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Arboretum Annual Report, 1991

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Connecticut College Arboretum

New London, Connecticut

ANNUAL REPORT 1991

PROGRAMS

Attendance at Arboretum Programs reached an all time high in 1991 with over 800 people participating in our year-round series of workshops, lectures, tours, and bus trips. Once again the volunteer program committee did an outstanding job of creative thinking and organizing. Thanks go to Education Coordinator Sally Taylor and her committee of Emily Wharton, Carol King, Judy Nickerson and Susan Olmstead.

The following events were some of the highlights of the 1991 offerings. The November Annual Horticulture Symposium, "Color in Your Garden," brought nationally recognized horticulturists Jim Cross, Judy Glattstein, Suzanne Mahler and Elsa Bakalar to an audience of 165. Over 70 friends joined Arboretum staff for the Spring Wildflower Walk, and full charter bus contingents visited Garden in the Woods in May and The Brooklyn Botanical Garden in July. The Connecticut College Art Department helped celebrate the Arboretum's Sixtieth Birthday by sponsoring a gallery show of art inspired by or depicting the Arboretum. Painters Charles Chu and David Mauldin and photographers Mark

Braunstein and Ted Hendrickson participated in the show. A tour of landscape designers' gardens, slated for early September, was rescheduled for September 1993 due to Hurricane Bob damage to a number of the gardens.

PLANT COLLECTIONS

Hurricane Bob's brief visit on August 19 caused considerable damage to the Arboretum Plant collections and blocked many access roads and trails. In the Native Tree and Shrub Collection, 72 trees were damaged to the point of needing to be totally removed, and about 20 others needed extensive pruning. A week of intensive trail clearing was immediately necessary to accommodate freshman orientation cross-country meets on the campus running trail. Winter projects include clearing fallen trees in the wildflower gardens and adjacent swamp, stump removal, additional pruning and woodsplitting.

Thanks to a generous donation from a Connecticut Nursery, The Caroline Black Garden now has a col-

1991 HIGHLIGHTS

• 60TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Goodwin's history of the land published
Arboretum Inspirations Art Show,
Cummings Arts Center
Arboretum History Exhibit, Sham Library

• PLANNING AND FUNDRAISING for ARBORETUM POND RENOVATION

• PROGRAM ATTENDANCE REACHES 800

• ARBORETUM MEMBERSHIP INCREASES 28%

• HURRICANE BOB DOES IT AGAIN

Visitors listen to Dr. Niering describe the Nancy Moss Fine Native Azalea Garden last May during the Arboretum's traditional early spring wildflower walk.



lection of heaths and heathers. A gift of 30 *Erica* and *Calluna* cultivars was received from The Plant Group in Franklin and used as a foreground planting in existing east and south facing shrub beds. Sheila Wertheimer Associates arranged for the donation and installed the planting.

SPECIAL PROJECT: POND ENHANCEMENT

By the end of the year Arboretum members and friends had received a "news bulletin" explaining our need to deepen a section of the Arboretum pond, and a letter from G. Dreyer, W. Niering and R. Goodwin requesting donations for the project. A caring and committed alumna, who prefers to remain anonymous, offered to match up to \$30,000 of the \$60,000 total estimated cost to dredge about three-quarters of an acre near the Outdoor Theater and Laurel Walk. Final planning was underway in December prior to an early 1992 wetlands permit application. The hope is to drain the pond in June, do the dredging in July, and allow the pond to refill during late summer and fall. Reclamation of some deeper water habitat in the man-made pond will enhance both aquatic species diver-

sity and the pond's utility for teaching and research. It will also provide open, reflective water surface from the lower

end of the Laurel Walk and Outdoor Theater and allow additional ice skating opportunities.

RESEARCH

Hunter Brawley '82 and the Arboretum summer student workers remapped the Mamacoke Island Salt Marsh vegetation under the direction of Botany Instructor Pamela Hine. The objective is to follow changes in marsh vegetation over time, beginning with the first survey in 1957. Sarah Goslee '92 is currently calculating areas from the maps and computerizing these data. Preliminary results indicate a trend toward wetter conditions, possibly correlated with sea-level rise.

Individual study student Ilene Marcus '92 studied one of several long-term forest controlled burn plots and contiguous control areas to monitor vegetation changes since periodic burning began in 1968. Her conclusions indicate that burning has eliminated the black cherry understory, favored herbaceous cover, and resulted in an open, park-like oak forest.

