

Meristems

The Polly Hill Arboretum
West Tisbury, Massachusetts

Vol. 15, No. 1 Spring 2013



Clematis 'Starfish' photo by Dan Long

Polly Hill Arboretum Celebrates 15 Years

A wonderful thing happened when the pioneering work of Polly Hill combined with the vision of Dr. David H. Smith. 2013 marks our fifteenth year as a public garden! Today the Polly Hill Arboretum is making meaningful plant/people connections on Martha's Vineyard and beyond. We are the leading on-island resource for horticultural, botanical, and plant science information. Our visitors enjoy our beautiful landscape and learn from our labeled plant collections. Our school programs train young scientists to see nature with new eyes. Our college and professional internships lead interested students into careers in public horticulture and botany. Our enthusiastic volunteers work side by side with our staff. Our educational programs share information with the community.

In this issue we consider our achievements since our grand opening on June 27, 1998. Much of our success has been the result of vision, strategic planning, and hard work. In preparation for this anniversary we reaffirmed our mission and looked back at where we came from. In the pages inside you will read about our programs, our community involvement, and our future plans. You will find a timeline of our major events and accomplishments. However, we can't possibly capture all of the significant events or thank all of the people involved; there are just too many!

When we reflect on PHA's achievements we are pleased and grateful. The past fifteen years have seen the flourishing of a greenhouse and nursery, new buildings and the renovation of old ones, an endow-

ment, engaged staff, research associates, student interns, school tours, more volunteers, and more plants; all this achieved with respect for the legacy of Polly Hill and the spirit of the place. The evolution of a garden from public to private requires patience and thoughtful development. Like an enduring oak, our roots are well established and our growth responsive to our supportive environment.

Our accomplishments are the result of the transformative power of passionate people like Polly Hill, Dr. David H. Smith, our board members, staff, volunteers, and you, our committed membership. We hope you enjoy the reflective nature of this issue, but know we will never stop planting for a more beautiful future!

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The mission of the Polly Hill Arboretum is to perpetuate the experimental tradition in horticulture established by Polly Hill by sharing knowledge of plants and scientific procedure through educational programs, research, plant conservation, and exploration. The Arboretum seeks to preserve its meadows and woodlands, to promote an understanding of its collections, and to encourage their utilization for scholarship, observation, and the enjoyment of all.

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of the Polly Hill Arboretum

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PHA staff gather at Visitor Center

Message from the Director

There are lessons to be learned from trees. Superstorm Sandy was a difficult blow; the Arboretum lost some beautiful old trees. My approach to cope with the loss is threefold. First, appreciation for what is here in the present moment. I admire the grand beeches at PHA. I think of the seasons they have endured and the beauty they provide to enrich our lives. Second, discovery. It helps to be curious. There is a world of trees still here on our grounds. Learn their names, their origins, their stories. And finally, optimistic action. I love planting trees. Planting a tree is a confident act that makes the world a better place. Plan for more planting, and then plant.

At PHA we relish making plans for more planting. I admire this quote from the father of American horticulture, Liberty Hyde Bailey: "A garden is half-made when it is well planned." His words sum up the off-season for us when we make plans and develop our programs, plus get serious work done on our grounds. This past winter has been no exception. While getting our

work done, we have also been thinking beyond our immediate horizons and making plans for a new woodland garden.

We are assisted in our planning by PHA master planner Michael Van Valkenburgh of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. In March we had an on-site visit with senior associate Jason Siebenmorgen. Jason immediately grasped our mission and our site: the rural landscape vernacular—historic buildings, stone walls, and oak forest—and the diversity of plants found in our collections not to mention the multitude of new plants growing in our nursery! We are pleased to have the continued guidance and involvement of Michael and his team. The next phase includes circulation, bed design, and irrigation specifications. Then it's on to the fun part—growing plants in anticipation of filling this new garden. So while we miss the trees that are gone, we see opportunity ahead. Come visit soon!

Timothy M. Boland

Summer Program Preview

Fifteen years ago the Arboretum opened to the public with a mission to share plant knowledge with students of all ages. Both Polly Hill and Arboretum founder David H. Smith were advocates of lifetime learning. Polly's voice is still sometimes heard on our local NPR station saying, "Learn. That's the fun. The learning is the fun." Since our inception we have offered numerous learning opportunities to the Vineyard community through informative and enjoyable lectures, classes, and workshops taught by experts from across the country. This year is no exception.

