Arboretum Annual Report 2009

Connecticut College

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MISSION

The Connecticut College Arboretum is owned by Connecticut College and operated for the benefit of the College and the community. The Arboretum functions in support of the College’s mission by helping to prepare men and women for a lifetime of learning about and interacting with the natural world. The mission of the Connecticut College Arboretum is:

TEACHING

To provide an outdoor laboratory for use by faculty and students in botany, biology, environmental studies and other departments. In both teaching and research, the Arboretum is a unique and valuable academic resource and support facility.

RESEARCH

To support and conduct research in a broad range of subjects, including ecology, field biology, conservation and natural history. Arboretum research emphasizes long-term studies.

CONSERVATION

To provide stewardship of College lands by protecting, sustaining and enhancing biological diversity of large tracts of open space. The Arboretum also provides leadership statewide and beyond in conservation matters.

COLLECTIONS

To maintain, develop and interpret well-documented plant collections for teaching, research, public education and enjoyment.

RECREATION

To provide a place where people from the College and the community may enjoy passive recreation and where they may come to learn, reflect and renew themselves through contact with the natural world. The Arboretum enhances the quality of life both for the constituents of the College and the citizens of southeastern Connecticut.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

To provide programs and publications about conservation, horticulture, gardening, botany and natural history that enhance people’s understanding of the natural world and foster an understanding of the Arboretum’s mission.

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE-MARIE AND MANUEL LIZARRALDE
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Barbara Shattuck Kohn ’72, Chair, Board of Trustees
James S. Berrien ’74, Chair, Board of Trustees
Leo I. Higdon, Jr., President
Roger L. Brooks, Dean of Faculty

ARBORETUM STAFF

Glenn D. Dreyer MA’83, Director
Katherine T. Dame ’90, Assistant Director for Public Programs
Leigh Knuttel, Horticulturist
Charles McIlwain III, Senior Groundsperson
Bryan L. Goulet, Groundsperson
Mary Villa, Curator/Information Manager
Elene Anthopolos, Staff Assistant

ASSOCIATES

Robert A. Askins, Research Associate
Phillip T. Barnes, Research Associate
Beverly A. Chomiak, Research Associate
John W. Deering, Earth Management Consultant
Pamela G. Hine MA’84, Research Associate
Chad C. Jones, Research Associate
Manuel Lizarralde, Research Associate
Stephen H. Loomis, Research Associate
T. Page Owen, Research Associate
Sally L. Taylor, Education Consultant
Douglas M. Thompson, Research Associate
R. Scott Warren, Research Associate

CAMPUS GROUNDS STAFF

James Luce, Grounds Supervisor
Al Benvenuti, Groundsperson
Lewis Bowker, Groundskeeper
Mike Campagna, Groundsperson
Kraig Clark, Groundskeeper
Bryant Roy, Groundsperson
Lynn Manza, Groundskeeper
Joseph Serwinski, Senior Groundskeeper
Robert Stammel, Senior Groundskeeper
George Yuhas, Head Mechanic
FOR A FEW WEEKS EACH YEAR I spend time gathering together notes about all the important programs, events, personalities and images that represent the 12 months recently gone by in the life of our Arboretum. I’m very proud of what our small staff, student helpers, volunteers and college professors accomplish, and this report is primarily about the things that those people did. Of course these words and pictures are but a pale reflection of what actually happens each year, and they barely mention at all the vibrant living beings that call the Arboretum home. I suppose an annual report is not the place to write about the changing seasons, the thriving oak or dying hemlock trees, the broad winged hawk nest near Buck Lodge, the red fox den in the Bolleswood or the osprey fishing off Mamacoke Island. But it is important to remember that the Arboretum is also about relatively large tracts of land, protected from development, that are home to thousands of living creatures. Professor Sally Taylor once told me that the really important thing about the Arboretum is the land itself, not necessarily what we are doing with it now. I think she meant that having land protected and left mostly as undeveloped open space will only get more and more valuable to our society as time goes on. So, before turning this page, let’s remember that the Arboretum is also about all the plants and animals that live in the woods and swamps, and about the things that won’t happen to them thanks to the many conservation-minded friends of the Arboretum who helped preserve the land around the Connecticut College campus.

