



ARBORETUM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

H A V E R F O R D C O L L E G E

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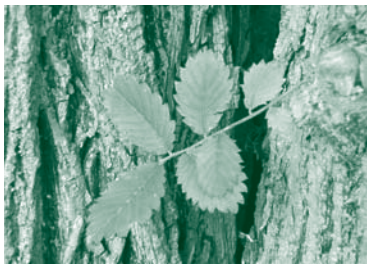
AN UNUSUAL STATE CHAMPION

Hemiptelea davidii, Hemiptelea or Ci yu shu (Chinese)

by William Astifan, Arboretum Director

H*emiptelea davidii*, commonly known as Hemiptelea, is a member of the Elm family, *Ulmaceae*, which is why this tree bears strong resemblances to the elm and zelkova. A native of northeast China and Korea, this tree is very different in many ways but most notable is its smaller size. We discovered a few years ago that our tree seems much larger than the references describe. So we had it measured to see if it would qualify as a state champion. A Pennsylvania State Champion Tree is one that has been measured for height, circumference and spread of the crown. Points are given for each measurement; the tree with the most points becomes the champion. It won! When I write about a state champion it is usually to talk about a tree that is familiar. Conversely, this tree is one of those rare trees that does not appear in the landscape trade, and on the odd occasion it is found in a garden.

Our specimen does not match the size description: a small shrubby, much-branched tree. This champion



seems to like its low-lying location near the Duck Pond because at over 43 feet tall it surpasses all references' heights by 20 or more feet. Not much has been written on this monotypic genus (having only one species). The

genus name gives some insight into the tree's background. It's named *hemi* from the Greek meaning half and *ptelea*, an ancient name for the elm. Both allude to the unusual shape of the wings on the seeds.

The bark is dark gray to grayish brown fissuring on the mature plant. The young stout branches typically have spines that are 3/4" to 2 inches long. The leaves are much smaller than those of the elm or zelkova but look very similar. The 1 to 2-inch long leaves are arranged alternately along the twig, and very short-stalked, elliptic-oblong, and coarsely toothed (serrate), with 8 to 12 pairs of parallel

veins angling from their mid-ribs. Unlike other trees in the family, the fruit is stalked which is a characteristic all of its own. The fruit is a small one-sided nut with an asymmetrical wing, making it very interesting to look at.

The uses in the landscape are dictated by its habit. It is a deciduous shrub to a small tree scarcely over 10 feet tall. In its native China and Korea, this species is favored for hedges because it is very densely branched. This dense stout matting has small (3/4" to 2 inches long) but very menacing thorns. It is not too particular about type of soil, does well in light woodland shade, but does require moist soil. The wood does not have much commercial use; however, since the wood is hard, it is used for making utensils.

The college is fortunate to have a fine specimen tree. This is mainly attributed to its location next to the pond toward the 10 Railroad Avenue parking lot. It is in a low, wet area and has light woodland cover. It had not seeded itself in and therefore is not forming any kind of thicket at the base. As a specimen tree it is really very handsome and worthy of the title Pennsylvania State Champion!



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Spring has come and gone with the staff picking up the pace to get everything ready for another very successful outdoor commencement May 18. With all the last-minute touches in place, the ceremony turned out to be another wonderful event on Lloyd/Roberts Green. As I spent time checking preparations, I must say I was impressed by how the plantings are flourishing. What an impact! The area is not overly done but simply stated with elegance.

A spring project that has been a delight is the development of a Peace Garden. (See related article.) It involved many students and staff volunteering their time to help plant. Speaking of volunteering, I welcome Nancy Kenepp, our newest volunteer. Nancy has been working with Carol Wagner to maintain the Asian and Teaf Gardens. She joins Gillian Weidorn, Cissy Barrows and Agnes Moncy who work very hard to maintain the Hilles and Smith/Magill Gardens. If you would like to join our Tuesday morning volunteer crew, please call the office.

