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### Arboretum Annual Report, 2002

Connecticut College

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The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

# Connecticut College Arboretum Annual Report 2002





# **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.

### **public 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

**Welcome** to the highlights of the Arboretum's past year. As I reflect back on 2002, the Arboretum's 71st year, words like continuity, renewal, ebb and flow come to mind. Much of what we worked on this year was initiated some time in the past, and I fully expect much of the work to continue long after the current cohort of staff and volunteers are gone.

Plant collections continued to be developed and maintained, many along the general design track set out in the 1930s. They were mowed and raked, mulched and watered, weeded and pruned much as they have been for three quarters of a century. We saw somewhat more decline than usual, with the senescence of serviceberries and the loss of American beech in the Native Plant Collection to a mysterious and still undiagnosed malady. Rather than unduly mourn such changes, we have adopted Professor Sally Taylor's unsentimental attitude — loss of plants provides new space for adding a new planting.

A few hundred yards away, near the middle of campus, Arboretum staff helped create a small garden as a memorial to the victims of the September 11, 2001 tragedy in New York City. It will be a place of quiet beauty and contemplation, somewhat private, yet with views of the main green, chapel and greenhouse. The young plants here replace older ones lost elsewhere to age, disease and storms, and the continuity of the total landscape is maintained.

In the Bolleswood Natural Area, the long-term vegetation change study continued with a detailed survey on transects first set out in 1952 by Professors Goodwin and Niering. This was the sixth, once-per-decade, detailed inventory that follows each herb, shrub and tree in thousand foot long strips through the forests, swamps and bog. Students who labored collecting data, and those who use the information in their classes and research projects, are directly connected to the past, and are able to make informed guesses about the forest's future. They found once lush hemlocks still standing, but dead, and also found the understory coming alive with long suppressed or newly arrived plants of all kinds. The forest is renewing itself, always changing. Sometimes the change happens on a time scale that we humans can actually watch and comprehend.

In a real sense, the job of the Arboretum is to be a steward of natural places and processes and a facilitator of human projects. Much of the stewardship tends to be maintenance and protection. The facilitation is mostly educational — helping people understand the natural world. It is work each of us, member, volunteer, staff, faculty and student can be proud of.

Glenn Dreyer





**Two thousand two** was a banner year for the Annual Landscape Symposium, with talks by top-notch experts in the fields of ecology, botany, horticulture and art. This two-day symposium, with 149 attendees, was titled "Plants, People and Time: Creating a Place." The highlight for many was hearing author/naturalist Tom Wessels, who spoke along with Brian Cohen, the artist who did the etchings in Wessel's book *Reading the Forested Landscape*. Cosponsored by the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and by Larry Weaner's New Directions the American Landscape, the series is a continuing education course for landscape architects and other professional landscape designers who want to learn more about ecological landscaping.

Our public education season began with

Sunday lectures by Associate Professor of Art History Robert Baldwin and landscape historian and designer Sheila Wertheimer '84. A three part "Bonsai Bonanza" was held in February, taught by Arboretum Horticulturist Jeff Smith and member/volunteer Platt Arnold '64. College Grounds Supervisor Jim Luce also conducted classes on spring pruning and on winter tree identification. Assistant Director of the Arboretum Kathy Garvin conducted a three-part book discussion on Michael Pollan's *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World*.

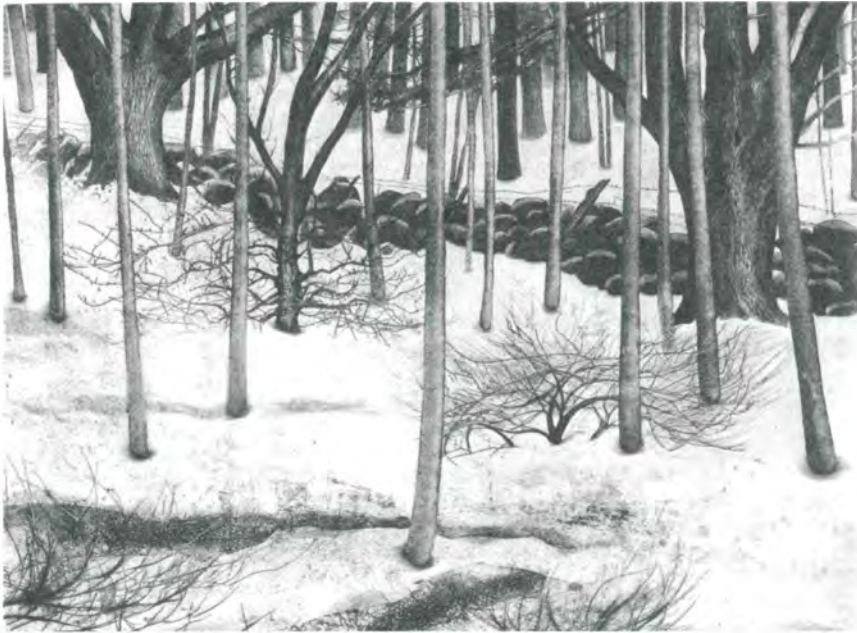
**In March**, the Arboretum co-sponsored a two-day, hands-on graphics and design workshop with the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, which was taught by Mike Lin. Scott D. Appell, director of education of the Horticultural Society of New York, did an outstanding