Glenn Dreyer MA ’83
Charles & Sarah P. Becker ’27 Director
ARBORETUM PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS create opportunities for many kinds of people to have exciting and rewarding interactions with the natural world. Most take place somewhere on campus or in the plant collections and natural areas. Arboretum offerings were traditionally for adult community members; however, an enhanced children’s education program was developed by Assistant Director Kathy Dame last year, supported in part by a grant from the Conservation and Research Foundation. The children’s programs are provided free of charge. In 2009, 345 children attended 24 programs developed specifically for young people. Approximately 600 individuals participated in adult programs during the year. The following list includes both program and instructor names.

WINTER/SPRING

ADULTS
Native Landscape Design: Exploding into the Mainstream conference
Winter Birds of Mamacoke, walk with Stephen Rossiter ’09
Home! Safe Home! workshop with Amy Cabaniss
Six Degrees, book discussion with Kathy Dame
Map and Compass, workshop with Beverly Chomiak
Spring Pruning, workshop with Jim Luce
Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop, with Sarah Melissa Wittak
Bolles Farm Walk, with Glenn Dreyer
Earth Fest! campus and community
Earth Day celebration
Coastal Life in Connecticut, mini course with Judy Preston
Annual Wildflower Walk, with G. Dreyer
Coastal Geology Walk, with Ralph Lewis
Mother’s Day Plant Sale

CHILDREN
Plant Your Own Chia Pet, with K. Dame, Roberta Brouwer, Ashley Hanson

Name that Tree, with Caroline Driscoll, R. Brouwer
Understanding Ocean Currents, with Dick Conway, R. Brouwer
Learning to Use a Map and Compass, with B. Chomiak
Woodland Wildflowers — An After School Adventure, with C. Driscoll, R. Brouwer
A Buried Treasure: Fun with Fossils, with D. Conway, C. Driscoll
A Pizza Garden Planting, with K. Dame, R. Brouwer
New London Youth Environmental Conference, with K. Dame and committee

SUMMER

ADULTS
Outdoor Fun in Connecticut on a Budget, lecture by Brendan Hanrahan
Fifth Bonsai and Asian Arts Festival, cosponsored by China Trade Bonsai Club
Gardens of Peace: Bringing Nature Home in East Asia, lecture by Noelle O’Connor
Prides Corner Farm Plant Buying Trip, with K. Dame
Rocky Neck State Park: A Coastal Geological Walk, with R. Lewis
An Ethnobotany Walk, with Manuel Lizarralde
Finding Your Way with Map and Compass, with B. Chomiak

CHILDREN
Ten Native Trees Walk/Workshop, with C. Driscoll, K. Dame, R. Brouwer
A Pond Walk and Dragonfly Tale, with K. Dame, R. Brouwer, Anne Davis
An Ethnobotany Walk, with Manuel Lizarralde
Finding Your Way with Map and Compass, with B. Chomiak

FALL

ADULTS
Mum and Pumpkin Sale
Using Weeds, Trees and Fungi to Color Fiber, with Mary Kalio
Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants, lecture with Robin Wilkerson
Recognizing Trees at a Glance, workshop with J. Luce
Finding Your Way with Map and Compass, with B. Chomiak
Annual Fall Foliage Walk, with G. Dreyer
Going Native in New England — A SALT Conference
Mamacoke Mysteries Revealed, with B. Chomiak
Creating Holiday Wreaths, workshop with Leigh Knuttel

CHILDREN
Learning to Use a Map and Compass, with B. Chomiak
What on Earth Can You Do with an Old Pickle Jar, with A. Hanson, R. Brouwer
Creating Sculpture in the Arboretum, with J. & L. Sargent, C. Driscoll
Pumpkin Circle: A Storytelling/Craft Gathering, with C. Driscoll, R. Brouwer
Boo! It’s a Halloween Party, with C. Driscoll, R. Brouwer
Life in the Desert, with C. Driscoll, R. Brouwer
If I Were an Oak Tree, with R. Brouwer, C. Driscoll
Creating Holiday Ornaments from Nature, with C. Driscoll, A. Hanson

Brendan Harahan spoke at Members and Friends Night.
The Arboretum Pond was the basis of two summer programs for children.

