

5-1947

Bulletin No. 5: The Connecticut Arboretum

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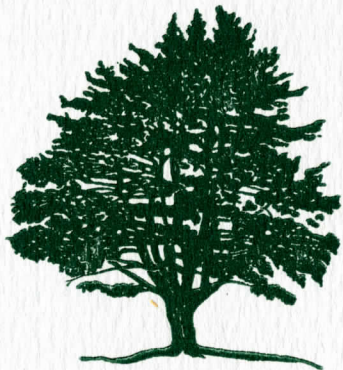
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THE CONNECTICUT ARBORETUM

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT



BULLETIN No. 5

MAY 1947



PHOTO BY WM. M. RITTASE

Here on the college campus and within New London's city limits may be found the beauty and peace of the country. The Arboretum is finding increasing use as a place for recreation and as an outdoor laboratory for all phases of nature study. On a recent morning bird-walk over forty species of birds were observed in less than two hours.

The Arboretum Tract—Recent Land Acquisitions

Sixteen years have passed since the founding of the Connecticut Arboretum in 1931. Impressive progress in its development was made during the first ten years, under the able directorship of Dr. George S. Avery, Jr. The laying out of the original plantings, the construction of the entrance, laurel walk, outdoor theatre and Buck Lodge, and the acquisition of the wild Ravine Tract in the Bolleswood were all accomplished during this period. The story has already been told in Arboretum Bulletin No. 4.

During the past six years further progress has been made, in spite of the fact that the wartime manpower shortage severely curtailed our operations. The purpose of this little bulletin is to describe some of the recent developments, the most notable of which has been the addition to the Arboretum holdings of four new tracts of land situated to the north of the Connecticut College campus and totalling approximately ninety acres. The acquisition of this land has been made possible through the generosity of the many friends of the Arboretum and the College. The position of these tracts in relation to the campus is shown on the map in the middle of this bulletin.

The first of these additions was the ten-acre Benham Road Extension, lying immediately north of the campus. A good portion of this area, which was abandoned farmland at the time of acquisition in 1942, has been planted to pine and hemlock, as shown in the foreground of the view looking northeast across the new Norwich highway and the George S. Avery Tract. The following donors raised the funds necessary to purchase this land:

Hon. Christopher L. Avery	Miss Rachel Larrabee
Mr. George S. Avery, Jr.	Miss Katharine Matthies
Mr. Henry L. Bailey, Jr.	Miss Mary C. McKee
Miss E. Frances Botsford	Miss Florence R. Oran
Miss Julia Wells Bower	Miss Lois Pond
Miss Frances S. Brett	Mr. William H. Putnam
Miss Mary Bulkley	Miss Ruth Stanwood
Miss Mildred Burdett	Mrs. Jacob Verduin
Miss E. Alverna Burdick	Hon. Frederic C. Walcott
Miss Margaret S. Chaney	Miss Miriam Dwight Walker
Miss Pauline H. Dederer	Miss Eleanor S. Warren
Mrs. Malcolm J. Edgerton	Miss Marian P. Whitney
Miss Elizabeth H. Harris	Mrs. S. H. Williams
Miss Margaret W. Kelley	Misses Mary and Elizabeth Wright
Mrs. Allan F. Kitchel	New London Garden Club
Miss Betsy B. Larrabee	Stamford Garden Club

The George S. Avery Tract, thirty acres of land lying between the Benham Road Extension and the Thames River opposite Mamacoke Island, was purchased in 1944, largely through gifts from twenty garden clubs and more than a hundred friends of Dr. Avery, who wished



A new planting of white pine on the Benham Road Extension looking northeast across Moberg Avenue to the George S. Avery Tract.

to express in this way their appreciation for all that he had done toward developing the Arboretum. The list of contributors is much too long to publish here, but we are indebted to all those who made this splendid addition to the Arboretum a reality. The area is partly open land and partly wooded, with steep rocky ledges sloping down to the Thames River. It commands extensive views up and down the river and has great possibilities as a place of beauty in the years to come.

The Gallows Lane Extension, a twenty-acre area just to the north of the original Arboretum tract, was purchased early in 1946 with further gifts from Mr. George S. Avery, Jr., Mr. Richard H. Goodwin, Mr. Robert Fulton Logan and Mrs. S. H. Williams and with funds appropriated by the College. Some of this land is wooded and some of it is old pasture now growing up with brush.

The Katharine Matthies Tract, twenty-six acres of land connecting the Avery Tract on the north with the College-held river frontage to the south, was purchased in 1946 and is named for its donor, Miss Katharine Matthies, Secretary of the Arboretum Association. Most of this tract is open land which, until recently, has been under cultivation. Several acres were planted to white pine this year, and it is hoped to complete the reforestation of this area in another two years.