job of "Demystifying Botanical Language." Laura Eisner, landscape designer, educator and an editor with *People, Places & Plants* magazine gave a fascinating slide/lecture presentation on "Flavor and Fragrance: Herbs in the Garden." "Let's Build a Gate" with Frank Hamm was a four-hour workshop at Buck Lodge where the participants learned to build a rustic gate from materials provided by the Arboretum. A wildflower garden walk led by Jeff Smith and a Mother's Day walk in the Caroline Black Garden with Professor Emeritus of Botany Sally Taylor, concluded our spring offerings.

"Blessings from the Earth: Medicinal Uses of New England Plants" was the topic of Lisa Gould's presentation at our annual Members' and Friends' Night in June. Lisa is executive director of the Rhode Island Natural History Survey and co-author of *Coastal Plants from Cape Cod to Cape Canaveral*. After a brief outline of highlights of the year by Director Glenn Dreyer, volunteers were recognized and awards presented for the "Capturing the Beauty of Nature - 2002" amateur photo contest. A reception, book signing and viewing of the photography exhibit followed in Olin Lounge.







**Once again this June,** Prides Corner Farms Nursery in Lebanon opened their doors to Arboretum members, giving them the opportunity to buy plants at wholesale prices. Naturalist Wendy Dreyer conducted a tour through the Bolleswood Natural Area and the Native Plant Collection teaching visitors to recognize birds by their songs. A container gardening workshop titled "Culinary Herbs for My Kitchen" was taught by Jeff Smith and master gardener and Arboretum volunteer Ginny Butler. Participants were sent home with a tiny herb garden that would soon mature into both a culinary and botanical delight. A trip to the New York Botanical Garden was scheduled after the garden's \$100 million renovation. Travelers were able to enjoy the newly expanded and restored International Plant Science Center, a new 70,000 square-foot facility built for the garden's herbarium, which contains nearly seven million specimen. In August, Assistant Professor of Ethnobotany Manuel Lizarralde and his wife, Anne-Marie Lott Lizarralde '91, a research associate in botany, conducted a basket-weaving workshop with a brief introduction to the history and importance of this tradition. Stan Gaby, visiting professor at the University of Connecticut, completed the summer programs with two after-work specials — a hike on White Sands Beach, Old Lyme, and another on Mamacoke Island.



Clockwise from far left:  
Professor Emeritus of Chinese Charles Chu at his lecture/painting demonstration in the Library's Chu Room.

From *Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England* by Tom Wessels. Illustration © Brian Cohen, Reprinted with permission of the publisher, The Countryman Press/W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.



Arboretum volunteer photographer Jerry Poirier and friend at the NY Botanical Garden field trip.

Landscape architects and designers packed Oliva Hall for the annual ecological design symposium.

Scott Appell demystified botanical language.



Above: Laura Eisner lectured on gardening with herbs.

Right: Stan Gaby and friends check out the geology of Mamacoke Island.



**In September**, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association held a field meeting at the Arboretum's Buck Lodge that included tours and talks by Professor of Biology Robert Askins and Assistant Professor of Botany Christine Small. Director Glenn Dreyer led visitors on the Annual Fall Foliage walk, and Professor Emeritus of Chinese Charles Chu captivated his audience in the Shain Library's Charles Chu Room with a painting lecture/demonstration titled "Art in Nature."

