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THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONNECTICUT COLLEGE ARBORETUM



MISSION STATEMENT

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, Zoology, 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 College and the citizens of southeastern Connecticut.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR

DEAR ARBORETUM FRIENDS:

Writing the Annual Report is usually the only time in the year when I am able to focus my thoughts on the past rather than on the future. With the myriad of activities in which the Arboretum is involved, taking time for such reflection seems like an extravagant luxury to afford. Now that the year's lists, numbers and descriptions are finally compiled, I am amazed at the progress we are making and at the increasing number of people the Arboretum touches each year.

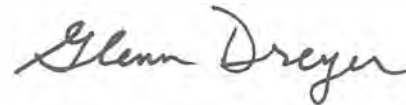
One development stands out to me as most significant. The evolution over the past few years toward the concept of the entire 750 acres of College property being considered The Connecticut College Arboretum is at once both logical and radical. The separation of the planning and maintenance of Arboretum and Campus property had been fairly distinct since the Arboretum's establishment in 1931. While in theory it makes sense to unify management of all College land in order to maintain and plan comprehensively, such things are difficult to change quickly in the face of long-standing traditions and perceptions.

The evolution in land management is still ongoing, and there have been no administrative or budgetary changes for either the Arboretum or Physical Plant Grounds Crew. We are, however, voluntarily working much more closely together toward common goals. Arboretum ecological expertise is being brought to bear on questions of main campus land management. The well-trained grounds crew and their superior machinery are aiding in the Native Plant Collection. Over time, the Campus Landscape Collection will develop with new gardens and features which will be professionally designed and interpreted for both academic utility and the enjoyment of our community. The Caroline

Black Garden, with its rich diversity of plant material and pleasing design, can serve as an inspiration for our future campus garden spaces.

Here at Connecticut College we are engaged in inventing *cooperative, ecologically sensitive land management*. I believe our results will be a model for other institutions. The past and future success of our many and varied programs, plantings and research projects is due to the outstanding commitment of our staff, faculty, students, volunteers, alumni and friends. In reading through the highlights of 1996, I hope you will feel as proud as I do of these accomplishments.

Sincerely,



Glenn Dreyer

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COMMUNITY EDUCATION



A TOTAL OF 695 INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED in Arboretum educational programs this year in a variety of formats including lectures, workshops, symposia, tours, and guided walks. In addition, hundreds of theatergoers were treated to “Shakespeare in the Arboretum” – Romeo and Juliet and As You Like It – and hundreds more attended our annual fall plant sale.

The year started out with excellent attendance at our annual Conference for Landscape Design Professionals which was key-noted by Ian McHarg, legendary landscape architect and godfather of the ecological design movement. The roster of nationally noted speakers included Prof. Henry Art, Williams College; Dr. Steve Clemants, Brooklyn Botanical Garden; Dr. Phil Craul, Land and Soil Scientist; and Rick Darke, Longwood Gardens.

Other 1996 highlights included a “Supermarket Botany” workshop, “The Sheer Magic of Water Gardening” lecture, and hands-on workshops on topics such as winter woody plant identification, prun-

ing, and seed propagation. The annual Meskwaka Tree Project volunteer training program, cosponsored with U. Conn Cooperative Extension Service, was once again held on Campus in June for 20 citizens from across Connecticut.

In November, scientists from Connecticut College, The NY Botanical Garden, the National Cancer Institute and Pfizer Central Research presented their unique perspectives at a “Wild Medicine Symposium.” The audience of students, herbalists, scientists and the general public were fascinated by the presentations which ran the gamut from ethnobotanical exploration in the tropics to the development of new pharmaceuticals here in Connecticut.

Environmental Studies major Carey Truebe '97 directed the “Arbo Project,” a student created, staffed and operated educational program which matches Conn students as teacher/guides with groups of school children from around the region. A total of 20 environmental education tours were provided for about 200 people from kindergarten to high school age.

Sunday Arboretum Tours, an important new interpretive and volunteer initiative, were inaugurated in 1996. Led by Arboretum Docents, visitors were treated to walks in either the Native Plant Collection



RON ROZSA TEACHING HOME ORCHID CULTURE

TOP: DR. PHILLIP CRAUL, PROF. IAN MCHARG AND DR. WILLIAM NIERING AT THE JANUARY LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONFERENCE. ABOVE: PROF. SALLY TAYLOR AND DR. HANS BECK INSPECT PLANT SAMPLES AT THE WILD MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM.

across Williams Street, or the Caroline Black Garden, across Rt. 32. Over 100 visitors took advantage of these free walks, which featured an informative mix of College history, horticulture and natural history.