Thus, in the past five years, the Connecticut Arboretum has more than doubled its area and now extends in a practically unbroken sweep from the original tract west of the college campus on Williams Street clear to the Thames River. It will be years before these new additions can be developed the way we wish them, but the future looks bright, both for the growth of the Arboretum plantings and for the preservation of the natural beauty of the college setting.

A vista looking up the Thames River toward Norwich from the George S. Avery Tract.



From the top of the ledges on the Avery Tract looking southeast across the river. The south end of Mamacoke Island may be seen to the left.



The Botanical Collections

Those who were familiar with the stately grandeur of the old hemlock grove in Bolleswood, which was so devastated by the hurricane of 1938, will be pleased to see the rapid recovery of the area to its natural state. The little sketch on the title page of this bulletin catches the spirit of this change—the replacement of the fallen giants, the trunks of which are now adding humus to the forest floor, by thrifty little hemlocks of the coming age.

One of the primary objectives of the Arboretum is to gather together a living collection of all the woody plants native to our state. A fine beginning had already been made before the war. Now we are going ahead with new plantings to fill in gaps in our list of species and varieties. The Arboretum has been fortunate in securing the part-time services of an able field botanist, Mr. K. P. Jansson of Groton, who has been collecting new botanical material for the Arboretum. Some financial support for this scientific work is being received from the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey. This work was begun last summer and the most important groups of species which have been added to the collection are the blackberries and raspberries (genus *Rubus*). Mr. Jansson has collected specimens of this genus for Professor Liberty Hyde Bailey, the world authority on this group, and has one species, *Rubus Janssonii*, named in his honor.

A small portion of the new nursery, where young seedlings are being propagated for use in our own plantings and for distribution as "tree dividends" to organization members of the Arboretum Association for civic planting projects. Although our old nurseries were nearly depleted during the war, we still have a limited offering of species and have shipped out over four hundred specimens during the past year.



Every year is a growing year in the Arboretum. This vigorous stand of pines was planted along the ski run as six-inch seedlings in 1938.

We now have the following native species of *Rubus* represented in the Connecticut Arboretum. Some of these species have economic importance as the source of our cultivated berries, *e. g.*, the common high-bush blackberry (*R. allegheniensis*) and the wild red raspberry (*R. strigosus*, also known as *R. idaeus* var. *strigosus*).

<i>Rubus alius</i> Bailey	<i>R. multispinus</i> Blanch.
<i>R. allegheniensis</i> Porter	<i>R. notatus</i> Bailey var. <i>ortus</i> Bailey
<i>R. Andrewsianus</i> Blanch.	<i>R. novanglicus</i> Bailey
<i>R. Bigelovianus</i> Bailey	<i>R. occidentalis</i> L.
<i>R. brevipedalis</i> Bailey	<i>R. odoratus</i> L.
<i>R. cuneifolius</i> Pursh	<i>R. paulus</i> Bailey
<i>R. facetus</i> Bailey	<i>R. pauper</i> Bailey
<i>R. flagellaris</i> Willd.	<i>R. pensilvanicus</i> Poir.
<i>R. gnarus</i> Bailey	<i>R. philadelphicus</i> Blanch.
<i>R. Gravesii</i> (Fern.) Bailey	<i>R. plicatifolius</i> Blanch.
<i>R. Grouitianus</i> Blanch.	<i>R. recurvans</i> Blanch.
<i>R. hispidus</i> L.	<i>R. rhodinsulanus</i> Bailey
<i>R. honorus</i> Bailey	<i>R. Rosa</i> Bailey
<i>R. insons</i> Bailey	<i>R. semisetosus</i> Blanch.
<i>R. Janssonii</i> Bailey	<i>R. strigosus</i> Michx.
<i>R. multiformis</i> Blanch.	<i>R. udus</i> Bailey

A careful survey of all the woody plants now growing within the Arboretum is now being made, and specimens of each species are being labelled with zinc tags giving the scientific and common names. As this bulletin goes to press, approximately 150 species have been labelled.

