



# HAVERFORD COLLEGE ARBORETUM ASSOCIATION

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## R & R: REPLANTING AND REVITALIZATION

By Claudia Kent, Arboretum Director

**T**he Haverford College Arboretum mission states: *The mission of the Arboretum is to preserve the stately historic trees on campus and to perpetuate the Republican design set forth by William Carvill in 1834. In carrying out this mission, it is our responsibility to maintain and build upon the diversity of the tree collection, as well as to enhance the study of this history by bringing a better understanding of it to all who visit Haverford College.*

During the last few months, I've been thinking that our mission may be two-fold. The tree assessment completed last summer sharply brought into focus our duty not only to maintain our historical landscape but also our ecological one. We need to plant trees, many of them, and soon. Arboretum policy states for every one tree removed, two are to be planted to take its place. Considering the assessment stated that 406 trees needed to be removed campus wide, that's a challenging goal of over 800 trees.

Hand in hand with the risk assessment was the development of the Tree Replanting and Revitalization Project. This will be a multi-faceted program that will extend over the next ten years. In the center campus, we will be replacing whatever we remove, faithfully keeping with Carvill's original landscape plan. Most of these trees will have a trunk diameter of two to three inches, with the exception of replacements on Founders and Lloyd Greens which will receive larger specimens.

The Revitalization Project will also address outlying and woodland areas. Standing at the main gate on Lancaster Avenue, it's hard to believe that we live in what's referred to as the Eastern Deciduous Forest. For thousands of years, our landscape was dominated by oaks, hickories, and beeches. Agriculture, the timber industry, and urban expansion have permanently changed our environment. In an effort to restore and maintain our tree canopy, part of the Revitalization will include planting our outlying areas with smaller native trees, or whips. Volunteer planting days for these areas will continue under our Program Coordinator, Dan Larkins. In 2017, we had two Nature Trail volunteer events during which we planted 116 trees. Combined with the 37 planted in the center of campus, these new trees brought our total to 153 trees campus wide. Both the campus and the outside community will be encouraged to participate in upcoming planting events.

When designing this Revitalization, we felt that, as an arboretum, we needed to include as much of the community as possible. In spring 2018, we will be partnering with Friends School Haverford to create a plant nursery in the community garden area. Young students will plant a small tree and be responsible for its care. Eventually, they will have the opportunity to plant the trees on campus. Joint projects with local high schools are also planned. Harriton High School joined us last fall to help plant along the Nature Trail and we expect this relationship to continue.

E-Haus (environmental), Nerd House, Queer House, and the baseball and cross country residences are all student themed or sports-based housing. Each is surrounded by green space with plenty of room for trees. We plan to host social events in these areas and encourage students to come out and plant as part of the Revitalization. We will also encourage faculty. Almost 70 percent of our faculty live on campus, many with young children. Areas around faculty housing provide an ample opportunity to help replant the campus' canopy. It will also give faculty children an opportunity to grow with the trees they've planted.

Additionally, in 2018, Earth Day and Arbor Day fall in the same week. We will be encouraging all faculty and staff to come out and help reforest our landscape. Each day during that week, the Arboretum will pick a different location for plantings.

We have a daunting task ahead of us. As current caretakers of the Arboretum, we have a responsibility to stay true to Carvill's original landscape plan, but also to be mindful of our natural environment. Over the coming years we hope to accomplish both.



Photo by Holden Blanco '17

***Fagus grandifolia*, American beech. The distinctive smooth gray bark of the native beech makes it easy to identify in the landscape.**

## FROM DAN'S DESK *By Dan Larkins, Program Coordinator*



I put down my book, get off the train, and walk to work under the canopy of the nature trail, through Founders Green, or past the Duck Pond's morning reflections of sycamore, silver maple, and willow. Sometimes, I'll take the time for all three paths.

This walk has taught me a lot.

I stop walking at the soft, plaintive call of a downy woodpecker in the brambly Cornelian Cherry, *Cornus mas*, at the top of the hill. The sound, every fifteen seconds or so, brings one's eye to the exposed phloem of the bark. Notice the strip of lighter bark holding artfully sequenced holes. About five species of woodpeckers make this arboretum their home, and they are most easily spotted before the new leaves grow. It's not breeding season — she is feeding for herself. She lacks the red crest of the male and is clearly smaller than the almost identical hairy woodpecker.