Gifts to the Arboretum have funded two major installations. Ten spruce and fir trees have been planted in the Pinetum, and a lilac collection was laid out by Founders Hall. Both will add not only beauty to the campus, but bring new opportunities for education. The staff really enjoys using its talents to make these projects happen.

Two walks, a lecture and a garden trip filled our spring schedule. Each one was very successful! I am so thankful for the dedicated staff and volunteers who work so hard to make all this happen. Take a few minutes and look over upcoming fall programs; we have a great lineup of speakers and a spectacular garden trip destination.

So, until the fall, I will be working right along with the staff to make the campus a place that you will want to visit time and time again. See you soon!

*Bill Astifan,
Arboretum Director*

PEACE GARDEN

by Martha Van Artsdalen, Plant Curator

Thanks to graduating senior Jennifer Weitz, a new garden was created on campus this spring. Jen participated in an internship at the Peace Center in Langhorne, PA last summer under the sponsorship of Haverford's Center for Peace and Global Citizenship. There she found a Peace Garden, a place of contemplation centered around a Peace Pole, a monument erected as an international symbol of peace. To date, over 180 countries have gardens with Peace Poles displaying the universal hope "May peace prevail on earth," inscribed in several languages.

Both Jen and Parker Snowe '79, executive director of Haverford's Center for Peace and Global Citizenship, felt that the message of a Peace Garden was a natural fit with the Quaker roots of the college. Thanks to their efforts and the financial support of several donors, Haverford now has its own Peace Garden. Jen and Parker see the garden "as a visible expression of our hopes for peace in the world . . . a reminder for us to work toward this goal in our personal and professional lives."

Horticulturist Carol Wagner designed the garden in a grove of four Norway spruces underplanted with hostas and ferns between Chase Hall and the Dining Center walk. With the help of colleague Mike Startup, she installed a three-part pathway of Tennessee flagstone with a red cedar pole at its center. Cut into the wooden pole are the words, "May peace prevail on earth," in English, Chinese, Swahili and Spanish to represent four of the world's continents.

Under Carol's guidance, students planted additional shading-loving perennials including primulas, native iris, foam flower, coral bells, and columbine. A donated bench allows visitors to sit and reflect under the protective cover of the trees. More plants will be added, as well as a bronze plaque identifying the garden and its significance.

Jen led the garden dedication program April 4, the opening event of Peace Week.

As seasons change, so will the plantings, though the garden's message will remain the same.



Mike Startup and Carol Wagner lay a flagstone footpath through the new Peace Garden.

SPRING PLANTING

by Martha Van Artsdalen, Plant Curator

Spring in the Arboretum, as in all gardens, is a very busy time of cleanup and planting. Very few trees were lost over the winter; staff members have been able to concentrate on new projects to enhance and preserve the natural beauty of the grounds.

Visitors to the center of campus will see the new Peace Garden under a cluster of Norway spruce, *Picea abies*, between Founders Hall, the Dining Center and Chase Hall. Staff horticulturist Carol Wagner worked with student Jen Weitz '08 who approached the Arboretum with the idea of creating a contemplative area focused on a Peace Pole. The shaded area already featured ferns and spring bulbs; Carol designed a flagstone walk and, with the help of students, added many new perennials: the small, yellow *Iris cristata*; the shade-tolerant *Sedum ternatum* 'Larinem Park'; the spiky turtlehead *Chelone glabra*; cultivars of foamflower *Tiarella cordifolia*; the toad lily *Tricyrtis formosana* 'Samurai' and several cultivars of coral bells, *Heuchera*.

Nearby, two mature lilacs, *Syringa vulgaris*, growing against the cream-colored walls of Gest inspired Carol to install an expanded collection of this spring-blooming shrub. Among her selections were *Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim', a dense plant with fragrant purple flowers; *Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin', a heavy pink bloomer with no mildew problems; and the large Japanese tree-form lilac *Syringa reticulata* which bears mildly fragrant white flowers.

