



# HAVERFORD COLLEGE ARBORETUM ASSOCIATION

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## ARBORETUM REVITALIZATION: PROGRESS UPDATE

by Claudia Kent, arboretum director & Jesse Lytle, vice president and chief of staff/chief sustainability officer

**W**ith the first phases of our multi-year revitalization plan completed, we wanted to share a few highlights of our progress.

Replanting efforts engaging local schools and organizations, faculty, staff, and students have been met with an overwhelming response. In keeping with Arboretum policy of planting two trees for each one removed, the past year has seen the following steps taken successfully.

- More than 243 trees were planted in the center of campus, in the woodlands, and along the Nature Trail. Consistent with our commitment to preserving the indigenous ecosystem, native species have been our first choice.
- Hundreds of existing trees received individual attention including pruning, remediation, expanded mulch rings, and supplemental watering.
- Because existing trees along College Lane (past the Duck Pond) are reaching their life expectancy, five species of oak have been planted as successors. They are the fourth set of trees to fill this role since the allée was first planted in the mid-1800s.
- To extend the lifespan of the venerable swamp white oak on Lloyd Green, sidewalks were removed, protective fencing was installed, and a heavy layer of wood chips now protects the root system.
- Wherever possible, wood from removed trees is being repurposed for furniture and stair treads on campus.
- The visitors' entrance to the Nature Trail now features native trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- The landscape around VCAM replicates the "serpentine walk" originally designed for that area by William Carvill in 1834.
- Hall Drive now has its first allée consisting of deciduous conifer trees.

Moving into the second year of the revitalization, we hope to keep the strong momentum going. The Nature Trail is slated to receive 300 native specimens. When construction is completed on the future Lutnick Library, its new landscape will feature two rain gardens and a diverse planting of predominantly native trees, shrubs, and perennials. The Ira de A. Reid residence hall landscape

located by the south parking lot will be redesigned following the loss of eight trees in a storm last March. Over the next three years, 30 cherry trees will be installed in various locations around campus, adding to the spring display. These projects are in addition to replacements for trees slated to come down.

It has been difficult — and sometimes heartbreaking — to lose some of our oldest and dearest specimens due to age and decline, but the safety of our campus community and visitors is paramount. Stewardship of the Arboretum's treasured assets is a responsibility none of us take lightly. The planting and tree care we do today will reap rewards for the generations of tomorrow.



Photo by Claudia Kent



## GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR

by Jennie Ciborowski, program coordinator



I've spent almost my entire life immersed in nature. Born and raised in the rural town of Delta, Pennsylvania, I grew up trekking through my 60-acre backyard and swimming off the banks of the Susquehanna River. We may not have had a spotlight in my entire school district, but we did have scenery that never ceased to amaze me.

I attended Penn State to pursue a degree in earth and space science secondary education. Through this program I was able to complete coursework I loved and also teach abroad in Auckland, New Zealand. I graduated with the intent of teaching high school students geology, astronomy, meteorology, and oceanography. After four years in the public school system, I learned that my field was disappearing from the required curriculum and decided to make a change.

Most recently, I was the education intern at Morris Arboretum, where I rediscovered my love of learning and the environment. In this position, I developed and delivered youth and adult educational programming and helped with a robust volunteer program. Upon completing my internship, I knew I had found my new field.

I am one of the lucky people who have been given the chance to follow my passion not just as a hobby, but as a career. I am extremely grateful to the Haverford College Arboretum for this opportunity. I hope to meet all of you soon and I can't wait to get started planning programs for you to enjoy. Please feel free to send any programming suggestions to [jciborowsk@haverford.edu](mailto:jciborowsk@haverford.edu). I'm all ears!

