

DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS

Spring 2022



Executive Director Sheryl Swed and President Ray Sander

Update Report

The DBG Gardens and organization hit their stride in the Spring of 2022.

After the COVID impacted seasons of 2020 and 2021, DBG started the year in high gear and it is reflected in the new features throughout the site—the 84,000 bulbs in the Meadow, the reflecting pool in the Folly Garden, the Rain Garden & Living Wall at the new Restrooms, the Oak Grove. Our volunteers stepped up to enable DBG to extend the hours our guests can experience the beauty of DBG. Our popular daily tours have been expanded with special tours featuring the Meadow and our trees. Our gift shop offerings have been augmented with attractive new items. The new restrooms have enhanced our “visitor experience” for our guests.

We have continued DBG’s commitment to contribute to our Sussex neighbors by forgoing admission fees in exchange for food donations on Earth Day and Mother’s Day. These two days set new attendance records and resulted in 1800 pounds of food donated to the Food Bank of Delaware. In addition to these two days, we have had several other remarkable days this Spring—Open Day & Restroom Ribbon Cutting, Frolic in the Folly, Bugs & Beer and most memorably, Volunteer Appreciation Day and the awarding of the Governor’s Recognition of the DBG Volunteers.

DBG continues to secure extraordinary, creative work from leading, local professionals, most recently the unique design of the Restrooms created by SEA Studio Architects and built with craftsmanship by WN Builders, with contributions from Nickle Electric, Delaware Electric CoOp, Aquatech Water Specialties, Waggoner Welding and Casswell Plumbing. This building and surrounding gardens are a prime example of how environmentally friendly designs can be both functional and beautiful.

Equally important, DBG has continued to attract thought leaders like David Small as our new Chair of the Advisory Council and Lynda Messick as our new Treasurer. These experienced professionals will empower DBG to continue to hit our stride in the coming months. One of our Speakers on Opening Day, Councilman John Rieley said it best, DBG is a demonstration that **“...vision coupled with persistence can bring great things.”**

Let’s all keep making great things happen at DBG.

Raymond Sheryl
Raymond and Sheryl

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DELAWARE
BOTANIC
GARDENS
AT PEPPER CREEK

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Photos by Ray Bojarski and Brent Baker

OPENING DAY

THE MARCH 17 OPENING DAY BEGAN

with **State Senator Hocker** taking a tour of the new restrooms escorted by **DBG President Ray Sander** and **DBG Executive Director Sheryl Swed**. The Senator, one of DBG's staunch supporters, had to leave before the ceremony to be in Dover but wanted to see all the progress at DBG. He was heartened by the new features and public restrooms. Senator Hocker reiterated his strong support for DBG.

The noon Ribbon-Cutting program was emceed by Ray Sander and Sheryl Swed. Ray stated that this opening day represented another significant step forward for the DBG. He first thanked the people gathered, who empowered DBG with their work and generous donations.

He then recalled that **Scott Edmonston**, the building's lead architect, said the words that make every nonprofit leader's heart sing—"pro-bono." Ray then gave a shout-out to **Mark Davidson, Vice President at Penonni Engineering**, who worked to get the permits and other engineering work done for the restrooms—also pro-bono. Ray then thanked **Wanderson Noriega of WN Builders** who built the Restrooms and in 2018 had built the Welcome Center.

Ray recognized one person in the audience who has supported DBG from the beginning—**David Small**, now Chair of the DBG Advisory Council. David recalled how he walked the DBG site "when there was only a rough trail." David said, "We have come a long way. You asked for ideas, and you got them, and implemented them. And now we have a beautiful garden moving forward."

The program included brief remarks from several key local leaders and professionals who were instrumental in the creation of the Restrooms:

Michael Vincent, President of Sussex County Council, recalled several years ago when there was a presentation to the County Council on the Botanic Garden. He rode to the site at that time and thought "wow that's going to be a project." Vincent said, "I note today how well it has turned out. DBG is a great attraction for Sussex County. You have done a great job with all the volunteers, and we thank them for their work. This is a great place to have an event. This is a great place to walk and enjoy Sussex County. I thank you all."



(L to R) Sen. Gerald Hocker, Ray and Sheryl



(L to R) Carol McCloud, Stephen Lea, David Small (center), John Rieley and David Bowen



Michael Vincent with Ray

FESTIVITIES



(L to R) Ray and John Rieley

John Rieley, Sussex County Council, said, “When I was president of the Georgetown Chamber, we had a presentation on the Botanic Garden, and it was so wonderful that it seemed impossible. We were trying to be polite and nod and smile. And here we are today. It’s amazing and wonderful. So thank you for bringing this vision, which has become a reality. The restrooms are wonderful. You know vision coupled with persistence can bring great things. Thank you for everything you do.”