Why does she call at all? That I don't know.

A walk's repetitive nature affords one the chance to correlate bird appearance to sound and vice versa. You step foot in the web of the senses.

The writer Jim Harrison said he'd search and find thickets, both real and figurative, where he could hide away for a while, find nature and escape and meaning, a place to look out from and not be seen. His recurring character Brown Dog finds a thicket at an Upper Peninsula roadhouse, standing in the snow in shirtsleeves, or in the chair by the window of his cabin. We are all different. Such thickets exist for me in the meadows, among the tall pines, and behind the pond where the ducks haven't seen you yet.

In his poem "Patagonia," Harrison writes about finding such a place and also what one can find out about oneself when there:

*... To wander in the moonlight  
when the earth achieves its proper shape, to rest looking  
out through a tangle of branches at a daylight  
world that I can't see back in at this animal shape.*

It's been hard for me to find a wiser, more Whitmanesque writer who shockingly and soulfully explores aging and life's changes.

Getting closer to work now, a small stand of bamboo serves as a popular thicket for the fictional-sounding ruby-crowned kinglets, catbirds, and tufted titmice. To borrow from Harrison's idea, this is one of my thickets, where I slow my walk, if not stop altogether. At first when I would stop, I'd feel the inertia, like I'd braked too hard heading down the E-Z Pass lane, only to remember, I don't have E-Z Pass. I have to stop and pay the toll.

Sound can teach us, and inform our next walk. The severe sound of the pond ice melting, felt in the temples and the tibias, reminds us of our standing.

The screech of the squirrel — like the alarm call of the blue jay and the surprisingly feeble cry of the resident

Cooper's Hawk — defies its size. To learn and to be surprised are almost synonymous. There's also humility in learning. Taking a class is an experience and statement of, "I don't know this yet, but I will."

People don't often think like this. We think of learning as costly (how many credits can I afford?), time-consuming, or a way to show off. Credentials and degrees bring out strong emotions. But isn't sitting in the thicket, like leaning forward at a classroom desk, a most modest endeavor?

Maybe this is simplistic. "Ah, learning is good." We're all taught that.

But as for further proof, consider the arrogant, self-important self-proclaimed geniuses of the world. Aren't they the most likely to not want to learn? Learning is past tense for some, and future tense for others.

Humility and curiosity go hand in hand. My grandmother, whose family couldn't afford to get her shoes, had to stop going to school in 8th grade. She married an orphan turned war photographer, found a love in literature, and could debate Catherine Earnshaw, Jane Eyre, or the Gospels with any English major.

Let's add curiosity to our cardinal virtues. Slow down. Even stop. Consider the classroom of your morning walk. The college and arboretum here offer endless opportunities for curiosity.

### *A Closer Look . . .*



*Take a look at the snowdrops sprouting,  
beautiful from all angles.*

Photo by Michael Startup



## GOOD PERSON, GOOD PLANTS

By Michael Startup, Horticulturist

**M**artha J. Van Artsdalen came to the Arboretum fifteen years ago, initially as a greenhouse volunteer, and then in a newly created position, Plant Curator.

Since taking the job, Martha enhanced the newsletter and annual report; created many public documents including brochures, and guide maps; curated a show in Cantor Fitzgerald gallery celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Arboretum; organized the many arboretum members' trips; mapped and catalogued the tree collection with BG-Base and BG-Map technology; attended and represented the arboretum at regional events; kept current the Arboretum status in professional organizations like Arbor Day Foundation, Tree Campus USA, ArbNet, and PA Big Trees; and even authored a book, *Haverford College Arboretum*, published by Arcadia Publishing.

With the retirement of our friend Martha, the Arboretum loses a large parcel of institutional memory. She leaves big shoes to walk in. Dan will now oversee the compiling of the Arboretum Newsletter. Always giving of her time and knowledge Martha will be missed, and now would want us to talk about plants!

In her honor, here are five trees and shrubs that for me, hold a fondness from my early days as a horticulturist. Some of them have emerged from obscurity to become quite a staple in the garden. Others may be known and admired by the plant connoisseur, reaching slowly toward the life-giving light of acceptance in the fast-paced world of mass produced plants you find at the box stores. They are all growing in the Arboretum and showing themselves to be doing just fine.