Horticulturist Stephanie Cohen presented at the annual SALT conference.

Children created sculptures with natural materials in the Arboretum.

Mary Kalio presented a workshop on dying fibers with wild plants.

Caroline Driscoll with a children’s program at the Laurel Walk.

SALT conference speaker Professor Douglas Tallamy spoke from his book about why landscaping with native plants is important.
Luis Rodriguez-Torres brought Connecticut College OVCS mentors and Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School students to the greenhouse.

Kristen Geshel won first prize in the adult category of the annual Photo Contest.

"A Midsummer Night’s Dream," staged by Flock Theatre in the Arboretum.

The Arboretum tent at the 2009 Earth Fest!
PHOTO CONTEST
Each year the annual photo contest invites the public to visit the Arboretum and submit their best photographs. The judging panel this year was Amy Cabaniss, Joyce Luce and Tracee Reiser. The talented winners were:


SHAKESPEARE IN THE ARBO
Flock Theatre presented “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and “Richard III” to audiences totaling approximately 1,500 people in the Arboretum Outdoor Theater.

ARBO PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TOURS
More than 800 children participated in environmental education tours led by 20 Connecticut College student volunteers. Rebecca Beachell and Jen Superson supervised the program through the College’s Office of Volunteers for Community Service.

WEBSITE
The Arboretum website http://arboretum.conncoll.edu was completely renovated with a new look and updated information. Curator Mary Villa was in charge of the successful project. One useful new feature is the plant collections section’s searchable database called “Find a Plant.” This allows anyone to locate plants in Arboretum collections by either common or botanical name.

OTHER ACTIVITIES
The Arboretum co-sponsored the Meskwaka tree training program again in summer 2009, in which a dozen Connecticut citizens spend two days in an intensive educational program that prepares them to participate in municipal tree management programs in their hometowns.

We held two successful plant sales during the year: a Mum and Pumpkin sale in the fall and a Mother’s Day sale in May. Both were set up at the entrance to the College Center at Crozier-Williams.

In the city of New London, the Arboretum offered a tree identification tour of the Native Plant Collection to the New London Parks and Recreation landscape maintenance staff; consulted with an AP Environmental Science class at the New London Science and Technology Magnet High School, which was developing an outdoor classroom behind their facility; and evaluated the condition of street trees at a road and sidewalk reconstruction site.

In Stonington Borough, Glenn Dreyer consulted with the public works director on trees and led a public tree walk at Wadawanuck Square.

AP Environmental Studies students from New London Science and Technology Magnet High School planned their new outdoor classroom.
TEACHING and RESEARCH

IN A CONTINUATION OF THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH at the Arboretum’s Samuel Bolles Farm site, architectural historian Myron Stachiw inspected the house and barn foundations and discussed his observations with Professor Abby Van Slyck, Visiting Instructor Rae Gould, College Archivist Ben Panciera and Glenn Dreyer. Gould’s Historical Archeology and Methods in Archaeology courses used both the Bolles Farm and the Rogerene cemetery (north of Dawley Field) as sites to study archeological and historical research techniques.

Dreyer and Goodwin-Niering Center Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow Wei Ying Wong started an invasive species survey project sponsored by the Arboretum and the Center. In the fall, a 10-page survey was mailed to 1,000 randomly selected residents of Waterford, Conn., with questions about people’s understanding of invasive species facts and issues. The results will be compared with surveys of other populations to be done in 2010.