The Annual Fall Plant Sale, held during the College's Family Weekend, was a rousing success. In addition to providing hard to find native and choice non-native woody plants, hundreds of hybrid *Catleya* orchids, generously donated by Dr. B. Rad, of Amsterdam, New York, were also available. Many thanks are due to the over 25 volunteers who worked diligently before, during and after the sale. Thanks also to the companies who supplied the superb nursery stock: Prides Corner Farms, The Plant Group, and especially Summer Hill Nursery, Inc.

Another new initiative was a natural history study tour series. Fourteen intrepid travelers spent two weeks touring the Scottish Islands (Orkney, Shetland and Skye) and Highlands. Participants were treated to breath-taking scenery and incredible seabird nesting colonies in Shetland, the northmost outpost of Great Britain. Dunvegan Castle on Skye, Inverewe and Dundonnell House Gardens in the West Highlands, and a day in Glasgow were some of the more memorable experiences. Other overseas trips are being planned.

A new horizon in Arboretum education was crossed at the end of the year when Jens Hilke '96, first Arboretum Intern, created a Connecticut College Arboretum Web Site. Jen's design included pages for Plant Collections, Programs, Volunteer Opportunities, Tour Information, Directions, Publications, and Links to other useful web sites.

ABOVE RIGHT: ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE. BELOW RIGHT: PARTICIPANTS IN THE ARBORETUM'S JUNE 1996 NATURAL HISTORY STUDY TOUR TO SCOTLAND EMBARKING ON A HIKE TO THE NORTHERN MOST POINT OF GREAT BRITAIN IN THE SHETLAND ISLES.



RESEARCH & TEACHING

THE ARBORETUM CONTINUES TO FUNCTION as a living laboratory for a variety of courses, with zoology students among the leading beneficiaries. For example, due to the proximity of diverse habitats, Prof. Robert Askins requires his Animal Ecology students to do an intensive, semester-long field research project. Thirteen of nineteen students in the 1996 class used the Arboretum for the following projects: mixed foraging flocks of birds; foraging behavior of woodland ants; pollination of jewel-

weed and butter and eggs; use of nuts from different species of trees by Gray Squirrels; insect densities in burned and unburned fields; characteristics of stopover sites for migratory birds; and distribution of color morphs of redback salamanders.

Prof. Askins and Wendy Dreyer conducted the 22nd breeding bird census in the Arboretum's Bolleswood Natural Area, a long-term research project begun in 1953. The 27 hectare study area contained 35 species and 93 breeding territories this year. Black-throated Green Warblers, which are associated with hemlock stands, have not been recorded since 1993. Carolina Wrens, which occupied 2-4 territories between 1988 and 1993, have not been recorded in the plot since the severe winter of 1992-93.

In addition to our own students, each year professors from other universities bring their students to the Arboretum to learn about the research and management being done here. In 1996 we hosted visits by Professor Patricia McGirr's Landscape Architecture class from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and Professor Troy West's Sustainable Design and Green Architecture Design Studio courses from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, School of Architecture.

Laura Altvater '96 worked with Director Glenn Dreyer on an individual study centered on the renovation of the Arboretum's Edgerton and Stenglel Woodland Wildflower Garden. Laura's many faceted project included historic research on naturalistic landscaping and wildflower gardening, as well as assisting Arboretum staff to map, accession and label and plant many specimens in the garden. Laura also developed the text for a brochure about the Wildflower Garden. One particularly innovative aspect of this study was her use of the College's new Geographic Information Systems computer technology to produce before and after maps of the Garden's trail system.



LAURA ALTVATER '96 (CENTER) WORKED WITH JEFF SMITH (L) AND DAVID LONGLAND ON THE ARBORETUM WILDFLOWER GARDEN RENOVATIONS. WILDFLOWERS MEADOW RUE (L) AND DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES (R)



PUBLICATIONS

TWO NEW ARBORETUM BULLETINS, one new brochure and two updates of existing brochures were produced this year. Printing and art work for Tidal Marshes of Long Island Sound: Ecology, History and Restoration, Arboretum Bulletin No. 34, was funded by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Long Island Sound License Plate Fund. Edited by Glenn Dreyer and Bill Niering, authors of chapters include Ron Rozsa and Ralph Lewis of the DEP and Professors Scott Warren and Paul Fell of Connecticut College. Available