Major conifers have been planted in the Pinetum as a result of a gift to the Arboretum. In recent years the staff has concentrated on adding young, as well as unusual trees to this area of mature specimens. We were able to acquire several trees not represented in the collection: the Algerian fir, *Abies numidica*; the Purple-coned spruce *Picea purpurea*; and the Sargent spruce, *Picea brachytyla*. Horticulturist Charlie Jenkins also added young examples of the Tiger Tail spruce, *Picea polita*, by the group of mature trees in the Pinetum.

Another gift has allowed the Arboretum to add native trees and shrubs along the Haverford Road section of the Nature Trail: redbuds, *Cercis canadensis*; dogwoods, *Cornus florida*; serviceberries, *Amelanchier arborea*; sourwood, *Oxydendrum arboreum*; sassafras, *Sassafras albidum*; tulip trees, *Liriodendron tulipifera*; and shingle oaks, *Quercus acutissima* were planted along with the shrubs witchhazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, and arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum*.

One of the more unusual trees now on campus is the Wheel tree, *Trochodendron aralioides*. Horticulturist Mike Startup planted this somewhat borderline-hardy tree in a sheltered area behind the Ira DeA. Reid House. Walk up the Gardner Athletic Center sidewalk from the large visitors' parking lot and you will see it behind a row of

conifers on your right. Continue up the sidewalk and you'll see more of Mike's work — he has completed the major portion of landscaping this new building with hundreds of shrubs to give multi-seasonal interest: *Cornus* 'Midwinter Fire,' *Abelia* 'Little Richard', *Amsonia hubrichtii* and *Rosa* 'Knockout.' The approach to the Denis Asian Garden has been enhanced by the gift of a mature cut-leaf Japanese maple. The tree was hand-dug from a nearby property; it was encroaching on a neighbor's yard and the owner feared for its future.

Perennial plugs planted out this spring number well over one thousand. A gift of four new hellebore cultivars — Snow Bunting, Green Heron, Gold Finch and Kingston Cardinal — will brighten the campus early next year. In addition, the lady fern *Athyrium filix-femina* was planted along the Railroad Avenue embankment as a service project by student athletes.

And, in celebration of the college's 109th observance of Arbor Day, the Arboretum welcomed association members and college staff for the planting of a Pin oak, *Quercus palustris*, near the Carvill Arch on Arbor Day, April 25, 2008.



GOING GREEN ON ARBOR DAY

Arboretum Director Bill Astifan opened the college's 109th observance of Arbor Day April 25 with the introduction of an electric-assist bicycle, part of the motor pool's efforts to cut down on gasoline consumption. Staff, students and members of the College Arboretum Association came out on a beautiful spring day for the planting of a Pin oak, *Quercus palustris*, on the lawn between Stokes Hall and the Carvill Arch.

AN ANNIVERSARY IN THE ARBORETUM

by Martha Van Artsdalen, Plant Curator

Carol Wagner is a familiar face to many Arboretum Association members who come to campus for a lecture or walking tour, sign up for the annual dinner or travel on a spring or fall gardens trip. As staff horticulturist, she's responsible for planting beds around Founders Hall and the surrounding classroom buildings and dorms.

As a 20-year veteran of the Arboretum staff, she knows how to handle decorating the Great Hall for a special program, how to measure the thickness of the ice on the Duck Pond, how to care for the 1915 Penn Treaty Elm on Barclay Beach, how to rake the gravel around the whale's tail and the turtle rocks in the Teaf Japanese Garden and how to select the right plants so there will beautiful color greeting parents on Commencement Day and returning alums on Alumni Weekend.

Her arrival at Haverford on February 22, 1988, marked a turning point in the professional care of the college plantings. In the intervening years and with the addition of fellow horticulturists to the staff, she has learned how the seasons move through the campus, and she has absorbed its nearly two centuries of history. And Carol has enjoyed learning and sharing that history. "After 20 years, you feel quite an attachment to the place."

There have been many physical changes to the campus, of course, but Carol says what hasn't changed over the years is the friendliness of everyone. "The camaraderie of the staff and students has been marvelous throughout. The students appreciate the landscape whether they tell us or not."