Speakers this summer include Guy Sternberg, director of the Starhill Forest Arboretum in Petersburg, Illinois, who will present the annual Lisina and Frank Hoch lecture. His talk, "Trees in a Changing Climate," will focus on predicted climate change and its profound effect on our landscapes. Our annual David H. Smith memorial lecture features Stephen Kellert, professor emeritus at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. He will explore the need for human connection with nature for our own well-being as well as the health of the planet as he discusses his book, *Birthright: People and Nature in the Modern World*.

Monticello gardens and grounds director Peter J. Hatch rediscovers the past in his book talk, *A Rich Spot of Earth: Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden*



Learn how to draw from nature in Genevieve Jacob's drawing classes.

at Monticello. Hatch meticulously restored Thomas Jefferson's vegetable garden and along the way discovered how Jefferson's gardening legacy continues to influence the culinary, garden, and landscape history of the United States.

Sheila Brady, a principal at the landscape architecture firm Oehme, van Sweden & Associates, will present a talk on her recent design project, the Native Plant Garden at the New York Botanical Garden. This new public garden celebrates the diversity of our native flora. Brady will discuss the garden's design and mission to inspire home gardeners to plant sustainable native plants in their gardens.

Later in the season we continue this theme with Theresa Sprague of BlueFlax Design and her presentation on meadows-



See trees in a new light with Guy Sternberg's "Nature as Art" summer workshop.

caping and Chanticleer horticulturist Dan Benarcik's exploration of groundcovers as sustainable lawn alternatives. Benarcik will also repeat his popular Wave Hill chair workshop. Other classes offered this season include wild food foraging, drawing classes, plant propagation, an introduction to ferns, and the botany of beer—that's one way to keep the fun in learning!

For our complete summer schedule look for our education brochure mailing or visit our education page at pollhillarboretum.org. To receive email program updates, contact Karin at karin@pollhillarboretum.org. We thank our friends and sponsors—Bartlett Tree, Donaroma's, Heather Gardens, Middletown Nursery, and SBS—for their generous support of our evening lecture series.

1997

... 1998

.....▶

Polly Hill Arboretum

Timeline of Events

1997–2013



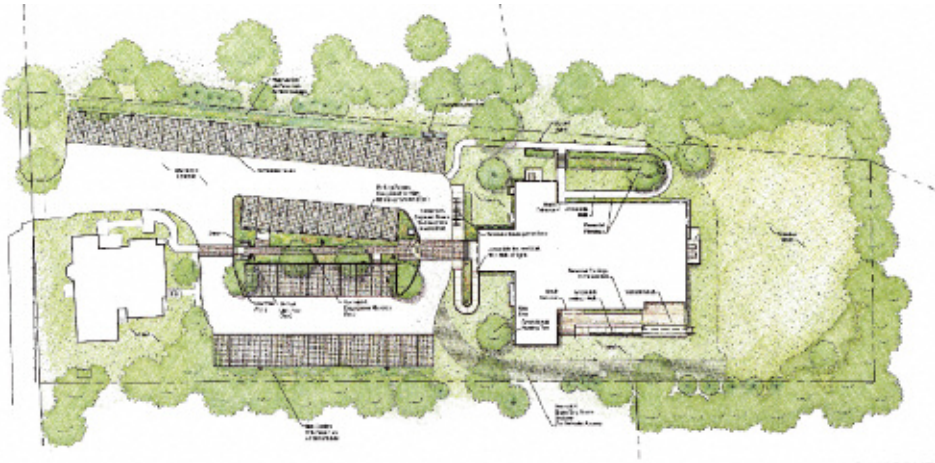
- Land purchased for preservation with the support of Dr. David H. Smith



- Visitor Center and parking lot built

- Homestead renovated into PHA offices

Arboretum Provides “Green” Advice



Rain gardens are a utilitarian feature of the new expansion of the West Tisbury Library.

PHA welcomes opportunities to share our plant knowledge with the community. Design specifications have begun for an attractive and effective landscape to surround the new West Tisbury public library currently under construction. The Arboretum is consulting on the plant selection for this project featuring bio-retention plantings (aka rain gardens) surrounding the parking area. The library landscape will also include trees and shrubs that thrive under urban conditions with minimal maintenance.

