

DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS

Winter 2022



Executive Director Sheryl Swed and President Ray Sander

Update Report

Reflecting on 2021, there have been many wonderful and positive accomplishments that we will always remember. It was DBG's first full year of being open to the public, despite the continuing challenges of COVID-19. Our dedicated staff—Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole—have continued their amazing work. This year the staff was augmented with three new professionals, including Craig Sims, our first full-time Development Director; Stephen Pryce Lea, our talented & knowledgeable Director of Horticulture; and Jane Hines, our accomplished Financial Manager.

Our Board, for the first time, is at full strength of 15 members, including several new members: Todd Fritchman, Ryan Revel, Karen Steenhoudt, and Alison Willocks. Their energy and enthusiasm have invigorated the Board. We also were able to replace our excellent Treasurer, Kathy Johnson, with the former Sussex County Administrator, Dave Baker, who brings his extensive financial expertise to DBG. The Executive Committee—Sheryl, Carol McCloud, Brent Baker, Dave Baker, Susan Lyons, Alison Willocks, and Ray—continue their oversight of DBG's programs and activities. All our efforts are supplemented by several key individuals who bring their exceptional talents to DBG, including Jan Poli, Tom & Carol Bason, Angie Phinney, Ray Bojarski, Donna Buono, Craig Haggerty, Margaret Kimmel, Elizabeth Rives, Judy Martin, and Jeannette Cowan.

The organization was substantially strengthened with an update of our nearly ten-year old Bylaws. Our business partners continue their generous support of the project by going above and beyond their contractual obligations. This includes Pennoni Associates, SEA Studio Architects, WN Builders, Nickle Electric, Delaware Electric Cooperative, SoDel Concepts, Banks Wine and Spirits, Dogfish Head Brewery, Coventry Printing, Joanne Shipley Graphic Design, and the Electric Vehicle Institute.

Our financial position has remained strong, with great growth in memberships and steady support from our increasing core of donors. Our State legislators have continued to validate DBG's value to the community by again including DBG in the State's Bond Bill. Due to our success in securing Foundation

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DELAWARE
BOTANIC
GARDENS
AT PEPPER CREEK

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delawaregardens.org

funds in 2019 and 2020, DBG was precluded this year from requesting grants from several of our most supportive Foundations. However, with the continued leadership of our Fundraising experts, Yorkston Consultants, DBG has expanded our network of potential donors as evidenced by the recent grant from the Ellice and Rosa McDonald Foundation and the Naming Rights sponsorship of the Learning Nest. The Board has continued its commitment with an annual donation to the DBG Endowment Fund at the Delaware Community Foundation.

This Endowment Fund is one of the pillars of DBG's financial sustainability. Two new sources of sustainability are coming over the next two years: our permanent restrooms in Spring 2022 and the all-weather Pennoni Pavilion in Spring 2023. These structures will enhance our visitor experience by expanding the range of people who will come to the Gardens and by increasing the hours and days

of operation. The restrooms are a precondition for school field trips and for tour bus excursions. The enclosed and HVAC Pavilion will support a longer Season, revenue generating events and visitor amenities. These two structures will add to the financial sustainability of the Delaware Botanic Gardens.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE GARDENS FOR THE SPRING BULB CELEBRATION. 84,000 BULBS IN THE PIET OUDOLF MEADOW!

As always, the solid foundation of DBG is our volunteer corps. With Carol McCloud's leadership, they continue to be our mainstay, performing every garden task and every hospitality task. The dedicated work of our volunteers is underpinned by the generosity of our DBG Board, our members, and supporters. It is essential for all these components to work together, to focus on the shared common goal of creating and maintaining a beautiful and inspiring public botanic garden.

Thank you for your generosity. Please know you are appreciated, and we all do it for you and we could not do it without you.

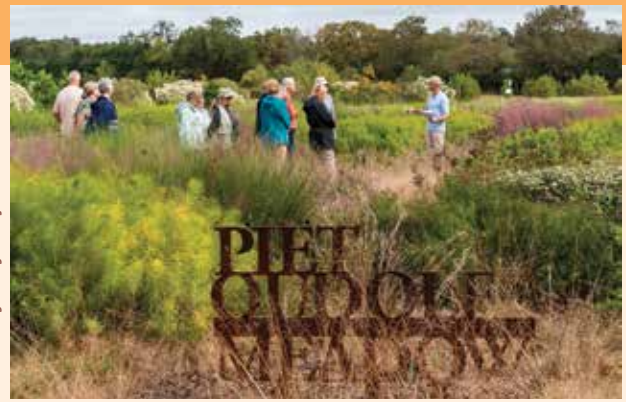
Have a wonderful Holiday and a healthy and safe New Year.

Raymond Sheryl

Ray Sander and Sheryl Swed

P.S. As we go to press we are very happy to announce that Barbara Peters, one of our earliest supporters has secured the naming rights for The Point.

Photo by Ray Bojarski



FALL GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE WALKS

Education is one of DBG's primary missions, and Stephen Pryce Lea, DBG Director of Horticulture, imparted his special knowledge to our members and guests in a series of four October-November meadow walks about how to care for a range of perennial plants in fall, share seed gathering tips, and discussed pesticide-free gardening in the Fifth season. Stephen said, "We took a leisurely walk in Piet Oudolf's two-acre meadow. We learned how we maintain a fall garden retaining essential habitats, providing food and shelter for birds, bees, beneficial insects, and all wildlife during the dormant season." If you have not yet had the chance to meet Stephen and share his love of the gardens, he will be giving such educational walks in the 2022 spring season.