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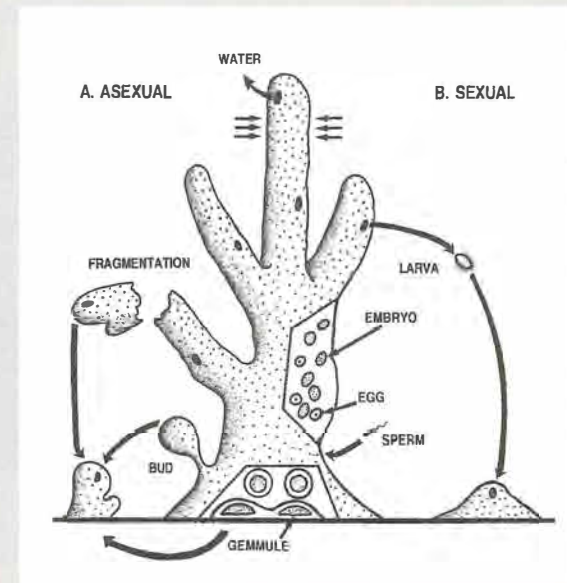
LIFE IN THE POND: FRESHWATER SPONGES

BY KATHERINE BLUNT PROFESSOR PAUL FELL

USUALLY THOUGHT OF AS MARINE ANIMALS, sponges are also prominent members of the invertebrate communities of many freshwater habitats, including the Arboretum Pond. Three species of sponge occur in our Pond: *Anheteromeyenia ryderi*, *Eunapius fragilis*, and *Spongilla lacustris* (there are no common names), with the first by far the most abundant. Sponges are attached to the surface of boulders and to the larger aquatic plants in the Pond. They are filter feeders that remove bacteria and other small particles from the water. These sponges are often bright green due to the presence of symbiotic unicellular green algae (zoochlorellae) that provide them with photosynthetic products.

Sponges reproduce sexually, releasing small flagellated larvae that spend only a brief time in the water column before settling on a firm surface. These animals can also reproduce asexually using small, resistant propagules called gemmules. Each gemmule consists of a compact mass of yolk-laden cells enclosed within a protective capsule. The gemmules of some sponges undergo a dormant state known as diapause, in which their metabolism is strongly depressed. When the gemmules emerge from dormancy, they hatch and develop into active sponges. The gemmules of many sponges are highly resistant to environmental stresses such as subfreezing temperatures and desiccation. In fact, it appears that *Anheteromeyenia* survived as gemmules during three periods when the Arboretum Pond was drained. For some branching forms of sponges fragments which break off, and small buds, are also asexual means to form new individuals. The various means of reproduction are shown in the diagram for a generalized sponge which most resembles *Spongilla*.

The sponges of the Arboretum Pond have been the subject of two senior honors theses. Students and faculty have also studied aspects of the ecology and physiology of these and other sponge species at many other sites in New England. A raft moored in the north end of the Pond is being used to grow sponges on panels suspended in the water. Such sponges may provide a readily accessible supply of gemmules for research. The Pond dredging project of 1992 made the continuation of this research possible, since in prior years shading from water lilies caused continued sponge population declines.





on paper both from the DEP and the Arboretum, some time in 1997 this will also become the first Arboretum Bulletin fully available on the world wide web.

Bulletin No. 35, Native Woody Plant Collection Checklist was also published this year. Originating as part of Michael Harvey's '94 Honors Thesis and updated to summer '96, this is the first public list of that plant collection since the early 1980's. Since the plants in such a collection change fairly quickly due to additions and removals, this publication was produced in a very low cost manner by designing it on personal computer and reproducing it on a high quality photocopy machine in the College Print Shop.

Amy Bradford '96, a Conn. Art major with a graphic arts concentration, completely redesigned the look of our Arboretum information brochure series. The existing Self-Guided Tour and Caroline Black Garden brochures were substantially updated and given a fresh look, which included a quotation or short poem on each cover. Laura Altvater '96 wrote the text for a new Wildflower Garden brochure about the Edgerton and Stengel Garden. The new design was also adapted for use on the three Educational Program Brochures sent to members each year.

OTHER ARBORETUM RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Altvater, L. 1996. Naturalistic Landscaping and the Renovation of the Edgerton and Stengel Woodland Wildflower Garden of the Connecticut College Arboretum. Individual Study Report. 37 pg. plus 10 appendices.