Ray noted, before introducing the Sussex Land Trust speakers, that most new gardens devote their first ten years to raising money for the land. He said, “Because of the generosity of the Sussex County Land Trust, we simply give them a check for a dollar a year, and we lease these beautiful 37-acres for 99-years.”

Russ McCabe of the Sussex County Land Trust replied, “I think we are up to \$8 so far.” [laughter] Russ explained that he was at the original signing of the lease and said, “We thought that 99-years was so far off that we would go for it. You guys do a great job promoting your vision.

Not all of us thought it was doable. But we felt it was worth a try, and I am happy that you guys have done it. When you look at how far you have come in less than a ten-year period, it is amazing. This represents something that wouldn’t have been imaginable 30 or 40-years ago. Yet, the timing is perfect. I am a history nerd, but my focus has become less and less on the past, and more and more on the future. There is no better example of the focus on the future in Sussex County than these gardens. The beauty—you are preserving and promoting our heritage, and also preserving our future. That’s important. I want to recognize a fellow member of the Land Trust board, Ron Vickers.”

Ron Vickers, Sussex County Land Trust Board,

said, “Those gathered here today are the most excited I’ve seen people about a restroom since my grandparents moved to a house with indoor plumbing. I was 12-years old then.” [laughter] Vickers joked about doubling the land rent to \$2 a year. Ray Sander reminded Vickers that the lease was renewable for two more 99-year periods after the first 99-year term expired. Vickers laughed and said, “This is a great occasion. What is great about this spot is anytime you come here it is different. It’s not a static museum. It’s not a static building. It is ever changing. Seasonally and when it’s raining for example. Every time I come here, it’s different and unique. This is a great place to visit, and I plan on doing a lot more visits here. Thank you all.”



Russ McCabe



Sheryl



Ron Vickers with Ray and Sheryl

OPENING DAY

Before Ray introduced Architect Scott Edmonston, **Sheryl Swed** explained how a casual conversation with her friend **Jen Edmonston**, developed into the pro-bono donation of the Restrooms' architectural design by the Edmonstons, and their award-winning team at SEA Studios. Sheryl observed, "Without Jen, we wouldn't be here today." Sheryl then presented Jen with flowers to thank her for asking Scott to create the design for the Restrooms pro bono.

Scott Edmonston of SEA Studio Architects said, "Congratulations to the DBG team. This is a monumental achievement. An achievement of working with us for two years and not threatening to strangle us—not one time! [laughter] This is a remarkable milestone in the long-term health and sustainability of the gardens. We are very proud to be a small part of that. The DBG have been fantastic clients; Ray, Sheryl, the staff, and the Board have been fantastic. We came to them with an initial vision that was a bit out of everyone's comfort-zone, and they said sure let's do it. I'm sure doing it pro-bono had nothing to do with that. I really think it takes a leader's vision to trust your architect and that's what happened here. The results are right behind us. It also takes great project partners, and I won't list them, but they were wonderful. The contactors may not have done this pro-bono, but they ate a lot of costs along the way. Most importantly, Eric Pfeffer deserves credit because of his tireless efforts during the construction. Thank you all."

Ray introduced the WN Builders, and mentioned they also built the Welcome Center.

Wanderson Norigea of WN Builders said, "Thanks everyone, I appreciate it. It was amazing, we had fun and enjoyed working with the architects. Hopefully we will enjoy a good relationship for many years. My partner, Daniel wants to say a few words."

Daniel Kaynan of WN Builders said, "We are happy to be part of this. We thank Ray and Sheryl for their patience through the process, and Erick and Scott you were great. We are happy to do something that will help the community and last for many years. Thank you."



(L to R) Sheryl, Jen, Scott and Eric



Scott Edmonston



Wanderson Norigea with Daniel Kaynan, Ray and Sheryl



(L to R) Scott Edmonston, Jen Edmonston, Eric Pfeffer, Daniel Kaynan and Wanderson Norigea

FESTIVITIES



Ben Coverdale



Ray and Stephen Pryce Lea



Ray said, “We have sustainability and Green Technology in this Restroom building, and the **Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)** have been our partners in supporting this green technology.”

Ben Coverdale, of DNREC’s Division of Watershed Stewardship, spoke about the series of water quality grants provided to DBG including Green Technology at the Restrooms, the Living Shoreline Project, the Rhyne Garden, and the proposed Gateway Garden project. Coverdale said, “We run a lot of water quality grants that focus on non-source water pollution. If a project has an environmental benefit, we work with local partners. We are happy to see all of this come together here. Thank you.”