Volunteers Jeff Johnson and Craig Haggerty Planting

The Piet Oudolf Meadow planting scene this fall was reminiscent of the 2017-2018 period, when professionals, staff and volunteers came together to originally plant the 70,000 meadow plants and grasses. Stephen Pryce Lea said, "We have selected species bulbs for naturalizing. The tulipa, crocus and the muscari will all populate and increase in numbers over the years. Hopefully in a few years' time we will have over 100,000 bulbs blooming in the meadow."

Carol McCloud, DBG Vice President and Director of Volunteers said, "We are blessed to have so many dedicated staff and volunteers working together. It gives us great pride. We thank our DBG team, who have stepped-up once again to accomplish another milestone for the Gardens." In Spring 2022 the Piet Oudolf Meadow will have 70,000 perennials and grasses plus 84,000 bulbs for a total of 154,000 plants. The Folly Garden will have over 37,000 bulbs.



For all dinner participants, we were pleased to give a gift certificate for the book "OUDOLF HUMMELO" to show our appreciation for their continued support. Executive Director, Sheryl Swed noted, "There are some special virtual dinner thanks due—for people who worked behind the scenes that we would like to recognize."



On September 23, DBG partnered with SoDel Concepts, led by Scott Kammerer, and Executive Chef Ronnie Burkle, a member of the DBG Advisory Council. They have perfected the Virtual Dinner Presentation. SoDel presented DBG with an amazing 5-Course "All Things Peaches" inspired dinner and a special cocktail. SoDel Executive Chef Ronnie Burkle said,

"It was a pleasure to partner with DBG and demonstrate how both organizations could come together virtually to deliver a wonderful experience for our dinner guests, and raise money for a wonderful cause at the same time."

Our long-time supporters at Banks Wines & Spirits Ted and Kami Banks, contributed the Bogle wines. The online program, hosted by SoDel's Mike Zygmanski, included Robbie LeBlanc, Bogle wine master describing their wonderful Bogle wines.

We enjoyed "live music" by DBG "Musician in Residence" Vincent Varrassi, and Robbie LeBlanc, returned as guitarist- singer. As one diner remarked, "We got a great dinner and a wonderful music concert too." DBG sold 122 dinners, which our dinner guests picked up at one of three local SoDel restaurants.

This year the DBG dinner became a true state-wide event. DBG Board member LeDee Lickle Wakefield hosted a fundraiser, with an additional 24 guests at her Back Burner restaurant in Hockessin, DE. Thank you LeDee and David Wakefield.

- Ron Bass and George Robbins, who again sponsored the Challenge.
- Tom Bason who managed all the online reservation details pro-bono.
- Carol Bason, Ray Bojarski and Joanne Shipley for their excellent work on the 2020 DBG Annual Report, which was given to all dinner participants
- Carol McCloud and Jan Poli for the creative "Swag Bags," given to all participants.

See the last page of this newsletter for the "thank you" to sponsors published in *Coastal Point*. We thank all who were involved in this DBG virtual dinner. It is a major factor in providing needed 2022 operational funds.

We are anticipating and planning for our 2022 Annual Dinner to be in person at the gardens on September 29 under a beautiful tent with SoDel catering.

Thanks in large part to a \$25,000 challenge by Ron Bass and George Robbins, we raised over \$112,000. That included other challenge participants raising \$43,435.





DBG SEA WITCH AND SCARECROW TRAIL

(L to R) Jan Poli and Steven Pryce Lea put finishing touches on DBG Sea Witch. Photo by Ray Bojarski

This October the DBG fall harvest celebration brought the gardens alive in a new fun-festive way. This is the first year DBG was a part of the annual Rehoboth Chamber's Sea Witch Festival and our Sea Witch and Scarecrows were on display from October 14 to closing day on November 14. The DBG Sea Witch and Scarecrow trail was conceived and executed by a committee of our wonderful volunteers and staff. The focal point of the fall celebration was the 9-foot DBD Sea Witch at the Welcome Center. The DBG Sea Witch was the result of the creative genius of volunteer leader Jan Poli. Staff members Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole made sure the Sea Witch's frame was solid and could withstand the fall wind and rain. On Friday, October 29th we experienced a storm with 30 miles-per-hour winds and 2- inches of rain. The DBG Sea Witch survived with only slight damage – quickly repaired.

The scarecrows were individual creations and bro-bono contributions to the harvest celebration.

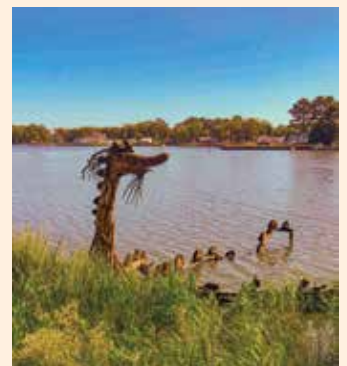
Thanks to all who participated in making this fall harvest event a success. Plans are already underway to make next year's harvest Sea Witch festival celebration even better.