Botany Professor Chad Jones initiated a research project in the Arboretum’s Bolleswood Natural Area exploring the distribution and abundance of the invasive plants Japanese barberry and Oriental bittersweet. One student summer research assistant was supported by the William Niering Endowment Fund, which Professor Niering established to encourage student/faculty research in the Arboretum.

College courses that used the Arboretum in 2009 included:
Bio 105 – Organisms
Bio 207 – Ecology
Bio 224 – Animal Behavior
Bio 307 – Freshwater Ecology
Bot 115 – Classical and Current Topics in Botany
Bot 117 – Introduction to Ethnobotany
Bot 205 – Plants, Protists and Fungi
Bot 225 – Systematic Botany and the Local Flora
Bot 494 – Ecological Restoration
ES 111 – Environmental Studies as a Social Science
ES 115 – Introduction to Environmental Geology
ES 210 – Hydrology
ES 259 – Mining and the Environment
ES 312 – Introduction to Vector-based GIS


Visiting English Professor Mary Ellen Ellsworth’s freshman seminar, “America Polarized,” toured the Native Plant Collection during a class section on nature and the environment.

In October Arboretum Bulletin No. 40, “Salt Marsh Plants of Long Island Sound,” was co-published with the Connecticut Sea Grant program.

Written by Professor Emeritus R. Scott Warren and two University of Connecticut Sea Grant Program staff, Juliana Barrett and Margaret Van Patten ’87, the publication is a much expanded update of the 1980 Bulletin No. 25, “Salt Marsh Plants of Connecticut.”
ABOVE: Professor Lisa Wilson and her history department freshman seminar on a guided walk to Mamacoke Island.

RIGHT: Ground-penetrating radar demonstration for an archeology class in the Rogerene cemetery near the Thames River.

BELOW: An English department freshman seminar included a guided walk in the Arboretum.
Bryon Goulet, left, and Chip McIlwain built an arbor in the Outdoor Theater.

Stephen Morrell directed stone placement in Caroline Black Garden.

First spring for the Japanese cherry collection in front of Shain Library.

An enlarged composting facility and a new truck help Arboretum staff in their maintenance duties.

The Mamacoke Tidal Marsh was underwater during a storm on Nov. 13.

Wild pink lady’s slipper orchids were abundant in 2009 in the Bolleswood Natural Area.
NATIVE PLANT COLLECTION AND NATURAL AREAS

Arboretum staff members Chip McIlwain and Bryan Goulet built arbors on both sides of the Outdoor Theater stage based on a design by curator Mary Villa. The red cedar posts for the project were generously donated and delivered by Northeast Utilities from trees cut on Connecticut electric transmission rights-of-way. Flock Theatre immediately put them to good use during their summer performances. The arbors will soon house a native vine display.

A small area with a redbud tree (Cercis canadensis) and wildflower plantings was established around an existing bench in the Edgerton and Stengel Wildflower Garden in memory of Sandra Gale Schinfeld '71.

Arboretum staff planned and constructed a set of large concrete block bins for composting plant materials, which replaced a smaller system constructed of logs by student volunteers many years ago. The Arboretum acquired a new Ford F350 truck with dump body this year.

Planning began for the renovation of the Rose Family area, located immediately to the left of the main entrance to the Native Tree and Shrub Collection.

Work continued on habitat management in the Samuel Bolles Farm site as part of last year’s USDA grant.

CAMPUS

Curator Mary Villa and her student assistants completed an inventory of the Campus Landscape Collection, a process that took a full two years. The collection database previously included all campus trees, but only those shrubs added to the plantings since about 1991. This time around Mary was able to identify and accession an additional 942 previously existing shrubs in the campus landscape.