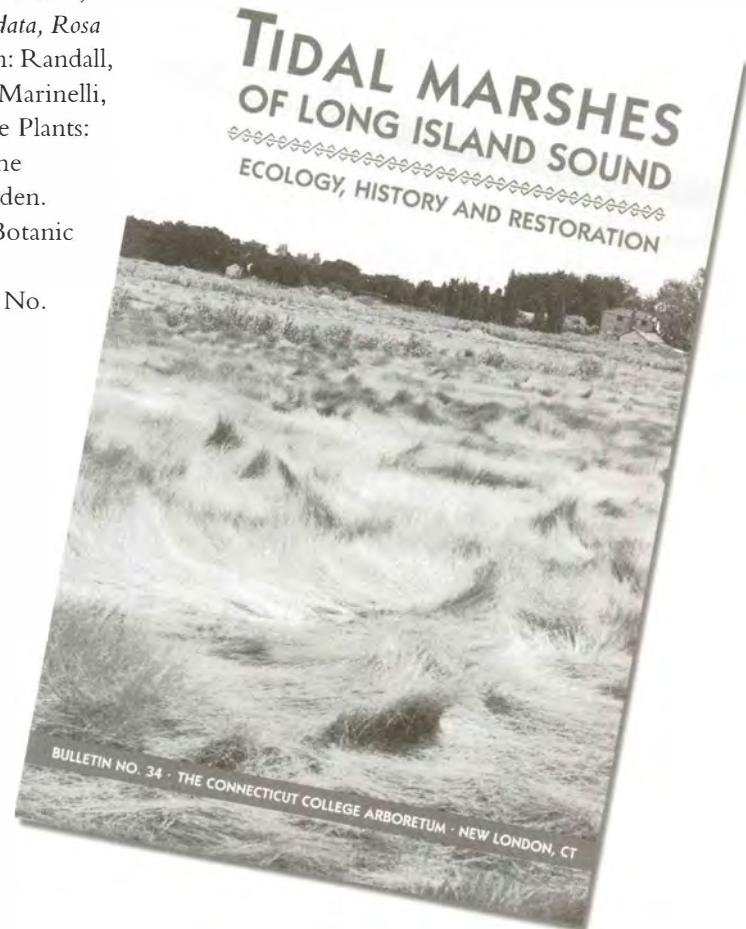
Askins, R.A. and W.R. Dreyer. 1996. Breeding Bird Census: Oak-Hemlock Forest (1995). Journal of Field Ornithology (Supplement) 67: 60-61.

Askins, R.A., W.R. Dreyer and M.J. Philbrick. 1996. Breeding Bird Census: Transition Forest and Thicket. Journal of Field Ornithology (Supplement) 67: 70.

Askins, R.A. 1996. Midwestern National Forests and Migratory Songbirds. Inner Voice 8(2): 6-7.

Devine, A. and S.G. Smith. 1996. Connecticut College Arboretum. pg. 459-469 in: Connecticut Birding Guide. Thompson-Shore, Inc.

Dreyer, G.D. 1996. *Celastrus orbiculatus*, *Taxus cuspidata*, *Rosa multiflora*. In: Randall, J.M. and J. Marinelli, eds. Invasive Plants: Weeds of the Global Garden. Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbook No. 149.



PLANT COLLECTIONS

LAUREL WALK RENOVATION

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY of alumna Ellen C.L. Simmons '69, The Laurel Walk was renovated and rejuvenated. Planted with parallel rows of Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) in 1931 by the first Arboretum Director, George Avery, the Walk has become a well-known College landmark. Since Mountain Laurels get very large, and do not respond well to shearing, the solution to their crowding the path was to remove the original shrubs and replant the matching hedges farther apart. Landscape designer Sheila Wertheimer '84, designed and installed the new entry plantings and over 130 new Mountain Laurel Shrubs. Contractors Scott Dawley, Mark Gleason and Roger Gleason constructed a flagstone patio on the entry platform above the walk, and Carpenter Mike Green built a new notice box nearby. In 1997 the granite curbstone steps will be removed and the walk regraded and seeded to provide a safer, easier to maintain entry path to the Native Plant Collection.

WILDFLOWER GARDEN RENOVATION

THE ARBORETUM WILDFLOWER GARDEN was established as a memorial to Mrs. Edna Edgerton, a long-time member of the Arboretum Advisory Committee. The Garden was initiated in 1956 with a gift from the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. In 1975, a southern extension of the Garden was dedicated to the memory of Arboretum Horticulturist Mr. John Stengel. By the early 1990's, time and the fact that woody plants were a higher maintenance priority, had taken their toll, and the garden had become overrun with two aggressively spreading plants — Hayscented Fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) and White Wood Aster (*Aster divaricatus*).