In November, the Arboretum held a day-long seminar titled "Let's Go Natural: A SALT Backyard Landscaping Seminar for Homeowners." SALT is an acronym created by Dr. and Mrs. William Niering for Smaller American Lawns Today. Speakers included Laura Eisner, "The Joy of Naturalistic Gardening;" botanist Lisa Gould of Rhode Island, "Biodiversity in Your Own Backyard;" Philadelphia area landscape designer Larry Weaner, "Natural Garden Design;" Glenn Dreyer, "Rooting Out Those Invasive Exotics;" and Heather Crawford, Coastal Resources Educator for Connecticut Sea Grant Extension Program, "Clean Waters Start in Your Home and Yard." The program was co-sponsored by The New London Soil and Water Conservation office.

**Just before** the winter holidays, Jeff Smith conducted the perennially popular workshop, "Creating Holiday Wreaths." With the "Let's Trim a Holiday Tree" gathering, Jeff Smith and Caroline Driscoll '84, Arboretum volunteer and hort helper coordinator, helped participants make-natural ornaments. A tree-trimming party with Arboretum staff followed.

A total of 685 people participated in the 2002 Educational Programs.



# community outreach



## public tours

This was the seventh year of the Arboretum public tour program, which is conducted almost entirely by volunteers. Arboretum docents lead the public on free tours every Sunday afternoon to the Caroline Black Garden, the Campus or the Native Plant Collection. The Arboretum offers the tours from May through October to help introduce people to the natural world in a way in that they can relate to and understand. In addition to sharing an appreciation for the beauty of cultivated and wild nature, the tours educate visitors about the Arboretum and the College. The docents who served this year were David Arnold, Nancy Burrows '97, Caroline

Driscoll '84, Joan Flynn, Allen Gauthier, Ashley Hanson '82, Becky Nortz, Barbara Pokorny and Robert Sherman.

## plant sales

Holly, hydrangea, azaleas, viburnum and stewartia were among the wide array of native and choice non-native plants that were offered this year at the 9th Annual Autumn Plant Sale. There was a variety of bulbs donated by Sally Taylor, a "Pumpkin Corner," a large array of perennials and many donated plants adding to the choices available to shoppers. Sixteen new people joined the Arboretum Association during the one-day event.

## photography

"Capturing the Beauty of Nature – 2002," the annual amateur photograph contest and exhibition, is designed to encourage the public and the college community to explore and enjoy the natural beauty of our surroundings. Any place in the Arboretum's 750 acres is fair game for the photographers. First prize in the color category went to Ardie Harrison, second to Mark Braunstein and third to Adam Brown with honorable mention going to John Jackson and Virginia Fisher. In the black and white category, first prize went to Diane Thouin; second to Susan Parish; and third to Diane Thouin with honorable mentions going to Diane Thouin and Alexandra Pitkin. The judges this year were Nikki Bunnell, former exhibit curator, Lyman Allyn Art Museum; Pamela Hine, senior lecturer in botany, Connecticut College; and Jerry Poirier, photographer and senior computer technician, Connecticut College. All of the entries were on exhibit for two weeks in the F.W. Olin Science Center.



Clockwise from top left:

A gardener filled her cart at the plant sale.

Kathy Garvin presented photo contest awards to photography winners Diane Thouin, Susan Parish and Alexandra Pitkin.

Early birds wait for the plant sale to begin.





Top: Members and Friends Night participants view the photo contest entries.

Left: Pam Hine, Nikki Bunnell and Jerry Poirier judged the Photo Contest.

Right: Intern and Volunteer Caroline Driscoll led a training tour for docents in the Caroline Black Garden.



## arbo project

The Arbo Project is a student-run program, sponsored and directed by the Arboretum and the Office of Volunteers for Community Service at the College. Students lead tours through the Arboretum and conduct classroom sessions for school-aged children on related topics of interest. The tours last approximately an hour and are adapted to meet the needs of the curriculum. Erica Bushey '02 was the student coordinator for the spring semester, and Betsy Ginn '05 took over the project during the 2002-03 school year. In addition to tours during fall and spring, Arbo Project volunteers are available to give lessons in the classroom during the winter months. The following students served as tour guides in 2002: Erica Bushey '02, Amada Cook '05, Ben Giffen '05, Betsy Ginn '05, Katie Jones '03, Jared Lamorte '05 and Emily Mygatt '05.

## other outreach activities

This summer's theatrical productions by The Flock Theater were "Romeo and Juliet" by Shakespeare and "Agamemnon" by Aeschylus. The plays were co-sponsored by the Arboretum and performed in the Outdoor Theater. Total attendance reached 2,000.

Paid, private tours were conducted for garden clubs, community colleges, universities, churches and senior citizen groups. Intern Caroline Driscoll also gave a "virtual" tour of the Caroline Black Garden to more than 100 Old Lyme senior citizens using slide media.



