

November 28, 2023

Dear Friends and Members of PHA,

Through our annual fall appeal, we are asking for you to support our work at the Polly Hill Arboretum and in our community. We celebrated our 25th anniversary as a public garden this year. Our steady, quality growth is the direct result of your ongoing belief in our mission. This annual appeal directly supports our programming for 2024.

The board, staff, and our wonderful volunteers made significant progress in the following programmatic areas this year: **Education; Visitor Services and Volunteerism; Collections and Plant Conservation; and Staff Housing.** See side two for more!



From left to right: School field trips resume at PHA. Endangered orchid rediscovered on Martha's Vineyard. Staff housing opens!

After facing staff shortages exacerbated by COVID-19, we welcomed **three full-time employees and three interns to PHA** this past year. This infusion of new energy was instrumental in re-engaging our members and visitors and the return of **hosting lectures**, **workshops**, **family programs**, **and school tours**. In addition, we were able to conduct important **plant conservation projects** both near and far. These include exciting strides in botany—**finding new populations of a globally rare tree found only on Martha's Vineyard** and monitoring an endangered orchid rediscovered on Island conservation property. Staff also participated in **two seed-collecting expeditions:** one for a rare oak in the southeastern U.S. and another for conifer trees in northern California.

2023 brought the completion of a significant initiative for PHA. **The construction of two staff houses** on our property was a major milestone! Many of you joined us in support of this effort. We thank you for being there for this critical infrastructure project that allows us to attract and retain qualified staff now and into the future.

While this year had its challenges, it has also brought remarkable accomplishments. In the not-for-profit world, raising funds is a challenge. This appeal is our principal mechanism to fund the work illustrated in the enclosed pages. **We hope you take joy in our accomplishments knowing they are made possible by your continued support.** On behalf of PHA's staff and board, thank you so much!

With gratitude,

Lemothy M. Bland

Tim Boland Executive Director

Emily Ellingson Curator / Assistant Director





25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A high-season celebration took place on a beautiful August Saturday with staff and board members, volunteers, members, and guests enjoying food trucks, live music, tours and lawn games. It was a time to graciously reflect and look forward with excitement to the next 25 years!

"Three generations of our family had so much fun!!! Great music, food, dancing and of course, all in the perfect setting." — Attendee

EDUCATION & VOLUNTEERS

The full offering of in-person programming resumed in 2023; lectures and workshops, youth education field trips and family activities, tours and internships! World renowned speakers including Teresa Speight *(left)* and Michael Dosmann were among many professionals who lectured at PHA this year.

Volunteers remain a treasured and integral asset to the spirit of the Arboretum. Volunteers support the greenhouse, grounds *(right)*, education programs, herbarium, tours and Visitor Center.

COLLECTIONS & PLANT CONSERVATION

PHA staff participate in collecting trips to acquire seeds for the living collection, native plant production and to participate in global conservation efforts. These seeds are either planted and grown at PHA or shared with other botanical institutions. *(left)*

The Arboretum works with expert botanists to understand what is growing on Martha's Vineyard in an effort to publish a modern Flora of Dukes County and to understand species distribution. *(right)*



STAFF HOUSING

In late June, the Arboretum and island community celebrated the establishment of two new staff houses, the first of which from ground breaking to completion took less than a year!

Project Manager Tucker Hubbell, Board President Selena Roman and Executive Director Tim Boland give celebratory remarks for the achievement. *(right)*