In 1994 two alumni of the 50th reunion class responded to the Wildflower Garden Project on our "wish list" by making very generous donations. Bertram and Janet Leach Ryder '44 and Mary Louise Oak Cowen '44 made possible the redesign,



(L TO R) LANDSCAPE DESIGNER SHEILA WERTHEIMER AND ONE OF HER CREW WHILE PLANTING NEW MOUNTAIN LAURELS ON THE LAUREL WALK; NEW NOTICE BOX AND MOUNTAIN LAURELS AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE NATIVE PLANT COLLECTION; ARBORETUM STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS AFTER A SESSION OF WILDFLOWER PLANTING. (L TO R) PAUL CAMACHO '98, KRISTIN HAY, JESSE LOCANTORE '96, CRAIG VINE, LAURA ALTVADER '96, JEFF SMITH, WENDY DREYER, KEITH BOWMAN '98, TANYA SANDBERG-DIMENT '97.



reconstruction and replanting of the Edgerton and Stengel Garden. Noted native plant horticulturist David Longland worked with Arboretum Staff to design a new trail system and series of planting beds for the sloping, rocky, wooded, west facing site. The goal of the renovation was to display examples of the Spring woodland flora of Eastern North America in a situation which is easy to access both by maintenance vehicles and larger groups of visitors. Another objective was to create a situation which would attract volunteers to help with the Garden's maintenance. As always, educating our students and visitors about the importance and beauty of native plants was a prominent part of the planning process.

Initial site preparation and trail reconstruction was followed by planting native shrubs and small trees to give the open understory year-round structure. In May, 1996, over 1,000 wildflowers, many purchased from Arthur Manthorne's Woodstock (Conn.) Wildflower Nursery, were planted by student volunteers and staff. Laura Altvater '96 worked on this project as a Botany individual study student, participating in all aspects of the final stages of the project including inventorying plant material, planting, and writing text for the Garden brochure.

A WILDFLOWER GARDEN RE-DEDICATION CEREMONY was a central feature of the June 7, 1996 Arboretum Member's and Friends Night. The Edgerton and Stengel Wildflower Garden immediately began attracting visitors, such as the over 60 alumni that toured it during reunion 1996 weekend. It instantly became a highlight of Spring-time visits and also began attract-

ing volunteers to help keep the weeds at bay while the wildflowers begin to claim the site. Plans for 1997 include a stone entry walk, planting of the Stengel (southern part) of the Garden, and additional labeling.

NEW HOLLY COLLECTION

A GIFT WAS RECEIVED AND DESIGN BEGUN for a new Holly Collection in the Caroline Black Garden. A memorial to Parthenia Johnson from her family, the new bed will stretch nearly the whole southern border of the C. Black Garden, just to the north of Emily Abbey House. Featuring species, varieties and cultivars of *Ilex* from all over the world, it will be a beautiful and important addition to this teaching collection. Mrs. Johnson was mother of College Electronic Resources Librarian Ashley Hanson and wife of Dean Emeritus of the Faculty R. Francis Johnson. The Caroline Black Garden was established as a Botany Department teaching resource in the 1920s. Dr. Black was the first chair of Botany at Connecticut College.

MEMORIAL TREES PLANTED IN THE MAIN CAMPUS LANDSCAPE COLLECTION, 1996

Chinese Fringetree (*Chionanthus retusus*)
35th reunion of the Class of 1961

Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)
In honor of Students and Parents '96

Homestead Elm (*Ulmus carpinifolia* 'Homestead')
For Leslie R. Leeds '75

OTHER NEW PLANTINGS IN 1996

Betula nigra 'Heritage'

Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'

Chionanthus virginicus

Cladrastis lutea

Fraxinus americana 'Autumn Purple'

Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Emerald'

Ilex glabra

Ilex glabra 'Compacta'

Juniperus 'Grey Owl'

Kalmia angustifolia

Kalmia angustifolia 'Kennebago'

Lonicera sempervirens

Lonicera sempervirens 'Sulphurea'

Oxydendrum arboretum

Paxistima canbyi

Quercus bicolor

Rhododendron periclymenoides

Rhus aromatica

Rhus aromatica 'Lo-Gro'

Syringa vulgaris 'Michael Buchner'

Syringa vulgaris 'Sensation'

Syringa x prestoniae 'James MacFarlane'

Vaccinium corymbosum 'Northland'



ABOVE: (L) *OXYDENDRUM
ARBOREUM*, (R) *LONICERA
SEMPERVIRENS*

RIGHT: FIRST ARBORETUM
DOCENT CLASS ON A
PRACTICE TOUR IN THE
NATIVE PLANT COLLECTION.