Sheryl added, “We want to thank **Carol Bason** our Science Advisor and **Stephen Pryce Lea**, Director of Horticulture, who worked closely with DNREC on these green technology grants.”

Stephen Pryce Lea, DBG Director of Horticulture then pointed out the Green Technology features of the restroom facility. He thanked Ben and DNREC for all their continued support. Lea said, “This is a wonderful restroom facility; we will soon be planting in the rain garden; we have this 1,000-gallon cistern collecting the rain water that is from the roof of the restroom. That is a wonderful asset for watering all the plants in the rain garden. We have this double-walled living garden, that will be planted up with native ferns and grasses and will again be watered by rain chains from the roof. We hope you can see these features in coming weeks when the trees are leafed out and the plants are all in. We hope to see you back at the gardens soon. Thank you.”

Ray concluded the program, saying, “We are committed to our Sussex community and giving back to the community. One of the ways we give back is by partnering with local companies. Some of the other local companies that helped with the restrooms building included: **Nickle Electric, Delaware Electric CoOp, Aquatech Water Specialties, Waggoner Welding, Chesapeake Woodworkers, and Harry Caswell Plumbing.** We thank them.”

All the guests then moved to the area on the eastside of the restroom deck, where Ray Sander and Sheryl Swed cut the ribbon officially opening the restroom facility.

EVERYONE CHEERED!

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

There were important changes in DBG leadership this winter and spring.



David Small

David Small, Chair Advisory Council

In February, Ray Sander, DBG president, announced David Small accepted our invitation to become Chair of the DBG Advisory Council.

Ray said, "David Small has been a member of the Advisory Council since its earliest days. David's outstanding leadership on the full range of environmental issues has been a great asset to DBG and even more now as Chair of the Advisory Council."

Small's 30-year career at DNREC included 14-years as Deputy Secretary and three years as Secretary. His leadership was recognized by his being awarded the Order of the First State, Delaware's highest civilian honor. He is also the recipient of the 2016 Delaware Public Official of the Year award by the America Public Works Association, and the 2016 Environmental Achievement Award from the Inland Bays Foundation. Small is currently a senior consultant at Verdantas (formerly Duffield Associates), an engineering and consulting firm with offices in Delaware and 29 locations across the country.

David said, "The Delaware Botanic Gardens are a world-class treasure thanks to the vision, support, work and generosity of a dedicated team that includes volunteers, donors and international experts. I am honored to be the chair of the DBG Advisory Council and to join in this remarkable demonstration of citizen participation and volunteer accomplishment."

DBG Executive Director Sheryl Swed added, "The dedication and inspirational leadership of Carla Markell, the first chair of the Advisory Council, has set a high standard for all of us at DBG. We are indebted to Carla and the great members of the Advisory Council, who have helped DBG become a reality. We are honored that David agreed to accept the leadership baton from Carla as we continue this relay race to create a flagship public garden on Delmarva."

Other changes in the Advisory Council were announced at the April 19th DBG Board Meeting. Barbara Katz played a key role in originally contacting Piet Oudolf in 2015 and organizing the 2017-2018 planting of the meadow garden. She has decided to step-down after her long-distinguished service to the gardens. The Board thanks Barbara for her major contributions, and for all she did bringing the Piet Oudolf Meadow to a reality"

Ronnie Burkle of SoDel is leaving the Council and SoDel has nominated Dan Levin, a rising young member of the Sodel Team, to take his place. We thank Scott Kammerer and his great SoDel Team for their continued support for our Annual Dinner and leadership on the Advisory Council.



Lynda Messick

Lynda Messick, DBG Treasurer

On March 2nd, Ray Sander, President of DBG, said, "We are honored that Lynda is bringing her skills as a financial leader and community champion to our organization. Lynda understands

first-hand the challenges of creating lasting institutions. Her central role in creating two respected Sussex County banks makes Lynda an exceptional addition to DBG as we continue to create a flagship public garden."

Lynda is owner of Bank Governance Advisory, specializing in bank Board Governance. She currently serves as a director of County Bank, headquartered in Rehoboth Beach, and is also on the Board of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh where she is Audit Chair. She was a founder, President and CEO of Community Bank Delaware, and a former President of Delaware National Bank.

During her decades-long leadership in banking, Lynda has continuously committed to giving back to the Delaware Community. She has a distinguished record of community service and Board leadership in several major Delaware nonprofits including the American Red Cross of Delmarva, United Way, Junior Achievement, and former chair of Nanticoke Health Services.

Lynda noted, "I have always believed that nonprofits are a key component of the fabric which holds a community together and improves the quality of life for all of us. Delaware Botanic Gardens is a perfect illustration of that. The creation of this wonderful public botanic garden in Sussex County is an exciting and worthy addition to our Delmarva community. DBG brings together three of my life-long passions: gardening, preserving our beautiful Coastal Environment and working with dedicated volunteers who believe in an inspiring mission."

