

In place of our annual fall appeal, I write this year asking you to become involved with a project very close to my heart; an exciting project that honors our origins and expands our mission.

As many of you know, PHA would not exist without the vision of our co-founder, Dr. David Smith. Dr. Smith, a pioneering medical researcher, believed in the power of science and individuals to change the world. His belief in Polly's scientific approach to growing trees led to the acquisition of the land, the building of our Visitor Center, the renovation of the Homestead, and the formation of our board of directors.

The Polly Hill Arboretum opened to the public in 1998 and our subsequent growth has been inspired by David's energetic belief that our organization have a pivotal role in education and conservation on Martha's Vineyard and beyond. David's wife, Joan Smith, has served on our board of directors since David's passing in 1999. Her dedication to his vision has led to on-going support for our landscape, programs, and people.

On to the amazing news! PHA has recently received a \$500,000 matching gift from the Cedar Tree Foundation, the family foundation of Dr. Smith. This grant supports our most important scientific and educational building project to date: a year-round classroom facility including a botany laboratory and herbarium.

I invite you to make a contribution to this project (described in more detail in the accompanying brochure) as symbol of your appreciation for PHA and specifically to honor the contributions of David Smith, Joan Smith, and the Cedar Tree Foundation. The impact of your gift will be doubled as all funds raised will be matched 1:1 by the Cedar Tree Foundation. Our target goal is \$400,000. Thus far nearly 25% of the funds have been raised!

Donors to this new facility will receive name recognition in our new classroom facility if they so desire. The Arboretum is poised to expand our mission to a wider audience, our impact growing stronger and stronger each year. Please call me if you have any questions about this exciting project. I am grateful for this opportunity to make our dreams come true and thankful for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Boland