THE
CONNECTICUT ARBORETUM
AT
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

LEGEND

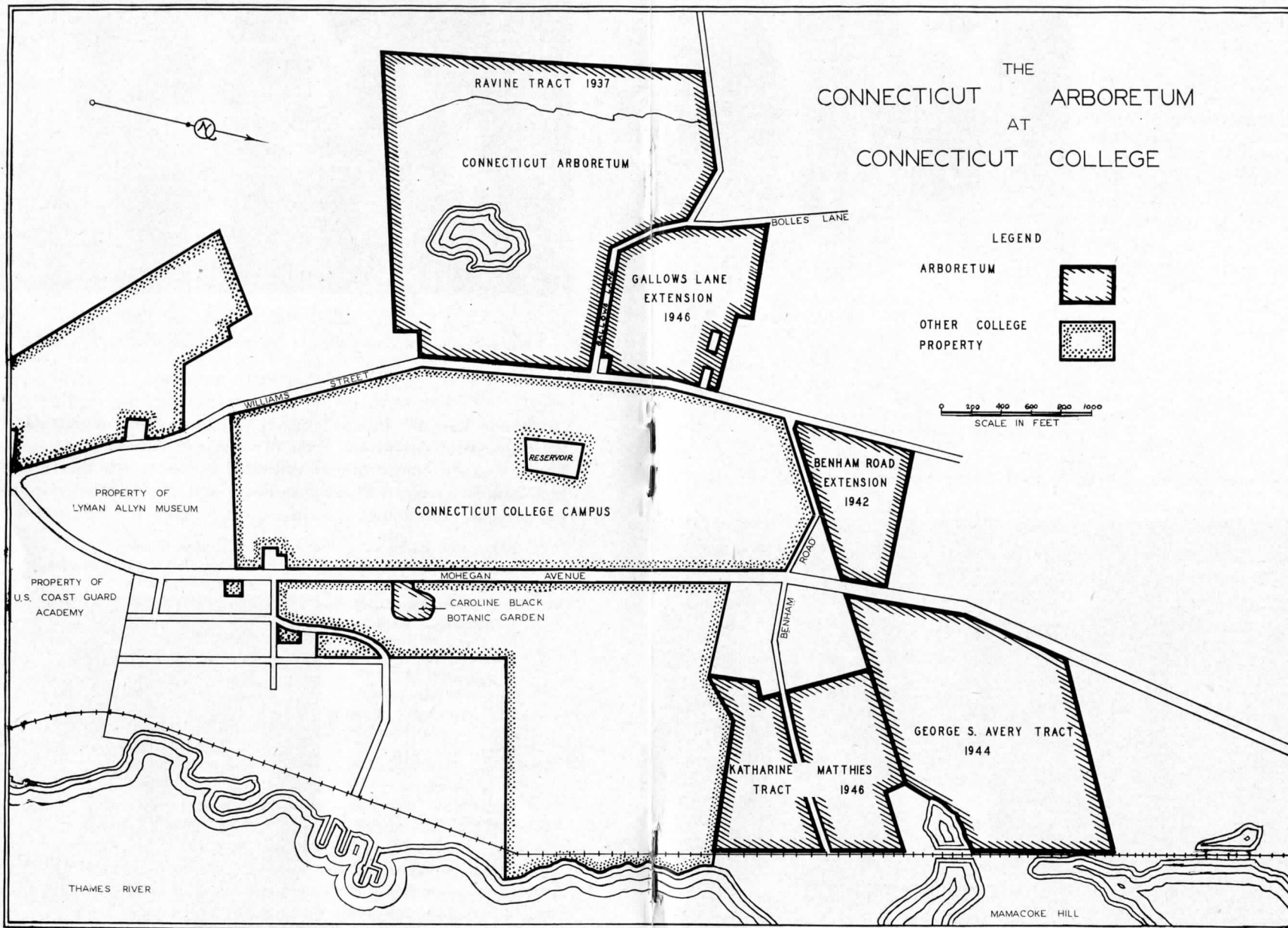
ARBORETUM



OTHER COLLEGE
PROPERTY



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SCALE IN FEET



Buck Lodge, the gift of Mr. Nelson L. Buck, provides an ideal spot for meetings, picnics and field classes, and is available to members of the Arboretum Association. Last year it served as headquarters for the two-week summer session of the Girl Scouts' Day Camp, now held annually in the Arboretum.



A wintry approach to the outdoor theatre from the laurel walk.



The Arboretum Association

The Arboretum Association is the organization responsible for the Arboretum and its welfare. Arboretum maintenance and development costs are met in part by funds from the College and in part by the Arboretum Association. Association membership comprises organizations and individuals interested in wild life and its conservation, who give evidence of this interest by joining the Association.