The DBG scarecrows and their creators were:

- 1 Welcome Center *DBG Family Scarecrows* **Jeannette Cowan**
- 2 Meadow Lawn side bench *Butterfly Scarecrow* **Angela Schaab**
- 3 Learning Garden *Dottie Docent Scarecrow* **Margaret Kimmel** and **Cheryl Quirk**
- 4 Folly Garden *Flower Girl Scarecrow* **Jan Poli**
- 5 Knoll Garden *Outlook Scarecrow* **Pam Grodman**
- 6 The Point *Fisherman Scarecrow/Sea Serpent* **Jeremy Cole**
- 7 Learning Nest *Bird Lady Scarecrow* **Barbara Svenson**
- 8 Magnolia Grove *Tree Hugger Scarecrow* **Margaret Kimmel**
- 9 West Woodland *Edge Girl Scout Scarecrow* **Angela Schaab**



Jeremy Cole & Jan Poli work on Fisherman Scarecrow at Point



Sea Serpent at Point

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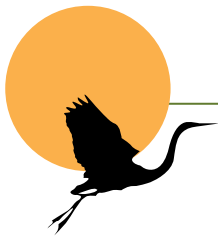


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Photos by Ray Bojarski and Stephen Pryce Lea

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



DBG has continued to rely on our news media partners to tell our story to the community. Two media partners (WRDE and Coastal Point) have been especially helpful in telling the DGB story.

WRDE-TV (NBC)

On October 13, as Jan Poli was putting the finishing touches on her 9-foot Sea Witch, she was interviewed by Mathew Short of WRDE-TV. A story on DBG's Sea Witch and Scarecrow trail ran in their newscast that evening.

On September 8 WRDE-TV meteorologist Alex Seymore premiered his new feature segment called "Seymore of Delmarva." Alex chose the Delaware Botanic Gardens

as his initial feature because, "It is one of my favorite places." Ray Sander took Alex on a guided tour of the gardens, and Carol McCloud showed Alex the Folly Garden. Alex is a gardener and lover of native plants. This DBG feature video was so wonderful that Ray Sander asked WRDE for permission to use the video during the September 23 Virtual dinner. The video was well received during the dinner program. Thanks to WRDE-Coast TV.



Jan Poli being interviewed by Mathew Short of WRDE-TV. Photos by Ray Bojarski



Alex Seymore and Ray Sander.

GARDEN CLUB OUTREACH

Carol McCloud, DBG Vice President and Tour Director, arranges for Garden Club Tour Groups throughout the year. Carol and Stephen Pryce Lea often team-up giving these tours. Recently, Stephen was interviewed by the Virginia Eastern Shore Garden Group after their DBG tour, and the interview was published in their Garden Newsletter reaching our Eastern Shore of Virginia audience. As another guest commented on their club tour, "The guided tour was excellent and I recommend to all new visitors."



Peggie Ravida at 55+ Expo. Photo by Craig Sims

IN-PERSON OUTREACH

Recently, DBG has begun giving demonstrations and setting up information tables at local community events. Some recent examples were:

- **Inland Bay Garden Center Flower Arranging Demonstration** by Jan Poli and Carol McCloud at DBG Information Table; Ocean View, DE. on Sept. 20,
- **Dagsboro Night Out**, Oct 5, Dagsboro, DE., Information table with Craig Sims and Donna Buono,
- **Delaware Resorts 55+ Expo**

November 6 at Cape Henlopen High School, Lewes, DE. Information table with Craig Sims, Peggie Ravida, Angela Phinney and Kathy Lesperance.

COASTAL POINT NEWSPAPER

Coastal Point is a Southern Delaware weekly community newspaper. It informs its readers about local attractions, including DBG. This media exposure helps DBG reach an important local audience, as well as area visitors. Susan Lyons, publisher of *Coastal Point*, is a lifelong gardener and was a volunteer garden steward at DBG during the initial Piet Oudolf Meadow planting in 2017/2018. She joined the DBG Board last April. Along with her Executive Editor, Darin McCann, they have been very supportive of DBG not only in telling our story, but also providing expert advice and counsel about the media markets in Delmarva.

Last July, *Coastal Point* published a guest article by Stephen Pryce Lea, “Summer flora and fauna on display at Delaware Botanic Gardens in Dagsboro.” On October 8 *Coastal Point* published an article by

Susan Canforta, who interviewed Pryce Lea. The headline was, “Pryce Lea’s horticultural expertise blossoming at Delaware Botanic Garden.” Canforta quoted Stephen saying, “I get here at 7 every morning. There’s a slight mist across the gardens, and to see the finches and bluebirds eating from the meadow and nesting in bird boxes or in the trees—it’s absolutely something magical.”

Stephen also explained to Canforta, “A garden like this is about natural balance. As I’ve grown and as I’ve learned, I know you have to adjust to a more environmental kind of gardening and not use chemicals.”

In this same October 8 *Coastal Point* issue was a story, about “Fall Gardening for Wildlife Walks” and the “Thank you,” full-page ad thanking sponsors of the DBG Virtual Dinner. This is the kind of outreach that would be impossible without media partners. Thank you to the *Coastal Point* staff.