It may be hard to imagine the *Heptacodium*, seven-son flower, once being new and unique. My first introduction to it was in 1991 as an intern at Longwood Gardens. I purchased my own two years later and planted it at my parents' garden in New York state where it was always a plant to be admired. Unfortunately, it succumbed to a devastating ice storm in 2014. You can now enjoy it on the COOP patio.

My first introduction to *Chimonanthus praecox*, wintersweet, was not at all what one might expect. A leafless and spindly little shrub managed to be all of three feet tall and was certainly passed by most days of the year. It grew next to the nursery office at Longwood and was able to muster a half dozen translucent flowers that stopped me in my tracks on a warmish January day. Wintersweet will grace your garden as warm days are given through February. I look forward to its fragrance here at the Arboretum as well as in my garden.

For many plants bought at a young age, the grueling task of the gardener is waiting for them to flower. This is the case for the remaining three choices. West of Hall Building, *Poliothyrsis sinensis* is a mouthful of Latin and a beautifully visual common name, Chinese pearlbloom. You

may know the next tree by its cousin's name of *Paulownia*, princess tree. *Paulownia kawakamii* was recently added to the collection. The tree has grown extremely fast and for the first time has flower buds. Expect to see the fox glove-like flowers in May. Finally, the newest addition to the collection is quite rare and will take some time to show its attributes. A sibling species to Ironwood, *Parrotia subaequalis*, Chinese ironwood was only recently properly identified by botanists and is very rare in gardens. We will all be watching this youngster grow up on campus. These woodies are worth the wait.

## LOVING TERRARIUMS



Photo by Dan Larkins

*Christopher Vallalta '19 and Christina Szi '18 created beautiful terrariums, including this one with air plants, at our workshop.*

## SERVICE DAY AT HAVERFORD



Photo by Dan Larkins

*Students and staff from Harriton High School on their service day visit to Haverford.*

## FUN FACTS

- 3,700 spring flowering bulbs were planted on campus in the fall of 2017. These included tulip, daffodil, allium, crocus, hyacinth and scilla. You will experience them the second you drive onto campus off Lancaster Avenue, naturalized in lawn, and adorning large containers and flower beds.
- The Arboretum's diversity grew by modest numbers last year. The collection was enhanced by the new additions of 18 new cultivars, 4 new species and 3 new genera.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Forestry gave 3,750 tree saplings to the College in 1925. The young trees included an assortment of pine, ash, locust and maple. Planted to provide a screen along Haverford Road, the trees provide today's greenway and noise reduction zone along the nature trail.

— Michael Startup, Horticulturist

### Arboretum Poetry Contest Winner Spring 2018

#### *I dreamt*

by Marina Kheyfets '21

*Eyelids glued to screens within  
I saw sturdy sequoias standing still 'cept  
for lone leaves landing low  
Rhythmic and with a purpose*

*There was a silent noisiness  
A curious chorus of critters  
with woeful whispers of wind  
Unobtrusive, they belong*

*Squinting eyes tried not to look  
As the sun hung heat from a heightily hill  
bathing all beauty below  
Cleansing it from pains of time*

*I didn't want to awaken  
After finding felicity so fragile and fickle  
that a miniscule misstep might meddle  
But morning called me from trance*

*Dirt underneath became wood floor  
Reality returned me right from rest  
groggy and groaning I grasped to get up  
Wanting sleepy musings back*

*When trudging through morning routine  
Views of voraciously vernal and verdant visions  
entered and enraptured my eager eyes  
Dreamy scenes exist here too*

## MEMORIES OF HAVERFORD COLLEGE: A VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE

By Rich Talone, Arboretum Member and Volunteer

So there I was, four years old, with my brand new Davy Crockett coonskin cap and toy rifle, scouting ahead of the family in the uncharted territory of the Haverford College woods in the mid-1950's. My father, uncle, and younger siblings were in the main party behind me. I don't know what had happened to my older cousins. I was feeling like a true frontiersman, ready for anything, man or beast, coming my way.