Student Arboretum worker Graeme Harcourt '09 agrees. "The constant background of the campus sets an environment for students that they don't even realize." He calls Carol "a transmitter of history that she shares with students. She helps make the campus."

The students she works with throughout the year become Carol's friends and she sees some of them from time to time when they come back to campus. She calls working with her a training course because, "When they have their own place they'll have an idea of what to do and they're not totally lost."

Over the years, Carol has worked with many students and staff on the "rituals" like Arbor Day in the spring and the plant and student T-shirt sales in the fall. And she's worked with many "great" volunteers in the Teaf, Denis and the Smith Magill Gardens. Today's Hilles perennial garden was just lawn when she arrived and the original beds were much smaller. "It's blossomed into something so much bigger now," she deadpans.

Carol was the first staff member, after then-colleague Daniel Kisiel, to have any horticultural training. Carol



Photo by Mike Startup

A 20-year veteran of the Arboretum staff, Carol Wagner enjoys working with both students and staff as she perpetuates the beauty and history in Haverford's landscape.

earned her undergraduate degree in geology at Temple University and then graduated from the Professional Gardening Program at Longwood Gardens.

"One of the neatest things I've been involved with was working with Hiroshi Makita on the design and planting of the Teaf Japanese Garden. I learned interesting planting techniques. One is to place the plant in the hole, then water it well before filling in the soil. That way you already have water down at the root system where it needs it most."

She's worked on the design and original planting plan for the Whitehead Campus Center (built in 1993); the Mattes and Asian gardens; the wooded trail to the college apartments; Founders Courtyard and renovations to Chase, Lloyd, Stokes and Roberts Hall and Comfort dorm. "I've seen a lot of buildings moved to different locations, roads picked up and moved to different locations, trees picked up and moved to different locations. . . ."

She's also seen a lot of trees grow and others die.

"The *Calocedrus decurrens* (California incense cedar) was a 5-foot squirt when I planted him. Now he's above the roof of Gest. It's neat to watch plants grow, and neat as well to see what doesn't work."

(continued on page 5)

OAK LOSES LIMB

by Martha Van Artsdalen, Plant Curator

Early morning winds March 20 brought down a century-old limb on the White oak, *Quercus alba*, next to the track and Walton Field. The downed limb left a huge wound in the tree and severely damaged three student cars.

Because the oak grew out in the open, rather than in a forest landscape, it developed unusually large lower limbs that were able to grow laterally, not more upright toward the sun. A ring count on the limb shows approximately 110 years of growth, so we estimate the oak easily dates back to the original campus planting done in 1834. The tree is featured on our self-guided walking tour brochure as stop #12.

A resistograph test to determine the quality of the tree's interior wood shows no signs of interior decay. For the test, a thin metal needle was inserted, and electrical waves, much like those of an electrocardiogram, recorded resistance of the needle as it met the interior wood. Our tree contractor has traced out the wound area, and we expect the tree to fully recover. We will continue to monitor the oak's health.



Photo by Bill Astifan

Despite losing a major limb this March, the White oak, *Quercus alba*, is healthy and will remain in place beside the athletic track.

Come Dig in the Dirt!

The Haverford College Arboretum is much more than a collection of labeled trees.

When spring arrives in the Hilles Courtyard garden, each day brings a new perennial poking through the soil. As summer's heat settles in, the cool corners of the Smith-Magill Garden by the Carvill Arch are wonderful. Fall brings handsome colors to the Denis Asian and the Teaf Gardens. On a blustery, winter's day, the best place to be is often inside the greenhouse.

Come join the horticulturists and enjoy the changing seasons in the Arboretum by becoming a volunteer. You'll receive direction from our staff horticulturists and learn a lot about plants while helping to maintain the beauty of the campus.

Volunteers work Tuesday mornings in the gardens or greenhouse. Come out and enjoy the company of fellow Arboretum members.

