



H A V E R F O R D C O L L E G E A R B O R E T U M A S S O C I A T I O N

VOLUME 42, NO. 2

SUMMER 2017

THE ARBORETUM: AN OVERVIEW *by William Astifan, Arboretum Director*

I often wonder what our campus would be like if there were no arboretum, no events to plant trees and a diligent staff to add new trees to the landscape. I would suspect it rather bleak and boring. However, I find myself blessed that this is not true. Trying to pick a fitting tree for my last article has left me torn about picking just one tree! Instead of picking just one, it is better that I give an overview of just some of the many trees added to the collection under my stewardship.

There are plenty of maples, magnolias, cherries and ornamental trees that are not included on the list. What is listed represents the work the staff and I have put into improving the quality of the tree collection and enhancing the college landscape. If I were to include all the trees, shrubs and perennials, the list could go on for pages. So I will stick to just a few of the new trees and cultivars.

The oaks are the backbone of structure on campus. It was important to expand this species for the educational component. The architectural/landscape element they bring adds diversity to the collection. In some cases, they push the horticultural limits in our area.

Elms are certainly a very important part of our landscape that has not fully recovered from being devastated by the Dutch Elm Disease. We are fortunate to have the great-grandchild of the original Penn Treaty elm, and it produces offspring to maintain the heritage. There are cultivars developed that diversify the collection with characteristics such as variegated leaves, paler colors and mottled bark.



Liriodendron chinensis,
Chinese tulip poplar

There are so many great pines to be found including cultivars of our own native eastern white pine. Since we do not use cultivars in the Pinetum, we had the opportunity to add some of these unique pines elsewhere on campus. The dragon's eye pine was purchased for its yellow and green-banded needles, and

the Korean pine and long leaf pine, both with great long needles.



Salix alba 'Scarlet Curls', Scarlet Curls willow

the Korean pine and long leaf pine, both with great long needles.

To me, I find that cryptomerias are overlooked in arboretum collections mainly because they are difficult to find. We have two groups: behind Roberts Hall and between Marshall Fine Arts Center and the Gardner Integrated Athletic Center. They are starting to mature and show why they should be in this collection.

On a trip to a Maryland nursery, I found the willow 'Scarlet Curls.' The staff convinced me I bought it because of the curly branches that reminded them of my curly hair. Okay that is possible, and now it resides near the Duck Pond. Later, on a trip to Wisconsin, I found a dwarf dawn redwood 'Miss Grace', a must-have for the collection. This tree is located next to the foundry near the Brick Walk.

Returning the native *Ostrya virginiana*, American hophornbeam, to campus was a real treat, and then adding for comparison, the European hophornbeam, *Carpinus betulus* 'Heterophylla.' I love comparing them but still favor the American for year-round landscape interest.

It has been fun writing about the trees all these years I thank you and the college for this wonderful career!

Photos by Martha Van Artsdalen

(continued on page 4)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Many changes, improvements and relationships have happened since I arrived at Haverford in 1998, too many to be recounted today. The look of the campus has changed with new landscapes planted for the facilities complex, the Koshland Integrated Natural Science Center, the Gardner Integrated Athletic Center, Kim and Tritton Halls, a new foundry and my last landscape project at Visual Center for Arts and Media (the former Ryan Gym). These are the larger projects, but add to this list renovations to all of the athletic venues, and I would summarize my career here as very fulfilling.

I personally became the face of the Arboretum and as many have said to me "the Arboretum will not be the same without you." True, I know that it will not be the same, but my wish upon retirement and Claudia Kent's assignment as the new Arboretum Director, is that I leave it positioned to be better.

The people make a difference. Having served under five college presidents, it is my crew of many years: plant curator Martha Van Artsdalen and horticulturists Carol Wagner, Charlie Jenkins and Mike Startup who established the backbone of the Arboretum. They have supported me as I have them which is evident no matter where you look on campus. We have in essence become your Arboretum family.

Haverford is unique and the Arboretum is no exception. I have been and am fortunate to touch many, many lives through the common bond of Haverford. Just like a tree, what you can see above ground; what you don't see below is the complex root system providing amazing support. It is the people you do not see who make Haverford special.

It would take hours to go into accounts of all the friendships and working relationships I have made. I wish to thank all of the Arboretum members who add so much, especially the dedication and hard work of the Executive Committee, the administration of the college and not only my staff but the grounds crew and all of the Facilities Maintenance Department. That includes housekeeping, maintenance and the project support team who provide so much support to the Arboretum.