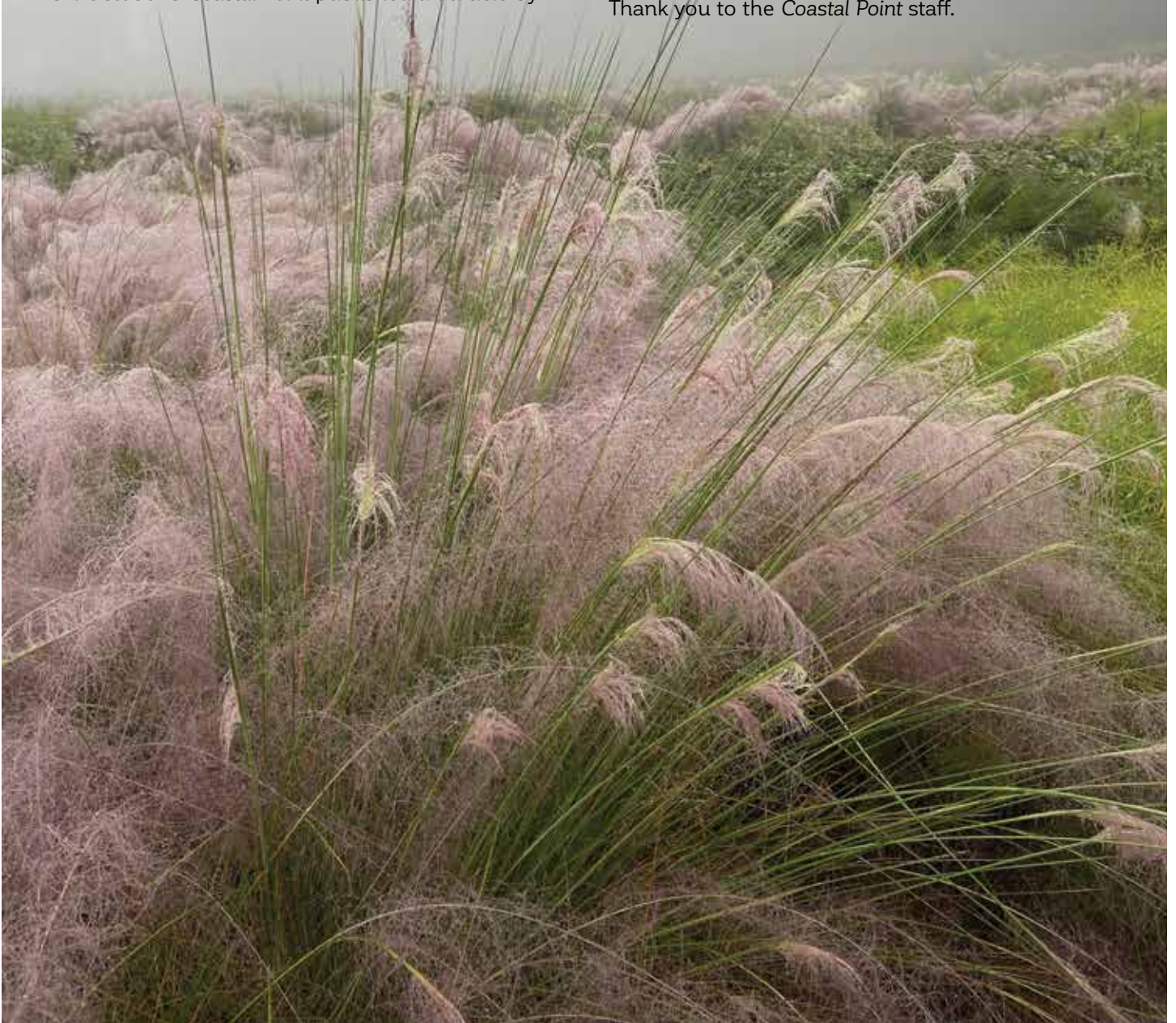


Photo by Stephen Pryce Lea



(L to R) Lorraine Easton, Carol Mccloud, Stephen Pryce Lea, Sam Cashdollar, Ray Sander, Sheryl Swed, and Brent Baker

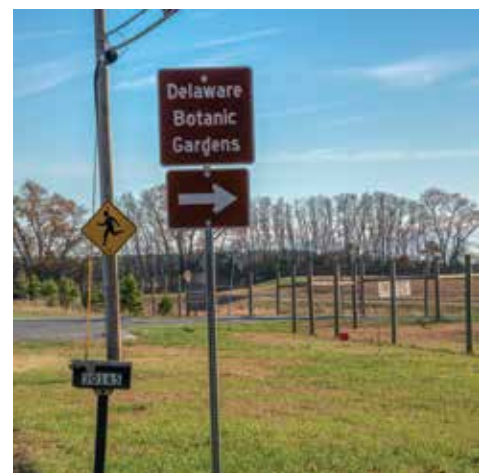
MAIN DBG ENTRANCE SIGN

The Gecko Group Main Entrance Sign was installed on November 11th. It is a welcome addition and hard to miss at Piney Neck Road, with its bright colors and striking DBG logo. Executive Director Sheryl Swed, said, “Our contractors, Gecko Group (Kathy Hughes) and Urban Signs (Seth Davis), did an excellent job! The sign design is outstanding, and the installation is perfect! Thank you to Mark Davidson and Fay Heck of Pennoni, who helped get our county permit! Stephen is working with Jan Poli on a landscaping design for around the sign. Another milestone for DBG. Thanks to those who supported this project.”