PLANNING ~ CAMPUS AS ARBORETUM

IN 1996, FOR THE FIRST TIME ALL 750 ACRES of Connecticut College property were considered part of the Arboretum. This change requires a much closer working relationship between Arboretum Staff and the Physical Plant Grounds Crew. In December, Director Glenn Dreyer and Grounds Supervisor James Luce created a “Memo of Understanding” between the two departments which describes how the new relationship will work. With the main Campus Landscape now considered an Arboretum plant collection, Arboretum staff is responsible for inventorying, record keeping, interpretation and education, while the Grounds Crew performs the landscape maintenance and installation. The two departments work together, with outside design professionals on larger projects, to design new gardens and landscape areas. Grounds Supervisor James Luce’s cooperation during this transition year was first rate. The new members of the expanded the Arboretum team are listed inside the back cover of this report.

One step toward providing a model of alternative landscaping on Campus was done at Earth House, a College-owned residence which houses students with a strong environmental orientation. The design was created by Alison Flynn ’94 using only native shrubs and trees. Objectives included greatly reducing the amount of lawn needing regular mowing, increasing biological diversity, attracting wildlife and screening the residence from Rt. 32. The plants were installed by Jens Hilke ’96, Arboretum Intern and former Earth House resident, and will be cared for jointly by students and Arboretum volunteers.

Probably the most obvious indication that the Arboretum isn’t only “over there, across the street,” is the appearance of blue and white tree labels all over Campus. Reading the labels one learns both the common and Latin name, plus plant family

and geographic origin. Each label features the Arboretum name and logo tree across the bottom. This collection of trees (and shrubs, which have not yet been inventoried or labeled) is truly international in scope, with specimens from places like Manchuria, Japan, Turkey, and western Europe joining many native Americans.

The College’s Land Planning And Use Committee is charged with overseeing the planning and use of all College land and for reviewing the Campus’ architectural design. One major project during 1996 was the selection of the team to redesign the College’s main entry driveway from Mohegan Avenue (Rt. 32). Driven by the very high number of accidents at the driveway and the imminent reconstruction of Rt. 32 by Conn. DOT, the College decided to rebuild the driveway in a way which will make it much safer. This is also considered the first big project in the new “Campus as Arboretum” era, and much attention was paid to preserving the large trees in the vicinity of the project. Thompson and Rose, architects from Cambridge, Mass., were selected from a field of about 10 excellent firms. Construction is expected to begin in Summer 1997.

As a direct result of considering all Campus lands as Arboretum, the Committee created a land use zoning map. This attempts to indicate the most appropriate future use of all College property, which in most cases is the current use. Thus all of what was formerly Arboretum is now designated as “Teaching and Research Lands.”

The Land Planning and Use Committee also began formulating criteria for a new Campus Land and Space Master Plan. Selection of planning consultants should occur in 1997, and actual master planning in 1998. The comprehensive process will involve all College constituencies, will help plan develop the

“Campus as Arboretum” theme on the main Campus, and will culminate with the College’s Centennial in 2011.

During Spring, 1996 two students from the Conway School of Landscape Design, Conway, Mass. used the relationship between the Arboretum, the College and the Science Center of Eastern Connecticut (on Gallows Lane in the Arboretum) for their final project. April Carder and Michele LoGrande created conceptual designs for reciprocal entrances to the Arboretum Native Plant Collection and the Science Center along Gallows Lane. This would create a “Community” entrance to that plant collection in addition to the existing “Campus” entrance on Williams Street. Visitors to either the Science Center or the Arboretum could park at the Center. Pedestrian circulation between the Campus, the Center and the Native Plant Collection was also examined. Ideas from the project will be included in the upcoming College master planning effort.

STAFF AND ASSOCIATES

ARBORETUM RESEARCH DIRECTOR WILLIAM A. NIERING, Lucretia Allyn Professor of Botany, was honored for his years of commitment to the conservation and restoration of tidal wetlands with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Coinciding with the release of the joint DEP Arboretum Bulletin publication “Tidal Marshes of Long Island Sound,” the ceremony was held at Gillette Castle State Park on the Connecticut River.