All of a sudden, a hellish cacophony of whooping and hollering coming from the trees in front of me! Indians! Holy Smokes, it was the Shawnees my uncle warned me about! Running for my life, back to the group, I noticed that my father and uncle weren't nearly as concerned as I was, which was confusing because we were about to be attacked by these boisterous strangers.

When the joke was revealed, everyone had a good laugh at my expense. A chastened and much more cautious young scout, I don't think I left my father's side for the rest of the day. That is my first memory of the Haverford College campus, and, my near-death experience notwithstanding, it began a love affair which has lasted until now and hopefully for a while longer. Hard to believe it was over 60 years ago.

As we got older, we skated on the Duck Pond in the winter and went to feed the ducks. Every time I drive onto the campus and take the left turn on Coursey Road, I think of Lou Coursey who used to work in the Physical Plant department for many years until his passing in the mid 1960's. A charismatic and hardworking man, who was so well loved at the College they named a road after him, he also worked each evening at my family's dry cleaning store situated about 100 yards east on Lancaster Avenue. In his "spare" time, he also had a landscaping business and cut the grass at our house in Ardmore until we were old enough to do it ourselves. He was a large, strong, man who often had a pipe in his mouth while he worked, and always had a big smile, booming laugh, and heartfelt greeting for whomever he met. From my young vantage point, he embodied a sense of dignity far beyond his station in life, and I feel lucky to have known him.

For the last 20-plus years, I've lived within walking distance of the College, so I've been on the trail a lot more regularly. I've gotten more involved since joining the Arboretum last year. It was great fun helping Dan Larkins carve and set up the pumpkins for the candle-lit night hike last Halloween, and this year's Halloween will be even better, along with all the other activities Dan is planning!

The Arboretum, along with the entire College, is a jewel, and we are so lucky to be able to enjoy it. Thanks to all who make it happen; past, present, and future!



## A WALK THROUGH THE ARBORETUM ONCE AGAIN

By Nicky Rhodes '19, Student Worker

Like many Haverford juniors, I was lucky enough to spend my spring semester abroad. I lived and studied in Copenhagen, and while I enjoyed learning about the novel Scandinavian ideas towards environmental sustainability, I found myself missing Haverford's beautiful campus. That's why, when I returned this past winter, I was so excited to take a walk around the grounds to see what the Arboretum had been up to. And boy, the Arboretum had been busy while I was away!



Photo by Michael Startup

**Carol Wagner and Nicky Rhodes**  
working on VCAM green.

I was first struck by the completion of the beautiful new VCAM building, which I knew originally as Ryan Gym. I was delighted to see that the demolition of the gym's old squash courts opened up the rear space to be a wonderful, airy green lawn, complete with a serpentine walk reminiscent of William Carvill's original 1834 landscaping plan for the college. The new rain gardens and tree plantings are sure to make this a beloved space.

As I moved further north, I came to the massive Magill Library construction site. While it made me feel nostalgic to see this lovely old building hollowed out and covered up for construction, I was so happy that the majestic oak by the entrance had been left undamaged. That is one of my favorite trees on campus. I have many fond memories of sitting underneath it reading, and I am looking forward to doing so again come the completion of the renovations!

Walking east through Founders led me down to the Duck Pond, which glistened and shimmered in its recent post-dredged state. I couldn't help but wonder if the clean water would allow for future first-years to participate once again in the Customs Week traditional "Primal Scream" — although maybe the snapping turtles would be happier without the revival of that event.

The Arboretum and the College are certainly undergoing a lot of change right now, and it is very exciting to be on campus again right in the middle of it all. After a long semester away, going for a walk around the campus brought back many warm memories. It makes me very happy to be back working with the Arboretum, and to feel at home amongst the trees once again.

### THROWBACK



Photo Courtesy of C.C. Morris Cricket Library and Collection

**Thomas Cresson Garret, captain of the 1925**  
cricket team, on Cope Field.

## THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF THE CHEWED-UP TREES

By Carol Wagner, Staff Horticulturist

Haverford's College Lane was formerly known as Maple Avenue, as it was planted with sugar maples, *Acer saccharum*, in the earliest days of the College, possibly by William Carvill himself.

Although most of the sugar maples were all but destroyed by the Great Ice Storm of 1902, five still remained in 1988. But slowly, they, too, disappeared.