Clockwise from left:

Meridith Greene '03 (left) and Denise Lee '04 (right) weigh a mouse captured on Mamacoke Island.

Daisy Small '03 identified seedlings from a forest "seed bank" sample germinating in the college greenhouse.

Emily Weidner '05 in the Bolleswood Natural Area bog during the vegetation survey.



**A quick scan** of the current College catalog yielded a list of 27 courses in which professors use the Arboretum as a regular component of their curriculum. Some, like Charles & Sarah P. Becker '27 Professor of Botany Peter Siver's limnology course, use it as a place to collect samples for laboratory use. The introductory biology and botany courses use the facility annually for a variety of field experiences. The following are a selection of some of the courses taught, and projects completed, in the Arboretum during 2002.

Associate Professor of Physics, Astronomy and Geophysics Douglas Thompson supervised two independent studies in the Arboretum during Fall 2002. Kate Mitsch '03 did a hydrology project titled "Determining design criteria for modifying the detention basin in the North Parking Area to a wet detention basin." Eric Brzozowski '04 was interested in geomorphology, and his project was called "An investigation of the geomorphic history of the Mamacoke area of the Connecticut College Arboretum."

Associate Professor of Biology Phillip Barnes continued a project initiated in 1988 on the migration and dispersal of the white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) on Mamacoke Island and the adjacent mainland. The primary goal was to establish the extent to which Mamacoke salt marsh serves as a barrier to movement of these woodland mice between the island and the mainland. The stronger the barrier effect, the more isolated the island population is from the mainland and the greater the opportunity for evolutionary divergence at the genetic level of the mice in the two populations. This year, Meridith Greene '03 and Denise Lee '04 live-trapped the mice and used "mark and recapture" techniques to estimate population size and home ranges. Morphological data as well as DNA samples were collected.





Left: Erin Waesche '02 (l), Tyler Volpe '02 and John Traversi '03 core a tree to estimate its age in plant ecology class.

Right: The Bolleswood long-term vegetation survey team included (l-r) Assistant Professor of Botany Christine Small, Emily Weidner '05, Daisy Small '03, Bethany Lucas '04, Marjorie Lundgren '02 and Susan Munger RTC.

Professor of Biology Robert Askins regularly uses the Arboretum for teaching and research. One of his student's research projects examined the behavior of northern mockingbirds in the Arboretum Field (on Benham Avenue). Dr. Askin's animal ecology course studies orientation in honeybees, using the Arboretum as a lab. Students also do intensive semester-long field research projects, and six of these students did research in the Arboretum. The projects included "Fruit Dispersal by American Robins" (Native Plant Collection) and "Ecology of Dragonflies" (Arboretum Pond). Dr. Askin's long-term breeding bird census project in the Bolleswood Natural Area continued this year. Assisted by Wendy Dreyer and Mary Dowdell, oak-hemlock forest and thicket-young forest sites were surveyed for breeding bird territories.



Assistant Professor of Botany Christine Small's course "Ecology of Terrestrial & Wetland Plant Communities" used the Arboretum for labs in tree annual growth rings, forest ecology, old field development, pollen core analysis, soils, a fire ecology in the prescribed burn plots and salt marsh ecology at Mamacoke Island. Her "Systematic Botany and the Local Flora" class took almost weekly field trips through some portion of the Arboretum for observation and collection of plant materials.

**During the summer,** Professor Small supervised a team of five students who resurveyed the long-term vegetation transects in the Bolleswood Natural Area. Established in 1952 by Professors Richard Goodwin and William Niering, it is one of the earliest research projects set up to observe vegetation change over time. Detailed inventories of all plant life along four transects that are 20 feet wide and approximately 1,000 feet long were made this year by Marjorie Lundgren '02, Daisy Small '03, Bethany Lucas '04, Emily Wiedner '05 and Susan Munger RTC. The eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is almost completely dead due to hemlock wooly adelgid infestation, and this decade's inventory showed dramatic differences from previous surveys. Daisy Small '03 plans to complete an honors thesis on hemlock in the Bolleswood.