### Give the Gift of Membership

*Give a nature-inspired gift that will bring joy all year long.*

*With gift memberships, you'll support efforts to plant and maintain trees in the historic Haverford College Arboretum.*

*With every gift membership, your recipient will enjoy exclusive access to members-only events, discounts for events, workshops, and trips, this quarterly Arboretum newsletter, and more!*

*Gift memberships start at only \$30 and can be purchased online or by phone at (610) 896-1405.*

*A welcome packet will be sent directly to the gift recipient.*

*Share the beauty and community of the Arboretum.*

*It's a great gift for someone special —  
and for the special place we love.*

## MONSTER

by Mike Startup, horticulturist

Published anonymously in 1818 by Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* remains a horror story for the ages. It's referenced in music, literature, pop culture, fireside tales, and many forms of modern media. *Frankenstein* still tickles the hair on the back of our necks.

The first big screen adaptation with Boris Karloff in 1931 brought the monster to life. It wasn't until 1994 that the biotech firm Calgene served its first iteration of "Frankenfood" to our table. The genetically modified organism (GMO) Flavr Savr tomato was born. Tomatoes did not transport well from field to market. The meat of the tomato would break down, causing soft spots and rot. Scientists remedied this by altering the tomato gene that triggers decay. The gene was removed, flipped upside down and backwards, and reinserted. This effectively halts the ripening process.

GMO crops inspire their own vocal pro and con factions. GMO can increase yields, boost nutritional values, extend shelf life, and increase tolerance to environmental extremes. Those opposing the use of GMO have cited an increased rate of allergies and cancer, antibiotic resistance in livestock, and increased seed costs to farmers. Many GMO crops enable farmers to spray non-selective herbicides for weed control. Subsequently, we ingest these herbicides. Thus the safest foods for our families are home-grown or purchased as organic. For the record, only certified organic, non-GMO seeds are planted at the HaverFarm.

Had the little girl in the 1931 *Frankenstein* movie offered the monster a Flavr Savr tomato instead of daisies, she might not have met her untimely death. Some may find it ironic that the movie website Rotten Tomatoes ranked *Frankenstein* 14th on its list of the 100 best horror movies of all time.



Photo by Michael Startup



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? by Carol Wagner, horticulturist

**T**he first Treaty Elm on Haverford's campus (also known as the Penn Treaty Elm) was planted on Founders Green in 1840. It was a gift of Bartholomew Wistar, one of the College's founders. It succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease in 1977 at the age of 137 years. On the day that the 1840 tree was removed, the Arboretum held a sale of Treaty Elm seedlings. A total of 45 seedlings were sold, but the Arboretum has no record of where these baby trees were planted.

Our Treaty Elm on Barclay Beach — a gift of Caleb Cresson Wistar in 1915 — was propagated around 1910 from the 1840 Elm by Thomas Meehan Nursery of Germantown. It was originally planted in a cluster of seven, but only one remains today. Over the years, Haverford College has been the source for replacement elms for Penn Treaty Park, with the most recent planting in May 2010. According to the latest accounting, the College has sent an additional 46 of these symbols of peace and unity out into the world.

Four Native American sites in upstate New York, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, southern New Jersey, and Penn Treaty Park are home to the next generation of elms. Elms have also been adopted by eight Quaker organizations, seven schools, seven parks or cemeteries, and 10 other locations including private homes. Treaty trees are now growing (happily, we hope) in eight states. While these trees have historical and inspirational value, they are not immune to the various maladies known to plague American elms. Each adopted tree is accompanied by an official letter of authenticity and a small tree label.

May the peace and unity that these trees represent travel as far as the trees themselves. Peace to all.

*If you know of a Treaty Elm, please email  
cwagner1@haverford.edu so we can add it to our records!*

## WHAT IS YOUR MOUNT RUSHMORE

by Mike Startup, horticulturist

**T**is the season for making lists. I am testing the waters in this issue with an idea for group participation (of course, joining in is optional). In each newsletter I will present a horticulturally based topic. In return you can create a list of your top four as it relates to this theme. There are no right or wrong choices!