The “green” plan for the parking lot includes permeable pavers (often called pervious pavers in the trade) that allow water to flow through. Water will be directed from the parking lot to bio-retention planting beds that will capture, treat, and cool the run-off before it makes its way into the Mill Brook watershed and

ultimately into Tisbury Great Pond. This will be done through effective design, site engineering, and the use of resilient plants that are not only beautiful but useful. The plantings have the ability to trap harmful pollutants filtering out over ninety percent of hydrocarbons found in the form of motor oil, gas, and diesel.

In the back of the library property PHA is partnering with TNC’s Vineyard Habitat Network program on a native plant demonstration garden. This area will demonstrate an attractive landscape using native plants that support local wildlife including butterflies and other native insect pollinators. All the library plantings will be accompanied by interpretive panels that highlight the benefits of rain gardens and other features of the landscape. The West Tisbury Free Public Library will reopen to the public early next year.

A Growing Partnership

PHA is now growing native plants for the Martha’s Vineyard Habitat Network, a TNC (The Nature Conservancy) program encouraging Island gardeners and land-owners to design and plant landscapes to connect habitat and support wildlife. To find out more download a brochure from their website at www.nature.org/vineyard. Or contact Brian Lawlor, program manager, at 508-693-6287 ext. 10.



The Vineyard Habitat Network offers homeowners sound strategies for developing wildlife habitat in their gardens.

... 1998



• First Executive Director Stephen A. Spongberg hired

Opening Day
**THE
POLLY HILL
ARBORETUM**
27 June 1998

• Volunteer program begins



• Rose Treat seaweed collections begin PHA herbarium



• The Sam and Gretchen Feldman internship program begins

Martha's Vineyard Garden Tour



Susanne Clark's terraced garden inspired by Gertrude Jekyll

photo by Susanne Clark

Our annual Martha's Vineyard garden tour offers a rare glimpse at spectacular gardens hidden behind stone walls and down dirt drives. This year's garden tour is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17. Join us on this exclusive day-long tour as we stroll down the garden path to visit four exceptional up-island gardens.

We begin with a terraced garden featuring perennial color borders inspired by influential English garden designer Gertrude Jekyll. Our next garden overlooks

the ocean near Peaked Hill. Here a hillside garden sweeps to a wildflower meadow with sheep pasture beyond; a moss path leads to a shade garden; and the sun shines on a landscaped swimming pool, colorful annuals, and an attractive vegetable garden.

After a buffet lunch at the Beach Plum Inn in Menemsha, we will visit a charming storybook garden where roses and clematis climb on antique arbors, and bluestone pathways pass through beds overflowing with rhododendrons,

hydrangeas, phlox, peonies, and iris.

We end our day at a celebrated seaside garden designed by innovative garden designer Wolfgang Oehme. Here enormous beds filled with diverse plant groupings contrast and harmonize in a layered effect blending with rippling dunes, blue sky, and sparkling waters. Expect a sensational day!

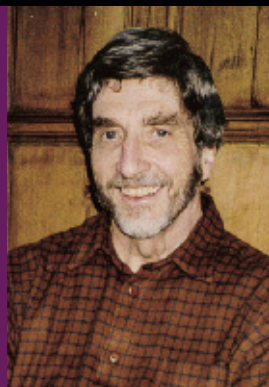
Pre-registration required. For more information visit our website or call Karin at 508-693-9426.

... 1999



• Frank Hoch named first chairman of the PHA Board

... 2000



• David H. Smith memorial lecture established

... 2002



• Robert W. Doran (shown with wife, Happy) assumes chairmanship of the PHA Board

... 2013



• Landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh develops landscape master plan

Staff News

Volunteer Coordinator & Plant Recorder Nancy Weaver attended "Exhibiting Skills: Exhibition Development for Informal Educators," a workshop held at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California, this winter. Nancy, one of ten awarded a grant to attend, participated in sessions on the fundamentals of botanical exhibits from concept to effectiveness. She will put her new skills to work this season!

Ian Jochems, Horticulturist, attended New England Grows, a regional green industry event. Ian earned International Society of Arboriculture recertification credits, learned current strategies for controlling insects and diseases, and discovered

new plants, tools, and products.

Tom Clark presented "Gardens of Belgium: An Arboretum Adventure" this winter to the Martha's Vineyard Garden Club where he shared the highlights of this successful PHA-sponsored trip. In April Tom attended the International Rhododendron Species conservation symposium in Edinburgh, Scotland. Beyond the conference he explored Scottish gardens; groundwork that may lead to a 2014 garden tour!