DBG ROAD SIGNS

The six DelDot directional signs to DBG were installed in November - two on Route 113 N/S, and four on Route 26- E/W. We owe special thanks to State Representative Ron Gray and Board Member Susan Lyons. Thanks to Erik Ball of DelDot for his quick response to this request. Also, we thank Senator Gerald Hocker, Rep. Ron Gray, and Rep. Richard Collins who funded the \$1,600 for the fabrication and installation of the DelDot signs. DBG is appreciative!

Photos by Ray Bojarski



CAPITAL PROJECTS AND CONSTRUCTION

Annette Pennoni Meadow Pavilion Update

We are in the final stages of pavilion planning. The plan for the pavilion has been double checked to be sure we have facilities for check-in, snack bar, events and weddings. Mark Davidson from Pennoni Engineering is preparing the Request for Proposal (RFP) to build the pavilion, which will hopefully be issued before year's end. The selection of the pavilion contractor is expected next spring. It will take about one-year to complete the pavilion. We look forward to the Pavilion ground-breaking in 2022. This pavilion will allow DBG to become more sustainable by expanding our educational outreach and offering new rental opportunities all year long.

Donor News

Ellice and Rosa McDonald Foundation. We are pleased to announce that the Ellice and Rosa McDonald Foundation recently donated \$75,000 to help defray the COVID-19 incremental cost increase for the pavilion. Ray Sander, DBG President said, "We thank the Foundation for their moral support and generous donation."

Bond Bill. DBG received \$375,000 in December from Delaware. Ray Sander said our priority for these funds are the pavilion fire suppression system and the staff and volunteer building.



Permanent Restrooms Update

We are in the final stage of finishing both inside and outside of the restrooms. The cedar siding matches the rustic look of the Welcome Center and the restrooms are nestled in the woodlands. From the restrooms deck you have a wonderful view of the west woodlands. There is even a new trail being built this winter as a shortcut from the woodlands to the restrooms. The restrooms will be ready for Opening Day in spring 2022. These restrooms will enhance the overall visitor experience and enable DBG to host school tours and tour bus excursions.



Photo by Erich Pfeffer

“A perfect garden will never come about by itself. There is meticulous work, great talent and endless labour behind every excellent work!” – Mehmet Murat ildan

News from Carol McCloud

DBG Vice President & Volunteer-Tour Director

VOLUNTEERS UPDATE

The cooler temperatures, rainy and windy fall has brought out the gardens' fall color palette. The leaves are falling, and the Muhly grasses are blowing in the breeze bringing a wave-like effect to the Piet Oudolf Meadow. This year's Muhly grasses have been a showstopper. Our guests raved about their beauty.

Staff and Volunteers have once again given their time and brought their endless energy and creativity to a new level. As part of the Rehoboth Sea Witch Festival our DBG decorations brought countless accolades from our guests. It was truly amazing how quickly the fall decorations went from an idea to actuality. It was such a spontaneous creative reaction by our staff & volunteer team. The “star” of the festival was by far our 9-ft. Sea Witch that was created by our designer/volunteer Jan Poli. Our deepest admiration goes out to Jan and those who created the scarecrows. The Scarecrow Trail was a huge hit.



(L to R) Sally Scarangelo, Judy Martin and Angela Schaab

damage was quickly repaired so our guests would have an amazing visit to the Gardens during this special event.

On October 31, as part of the final day of the Fall Festival, our Docents greeted our 155 guests dressed in Halloween costumes which added to the fun and success of our weekend long celebration.

As Director of Horticulture Stephen Lea tracked all the details as the Fall Festival event evolved. He also worked with Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole to ensure that all wind and rain

On October 13 we held a Volunteer Appreciation luncheon for our outstanding Volunteers. This event is very important to the Gardens each year. This is just a small way that we can show how truly grateful we are for each and every one of them. We count on our Volunteers to help our staff to grow and maintain our beautiful gardens. They never disappoint and always show up.



Executive Director Sheryl Swed said, “To thank our volunteers, they were given a copy of the Piet Oudolf HUMMELO book that included the DBG Meadow, which our volunteers created and maintain.” Our President, Ray Sander spoke to our volunteers to thank them for all they do. He also gave a brief update about a “Pole Building” that will be built for our staff and volunteers. He received a round of applause when he stated it will be heated and air- conditioned. The building will be funded as part of this year’s state Bond Bill monies. The new building will be located in the maintenance area, where our two containers are now located. The containers will be moved next to the deer fence for storage. This new Staff & Volunteer Center will have a workshop/equipment storage area, space for meetings/training, and a bathroom. Sam Cashdollar, Director of Grounds & Facilities, is already researching possible contractors. We hope to start the new Pole Building in 2022 and have it completed by the winter season.

As part of our continued training for our Volunteers we held two separate training sessions this fall. Stephen Pryce Lea presented his “Fall Gardening for Wildlife Walk.” By having two sessions more of our volunteers had the opportunity to attend one of the sessions.

This year’s volunteer “finale” was the planting of 84,000 bulbs in the Piet Oudolf Meadow during November. What an amazing achievement. We finished in record time. Directed by our Director of Horticulture, Stephen Lea and our Horticulturist, Jeremy Cole, we started on Monday, November 3rd with our Core Garden Steward Volunteers. We planted 8,000 bulbs that day. Boy was that impressive. We continued the following Monday through Wednesday again with just our Core Volunteers.



