfinding system that will meet the needs of both new and experienced visitors to the grounds. It will be in place this fall.

Early in the design process, director Bob Cook challenged the design team to create an orientation system that would minimize the intrusion of signs into the landscape. To paraphrase him, "you shouldn't see the signs until you need them." This aesthetic consideration resulted in a dual orientation system that uses "you are here" maps combined with markers at intervals of one-eighth mile. The maps will be located at each entrance gate and will show visitors where they are, what they can see, and how they can use the orientation system. Within the Arboretum, milestone markers will be embedded at ground level along the main road from the start at the Hunnewell Building to its end at Peters Hill. Each marker gives the distance to these two destinations.

This system has a real advantage for the visitor: you can leave the road to explore for plants, return to a marker at the road, and know exactly where you are relative to the Hunnewell Building or Peters Hill. At the same time, this new system preserves the visual serenity and naturalness that makes the Arboretum landscape an island of calm in a visually chaotic city.

Kim Tripp Goes to Smith College

Peter Del Tredici, Director of Living Collections

"It is that mind-boggling wealth of plants that brings someone like myself to the Arnold Arboretum." With these words, written in February 1994, Kim Tripp announced her arrival. And now, exactly two-and-a-half years and countless memories later, Kim is leaving us for the greener pastures of the Connecticut River valley. Dr. Tripp has recently begun work as Director of the Smith College Botanic Garden in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she will oversee the operations of the botanic garden, teach a year-long horticulture course to undergraduates, and conduct and supervise research as a faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences.

As a Putnam Research Fellow at the Arnold Arboretum, Kim has been a whirlwind of activity: taking photographs, leading tours, rooting cuttings, measuring seed-

lings, evaluating plants, teaching courses, giving lectures, and writing articles for *Arnoldia*—all the while maintaining an active research program on the subjects of resource allocation in woody plants as it affects their performance in landscape situations; plant propagation; and woody plant evaluation.

The silver lining to her leaving is that she has become so intimately entwined with the Arnold Arboretum that she cannot really leave. In a special agreement worked out with Smith College, Kim will continue her collaboration with us as a research fellow. For this purpose, the Dana Greenhouses will serve as the base of operations for her ongoing research on propagation and resource allocation. With this arrangement in place, we can say that Kim isn't really leaving, she's just making a slightly longer commute.

Pam Thompson: Harvard Hero

In June the staff at the Arboretum congratulated Pam Thompson, coordinator of adult education programs, for her designation as a Harvard Hero in recognition of her exemplary service to Harvard. Two years ago Harvard's Vice President for Administration, Sally Zeckhauser, to whom the director of the Arboretum reports, created an employee recognition program that has informally come to be known as Harvard Heroes, after the theme song played at the first annual ceremony. The program allows each of the units managed by Mrs. Zeckhauser to recognize individuals whose service has demonstrated exceptional quality and commitment. In a celebration that included family and friends, Pam was cited for managing the program's day-to-day operations with unusual skill and creativity—as well as with her usual good cheer.

Peter Del Tredici



Cedrus libani stenacoma at the Arboretum.

Living Collections Memorial Fund

In response to a growing number of inquiries about planting memorial trees on the grounds, the Arboretum recently established the Living Collections Memorial Fund. Gifts to the Living Collections Memorial Fund in memory of family and friends support the ongoing maintenance and curation of our magnificent landscape and unique collections of trees, shrubs, and vines.

While memorializing specific trees is incompatible with the scientific mission of the Arboretum, gifts made to this fund support the annual spring planting of trees that represent new additions to the collections or repropagations of rare plants or of plants in decline. Gifts to this fund support not only the scientific mission of the Arboretum, but also the goal of maintaining an urban landscape open to the public, free of charge.

For information about memorial gifts and the Living Collections Memorial Fund, contact Lisa M. Hastings, Senior Development Officer, at 617/524-1718 x 145.

Summer Interns of 1996

This year's interns worked in four areas—science education, greenhouse and nursery, mapping and labeling, and grounds maintenance. Major tasks included digging plants in the nursery and planting them on the grounds. Interns also helped prune post-drought deadwood and clean up the rockery.

Kneeling at left is Justin Grigg; counterclockwise from center left are Stacy Senflug, Nicole Sullivan, Ann Cook, Lauren Buckland, Kenneth Bray, Seth Cain, Chris McFadden, Dana Doyle, Jill Horton, Leslie Marty, Kyle Port, Jeffrey Rowan, Kristin McDonnell.



Karen Madsen

Kim Tripp



PIPD Workshop

Tom Ward, greenhouse manager, standing third from right, led participants of the first annual Subscribers' Propagation Workshop on an early-summer tour of the Arboretum's shrubs. The workshop is part of the Arboretum's new Plant Introduction, Promotion, and Distribution Program for professional and commercial horticulturists. The robust plant behind them is *Viburnum sargentii* 'Flavum', an 1872 introduction, that survived last year's drought very well.

Arboretum Cleanup

Luis Colon and Bruce Munch of the Arboretum grounds staff worked with 200 energetic City Year corps members who gave a day's service this past June to clean up the newly acquired Stony Brook Marsh. Thanks are due to them and to the Arnold Arboretum Committee for coordinating the effort.



Karen Madsen



1996. "The Arnold Arboretum News." *Arnoldia* 56(2),

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