Congratulations to Administrative & Financial Officer Barbara Conroy who completed a master's program in sustainability and environmental management from the Harvard Extension

School in May. Her program integrated courses in environmental science, social science, and organizational leadership.

Finally Executive Director Tim Boland attended several conferences including the annual New Directions in the American Landscape conference co-sponsored by the Connecticut College Arboretum and the Morris Arboretum. He also presented a program on MV Wildtype, PHA's native plant production program, at the Ecological Landscape Association conference held in Springfield, Massachusetts. April found Tim at the annual meeting of the Magnolia Society International in St. Louis, Missouri.

Welcome Summer Interns

In the midst of winter it's difficult to envision how summer will unfold, but winter is when we must make a crucial decision: Who will be our summer interns? This year another bumper crop of applications populated our mailbox. Out of nearly 30 applicants we interviewed and selected two promising students, Jennifer Rioux and Olivia Meyer.

Jen Rioux, a sophomore at Smith College studying environmental science and policy and landscape studies, balances her academic studies with work as an outdoor garden assistant for the Smith

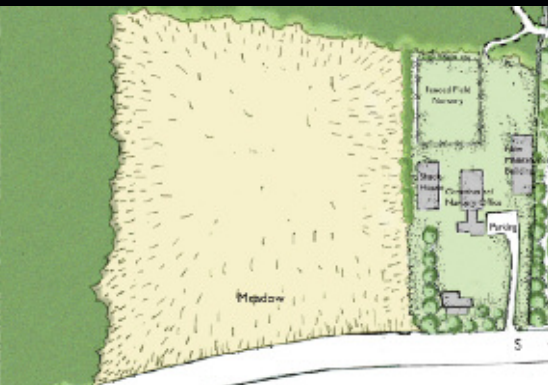
College Botanic Garden. This Maine native cites land on which to garden and mentors to guide her as the foundation of her lifelong passion for gardening. Jen plans for a career working with plants. The PHA summer internship is an ideal opportunity to gain additional practical knowledge and skills.

Olivia Meyer is a junior at Kansas State University (our third student from KSU!) majoring in horticulture with a specialization in landscape design. In the course of her program she has traveled internationally including trips to England

and Wales. This past January she journeyed to Australia to study horticulture "down under." Last summer she participated in a internship at the Kauffman Memorial Garden in Kansas City, Missouri. Olivia looks forward to exploring everything that a PHA summer provides.

The PHA summer internship is a valuable and vital Arboretum program that offers an excellent opportunity for college students to gain practical experience. We extend our sincere thanks to the Feldman family for their long-time interest in and support of our summer interns.

... 2002



- 10 acres purchased south of original property

... 2003



- First Curator, Tim Boland, hired



- Plant collection policy established by PHA Board



Emily Ellingson, PHA collections management intern

Welcome Emily Ellingson

Now in its fifth year the collections management internship is firmly established as a successful and vital program that supports the Arboretum's educational mission. The nine month long internship provides an exceptional experience for an individual seeking to improve their practical skills and further their career in public horticulture. This year we are pleased to welcome Minnesotan Emily Ellingson.

Emily was first introduced to PHA on a fieldtrip last summer when she was a greenhouse intern at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Following her stint at the Arnold she hopped out to the West Coast to complete a horticulture apprenticeship at Filoli, a historic site and country estate garden in Woodside, California. There she strengthened her practical plant care and landscape maintenance skills. Now this Midwesterner is back on the East Coast once again.

A graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, Emily majored in biology with a concentration in environmental studies. Her initial experience in the world of public gardens goes back to a position (funded through the Maine

Weathering Forecast for PHA

Weather has an enormous impact on the work we do, and monitoring the weather is a valuable tool in our efforts. Thanks to a generous donation from Pete Robinson and a grant from the Vineyard Golf Club, PHA was able to purchase a weather station. Since December it has been recording a host of weather data that enables us to better care for the living collection, more accurately evaluate plant performance, aid in the prediction of pest outbreaks, and understand weather patterns.

Despite monitoring the weather, its effects can still be significant. On-island winds can be devastating. This became poignantly clear following the nor'easter that pounded southern New England this past February. Strong winds toppled the large white mulberry tree (planted by Polly's mother in the 1930s) that shaded the porch of the Cowbarn. Although we mourn its loss, we will celebrate the planting of a new tree that will grow to fill the void.