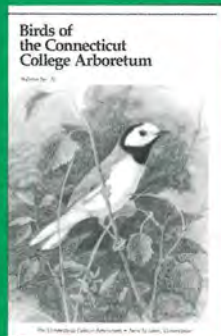
Professor Small supervised Jessica Schwartz '02 in an independent study project, "Long-term Changes (1952-1992) in the Vegetation of the Bolleswood Natural Area (BNA), Connecticut College Arboretum, New London, Connecticut." Jessica was able to track vegetation changes such as the transition of abandoned agricultural fields to mature forest, open wetlands to tree dominated swamps, and the loss of eastern hemlock

following the arrival of the hemlock woolly adelgid in the late 1980s. An issue of current concern in many eastern forests is the poor regeneration and gradual decline of oak species. Jessica's study showed similar trends in the Arboretum and was able to highlight particular vegetation changes and habitats of greatest concern in this region.

## Arboretum named important bird area by Audubon

The National Audubon Society has listed the Arboretum's Bolleswood Natural Area and the Mamacoke Island Natural Area as Important Bird Areas, part of a worldwide network established to preserve diminishing habitats of threatened and endangered birds. The Arboretum locations provide significant nesting areas and resting places for migratory birds. As land along migration routes becomes increasingly overbuilt, permanently preserved areas such as those in the Arboretum are increasingly important.

Patrick Comins, director of bird conservation for the Audubon Society's Connecticut chapter, stressed the international aspect of the program since migratory birds may summer in Canada, winter in South America or the Caribbean, and briefly pass through our region in spring and fall. "A place like Connecticut College probably looks pretty good to them from 200 feet up," said Comins. Flocks of migratory birds, often flying at night, look for large tracts of land with few lights in which to rest and feed. The Native Plant Collection and Bolleswood Natural Area are particularly appropriate with their ready sources of water, food in the form of insects, fruit and seeds, and shelter.



The coves and salt marshes around Mamacoke Island are especially significant to waterfowl and wading birds, and as many as 600 canvasback ducks spend winters in the

coves. During cold winters, when freshwater ponds and lakes freeze solid, the salt water off Mamacoke attracts particularly large numbers of birds.

*Arboretum Bulletin No. 31* by Professor Robert Askins details bird life, habitats and research projects in the Arboretum from 1950 to 1990. It includes an annotated checklist of birds on a monthly basis, and discusses changes in bird populations that have occurred as Arboretum vegetation changed from agricultural fields and thickets to forest.

The Arboretum is among 15 sites in Connecticut recognized as part of the Important Bird Areas program. It is an initiative of Bird Life International, with Audubon acting as the U.S. affiliate. There are about 1,400 sites nationwide, and the Arboretum the first in southeastern Connecticut.

Askins, R. A. 2002. *Restoring North America's Birds. Lessons from Landscape Ecology*. Second Edition. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT. 320 pp. Research in the Arboretum is discussed in chapters 1, 2 and 5.

Askins, R. A. 2002. "Helping shrubland birds." *Connecticut Woodlands* 66 (3): 12-16. Includes information about birds on the Arboretum power line right-of-way.

Benoit, L. K. (M.A. '97) and R. A. Askins. 2002. "Relationship between habitat area and the distribution of tidal-marsh birds." *Wilson Bulletin* 114: 314-323. Mamacoke Island is one of 40 sites analyzed in this paper.

Groce, Julie ('01). 2002. "Feeding ecology of a winter waterfowl community." *Connecticut Warbler* 22: 13-24. Based on an independent study with Dr. Askins in 2001.

Turcotte, Matthew ('02). *Green living at Connecticut College. An environmental sustainability handbook for students*. Booklet support by William A. Niering endowment for student research.



Assistant Professor of Ethnobotany Manuel Lizarralde (l) and professor of Biology Robert Askins (r).



# plant collections

## campus landscape

Shortly after the World Trade Center tragedy in New York City on September 11, botany and environmental studies major Melanie “Daisy” Small ’03 began talking to people on campus about a memorial garden. She helped Horticulturist Jeff Smith design a garden, and a site just north of Bill Hall, facing the main green and Harkness Chapel, was selected. In late April a group of students and staff gathered on a Saturday morning to install the plants. The design features lilacs, which are very fragrant and bloom around commencement time. Additional funding was necessary to add the benches, patio and plaque; details on the finished garden and the dedication ceremony will be featured in the 2003 report. In addition to a variety of spring bulbs, the following shrubs and tree were planted:

*Betula nigra* ‘Heritage’