Volunteer Appreciation Day. Photo by Craig Sims

Starting November 15 we added more Bulb Planting Volunteers to the party and planted our last bulbs on Tuesday, November 30. A well-deserved round of applause for such an outstanding achievement. This shows the dedication of our volunteers continues. I've stated it many times before what an honor and a privilege it is to volunteer alongside these amazing friends/volunteers. It still holds true. We had an outstanding time planting these bulbs. We can't wait until Spring to see them in bloom. Please come join us!



Alison Willocks, Board member and volunteer

On one of our bulb planting days our Volgistics Administrator, Garden Steward, member of the Board of Directors and friend, Alison Willocks, joined in the fun of planting the bulbs.

Alison does many things behind the scenes. She is the Administrator of our Volgistics volunteer hours' tracking system, trainer of the point-of-

sale system for our Docents and advisor on financial reporting. Thank you Alison for sharing your many talents with the volunteer team.

With the cooler temperatures and the planting of the bulbs in the Piet Oudolf Meadow we have enjoyed the return of many of our Garden Steward Volunteers. Welcome back!

Our IT team creates feedback reports from our guests through different sources. The most telling take away from these reports is the positive feedback about the beauty of our Gardens and how much has been accomplished in such a short amount of time. This is a reflection of our dedicated staff and volunteers who have worked side-by-side to achieve this goal. We all believe in this project which makes it all worthwhile. We thank our guests for taking the time to send in their feedback. It is greatly appreciated.

If you want to join our amazing volunteers as a Garden Steward, Docent or to do other administrative duties, please go to our website at delawaregardens.org/volunteers-to-help, and signup. You will meet a lot of wonderful people who share their love of the gardens and have a lot of fun while doing it.

TOURS

DBG Garden Tours continue to be very popular. This season of 2021 we gave 27 prebooked group tours as well as daily tours on our open days. Our tours will continue to be offered in 2022. With the opening of our new restrooms, we will also be able to accommodate bus tours. Tours are normally given at 10:00 a.m. on open days Thursday through Sunday. However, for group tours we will work with you on other days and times if needed. As Director of Tours, I share the privilege of also being a Tour Guide. Our other tour guides are Stephen Pryce Lea, Elizabeth Rives, and Margaret Kimmel. If you'd like to book a group tour for 2022, please contact me at carol.mccloud@delawaregardens.org.

QUICK NOTES



Sussex County Land Trust Board with DBG team

Sussex County Land Trust Board Meeting

On October 20 DBG hosted a meeting of the Sussex County Land Trust's Board. Sheryl Swed, DBG Executive Director said, "We were so pleased to have the members of the Sussex County Land Trust Board (our landlord) visit and hold their board meeting at the Learning Gardens. We gave them a special tour that included the completed Living Shoreline Project and the proposed DelDot Shoreline Stabilization Project." Mark Chura, Executive Director of the Land Trust said, "It was a pleasure to visit and get a briefing on the DelDot Shoreline Stabilization Project. We are very pleased with the DBG's stewardship of this special 37-acre location."



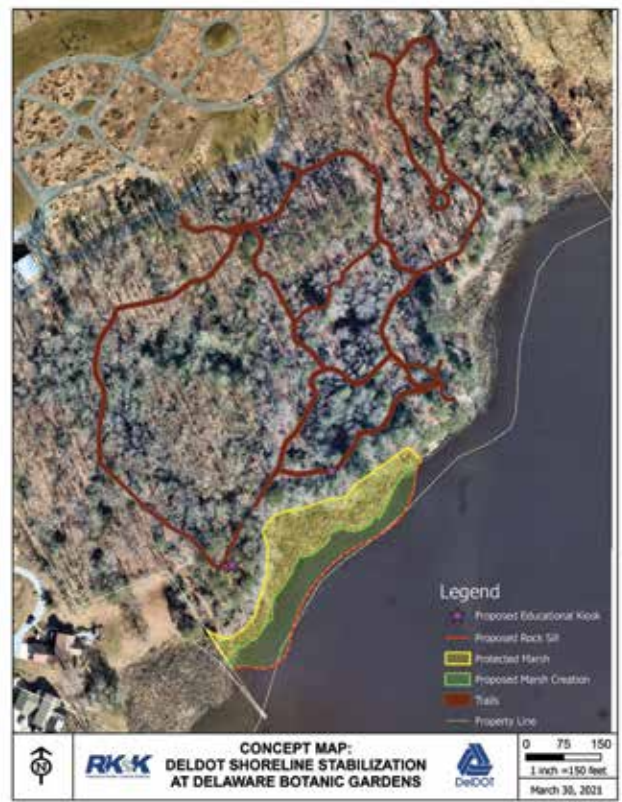
Learning Garden Meeting



(L to R) Ray Sander, Mark Chura, Julian Reel, Natalie Byers and Sam Cashdollar

DelDot Shoreline Stabilization Project

Beginning in July 2022, DelDot will begin to work on the shoreline stabilization project along the West Woodlands shoreline. The project manager of the stabilization project is RK&K Engineering and Landscape Architecture, Baltimore, MD.