Dr. Niering also received the prestigious Margaret Douglas Medal from the Garden Club of America. Based on an application from local garden clubs, the national award is presented for notable service to the cause of conservation education. Bill continued as the Editor-in-Chief of the academic journal Restoration Ecology, and served the College in many ways,



MRS. BETTY PINSON (L) AND DR. WILLIAM A. NIERING AT DINNER HONORING HIS RECEIPT OF THE MARGARET DOUGLAS MEDAL FROM THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA.

including as a member of the Center for Conservation Biology and Environmental Science and as an advisor to the Land Planning and Use Committee.

Director Glenn Dreyer served as chairman of the Connecticut Urban Forest Council and as a member of the board of directors of three organizations: the Science Center of Eastern Connecticut, Friends of Harkness Memorial State Park, and Aton Forest. He continued to chair the Connecticut’s Notable Trees Project and served on the Connecticut Committee for the New England Plant Conservation Program. At the College, Glenn chaired the Land Planning and Use Committee and was a member of the Center for Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies.

Thanks and good luck to Arboretum summer 1996 workers Erin Juhl ’98 and Russ Lebo’98.

ARBORETUM INTERNSHIP INITIATED

JENS HILKE ’96 SERVED AS THE FIRST ARBORETUM INTERN, and set an excellent example of team work combined with individual initiative which will provide a model for future interns. At Conn Jens, a native of Maryland, created a self-designed major called Environmental Sociology. The one-



ARBORETUM INTERN
JENS HILKE ’96



OUR SUMMER STAFF WITH
INTERN HILKE WEEDING
THE ARBO POND.

year-long internship position combines plant collection curation duties with assisting in developing volunteer opportunities and educational programs for students and volunteers.

Having an intern allows the Arboretum to keep up with plant records in a way never possible before. Over the year Jens made well over 500 plant labels; spent untold hours with BG-Base, our computerized records system; inventoried the Native Plant Collection and part of the Caroline Black Garden; updated hand-drawn maps and created a series of checklists for the various collections. Public education projects included information signs for Mamacoke Marsh and the north trail into the Katherine Matthies Tract; developed and implemented a trail marking system both north of Gallows Lane and for the jogging trail east of Rt. 32; and created an Arboretum World Wide Web Site. He also initiated and advised the Arboretum Student Advisory Committee, started an Arboretum student newsletter and worked with a range of volunteer groups. As an added bonus, Jens took Professor Siver's Geographic Information Systems course, and helped to create a series of high quality Arboretum maps for planning and research purposes.

The Arboretum Intern position is an extremely cost effective way to add an intelligent, energetic person to our small staff. It is also an unusual and valuable education and work opportunity for a recent graduate. This position is currently funded on a year-by-year basis through unrestricted gifts to the Arboretum, including annual membership contributions. Establishing an endowment fund to generate income which would support this position is a high priority on our fund-raising list. Such an endowment would cost approximately \$300,000, and could be made as a planned or phased gift.

FRANK E. EGLER 1911 - 1996



DR. FRANK E. EGLER IN 1984

DR. FRANK E. EGLER, a man who had significant influence on the direction this Arboretum took over the past 40 years, died on December 26, 1996. Ecologist, author, social and scientific critic, Frank was one of the few truly brilliant people to devote himself to plant ecology, vegetation science and field botany. He was a student of William Skinner Cooper at the University of Minnesota and George Nichols of Yale, and considered Henry Gleason an important mentor. Great

American plant ecologists who were his fellow students included Rexford Daubenmire, Murray Buell, and Henry Oosting. Always a maverick with a distinctive point of view, he was never associated for long with any institution, although he worked briefly at Syracuse University, University of

Connecticut, Wesleyan University, the Museum of Natural History and elsewhere. In the 1930's he moved to a family summer home in Norfolk, Connecticut and began a lifetime study of the flora and vegetation. He also began acquiring and preserving adjacent tracts of land which today is called Aton Forest, Inc., and encompasses over 1,000 contiguous acres.

He was present at the meeting in the early 1950s which recommended that a portion of Arboretum property be "set aside" as a scientific natural area by the College Trustees. Shortly thereafter the Bolleswood Natural Area and later the Mamacoke Natural Area became the site for intensive long and short term ecological research. Frank's seminal paper on the Barn Island Tidal marshes sparked Bill Niering's interest in salt marsh ecology and it is still required reading for ecology students. Over the years many faculty in Botany and Zoology have joined in collaborative tidal marsh research and it is one of the hallmarks of our Conservation Biology program.