Long-term forest plots established in the Bolleswood Natural Area to monitor the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid insect infestation were checked this summer. Hemlock mortality is begin-

ning to occur in both the ledge and ravine sites. Throughout the entire area the Hemlock canopy is thinning and substantial losses will probably occur within the next year or two. The study is particularly designed to examine the death and, eventually, the replacement of these evergreen trees in the Natural Area.

Coralie Clement '91 completed her Botany Department honors thesis which compared seed production and germination, photosynthesis and water relations in the Oriental and native bittersweet vines (*Celastrus orbiculatus* and *C. scandens*). The work was designed to quantify specific physiological differences which would help explain why the introduced vine is spreading so much more rapidly than its native counterpart. Her findings show that Oriental bittersweet has a much higher reproductive potential and a significantly higher photosynthesis rate, and uses less energy to regulate its internal water pressure. A poster based on her research was presented in August at the national meeting of the Botanical Society of America, San Antonio, TX.

Two photos of the Arboretum pond showing the extent of filling and the increase in aquatic vegetation. Note the Outdoor Theater at the far side of the pond in both. Left, early 1950s; right, 1989.



ADMINISTRATION

The College Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee and the College Board of Trustees has officially accepted an addition to the Connecticut College Strategic Plan concerning the Arboretum. The 1991-92 revised edition, *Connecticut College: A Time to Lead*, lists as a First Priority Action: "Provide an adequate level of staff and annual operating budget for the Arboretum's programs of academic support and for the co-curricular aims of public education and recreation." While this is a milestone in the College's relationship to its Arboretum, much work lies ahead to assure adequate resources are made available during each budget and planning cycle to reach the goals.

On April 27, 1991 Connecticut College President Claire Gaudiani and Leslie Corey, Director, The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter, signed an agreement which allows

Connecticut College faculty and students to use The Burnham Brook Preserve, East Haddam as a research and teaching area. In return, the College has established an advisory committee which will make management rec-



Left to right: Connecticut College President Claire Gaudiani, Richard Goodwin, Leslie Corey and Glenn Dreyer at the Burnham Brook Preserve Agreement Ceremony.

ommendations and oversee research at the 450 acre preserve. The ceremony was hosted by Richard and Esther Goodwin in East Haddam. The agreement will be administered by the

Arboretum, and herbarium voucher specimens are being housed in the Charles B. Graves Herbarium, New London Hall, Connecticut College.

Each year researchers, public garden administrators, teachers and graduate students interested in our collections, natural areas and programs visit the Arboretum. Some visitors during 1991 were James Swasey, University of Delaware/Longwood Gardens Graduate Program; Jack Ahern's University of Massachusetts Landscape Design class; James Morrill, Hotchkiss school; and Greg Waters, Director, Highstead Arboretum. In August the Arboretum hosted Dennis Whigham of the Smithsonian Institution and four Japanese botanists, Shoichi Kasano, Hideki

Takasu, Akira Hiratsuka, and Minoru Tamura. Together they are examining the biology of bellworts (*Uvularia* spp.), North American woodland wildflowers.

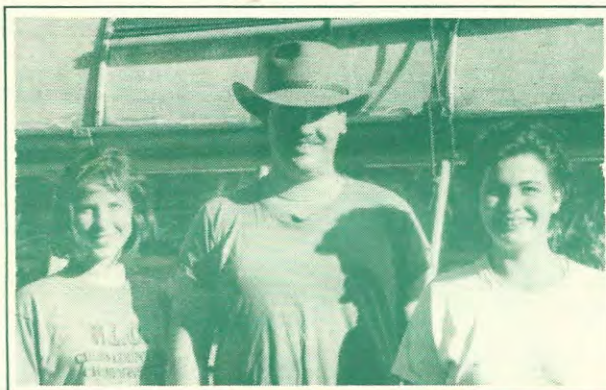
STAFF

After nearly three years with the Arboretum, Assistant Horticulturist Jacklyn Haines resigned to move to Martha's Vineyard. Jackie's skills with indoor and outdoor plants will be missed, and we wish her well in her new adventures. In December Scott Sawyer '88 was hired to work for the remainder of the 1991-92 academic year. Since this Arboretum position has been supported by a series of generous gifts, and has not yet been designated a full-time permanent slot by the College, it is

not clear what the Arboretum staffing situation will be next year.