NEWLY IDENTIFIED TAXA ADDED TO THE PLANT COLLECTION DATABASE IN 2009:

- Chamaecyparis obtusa ‘Crippsii,’ Cripps Hinoki False Cypress
- Deutzia gracilis, Slender Deutzia
- Forsythia x intermedia, Border Forsythia
- Hydrangea paniculata ‘Grandiflora,’ Peegee Hydrangea
- Ilex ‘Blue Angel,’ Blue Angel Meserve Holly
- Ilex verticillata ‘Cherokee,’ Cherokee Japanese Holly
- Ilex verticillata ‘Hetzii,’ Hetz Japanese Holly
- Ilex x meserveae ‘Mesdob,’ China Boy Meserve Holly
- Juniperus davurica ‘Expansa,’ Parson’s Dahurian Juniper
- Juniperus x pfitzeriana, Pfitzer Juniper
- Juniperus x pfitzeriana ‘Hetzii,’ Hetz Juniper
- Juniperus x pfitzeriana ‘Kallay’s Compact,’ Kallay’s Compact Juniper
- Kolkwitzia amabilis, Beauty-bush
- Lonicera standishii, Standish Honeysuckle
- Photinia villosa, Oriental Photinia
- Pinus flexilis, Limber Pine
- Potentilla fruticosa ‘Jackman,’ Jackman Cinquefoil
- Rhododendron Catawbiense
- Grandiflorum, Grandiflorum Rhododendron
- Rhododendron ‘Nova Zembla,’ Nova Zembla Rhododendron
- Rhododendron ‘Olga Mezitt,’ Olga Mezitt Rhododendron
- Rhododendron ‘Scintillation,’ Scintillation Rhododendron
- Rhododendron catawbiense ‘Roseum Elegans,’ Roseum Elegans
- Rhododendron Viburnum plicatum f. plicatum, Japanese Snowball
- Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum, Doublefile Viburnum
- Viburnum setigerum f. aurantiacum, Orange Tea Viburnum

CAROLINE BLACK GARDEN

Work began in November on a design modification of the water feature area at the rear of the Caroline Black Garden. The Arboretum’s late horticulturist, Jeff Smith, envisioned this area as a Japanese-style garden, and his idea is being developed with the help of Stephen Morrell of Contemplative Landscapes. This year Stephen created a conceptual plan and Arboretum staff began moving in large rocks to form the structure of the space. Completion is expected by 2011.

NEW PLANTINGS IN 2009

CAMPUS LANDSCAPE

* Euonymus fortunei ‘Coloratus,’ Purple Wintercreeper Euonymus
* Hydrangea quercifolia ‘Snow Queen,’ Snow Queen Oakleaf Hydrangea
* Ilex glabra ‘Compacta,’ Compact Inkberry

* Juniperus virginiana ‘Grey Owl,’ Grey Owl Red Cedar
* Pyrus calleryana ‘Aristocrat,’ Aristocrat Callery Pear

* New taxa in collection

NATIVE PLANT COLLECTION:

- Acer saccharum, Sugar Maple
- Juniperus communis ‘Repanda,’ Low Common Juniper
- Myrica pensylvanica, Northern Bayberry
- Rosa virginiana, Virginia Rose

At the close of 2009 there were 5,494 living accessioned woody plants in Arboretum Collections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trees</th>
<th>Shrubs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Native Plant Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Campus Landscape</td>
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<td>Caroline Black Garden</td>
<td>172</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PEOPLE

There were no changes in the permanent Arboretum staff this year. Staff members, associates and members of the College grounds department are listed at the end of this report.

STUDENT WORKERS

Part-time student employees fulfill important roles in the daily operation of the Arboretum. Many, but not all, work as part of their college financial aid arrangements. They assist our staff in a wide variety of functions, including curating and maintaining the plant collection and advertising the public educational programs. We gratefully acknowledge the hard work of the following students during 2009.