QUICK NOTES



(L to R) Dave Baker and Ray Sander

Electric Vehicle Charger Stations

DBG now has two electric vehicle charger stations at the east side of the main guest parking lot. Ray Sander, DBG President, announced the new charger stations stating, “DBG’s core values include environmental stewardship, and we have taken another environmentally friendly step in giving electric vehicle guests the ability to enjoy the beauty of the gardens, while recharging their vehicles.” In this venture, we proudly join with our partner, Electric Vehicle Institute or EVI.”

Matthew Wade, Chief Executive Officer of the Electric Vehicle Institute, said, “EVI is pleased to partner with Delaware Botanic Gardens in this important installation of these Electric Vehicle Chargers. We see great synergy between our mission of improving EV mobility in the region and DBG in showcasing nature in a pristine and beautiful setting.”

Sheryl Swed, DBG Executive Director, said, “We are proud to partner with the Electric Vehicle Institute (EVI), and will share 50 -50% in revenue from these charger stations. EVI is a proven leader in providing vehicle charger stations and encouraging the public and industry to move toward zero emissions in transportation and improve overall energy efficiency.” The stations were installed by EVI at no cost to DBG.



(L to R) Navy Veteran John McColgan and his wife Donna are greeted on Veteran’s Day by Board Member Brent Baker, who himself is a Navy Vietnam Veteran.

Veterans Day

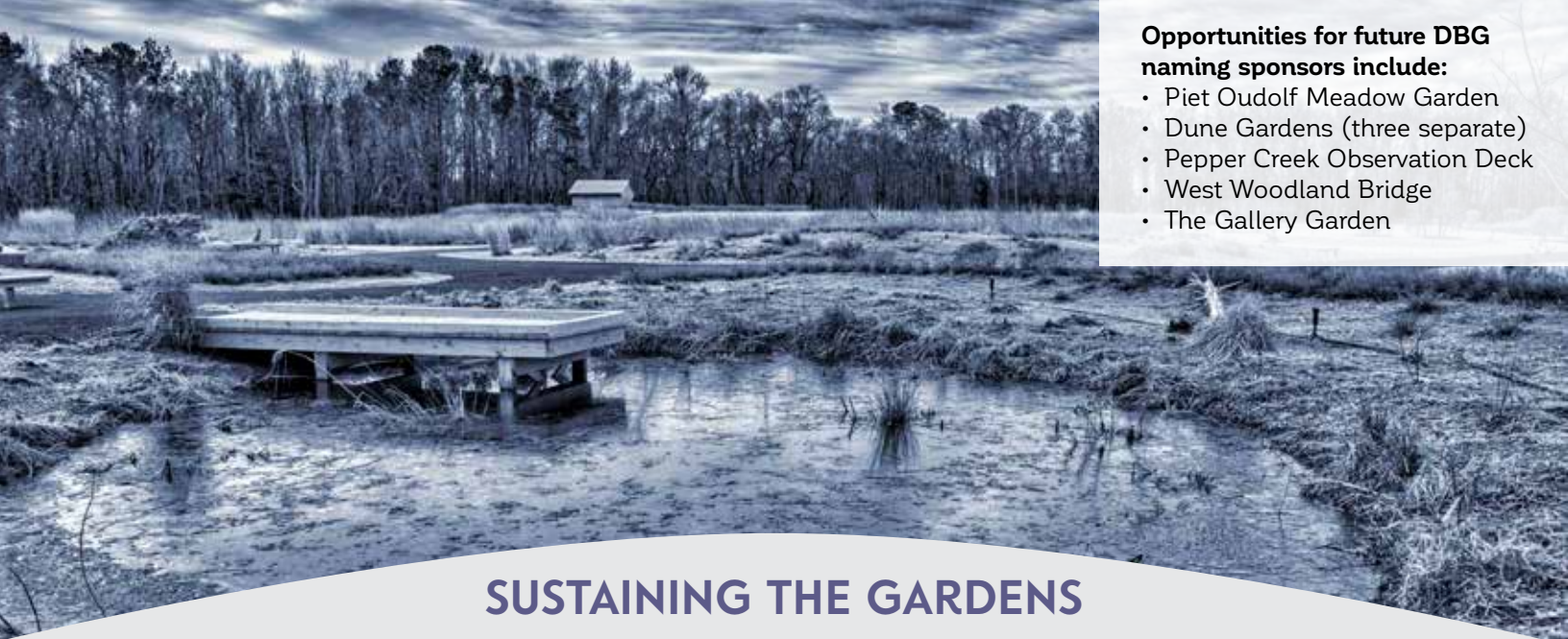
On November 11, DBG celebrated Veteran’s Day by giving all Veterans free admission, and a gift pass. Free admission was also given to guests who brought a food donation for the Food Bank of Delaware. Ray Sander said, “We are thankful for all who have served our nation in uniform, and we also thank those in our community who recognize the food needs of our neighbors in a challenging time.” DBG collected 338 pounds of food on Veterans Day.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



The DBG have some interesting holiday gift ideas for your friends and family. We have Gift Admission Passes, Gift Memberships, Benches, and Bird Boxes.