*Corylopsis spicata*, spike winterhazel

*Fothergilla gardenii*, dwarf fothergilla

*Ilex glabra* ‘Shamrock,’ Shamrock  
inkberry holly

*Kalmia latifolia* ‘Yankee Doodle,’ Yankee  
Doodle mountain laurel

*Philadelphus coronarius*, sweet  
mockorange

*Potentilla fruticosa* ‘Abbottswood,’  
Abbottswood shrub cinquefoil

*Symplocos paniculata*, sapphireberry

*Syringia meyeri* ‘Palibin,’ palibin lilac

*Lilacs:* *S. patula* ‘Miss Kim’

*S. prestoniae* ‘Minuet’

*S. prestoniae* ‘Tinkerbelle’

*S. vulgaris* ‘Monge’

*S. vulgaris* ‘Ellen Willmont’



## other campus plantings

*Magnolia* ‘Bracken Brown Beauty’

*Quercus alba*, white oak

*Sorbus alnifolia*, Korean mountain ash

*Betula nigra* ‘Heritage,’ Heritage river birch

*Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum*  
‘Shasta,’ Shasta double-file viburnum

*Kalmia latifolia* ‘Tiddlywinks,’ Tiddlywinks  
mountain laurel

*Ilex glabra* ‘Compacta,’ compact inkberry

*Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*, white bark  
Himalayan birch

*Juniperus virginiana* ‘Grey Owl,’ grey owl  
juniper

*Rosa* ‘Niagara,’ Niagara rose

*Rhododendron* ‘Northern Hi-Lights’

*Rhododendron* ‘Little Olga’

*Spiraea betulifolia* ‘Tor,’ Tor birchleaf  
spiraea



## memorial plantings

*Prunus x yedoensis*, Yoshino cherry, given  
by Meskwaka Tree Program

*Magnolia stellata* ‘Centennial,’ Centennial  
star magnolia, given by C. Geeter ’02.

Sculptor and environmental studies major George Baskette ’02, known in the area for his “guerrilla art” projects, donated one of his pieces to the College this fall. Baskette found a glacial erratic boulder with one end cracked off and missing at the north end of campus, and decide to “complete” it. Using heavy steel plate, he sculpted two additions to the rock that, from a distance, appear to be segments of the original. This is apparently his first “legitimate” art piece in the sense that he sought permission before creating and



Clockwise from left:

The September 11, 2001 Memorial Garden was planted by volunteers in April 2002.

George Baskette '02 did a sculpture which "completed" a broken glacial erratic on campus. The two boulder pieces to the right were fabricated from steel plate.

USDA Forest Service Plant Pathologist Phil Wargo examined dieing American Beech near the Laurel Walk

Daisy Small '03 organized the Memorial Garden Effort.

installing it. Previous projects involved encasing tree stumps in metal and then documenting public reactions to the works. The college piece is well hidden amongst the trees just north of North Ridge Lane, across from Strider House.

## native plant collection

The American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) trees flanking the Laurel Walk began exhibiting signs of severe stress in early June, and by July entire large lower limbs were dying and in danger of falling. About 14 of the trees were affected, with the symptoms progressing up the trees from lower to upper branches. By year's end, seven of the beech trees were removed, with more to be cut later in the winter. Two European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) as well as red maple (*Acer rubrum*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) growing among the American beech remained unaffected. Pathologists from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and the USDA Forest Service were unable to identify a causative organism, although the symptoms seemed more like those of a disease than from environ-

mental conditions. Similar problems with American beech were not noted anywhere else on campus, and no reports of similar symptoms were received in Connecticut.

New gates built by Arboretum

Groundsperson Chip McIlwain were installed in the Edgerton and Stengel Wildflower Garden. A tall, heavy-duty, plastic fence was installed around the Nancy Moss Fine Native Azalea Garden to prevent damage by browsing deer. Arboretum staff and student workers built an equipment shed behind the garage. The three bay structure freed much needed room inside the garage.

Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), a new invasive exotic plant in our area, was first noted growing in the southern section of the Edgerton and Stengel Wildflower Garden during the summer of 2001. Japanese stilt grass is a fast growing annual adapted to disturbed, shady sites. By 2002, it was clear that this grass was becoming a real problem. In addition to reappearing in the wildflower garden, where it seemed to have been weeded out before going to seed, it was also noticed along the edges of recently resurfaced processed stone paths in a variety of Native Plant Collection locations. We suspect stilt grass seeds may have come in with the stone shipments, since it was not noticed until the trails were done. Descriptions and control advice for the plant can be found on the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Web site (<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/>).