In an effort to maintain and restore some of the history of Haverford's landscape, it was decided for the 1994 Arbor Day to re-introduce sugar maples to the College Lane allee.

Not long after the four new Green Mountain sugar maples were planted strips of bark were noticed missing from many of the branches. It appeared strange, especially

since a nearby cluster of five Green Mountain Sugar maples planted in 1979 had absolutely no damage!

Who or what had done this? Black bears and porcupines strip bark (but not at Haverford), beavers and rabbits don't climb trees. So the culprit appears to be **squirrels**. (Actually, we just asked Jim Ward, our consulting arborist!)

Why are squirrels eating our trees? The answers we found are comical . . . pregnant female squirrels reacting to pain (really?); searching for water, food, and nutrients (likely); they just enjoy doing it (haha!) and we may never know (Bingo!).

What we do know is that 23 years after the initial assault, the resulting damage is severe.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*\*Pre-registration required for all events\**

**Saturday, April 7**

### **Botanical Illustration Class:**

#### **Tulips, Spring Bulbs and Flowers**

**10 A.M. – 2 P.M. Facilities Conference Room**

Come and learn botanical illustration with Certified Botanical Illustrator, Marylyn Waltzer. Register online. Using living tulip plants, examine the many varieties of form and structure of the plants through the study of botanical illustration. Learn how to interpret tulips by careful observation of size, shape, texture and color. Learn a number of techniques to draw and paint beautiful live tulips. Draw in graphite, then watercolor or the medium of your choice, for a visual description of a very large and beautiful variety of tulip plants.

- Minimum 12 participants.
- Bring a bag lunch.
- Materials list forthcoming (cost not included).
- Members: \$60; Non-members: \$65

**Sunday, April 15**

### **Inaugural Haverford Home & Garden Show**

#### **Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center at Haverford Preserve**

The Arboretum will host a plant sale and a pollinator garden presentation at this inaugural event featuring many activities and vendors.

**April 20 – April 27**

### **Earth Week Special Programming**

In honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day, we will be hosting school groups, doing some local volunteering, and holding some special green events including a Foraging Walk on 4/21 and a Philosophy of Nature Panel Discussion and Reception on 4/22. Join us for these special events.

### **Nature Book Club**

*Meets the first Friday of each month at 7 P.M.  
at Woodside Cottage on campus.*

#### **Upcoming Titles:**

**April 6:**

*Backyard Foraging: 65 Plants You  
Didn't Know You Could Eat*, by Ellen Zachos

**May 4:**

*The CSA Cookbook: No-Waste Recipes for Cooking Your  
Way Through a Community Supported Agriculture Box,  
Farmers' Market, or Backyard Bounty*, by Linda Ly

**Saturday, May 5**

### **English Cottage Gardens Lecture**

**Andrea Hallmark, MLA, BSA**

**2 P.M. Sharpless Auditorium**

Learn about the best trees, shrubs, and perennials to grow here for that "English Cottage," country look. Register on Eventbrite.

Members: \$5 • Non-Members: \$10

**Tuesday, June 5**

### **Spring Gardens Trip**

**8 A.M. Meet at the South Lot, Haverford College**

#### **The Garden State: Two of New Jersey's Best Landscapes**

Enjoy a tour of the botanical treasures at Grounds for Sculpture, a horticultural feast for the senses with 270 sculptures; then explore Rutgers Gardens, where one can discover twelve distinct gardens and a nature trail.

Members: \$80 • Non-Members: \$90

**Every Tuesday, from April 3 to May 22. 12 P.M.**

### **Outdoor Yoga with Sabrina**

Contact [dlarkins@haverford.edu](mailto:dlarkins@haverford.edu) to register.

April 3 location: Haverfarm.

Students: \$2 • Members: \$5 • Non-Members: \$10

*"With thanks for your caretaking my old friends,  
The Tall Standing Rooted Ones on the Island of  
Peace and Green that is Haverford."*

— Robbie Hanna Anderman, Author of *The Healing Trees*



#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Marc Inver '71                      Doug Ross '69  
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Daniel Larkins, *Arboretum Program Coordinator*  
Don Campbell, *Director, Facilities Management*  
Jesse Lytle, *Chief of Staff, President's Office*

##### **Student Representatives:**

Hannah Doll '21, Brooke Garbarini '20  
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