Conservation Corps and AmeriCorps) as an environmental educator at the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden (CMBG). Indeed, what sealed the deal was the glowing recommendation provided by PHA research associate Melissa Cullina, director of education and staff botanist at CMBG. Please join us in welcoming Emily to PHA.

... 2004



• Stanley Smith grant supports digital collections mapping



• Stephen A. Sponberg retires

• Tim Boland named Executive Director

... 2005



• Peter Norris and Amy Rugel establish children's education endowment

• National Stewartia Collection awarded

Spirea on My Mind by Tom Clark

The ability to visualize with our “mind’s eye” is a remarkable feature of the human brain. If I say spirea within a millisecond many of you will conjure an image of a common landscape plant; an arching shrub adorned with white flowers known as bridal-wreath spirea. That might be my first image as well but a millisecond later a slideshow begins in my mind flashing through a collection of spirea images including species, hybrids, and cultivars. But hey, that’s just me.

My most enduring mental picture of spirea comes from last August. On a stroll through the Martha’s Vineyard Land Bank property Square Field, in the slanting light of early evening, I came upon an arresting picture: large rosy-purple islands of hardhack (*Spiraea tomentosa*) and tall stems of rose-purple coastal plain joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium dubium*) awash in a sea of grasses. The distinct spires of the hardhack provided splendid contrast to dusky purple domed clusters of swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) to create an unforgettable image.

Hardhack is one of two spirea species native to Martha’s Vineyard. The unusual common name refers to the toughness of its wiry stems. Steeplebush is a far more becoming name for this charming deciduous shrub, a denizen of clearings and meadows. Found throughout much of eastern North America, steeplebush frequents damp to wet sites but tolerates a wide range

of situations. Meadowsweet (*S. alba* var. *latifolia*), our other native spirea, can often be found in similar habitats. With a more



A spire of steeplebush glows in the late summer light highlighting the orange-brown fuzz on its leaves and stem.

open habit meadowsweet holds its white to pinkish flowers in broadly pyramidal heads. Most noticeable, however, are its generally smooth stems and leaves as compared with steeplebush, which is typically cloaked with tawny brown fuzz.

The individual flowers of hardhack are

small, measuring about 1/8 of an inch. Close inspection reveals five sepals, five petals, a mass of tiny pollen-bearing stamens, and five pistils; a characteristic flower for the rose family of which it is a member. The flowers may be tiny but there’s strength (and beauty!) in numbers. They’re packed into attractive, dense, 4- to 8-inch-long panicles that open from top to bottom over the course of several weeks. The five-parted capsules that follow resemble miniature star anise fruits. They ripen by October, splitting open to scatter minuscule seeds at the will of the wind.

Here on the Island steeplebush grows 2- to 4-feet tall and can be found in open, sunny sites. Where populations creep under the canopy of nearby woods, the plants become lax and arch over in a less than graceful fashion. The plant is virtually unknown in shaded sites. This distinctive spirea is unlikely to be confused with any other native plant.

Hardhack is tougher and more adaptable than I once imagined. Several years ago on a field trip with an intern to the Correllus State Forest, we came across several large colonies growing along a fire lane amidst typical sandplain flora. This dry site is distinctly atypical habitat for steeplebush—none of its usual moisture-loving cohorts, swamp milkweed, blue flag or cardinal flower nearby. The stocky spirea plants were, nonetheless, growing vigorously despite the regular mowing

... 2005



• First overseas plant collection expedition to Japan

... 2006



• Curator Tom Clark hired



• Greenhouse completed



Steeplebush frequently grows in open, damp meadows together with coastal joe-pye weed (shown here).

these wide swaths undergo. Perhaps they discovered some pockets of clay left by the glaciers that laid down the Island's soils and sculpted its landscape.

This tolerance for a variety of situations coupled with its compact habit and pretty summer bloom present a perplexing question: Why is steeplebush all but absent

from our cultivated landscapes? In some cases such plants are difficult to propagate or slow to grow, but neither condition holds true for steeplebush. Seed germinates easily and prolifically, cuttings root readily, and plants grow quickly.

In an effort to augment the native plants in the Arboretum's living collection,

cuttings collected in 2011 grew into plants that now comprise a small drift adjacent to the Visitor Center along the sitting wall. Use your power of imagination and visualize the future: a billowing mass of dusky pink spires peering over the low stone wall. And while you're at it, envision this spirea in your home garden.