## caroline black garden

After a flurry of activity in this five-acre landscape garden last year, relatively little changed in 2002. A small planting was installed between the deer fence and the parking lot behind the Career Services building that included Ural Falsespiraea (*Sorbaria sorbifolia*), Mountain Doglaurel (*Leucothoe walteri*) and Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*). An oak tree in the rear of the Caroline Black Garden, near the small pool, was dedicated to the memory of Jake Nunley '02 by his friends at Emily Abbey House.

## greenhouse

The Arboretum crew is responsible for the general care and maintenance of the College greenhouses. Growing plants, maintaining the collection and assisting botany and biology instructors in various laboratory exercises are some of the responsibilities. For example, 500 maple seedlings were grown for sap tension experiments in plant physiology. Beans and soybeans were grown for labs dealing with movement of dyes through the plant systems. Two new greenhouse projects were initiated during the year. Professor Christine Small conducted a seed bank study in which forest soils were collected and the seeds in the samples germinated and identified. The Arboretum staff also assisted Charles & Sarah P. Becker '27 Professor of Botany Peter Siver and Research Associate Anne-Marie Lott Lizarralde '91 in the setup and preparation of a fresh water flume that mimics a slow running stream into a pond. Water and organism samples were taken from Long Hill Pond, Lantern Hill Pond and the Arboretum Pond to inoculate the artificial stream.

Although many students help in the general maintenance and care of the greenhouse during the year, two work-study students, Amy Angell '05 and



Ross Morin '05, played a major role in keeping the greenhouse and head house in proper order.

Top: Plant physiology student Anna Trafton '03, checks turgor pressure on maple seedlings grown in the College greenhouse.

Bottom: One of seven American Beech removed after they died for unknown reasons.

## The core Arboretum Staff

remained the same during 2002, and they are listed inside the back cover of this annual report. They are all very dedicated to the College and Arboretum, and we are lucky to have such a stable and competent work force. One milestone celebrated during 2002 was Director Glenn Dreyer's 20th year with the College. Glenn began working for the Arboretum part time on the horticultural maintenance crew in 1982 while pursuing his master's degree in botany with the late Professor Bill Niering.

The physical plant grounds staff, led by horticulturist James Luce, works in consultation with Arboretum staff in their stewardship of the campus landscape. They are responsible for all the maintenance of the main campus, college housing and athletic fields. When planning new landscape features or educational projects on the main campus, the two departments collaborate to ensure development is consistent with the vision of the campus as an arboretum. The September 11 Memorial Garden is an excellent example of this collaborative approach. The campus grounds personnel are listed on the final page of this report.

The Arboretum Intern from July 2001 to June 2002 was local New London resident Caroline Driscoll '84. Caroline had volunteered with the Arboretum for many years, and since she already understood our programs and procedures, she soon became the most productive intern ever. Typically interns are involved in a plant collection curation project, and Caroline's task was to inventory the campus landscape. The accessions in this collection are primarily trees, and over the year she visited and measured each one growing between Williams Street and Route 32. She also became the resident expert in fabricating the plant labels that have become a prominent part of our collections. In addition, Caroline took over our Hort Helper volunteer program, which invites community members to lend a hand with horticultural maintenance —

weeding, pruning, raking, mulching as well as some greenhouse work during the winter. She established a regular schedule and was able to greatly expand the effectiveness of the program.

The Arboretum Intern position was unfortunately eliminated during a series of College-wide budget reductions. Future plans are to request a half-time staff position, in place of the full-time internship. In the meantime, Caroline Driscoll '84 agreed to continue to work with our staff one day per week on a contract basis. She will concentrate mainly on keeping the Hort Helper program running.

For decades student workers have supplemented the Arboretum staff, adding immeasurably to the amount of landscape and greenhouse maintenance that can be accomplished each season. Most of our student helpers are enrolled in the "work-study" program, in which campus employment is part of their financial aid package that helps them attend Connecticut College. During the school year, students usually work one or two four-hour shifts each week. In the summer, the Arboretum employs two or three students full time for at least 10 weeks. In 2002, our hard-working student employees were:

## Spring semester

Amy Angell '05  
Vasilena Gocheva '04  
Winfield Gray '03  
Daniel Greenblatt '03  
Rory Jose '05  
Susan Laszewski '05  
David Lloyd '04  
Ross Morin '05  
Adam Scala '05  
Melanie "Daisy" Small '03  
Eliot Stulen '04  
Eli Trowbridge '05  
Katherine Varnum '05



Caroline Driscoll '84 was the 2002-03 intern and continued as the part-time coordinator of the Hort Helper volunteer program.