For example, name your top four *VEGETABLES* worthy of inclusion on the venerable granite face of South Dakota's Black Hills National Forest. My Mount Rushmore of favorite vegetables would be soybean, tomato, celery, and carrot.

Since your spring bulbs should be happily nestled in your garden I propose a Mount Rushmore of *SPRING BULBS* for this newsletter issue. If you would like to share your Mount Rushmore of spring bulbs feel free to send your list to [arbor@haverford.edu](mailto:arbor@haverford.edu) or give us a call. I've got a few more spring bulbs than four. Isn't it always a challenge to remove something off your list?



**Top photo:** 1840 elm on Founders Green in 1961

**Second photo:** Newest Treaty Elm at Penn Treaty Park

**Bottom left photo:** The 1915 Treaty Elm on Barclay Beach — 2010

**Bottom right:** Elms awaiting adoption

### Call for Volunteers

*We are in the process of updating our volunteer database.*

*If you are interested in volunteering at the Arboretum  
please contact Jennie Ciborowski (610) 896-1102  
or [jciborowsk@haverford.edu](mailto:jciborowsk@haverford.edu).*



## HOW I BECAME A MORNING PERSON

by Kerry Quigley '19, student worker

I can't tell you how many times my alarm has gone off at 6:00 a.m. and my mind has immediately jumped to excuses not to go to work. *Your body needs more sleep . . . Why in the world did you sign up for the morning shift . . .* But if I can just drag my body out of bed, lace up my work boots, and trudge up to the facilities building, I will soon be reminded exactly why I signed up for the morning shift.

At a school like Haverford, where every student feels the need to define themselves by the number of activities they are involved with, it can be hard to feel you're doing enough. Now that I'm a senior, I feel this pressure more than ever. I have to apply to jobs, work on my thesis, and study for graduate exams — all on top of my current schoolwork. But on the days that I work for the Arboretum, I wake up with a much more tangible task. Whether it's pulling weeds on the green roof of Stokes, or planting nut trees along the Nature Trail, I know that I'll leave work with a feeling of accomplishment.

The thing I love most about the Arboretum is the feeling of community. Recently, our job was blowing leaves off the yards of houses along College Lane. It seemed like a simple task, but it took 10 workers to coax the fallen leaves off the grass into piles along the road. The noise of the blowers was deafening, so we communicated only with gestures. It's hard to describe the motion of the leaves against the wind and our blowers, but it was at once both chaotic and orderly. I was fascinated by the ease with which our group moved as a unit in a swirling dance of red and orange. As soon as I saw that I had missed a strip of leaves along the ground and stepped back to correct, I realized that another worker had already moved into place, sweeping the leaves away. I remember leaving work that day feeling a certain peace and connection among human, machine, and nature.

Working in the Arboretum has shown me that collaboration at Haverford doesn't stop in the classroom — it flows into the lives and work of College employees as well. Even working in silence provides a shared peace, leaving space for a collective appreciation of the beautiful campus that surrounds us. I'm so grateful to be a part of the Arboretum's community, and to work alongside such compassionate, dedicated, and intelligent people who make waking up at 6:00 a.m. feel like a privilege rather than a job.



Photo by Michael Startup

**Kerry Quigley '19 helps keep college lawns free of leaf debris.**

## A Closer Look . . .



Photo by Michael Startup

**Winter seems to have arrived at the Arboretum as a chill whips through the air and puddles crystallize into mesmerizing fractal formations**



### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### Members at Large

Luke Hamilton      Laura Patterson  
Marc Inver '71      Doug Ross '69  
Alan Wood

#### Staff Representatives:

Claudia Kent, *Arboretum Director*  
Jennie Ciborowski, *Arboretum Program Coordinator*  
Sally Anderson, *Plant Curator*  
Don Campbell, *Director, Facilities Management*  
Jesse Lytle, *Chief of Staff, President's Office*

#### Student Representatives:

Hannah Doll '21, Brooke Garbarini '20  
Austin Huber '19

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