So from here, each day I plan to live to my fullest with my family and friends. I am looking forward to retiring but having given so much of my life to preserving the Arboretum, it is rewarding for me.

So I leave you with these words:

Don't give up when you still have something to give.

Live simply

Love generously

Care deeply

Speak kindly

Leave the rest to God!

Thank you and farewell!

Bill Astifan

Retiring Arboretum Director

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

by Mike Startup, Horticulturist

No matter what kind of day you've had, when you open the door to your house they greet you without reservation.

Dogs, like plants, are always there for us. They witness the seasons of our lives. There is pause for frolicking in autumn's leaves or the first tentative steps out of the house after the winter's first snow. Skippy, Sandy, Rambo, Quincy and Morgan have silently and with assuredness, listened for decades to the chronicles from my youth to today.

Just like man's best friend, plants hold us to a sense of newness each season. The fall color, foray of blooms in spring or a winter silhouette always encourage me to enjoy these moments.

To botanically honor our four-legged friends, this is what I'd have in my garden. Of course, I would plant a dogwood tree! *Cornus florida* 'Plena', not just another dogwood but a double-flowered form whose bracts resemble mini white roses and beautiful fall foliage. *Physocarpus opulifolius*, ninebark, is a fast-growing native shrub with burgundy foliage, white flat-topped flowers and peeling bark. Then there's the dog rose *Rosa canina*, a climbing wild rose native to Europe. Europe is also home to the heath dog-violet, *Viola canina*.

In my garden, the herbaceous layer would consist of the shade and moisture-loving *Erythronium dens-canis*, dogtooth violet. But I wouldn't include dog fennel, the common name of several plants including our native perennial *Eupatorium capillifolium*, a thug that finds a home in disturbed roadsides and fields. Neither would I plant any members of the dogbane, or *Apocynum* genus. Most are poisonous plants, including *Apocynum cannabinum*, hemp dogbane or Indian hemp.

To offer summer color, let's plant yellow *Coreopsis* species, tickseed, as a nod to Man's Best Friend's perennial summer pest.

That should be a perfect garden for celebrating National Dog Day on August 26.



The double-flowered *Cornus florida* 'Plena' by the Arboretum's greenhouse is certainly no dog of a tree.

Photo by Mike Startup

AN APPRECIATION *by Meghan Wingate '17*



When looking at college campuses four years ago, I tried to be objective. I tried to think about the academic courses and class sizes, professors and clubs, but I couldn't separate the statistics from the feelings I got when stepping onto different campuses. Driving down College Lane, the Duck Pond, the oak canopy and the 13 mph signs captivated me. Later, on my tour, I tried to listen to the descriptions of dorms and quality of the dining center, but I was more focused on the beautiful stone buildings and the trees that rose beside them. I'd like to think that my final decision to come to Haverford was made considering all the factors, but I know that it was largely based on that first impression, that attachment to place, that beauty of the Arboretum.

I do not regret that original impulse and my attachment to the setting of Haverford because my four years have often been defined by the outdoor spaces. During my first year, I began working at the Haverfarm, learning how to start seedlings in the Arboretum's greenhouse, building rows for spring planting, and holding volunteer days to encourage student involvement. Through the Haverfarm, I was introduced to the Arboretum's three horticulturists and knew I wanted to work with them.

During my sophomore year, I started my 7 a.m. shifts. Although early and occasionally difficult, I began to appreciate waking up with the sun, the quiet morning hours and the company of Mike, Carol and Charlie. I found

myself more consciously appreciating the color on campus that appeared no matter the season, the cherry blossoms along the Nature Trail and the tulips that popped every spring. I felt connected to the campus in a way I first did when driving down past the Duck Pond.

Now that it's time for me to leave Haverford, the feeling is nothing but bittersweet. There are too many friends to hug, professors to say thank you to, and my room is still not packed. With the flowers finally in full bloom, all I want to do is find a quiet spot on campus, read a favorite book, and appreciate the Arboretum that I have been so lucky to have for four years.

ENERGY WINNERS

by Martha Van Artsdalen, Plant Curator

In addition to Arbor Day and Earth Day tree plantings by the Arboretum in April, students competed in a short-term energy reduction program organized by the Committee for Environmental Responsibility (CER).

This residence hall competition, part of the Campus Conservation Nationals among several colleges, tracks energy usage through Haverford's energy dashboard [hav.to/energy](#).