The Gift Garden Membership includes unlimited free garden admission for a full year, plant sale previews, discounts at the Gift Shop, and early notice of special events. **Go to delawaregardens.org/gift-a-membership to purchase a gift membership.**



Opportunities for future DBG

naming sponsors include:

- Piet Oudolf Meadow Garden
- Dune Gardens (three separate)
- Pepper Creek Observation Deck
- West Woodland Bridge
- The Gallery Garden

SUSTAINING THE GARDENS

DBG is a non-profit, which means we work every day to attract financial support from foundations, businesses, and generous individuals who realize the value of having a public garden in southern Delaware for the benefit of all. Some giving opportunities as we continue to raise funds include:

Year End Appeal

We are in the holiday season, and in the spirit of giving, we ask you to consider a gift to DBG by going to delawaregardens.org/donate or sending a check to Delaware Botanic Gardens P.O. Box 1390 Ocean View, DE 19970.



Benches Needed

DBG has expanded the West Woodland Trails, and we have a need for more benches for guests to rest and enjoy the blessings of nature that surrounds them. The holiday period is the perfect time to name a bench after someone special for a gift that will remain for many years to come. There are two types of 48-inch benches - one with a back and one flat bench. The benches can be inscribed with up to 33 characters including spaces. Delaware Botanic Gardens will be engraved on the first line. Go to www.delawaregardens.org/bench-orders and scroll down to Bench order details.

Photo by Ray Bojarski

Naming Rights

Naming rights is a special opportunity to give sustained support for garden operations including staff salaries. The naming rights sponsor has a sign at the named feature or garden indicating they are major supporters of DBG.

Learning Nest Naming Rights. We are proud to announce that sisters Sally Gore and Peg Emerson are the new naming rights sponsors of the Learning Nest. This is the largest of six volunteer-made “bird’s nests” in the Woodlands Garden. It is made with natural materials. The below photo shows the DBG Bird Lady Scarecrow joining the sponsors in the Learning Nest. This is an outdoor classroom, with wood stumps as seats designed as a natural setting, where students will be taught about the wonders of nature by our staff, volunteers and guest teachers.



(L to R)
Peg Emerson
and Sally Gore.
Photo by
Sheryl Swed

To see details of these exciting naming opportunities, go to delawaregardens.org/support-naming-opportunities. If any individual, organization or foundation is interested in sponsoring a garden feature, please contact Executive Director Sheryl Swed, 202-262-9856 or email sherylswed@delawaregardens.org.



News from Stephen Pryce Lea Head of Horticulture



Celebrating a Successful Fall 2021

It has been a great Fall season at DBG, with cooler temperatures encouraging the return of many of our guests and volunteers. The garden plants have enjoyed a second flush of foliage and flowers thanks to an extended Fall and mild temperatures.

Volunteers and Staff helped make the start of the DBG Fall season fun and lively with a Fall-themed Sea Witch and Scarecrow event that attracted new and returning guests to the gardens. DBG fall weekend saw the single largest attendance for a paid event on Halloween Sunday, setting the scene for future seasonal events.

A touch of frost reminds plants and wildlife that despite the Fall sunshine it is time to make preparation for the dormant season. Cooler temperatures for plants, encourage the last of the leaf fall with beneficial wildlife bedding down amongst the leaf litter and burrowing into plant stems, reminding us to leave the leaves, enjoy the 5th season, and to leave as many garden perennials and grasses standing until late winter.

Meadow Bulb Planting Fall 2021 added a fanfare of naturalized bulbs, tulips, crocus, and grape hyacinth bulbs to welcome our guests back to the gardens from mid-March.



Whilst the gardens closed to the public in mid-November, volunteers flocked to the gardens to help plant 84k species bulbs. Species bulbs are planted in large informal groups for naturalizing throughout the meadow. These bulbs will flower March through April and bring early spring color and provide essential early-season nectar for pollinators. This mammoth task was completed by volunteers and staff over 4 weeks in November—OUTSTANDING!

The gates may be closed to guests, however, the garden never rests with plants taking the opportunity to expand root networks during the dormant season. Winter is a great time to plant dormant trees and shrubs.

DBG has embraced this principle with gusto, with over 30 small flowering trees purchased with donations from the Tree-Mendous tree program, sponsored by the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs. These 30+ stunning trees will flower in Spring and have been planted and are settling in along the woodland trails. We are also planting over 100 Oaks, Birch, and Pines. The Oak Trees will be in a new “Oak Grove” garden. These trees are all being planted by staff and volunteers during December.

Volunteers on-site over the last few weeks will have also noticed some Folly Garden transformations. Jeremy and Sam have re-located many of the evergreens and conifers to open up the area to the left of the Folly pathway. This area designed and maintained by Jan Poli will be transformed with the addition of a large reflection pool and exciting new plantings. Jan has also been busy planting another 2k rare and unusual spring and summer bulbs to the Folly Garden increasing this spectacular spring bulb display year after year.

Along with all the bulbs, trees, and shrubs being planted throughout the gardens, we are also adding more native shrubs to the Knoll Garden in the next few weeks. End of season weeding, mulching, and winter clean-up tasks ahead there’s still a lot going on at the gardens.

Despite being closed to the public, we have some opportunities for volunteers to help us maintain the gardens ahead of the winter season.

Happy holidays! With Spring only a few months away, we look forward to seeing you at the gardens, with lots happening through the winter come and enjoy a few hours of winter sunshine at the gardens.

Delaware Botanic Gardens is volunteer-driven, community-minded, and always ecologically focused.



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