Dr. Egler's pioneering research in the use of herbicides to selectively remove certain plant species from plant communities, along with work by Dr. Niering and Dr. Goodwin, led to an ecologically based approach to managing vegetation on powerlines. Using the pseudonym Warren Kenfield, his book "The Wild Garden in the Wild Landscape" made his insights on utilizing the process of vegetation change (succession) in gardening available to the public. His ideas on this subject provided the conceptual basis of the Arboretum's Naturalistic Landscape Demonstration Area, now relatively stable for 45 years. Other influential books by Dr. Egler include "The Nature of Vegetation: Its Management and Mismanagement" and "The Way of Science." He published insightful monographs in professional journals on the vegetation of areas as geographically diverse as the Berkshires of Massachusetts, the Florida Everglades and southeast arid Oahu (Hawaii). Dr. Egler left his estate to the non-profit Aton Forest, Inc., which will carry on his individualistic approach to science, try to make more of his writings available, and will manage the lands of Aton Forest.

VOLUNTEERS & DONORS

IN FEBRUARY SOME 20 FRIENDS FROM ALL OVER southeastern Connecticut and nearby Rhode Island volunteered to be the first class of Arboretum Docents. The program was conceived to provide people as both tour guides and ambassadors for the new Arboretum Sunday Afternoon Tours, which were offered free to the public from May through October. Docent training began with six evening sessions taught by various faculty and staff members which covered Arboretum and College history, plant collections, research programs and tips on giving successful tours. Next, six outdoor walks took docents to the Caroline Black Garden, Native Plant Collections, Bolleswood Natural Area and emphasized topics including wildlife, maintenance procedures and the importance of answering "I don't know" to some questions. The tours were a success with well over 100 participants the first year. Most of the docents re-enlisted for the 1997 season, and plans are to offer a second training session for additional volunteers. Many thanks to the 1996 Docent Class who successfully led 23 tours for over 120 people this year: David Arnold, Nancy Burrows, Lynn Clemants, Diana Cohen, Margaret Crowther, Judy Davies, Samayla Deutch, Vita Dodson, Gerry Fuller, Allen Gauthier, Ashley Hanson, Ken Kraus, Robert Kuchta, Brad Painter, Nancy Patenaude, Linda Reddington, Fred Seidel, Robert Sherman, Becky Williams.

The Arboretum and Environmental Studies Committee of the Connecticut College Forum met twice in 1996. This committee serves both in an advisory capacity to the Arboretum and the Environmental Studies Program Directors and as a liaison to the Board of Trustees. The spring meeting, graciously hosted by Ann Gaylord of Old Black Point, was highlighted by the introduction of Jens Hilke '96 Arboretum Intern, and also by the results of the survey on Conn College student attitudes

toward the Arboretum by Alison Flynn '94. In October, the Committee met again as part of the annual Forum meeting on Campus, and received program updates from the Arboretum as well as attending a variety of information meetings with the Trustees. Members of the Forum Advisory Committee for 1996 were: Oakes Ames, Chairman, Wendy Coleman, Alison Flynn '94, Ann Gaylord, Barry Matt, Hatsy Moore '95, Saul and Lois Ricklin '44, and Sally Taylor.

During June, 12 teenagers volunteered three full days in the Arboretum as part of a Landmarks Volunteers program. Landmarks is a non-profit summer service organization for high school students. The students worked at the Arboretum in exchange for two weeks of dormitory rooms at the College with the rest of their time spent volunteering at the High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center in Old Lyme.



PROF. SALLY TAYLOR AND MRS. ANNE GAYLORD LOOK ON AS MEG, MAX AND VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR BARRY MATT CHECK OUT THE WILDFLOWER GARDEN DEDICATION.

Last, but not least, Barry Matt of New London was honored as Arboretum Volunteer of the Year. Over the past five years Barry has served as a planning consultant with Director Dreyer, advising on matters relating to public relations, marketing, strategic planning and finances. He served on the Conn. College Forum and

has exhibited a deep-rooted commitment to conservation in general and the Arboretum in particular. Thanks, Barry.

In addition to those already mentioned, the following individuals served the Arboretum in a volunteer capacity during 1996. Many thanks to all!

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Amy Berka
Mary Anne Borrelli
Julie Boucher '00
Keith Bowman '99
Jenny Butler
Virginia Butler
Ryan Chan '00
Richard Conway
Kelvin Cooper
PJ DeCurtis '00
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Virgil Woolfolk
United Way Volunteers (6)

Special thanks are due to the following individuals and organizations who made contributions well above the individual level.

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The following individuals were members in good standing of the Connecticut College Arboretum Association during 1996. We strive to accurately maintain our records and appreciate any corrections. Names noted in the previous list were not repeated here.

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