***Call the Arboretum Office
at 610.896.1101 for more information.***

AN ANNIVERSARY IN THE ARBORETUM

(continued from page 4)

Another favorite tree is the *Quercus alba* (White oak) on Founders Green between Magill Library and Hall Building because it was planted on Arbor Day 1992 when she was the featured speaker. "I keep an eye on that one." Earth Day 1990 saw the massive planting of 100 bare root saplings. "They came in just plant and roots, no dirt. We put Okame cherries and Redbuds on the Nature Trail and several *Metasequoias* (Dawn redwoods) by the upper pond."

But there have been major tree losses, too. The biggest, in Carol's mind, was the five original Sugar maples planted by William Carvill on College Lane. "That's what hurts the most. A piece of history that nobody else has is gone."

Carol's one big goal for the Arboretum is to replant a section of the serpentine walk — actually a muddy track — from Carvill's original 1834 landscape plan. It ran from where Ryan Gym is today in a meandering direction toward Woodside Cottage. Both sides were planted with alternating trees and shrubs. "I still want to do that."

"I've loved the support I've gotten over the years at Haverford," Carol says. "In high school I was sort of shy. Now, I feel like I'm in 'Cheers;' everybody seems to know my name. It's also neat to be able to go through with an idea, have it approved and then see it planted out in the landscape.

"William Carvill, look out."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 10 • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fall Gardens Trip

Gardens of Felicita, Harrisburg
Members \$80; Non-members \$90

The 35-acre private gardens of Richard and Alice Angino will be open for Arboretum members and friends. What was once an abandoned farm in 1972 is now a series of garden landscapes with specialized themes including Japanese, Alpine, Italian, dwarf conifers and tropical plants. Several gardens were designed by landscape architect Harriet Henderson, who laid out the Denis Asian Garden at Haverford. Fall will bring out the beauty of the sculpted evergreens, Japanese maples, ornamental grasses and the rock and water features.

Thursday, September 25

Annual Gala Evening

Founders Great Hall
Guest speaker Bill Thomas, director of
Chanticleer, A Pleasure Garden

Business meeting 6:30 p.m., Dinner 7 p.m.
(Campus Walk 5 p.m., Reception 6 p.m.)

Members and Non-members \$35

This is always a delightful evening to hear about the year's activities in the Arboretum and catch up with fellow members. The campus will be splendid in the colors of early fall. Invite a friend and enjoy a guided walk of the new Peace Garden before a reception and short business meeting. Sit down to dinner in the elegant Great Hall of Founders where generations of Haverfordians shared their meals with faculty — and had more than one food fight. Then enjoy a presentation by our guest speaker, Chanticleer Director Bill Thomas.

Nearby Chanticleer is a pleasure garden that displays the beauty in the art of horticulture. The staff creates wonderful landscapes by blending plants, whimsical furniture, unusual sculpture and garden structures. Bill Thomas will give highlights of the ever-changing acres of display beds, ponds, woodlands, container plantings and, of course, the contemporary ruin.

Sunday, October 5 • 1:30 p.m.

Fall Walk

“Fall Color in the Landscape”
Meet in front of Whitehead Campus Center

Free admission

Staff horticulturists will lead a walk through campus and discuss trees, shrubs and perennials best suited for fall color in the landscape.

Sunday, November 9 • 2 p.m.

Fall Lecture

Michael Petrie on “The Artist’s Garden”
Owner, Handmade Gardens, Downingtown

Sharpless Auditorium • Free admission

Michael Petrie is an artist who uses plants like paint. You've seen his work at the Philadelphia Flower Show: tumbling terracotta pots, cascades of tools, Jurassic Park dinosaurs, pathways of pussy willows, a giant green nature man. He recently left the post of vice president at J. Franklin Styers Nurseries and has opened Handmade Gardens, his own retail plant and landscape design business. Michael will share his design thought process in this lecture jointly sponsored with the Hardy Plant Society, Mid-Atlantic Chapter and the Henry Foundation for Botanical Research.



Photo by Mike Startup

A CLOSER LOOK . . .

A young Daybreak magnolia opens its pink petals on a warm spring day behind Hall Building.



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ARBORETUM
ASSOCIATION

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