"Students are encouraged to save electricity," CER member Gabriel Oppler '17 explains, "by turning off lights, unplugging unused appliances, turning off power strips, air-drying laundry and setting computers to power save mode." This spring's competition saw nine dorms decreasing electric usage by 7.6 %, a total of 6,034 kilowatt hours. Tritton Hall won with a decrease of 13.1%, or 2,029 kilowatt hours.

BREATHE



Photo by Martha Van Artsdalen

*Arboretum staff assist students in many ways throughout the year. Juliana Montinola '17 created the sculpture "Breathe" as her senior art thesis to acknowledge the benefits of greenery. After reading a NASA clean air study, she chose *Chrysanthemum morifolium* for its ability to cleanse urban air pollutants.*



Tritton Hall residents celebrated their win by planting a native dogwood at the dorm.

Photo by Claudia Kent

THE ARBORETUM: AN OVERVIEW

(continued from page 1)

Here is a list of trees throughout the Arboretum:

Oaks (Quercus)

- Q. myrsinifolia*, Chinese evergreen oak
- Q. nuttallii*, Nuttall oak
- Q. falcata var. pagodaefolia*, Southern red oak
- Q. frainetto*, Italian oak
- Q. michauxii*, Swamp chestnut oak
- Q. garryana*, Oregon oak
- Q. ellipsoidalis*, Northern pin oak
- Q. palustris* ‘Green Pillar’, Green Pillar pin oak
- Q. robur* ‘Fastigata’, Fastigate English oak
- Q. dentata* ‘C.F. Miller’, C.F. Miller daimyo oak
- Q. dentata* ‘Pinnatifida’, Pinnate daimyo oak
- Q. acutissima* ‘Gobbler’, Gobbler sawtooth oak

Elms (Ulmus)

- U. procera* ‘Argenteo-Variegata’, Variegated English elm
- U. procera forma aurea*, Yellow leaf English elm
- U. americana* ‘Princeton’, Princeton American elm
- U. parvifolia* ‘Allée’, Allée lacebark elm

Pines (Pinus)

- Pinus koraiensis*, Korean pine
- Pinus kwangtungensis*, Kwangtungensis pine
- Pinus x hakkodensis*, Hakkodensis pine
- Pinus armandii*, Chinese white pine
- P. densiflora* ‘Oculus-draconis’, Dragon’s eye pine

Cryptomeria cultivars

- C. japonica* ‘Black Dragon’, Black Dragon Japanese cedar
- C. japonica* ‘Lobbii’, Lobbii Japanese cedar
- C. japonica* ‘Yoshino’, Yoshino Japanese cedar
- C. japonica* ‘Sekkan-sugi’, Sekkan-sugi Japanese cedar
- C. japonica* ‘Reins Dense Jade’, Reins Dense Jade Japanese cedar
- C. japonica* ‘Kitayama’, Kitayama Japanese cedar

Others

- Salix alba* ‘Scarlet Curles’, Scarlet Curles willow
- Araucaria araucana*, Monkey puzzle tree
- Betula nigra* ‘Summer Cascade’, Summer Cascade river birch
- Betula nigra* ‘Dura Heat’, Dura Heat river birch
- Metasequoia glyptostroboides* ‘Miss Grace’, Miss Grace dawn redwood
- x Gordlinia grandiflora*, Mountain gordlinia
- Carpinus betulus* ‘Heterophylla’, European hornbeam
- Liriodendron chinensis*, Chinese tulip poplar
- Ostrya virginiana*, American hophornbeam
- Parrotia persica*, Persian parrotia

A Closer Look . . .



Photo by Mike Startup

Flats of bright annuals fill the greenhouse in anticipation of warm days ahead when horticulturists will plant them out around campus.

“Fewer colleges have finer lawns than Haverford . . . the trees are just in their prime, and any one will confess their beauty who sees them just now, clothed in all the delicate grace of leafy June. The slopes and avenues, and woodland, and buildings, all conspire to make the old spot delightful.”

— *The Haverfordian*, June 1880



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members at Large

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Agnes Moncy | Doug Ross '69 |
| Nancy Pasquier | Matt Simon '77 |
| Laura Patterson | Alan Wood |

Staff Representatives:

- Bill Astifan, *Arboretum Director*
- Don Campbell, *Director, Facilities Management*
- Claudia Kent, *Assistant Director, Facilities Management*
- Jesse Lytle, *Chief of Staff, President's Office*

Student Representatives:

- Austin Huber '19, Annika Ulrich '18

arbor@haverford.edu
www.haverford.edu/Arboretum