April 25, 2007

... 2007

... 2008

.....▶



- Polly Hill passes at age 100



- Fall collection trips to Japan and southeast U.S.

- Seeds for the Future capital campaign begins



- Cedar Tree Foundation establishes matching grant

- Bower rebuilt

Clematis 'Gabrielle' – A Story by Brewster Rogerson

I first heard of Polly Hill, her plant collection, and *Clematis* 'Gabrielle' from the garden writer and photographer Pamela Harper. On a picture-taking tour in 1978 she visited the garden and amidst all the plants found two intriguing clematis. Neither bore a strong resemblance to the older clematis nearby, but both seemed to be hardy and promising vines worthy of cultivation.

Pam (knowing me a student of clematis) sent me slides of the beautiful, mysterious clematis labeled 'Gabrielle' and 'Starfish'. At her suggestion I wrote to Mrs. Hill hoping to hear anything she might have to say about the plants. That letter led to a five-year correspondence and an involvement in a project I hadn't expected, but thoroughly enjoyed.

In early 1982 I was brave enough to ask Polly if she would send me wood of 'Gabrielle' so I could take a cutting or two. It was a propitious time to ask. Polly had been facing discouragement in her attempts to get the clematis introduced to the trade. Two leading growers had advised her that 'Gabrielle'—lovely as it was—did not meet the classic standard for large-flowered hybrid clematis. Its flowers were gappy. (Horrors!) As a result of this perceived flaw, they were not eager to consider it.

This negative prognosis didn't suit Polly Hill, so it is no wonder she saw an opportunity in my request. In mid-June she sent me a large parcel containing two long

strands of 'Gabrielle' in ideal condition. A few days later I reported that her gift had yielded an astonishing 24 cuttings. (The 'Starfish' she included was not viable.)



The bower at its peak with *Clematis* 'Gabrielle' in 1987

Nearly two months passed before I ventured to dig one up and inspect the roots. I was able to tell Polly that rooting had begun. In fact, all of the cuttings

had rooted! She only asked for six. It was too great a risk to send such precious infants bareroot across the country. We felt obliged to give them more time, and it was December when I packed eight plants into a Styrofoam box and sent them off from Oregon to Martha's Vineyard.

During our wait I had learned about a certain bower that was in the planning stages. I knew Polly was intending to use 'Gabrielle' to decorate the structure. In October of 1984 she sent me a photograph of the completed bower with 'Gabrielle' in place. There had always been a playful note in our references to the bower, and now I could see why. Anyone who knows Harry Lauder's walking stick (the real thing or the shrub named after it!) would be amused. 'Gabrielle' was a perfect fit.

I lost my remaining specimens due to powdery mildew; regrettably my experiment with 'Gabrielle' was through. But Polly did not give up. Ultimately she persuaded Steffen's Clematis Nursery to take it on and despite difficulty with propagation they did add it to their list. I don't know how many they distributed, but the crucial fact is when Steffen's closed down in 1993, *Clematis* 'Gabrielle' seemingly vanished from the trade.

I'm obliged to say that the 'Gabrielle' now offered by some nurseries here and abroad is not the one that I worked with in the 1980s; not the one we can still see in Pamela Harper's pictures. I hope the origi-

... 2008



• Cowbarn renovated

• Collections management internship started

2005-16 A Thea
Stewartia rostrata
Plant - 2005
G - Roslyn Nursery
Beaked Stewartia

• Stanley Smith grant awarded for purchase of laser engraver for plant labels

... 2009



• Littlefield Maintenance Building completed

• Campaign endowment goal reached

• New nursery opened



Clematis 'Gabrielle' showing characteristic gaps between tepals

Bill Wallace

Bill Wallace likes plants and people. He likes to walk and he likes to talk. And he likes paying attention to plants. These are the perfect qualifications for a PHA docent tour guide! Here at the Arboretum Bill gets to enjoy all these things. Through his weekly tours, given free to the public, Bill generously shares information about plants and about the place.

An enthusiastic guide he finds telling stories about how people use plants helps to focus visitors and pique their interest. Bill notes "plants connect you to other things, science, and history, and even more people." His favorite tours, "the absolute best," are when knowledgeable gardeners are part of the group. He loves to watch their amazement at what they see surrounding them.