Michael Antoinetti ’10
Phillip Barber ’10
Steven Burnham ’12
Alexander Carpenter ’10
Charles Cochran ’10
Ariella Cohen ’10
Brendan Collins ’11
Caroline Corbett ’13
Hayley Curtis ’09
Stacey Detwiler ’10
Zachary Earle ’11
Alex Ellison ’10
Richard Hederstrom ’09
Benjamin Hopkins ’13
Erik Karwatowski ’12
Alec Lager ’09
Robert Landry ’13
Jeffrey Lee ’11
Edward Loeser ’12
Eli Mangold ’11
Michael Meade ’10
Matthew Murdock ’13
Xuefeng Peng ’10
Christopher Pielock ’13
Eleanor Schmidt ’12
Kenneth Torsey ’10
Max Weigert ’13
Richard Worseman ’12
Boryana Zhelyazkova ’10

Summer 2009
Abby Derrick ’11
Gabriella Geisinger ’11
Jung-In Hwang ’09
Katie Warren

Volunteers

Over forty volunteers donated time to the Arboretum to help make a variety of programs successful, including Sunday afternoon plant collection tours, private group tours, the annual conferences, many educational classes for adults and children, the photo contest, and plant sales. Like our student helpers, volunteers greatly expand what the Arboretum staff can accomplish and the number of people we are able to reach. Many thanks to the following individuals:

Elene Anthopolos
David Arnold
Platt Arnold
Robert Askins
Roberta Brouwer
Tracy Burrell
Ginny Butler
Amy Cabaniss
Claire Calabretta
Beverly Chomiak
Richard Conway
Anne Davis
Caroline Driscoll
Louise Fabrykiewicz
Joan Flynn
Allen Gauthier
Ken Graham
Ashley Hanson
Mary Kallio
Anne-Marie Lizarralde
Manuel Lizarralde
Jim Luce
Joyce Luce
Sandra Morse
Susan Munger
Becky Nortz
Lydia Pan
Nancy Patenaude

MEMBERS and FRIENDS

The Connecticut College Arboretum gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions made by the following individuals and organizations in 2009. We strive to accurately maintain our records, and appreciate receiving corrections.

Patrons
Morton, Joanne McKean
Ryder, Janet L.
Urban Forestry Organization

Tracee Reiser
John Sargent
Linda Sargent
Robert Sherman
Elizabeth Smith
Sally Taylor
Ohla Townsend
Wild Ones
Sarah Melissa Witiak
Pam Wright
Mike Wünscher
Van Sloun, Neil and Sylvia Willauer, George J.

SPONSORS
Arkava, Harold
Badenhausen, Dorothea Susan
Bradford, Derek and Sara Davis, Martha G.
Dreyer, Glenn and Wendy Flecke, Kristine M.
Flynn, Ken and Joan Harlow, Margaret H.
Johnson, Michael D. Kashanski, John
Kimball, Marion C. Moulton, David W.
Porter, Marcia W.
Record, Stephen and Mary Sue Rotch, Susan and Peter Sargent, Thomas A.
Winslow, Katherine D.

FAMILIES, INDIVIDUALS and ORGANIZATIONS

Duck River Garden Club of Old Lyme Dutcher, Craig C.
Eastwood, Marlyn Enders, Anthony T.
Essex Garden Club Inc. Fisher, Emily Gauthier, Allen R.
Glastonbury Garden Club Goldsmith, Timothy Graham, Kenneth E. Grobe, Carl W.
Haderer, Elizabeth and George Hafner, Prescott W.
Hall, Phoebe Hamilton, Jeanne Hammen, Kari B. Hamsher, Gail Hayes, Christie M. Helms, Molly and Donald Hirata, Robert M. Hollister, James M. Homeier, Jean Gries Howell-Heller, Penelope Hughes, Mary E. Inguanti, Joseph Isbister, Anne H. Jaynes, Richard A. Johnson, Kathleen Kanor, Jean Cassidy Kelly, Shannon Kiley, Meghan P. Kiley, Michelle P. Koehn, Helen Korecki, Jessica M.

Curator Mary Villa and student assistant Abby Derrick '11.

Chip McIlwain, front, and Bryan Goulet cooked for volunteers.
Volunteers Virginia Butler and Allen Gauthier.