The Advisory Committee of the Association is the policy-determining body. It includes representatives from the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and other persons throughout the state who are leaders in conservation. Its present membership is as follows:

Hon. Christopher L. Avery
 Mr. George S. Avery, Jr.
 Miss E. Frances Botsford
 Mrs. George T. Brown
 Mr. F. Valentine Chappell
 Mrs. Robert F. Corley
 Mrs. Perry B. Crane
 Miss Pauline H. Dederer
 Mrs. Malcolm J. Edgerton
 Mr. Walter O. Filley
 Mr. Richard H. Goodwin, *Director*
 Miss Katherine H. Heinig
 Mr. Henry W. Hicock
 Miss Louise C. Howe

Mr. Raymond Kienholz
 Mrs. Allan F. Kitchel
 Mr. Robert F. Logan
 Miss Katharine Matthies, *Secretary of the Arboretum Association*
 Miss Rosemary Park
 Mr. William H. Putnam
 Miss Dorothy Richardson
 Mr. Edmund W. Sinnott
 Miss Betty F. Thomson
 Hon. Frederic C. Walcott
 Mrs. S. H. Williams
 Mrs. Frank E. Wilson
 Miss Elizabeth C. Wright

Connecticut College is a private institution without state support. It is therefore necessary for a large part of the cost of development of the Arboretum to come from its friends.

Garden clubs and other civic-minded organization members of the Association may secure "tree dividends" (gifts of young trees and shrubs for civic plantings), and all members may use the Arboretum and its facilities, receive its bulletins, and share in creating landscapes of the future.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Any interested person may become a member upon payment of an annual fee of \$2.00. The *Bulletin* will be sent to members without cost. Individuals may become sustaining members upon payment of \$10.00 yearly.

ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

Civic and state-minded organizations may become annual members upon payment of \$10.00 yearly, sustaining members, \$25.00 yearly, and supporting members, \$100.00 yearly.

Checks should be made payable to the Conn. Arboretum, and mailed to Richard H. Goodwin, Director, at Connecticut College.

Arboretum Association Members July, 1946—June, 1947

ORGANIZATION MEMBERS*

SUSTAINING

Fairfield Garden Club
 New London Garden Club
 Stamford Garden Club

ANNUAL

Branford Garden Club	House and Garden Club of Bridgeport
Bridgeport Garden Club	Hubbard Heights Garden Club
Cherry Brook Garden Club	Laurel Garden Club
Cheshire Garden Club	Litchfield Garden Club
Clinton Garden Club	Little Garden Club of West Hartford
Connecticut Botanical Society	Lyme Garden Club
Danbury Garden Club	Milbrook Garden Club
East Haddam Garden Club	Mystic Garden Club
Garden Circle of the Meriden Woman's Club	New Canaan Garden Club
Garden Club of Cornwall	New Haven Garden Club
Garden Club of Darien	Norwalk Garden Club
Garden Club of Glenbrook	Pomperaug Valley Garden Club
Garden Club of Hartford	Ridgefield Garden Club
Garden Club of Madison	Riverside Garden Club
Garden Club of Old Greenwich	Roxbury Garden Club
Garden Club of Woodbridge	Saybrook-Essex Garden Club
Garden Department of the Woman's Club of Bristol	Shippan Point Garden Club
Garden Department of the Woman's Club of Stamford	Spring Glen Garden Club
Greens Farms Garden Club	Stratford Garden Club
Greenwich Garden Club	Suffield Garden Club
Greenwich Woman's Club Gardners	Wallingford Garden Club
Wethersfield Garden Club	West Hartford Garden Club
	West Haven Garden Club
	Westport Garden Club

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS*

SUSTAINING

Hon. Christopher L. Avery	Mr. Robert Fulton Logan
Mr. and Mrs. George S. Avery, Jr.	Miss Katherine Ludington
Miss Mary Bulkley	Miss Katharine Matthies
Mrs. Walter E. Coe	Mrs. Parker McColleser
Mrs. Harry A. Cooke, Jr.	Miss Mary McKee
Hon. Wilbur L. Cross	Miss Stella B. Mead
Miss Pauline H. Dederer	Mr. and Mrs. Sherburn M. Merrill
Mrs. Malcolm J. Edgerton	Mrs. James W. Morrisson
Mrs. Charles Andrew Edwards	Mrs. Harriet W. C. Newcomb
Mr. and Mrs. John O. Enders	Mr. and Mrs. Earle W. Stamm
Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Goodwin	Miss Anna Lord Strauss
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Goodwin	Mrs. Dudley Wadsworth
Miss Elizabeth Harris	Miss Miriam Dwight Walker
Miss Mary S. Holbrook	Mrs. James Weir
Mrs. Allan F. Kitchel	Mr. and Mrs. Parker W. Whittemore
Mr. Bernhard Knollenberg	Mrs. S. H. Williams

* Several members have made supplementary gifts.