## Summer

Amy Angell '05  
Erin Shields '04

## Fall Semester

Amy Angell '05  
Christopher Berotti '03  
Vasilena Gocheva  
Rory Jose '05  
Susan Laszewski '05  
David Lloyd '04  
Ross Morin '05  
Eliot Stulen '04  
Eli Trowbridge '05 (volunteer)



# volunteers



Left: Marlene Oko was 2002 volunteer of the year. Arboretum Department Assistant Anne Davis is behind her.

Right: Student volunteers prepared the soil and planted the September 11, 2001 Memorial Garden.

## Arboretum volunteers

extend the reach of the Arboretum, making it possible both to accomplish more and to involve the local community in our activities. Volunteers play a vital role in conducting plant collection tours, in collection maintenance and in planning and operating the annual plant sale. They also assist in running our educational programs.

The 2002 volunteer season was kicked off in May at the annual barbecue/meeting in Buck Lodge, just two days before the docents began conducting free public tours, and it officially ended in November with a potluck supper also at the Lodge. At the latter meeting volunteers were invited to share photos and stories about their travels or botanical experiences during the summer months.

As part of a volunteer continuing education effort, staff and volunteers travel to a botanical garden or institution each year to enjoy the day together and add to their knowledge. In 2002, the trip was to the Institute of Ecosystem Studies at the Mary Flagler Cary Arboretum, Millbrook, New York. Located on nearly 2,000 acres, the institute has built what may be the country's premier ecosystem study center with state-of-the-art scientific

facilities. Another educational opportunity for docents was a five-hour review/tour of the three major plant collections: the Caroline Black Garden, the Campus landscape and the Native Plant Collection. "The Arboretum from a Historical Perspective," was a seminar for volunteers by Jeff Smith, Caroline Driscoll '84 and Kathy Garvin '90. It included the history of the College, campus buildings, the greenhouse, the Native Plant Collection, Professor Caroline Black and the garden named in her memory.

The 2002 Volunteer of the Year award went to Marlene Oko for outstanding service to the Arboretum. It was presented on Members' and Friends' Night in June, at which time all volunteers were acknowledged and thanked. Special mention must also be made of Gerry Poirier, who has become the unofficial official Arboretum photographer. Most of the photographs in this report were taken by Jerry. During 2002, total Arboretum volunteer donated time was approximately 780 hours.

## arboretum volunteer program

David Arnold  
Platt Arnold '64  
Jean Baker  
Linda Barbero  
Sharon Baroni  
Nancy Burrows '97  
Virginia Butler  
Charles Chu  
Richard Conway  
Jean Coyne  
Vita Dodson MA '83  
Wendy Dreyer  
Joan Flynn  
Denise Garofalo  
Allen Gauthier  
Kari Hammen  
Ashley Hanson '82  
Jan Hine  
Pamela Hine MA '84  
Lee Klade  
Ken Kraus  
Peg LaPorte  
Anne-Marie Lizarralde '91  
Manuel Lizarralde  
Jim Luce  
Janice McCue  
Edmee McIntosh  
Sandy Morse  
Rebecca Nolan  
Becky Nortz  
Marlene Oko  
April Owen  
Kathleen Page  
Lydia Pan  
Nancy Patenaude  
Betty Pinson  
Jim Pisarczyk  
Jerry Poirier  
Barbara Pokorny  
Arlene Scott  
Robert Sherman  
Elizabeth Smith

Ed Suter  
Mary Suter  
Sally Taylor  
Sheila Wertheimer '84

## other volunteers

On Earth Day 2002, the Williams School organized 18 students and two faculty members to work on spring clean up and garden mulching in the Caroline Black Garden.

These individuals helped to plant the September 11, 2001 Memorial Garden north of Bill Hall:

Amy Angell '05  
Erica Butler '02  
Rachel Chase '05  
Lisa Day '02  
Heidi Freeman '03  
Zachary Hamm '02  
Ashley Kosier '04  
Elizabeth Kuhn '03  
Kate McDowell '05  
Jessica Nowak '04  
Chip McIlwain  
Schalie Miller '03  
Carley Richard '04  
Melanie Small '03  
Jeffrey Smith  
Craig Vine  
Joanne Zuk '04  
Jeremy  
Laura  
Saul

**We gratefully** acknowledge the financial contributions made by the following individuals and organizations during 2002. We strive to accurately maintain all of our records and appreciate receiving any corrections.

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Bob and Enid Sherman chat with Kathy Garvin at the potluck dinner.



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