Bill has been giving tours for almost five years now, but his connection to the Arboretum goes back to his Homestead caretaking days in the 1980s. He found Polly and Julian to be delightful. His favorite story is when they came to the Island off-season for Polly's 80th birthday, January of 1987. Bill told Polly how very impressed he was that there was something blooming on the grounds every month, well, excepting January. Polly walked away without a word, but a few days later she invited him into the Cowbarn where blooming branches were displayed on the dining room table.



Volunteer Bill Wallace

Polly turned to him, arms crossed, smiling, and exclaimed, "*Hamamelis vernalis*, the Ozark witch hazel, flowers in January!"

His favorite tree varies with the season; year round he appreciates the history of the cedar of Lebanon and the ancient lineage of the dawn redwood. But Bill also enjoys the seasonality. Witch hazels may not look like much in the summer, but when they are blooming in the winter, it's "really exciting."

With a philosophical outlook, Bill says the Arboretum is not just a window into the natural world, but a collection of doorways where he can open his mind and look closely. He finds it never the same, even twice in one day. He feels PHA is a tool meant to be used as a resource and he urges everyone to visit often and to become a member.

We are pleased to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable tour guide and advocate. The next time you visit, look for Bill. He can be found here year-round walking, talking, and "paying attention." To learn more about becoming a PHA volunteer, contact Nancy Weaver at 508-693-9426.

nal 'Gabrielle' can be found. At the very least, I hope this will not be the endnote in its history.

Brewster Rogerson is a retired English professor with a longstanding passion for clematis. He amassed an amazing collection that now forms the foundation of the eponymous public garden The Rogerson Clematis Collection in Lake Oswego, Oregon. We are grateful to Brewster for sharing his story.

... 2010



- Library named for Stephen A. Sponberg
- Joan Smith appointed chairman of the Board

... 2011



- Far Barn rehabilitation complete
- Additional 2 acres added to grounds on south border
- *Meristems* receives American public garden publications award

... 2012



- Frank and Lisina Hoch annual lecture established

THE POLLY HILL ARBORETUM

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 561
West Tisbury, MA 02575

508-693-9426 Tel
508-693-5772 Fax
www.pollyhillarboretum.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Homestead
809 State Road
West Tisbury, MA 02575

VISITOR CENTER

795 State Road
West Tisbury, MA 02575

ACCESSIBILITY

The Visitor Center is
wheelchair accessible.

VISITOR CENTER HOURS

Memorial Day weekend to
Columbus Day: 9:30 am–4 pm

ARBORETUM GROUNDS HOURS

Sunrise–sunset, year-round

TOURS

Memorial Day weekend through
Columbus Day: 10 am daily

ADMISSION

\$5 suggested donation
Free to members and children under 12

FREE PARKING

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

See www.pollyhillarboretum.org

mer.i.stem: *n. botany.* The growing
point or area of rapidly dividing cells
at the tip of a stem, root, or branch.



THE POLLY HILL ARBORETUM

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West Tisbury, MA 02575

www.pollyhillarboretum.org

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THEN & NOW

Visitor Center

In 1996 when conservationist Dr. David H. Smith met gardener Polly Hill, he became determined to adapt her private arboretum into a public garden for the enjoyment of all. The transition included creating amenities to accommodate daily visitors. David had an ambitious vision for a visitor center—a small but spacious building that would mesh with the existing garden and surrounding woodlands; a building that would bring the outside in. Thompson & Rose Architects designed the build-



1998

ing and the attached pergola to heighten the visitor's relationship with the site. The design includes skylights, windows, wood, and stone. The building was sited, designed, and constructed to protect the nearby trees and disturb as little of the adjoining area as possible.



2012

In 1998 the new Visitor Center was completed, just in time for opening day. Today

this remarkable building continues to welcome and orient Arboretum visitors.

... 2012



• Stanley Smith grant awarded for renovation of Polly's Play Pen

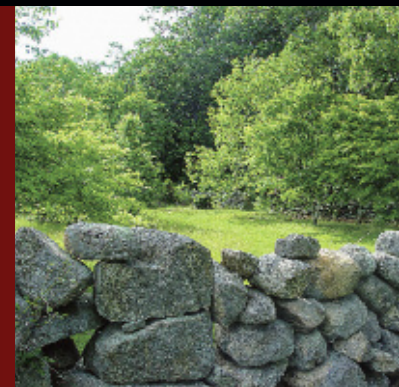
... 2013



• Littlefield house renovation complete



• Solar panels added to Littlefield Maintenance Building



• PHA marks 15th year as public garden!