COURTESY OF NEW LONDON DAY

Spring tree planting has become an annual college event. Dr. Goodwin and students on Arbor Day, 1946—the fifteenth anniversary of the Arboretum. Harkness Chapel may be seen against the sky.

ANNUAL

Mrs. Ellery Allyn	Mr. and Mrs. George O. Gadbois
Mrs. Robert P. Anderson	Mr. and Mrs. James M. Graves
Mr. Robert P. Anderson	Mrs. Elon H. Hooker
Mrs. Arthur Barrows	Miss Louise C. Howe
Miss Esther L. Batchelder	Miss Rachael Larrabee
Miss E. Frances Botsford	Miss Cora A. Marsh
Miss A. June Bricker	Miss Ruth W. Newcomb
Mrs. George T. Brown	Mrs. Daniel Polsky
Mrs. W. B. Campbell, Jr.	Mrs. Harriet Weaver Quinby
Mrs. Peter J. Cascio	Mrs. Julius B. Smith
Miss Margaret S. Chaney	Miss Elizabeth Speirs
Mr. Ralph Bolles Coit	Mr. and Mrs. Louis Twyeffort
Mrs. Karl T. Compton	Miss Edna Leighton Tyler
Miss H. B. Creighton	Mrs. Ralph E. Wadleigh
Mrs. Daniel B. Dorman	Mrs. Francis B. Wasley
Mr. Walter O. Filley	Miss Elizabeth C. Wright

CONTRIBUTORS

Lucretia Shaw Chapter, D. A. R.

Sarah Ludlow Chapter, D. A. R.

Arboretum News

Our former director, Dr. George S. Avery, Jr., resigned his position at Connecticut College in 1944 to assume the directorship of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Those of us who know his record of accomplishment here are sure that the Brooklyn Botanic Garden will prosper under his guiding hand.

The drawings which appear on the first and last pages of this bulletin were executed by Miss Olga v. H. Owens, who was research assistant in botany at Connecticut College last year. Miss Owens, is now a graduate student at the University of Minnesota.

Our horticulturist, Mr. William C. Peck, was called into military service in 1942. After two years of duty overseas in England, he returned to us in the fall of 1945. While in the service Mr. Peck received technical training in photography, as attested by the excellent photographs appearing in this bulletin. Since his return, we have made headway in the development of a new nursery. This will replace the old one which has become nearly depleted. Some of our new stock includes mountain laurel, dogwood, and numerous other species which will be used to provide material for our own plantings and for tree dividends to the member clubs.

During the past year the Arboretum has distributed over four hundred tree dividends, and gave to the City of New London quite a number of trees which have been used for street plantings. It has also given seedlings to the Winthrop School for the children to plant near the Old Mill which stands in the shadow of the New London bridge approach. It is hoped that this sort of service will stimulate an interest in civic beautification projects.

The New London Girl Scouts have held a two-week session of their Day Camp in the Arboretum for the past three summers. The girls have centered their activities around the special outdoor fireplaces which have been provided and have used Buck Lodge in case of rain. They have proved themselves to be real campers, by leaving the campsites neater than when they came.

Buck Lodge is now being used over a hundred times a year by a great many College and outside groups. Its usefulness has been recently enhanced by the addition of a piano, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Woodruff of New London. Last fall, when the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut held their annual meeting at the College, the Mystic and New London Garden Clubs entertained the officers of the Federation at a luncheon in the lodge.

Brush fires have been one of our major problems, particularly in the late winter and early spring. Fires not only destroy stands of young trees, but they also frequently damage the bases of larger ones in such a way as to make possible the invasion of the sound wood by heart rot fungi. Furthermore, repeated burning of an area results in the destruction of humus and consequent impoverishment of the soil. Most of the fires which have occurred in the neighborhood of the Arboretum have either been caused by unextinguished cigarettes or have had an incendiary origin, pointing up the need for an educational campaign on this subject. As a means of reducing the fire hazard, we have been developing fire lanes all around the boundaries of the Arboretum property, and particularly along the highways. These lanes consist of strips, varying in width with the nature of the terrain, which have been cleared of brush and then burned under careful control during the winter months. A kerosene-burning flame-thrower has proved most useful in these operations.

Our Arboretum Bulletin No. 3, "A Plant Handbook: Lists of Plants for Specific Landscape Uses," compiled by Dr. Harriet B. Creighton, now Professor of Botany at Wellesley College, and Miss Priscilla Pasco, is still much in demand by people all over the country. This publication solves quickly and easily the majority of problems relating to the selection of suitable species for planting projects. It is still available at sixty cents a copy.