Once again the Arboretum had an

Arboretum Summer 1991 workers (left to right): Alison Flynn, David Dykeman, Amy-Simone Erard.



excellent trio of student helpers to maintain and improve our gardens and trails during the hot summer months. Alison Flynn '94 declared as a Botany major and will be doing an independent study next spring in Greenhouse Management. Human Ecology graduate Amy-Simone Erard '91 is serving in the Peace Corps in Mauritania. David Dykeman '95 was unexpectedly reactivated with the Navy Reserve during Operation Desert Storm but returned just in time to claim his position with the Arboretum summer crew.

VOLUNTEERS

Gregg TeHennepe has been named the College Greenhouse Orchid Curator in recognition of many hours of transplanting and t.l.c. he has given to our orchid and bromeliad collection. He has also arranged exchanges, gifts and purchases which have greatly enhanced the diversity, interest and utility of our holdings of these two tropical plant groups.

Two committees of Arboretum friends have given generously of their time, Programs (members listed above under Programs heading) and an ad-hoc Pond Fundraising Committee. The latter met throughout the fall to help develop mailings and to identify potential donors for the Pond Enhancement Project. Thanks to Nancy Olmstead '73, Barbara Kashanski '54, Henry Resnikoff, Maggie Philbrick '85 and Laurie Rardin '83, and to fundraiser Betsy Riggs '74 and the College Development Office.

Special thanks also to the following individuals who helped in a variety of ways: Sheila Wertheimer '84, Jack Deering, Pat and Rich Snarski, Carol McKeehan, Wendy Dreyer, Rose Fishman, Alison Flynn '94, Mike Harvey '94, Dick Goodwin, Pamela Hine, John Cook, Brian Rogers, Barbara Brown, Betty Pinson, Susan Stutz, Catherine Phinzy, James Luce, Bob Askins, Bill Niering, Jeanne Shelburn '74.

MEMBERSHIP AND GIFTS

Arboretum membership increased by 28% to 510 members by year's end. This welcome jump in participation is due partly to the College Development Office, which helped the Arboretum with a membership solicitation

campaign last spring.

Arboretum membership dues and contributions form a very important part of each year's annual budget. The Arboretum simply would not be able to serve both the College and the community with its unique blend of horticulture, conservation and research without the generosity of our many friends. During 1991 the following people and institutions made major gifts and deserve special recognition and thanks: Mr. and Mrs. Pomeroy Robinson, Sylvan Nursery, Ann Wheeler '34, Martha Davis, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Goodwin, Mrs. Bertram Ryder '44, Suzanne Klagsbrun, Scott Kling '81, Eve Bogle, Jean Wallace Douglas '43 and the Norcross Wildlife Foundation.

PUBLICATIONS

Arboretum Bulletin No. 32, *The Connecticut College Arboretum, Its Sixth Decade and a Detailed History of the Land*, was printed and mailed to all members last spring. The bulletin covers the institutional history of the Arboretum during the 1980s and provides descriptions and histories of each of the 30 tracts of land which compose the Arboretum. Written by Arboretum Director Emeritus Richard Hale Goodwin, it will be a basic reference source for students, teachers and anyone interested in the history of the land.

Thanks to support from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc., the Arboretum's most popular bulletin, *Native Shrubs for Landscaping*, will be reprinted this spring. Since September 1987 all 5,000 copies of the first and second printing have been distributed. A portion of the grant from the Norcross Foundation will also be used to ensure that quality

graphics and printing are possible for upcoming bulletins in the series.

The Arboretum has republished a classic gardening and landscaping book which has been unavailable since its first printing in 1966. *The Wild Gardener in the Wild Landscape*, by Warren G. Kenfield, is a seminal blending of the art of landscaping with the science of ecology, and has proved inspirational to a generation of gardeners, designers and scientists. The new edition is softcover and includes the original color photographs.

Wetlands of North America, photography by Bates Littlehales and text by Arboretum Research Director William Niering, is a spectacularly beautiful book that teaches as it amazes. Dr. Niering's love and insight for his subject is quite evident, and this is a must for our conservation-minded friends. It is published by Thomasson-Grant, Charlottesville, VA, is 160 pages, and is available in both paperback and hardcover editions. (Most books published by the Arboretum or by College authors are available in the Connecticut College Bookshop).

Trees and Shrubs for your Community was written by Arboretum Director Glenn Dreyer at the request of the Electric Council of New England. The 25 page booklet explains the importance of selecting the proper trees for specific locations or conditions, and emphasizes low-growing trees for street side and small spaces. Connecticut College Professor of Art Bryn Manley illustrated it and Arboretum Information Coordinator Susan Olmstead edited and did the layout with desktop publishing software. It is available through local New England electric utility offices.



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