Sheryl Swed, DBG Executive Director noted, that "Lynda's DBG Board Membership completes the circle Lynda began over 10 years ago as a former Board Member of the Sussex County Land Trust. Lynda's extensive Board experience will help strengthen DBG's Board governance and financial sustainability. The Board unanimously welcomed Lynda to this great undertaking."

**Ronnie will continue to work on the
DBG Annual Dinner on September 29.
BE SURE TO SAVE THAT DATE.**



Photo by
Marge Brady

Frolic in the Folly

On April 8, DBG kicked-off our first 2022 major event. More than 100 guests and supporters took part in a series of rolling activities including: enjoying the **84,000 new spring flowers** in the Meadow and the additional **37,000 spring flowers, plants and shrubs** in the Folly Garden; sharing refreshments

around the Folly Gardens' new reflecting pool; observing the creativity of the Gallery One artists capturing the beauty of the Folly; by listening to saxophonist **Monte Wisbrouck** with vocals by **Vincent Varrassi, DBG Musician in Residence**. The highlight of the evening was watching a unique Planter Display being assembled by DBG **Creative Advisor, Jan Poli**.





EARTH DAY CELEBRATION



On April 22 the gardens were very busy. DBG had 368 admissions, at that time that was a record admissions day, but the record would last only four weeks. In addition to our regular open days garden tour at 10 a.m., we had a special “Budbreak—Tree Identification” Tour at 11 a.m. given by Naturalist Elizabeth Rives. Admission was free if a guest brought a food donation for the Food Bank of Delaware. We collected 880 pounds of food on Earth Day.

368 visitors
880 lbs of food



THIS JUST IN!



DBG has been selected to be the Schell Brothers “Kudos for a Cause” for the month of June. When you share your Kudos about DBG, Schell Brothers will generously donate one dollar per Kudo. **Please see our website banner at delawaregarden.org to learn how to send Kudos about the Garden, DBG staff, or volunteers.** This giving back to the community is the innovation of one of our Regions most respected firms, Schell Brothers. It is a combination of appreciation and generosity. We at DBG are honored and excited that the Schell Brothers have selected DBG to be the beneficiary of their Project Kudos for the month of June.



We had planned to have a wonderful Mother's Day on May 8. Like Earth Day we offered free admission to everybody who brought a food donation for the Food Bank of Delaware. But mother nature brought a nor'easter storm with gale force winds and heavy rain, which forced us to close the gardens that weekend—May 7–8.

We decided to reschedule Mother's Day for the following Sunday, May 15. But what came out of this storm was another demonstration of what an amazing staff-volunteer team we have at DBG. This event cancellation and rescheduling happened on a Saturday morning. It required staff and volunteers to work quickly on the stormy weekend. DBG had to inform the public and guests (with reservations) that DBG Mother's Day would be celebrated on May 15.

- Members and supporters via a special email were informed that the gardens would be closed, and the new May 15 Mother's Day date.
- Guests who had made May 8 reservations were contacted.
- The docents who had been scheduled to work May 8 had to be contacted.
- The public had to be informed via immediate press release of the closure and change in Mother's Day date to May 15.
- Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole of our staff had to go to the gardens amid the storm to "secure the site" as the wind blew, and the rain poured down.

Sheryl Swed, DBG Executive Director, immediately sent an email that Saturday morning thanking all those who quickly and professionally did what had to be done. This is the sort of DBG teamwork demonstrated day-after-day.

On Sunday, May 15 the sun reappeared, and guests flocked to the gardens.

DBG set two all-time records. First, we had 409 admissions, with 201 of the admissions after 1 p.m. We had guests waiting in line to "check-in" at the Welcome Center. Second, our generous guests donated over 1,038 pounds of food to the Food Bank of Delaware, which combined with the 880 pounds collected on Earth Day—totaled 1,918 pounds, nearly a ton of food for our community from our generous Guests. DBG plans more days in the coming months to forego admission fees in exchange of food donations for the Sussex Community.



BUGS AND BEER



“I came for the beer but now have a deeper understanding of the important biological diversity role the wetlands or vernal pools play in nature.”

On May 18 DBG hosted a fun-filled “hands-on” educational experience led by Todd Fritchman at the Dogfish Head Learning Garden/Constructed Wetland Outdoor Classroom. An Aquatic Biologist by training, during his tenure at Indian River High School, Todd was named the Delaware Science Teacher of the Year. Todd is currently President and CEO of Envirotech Environmental Consulting and a member of the DGB board. Todd explained the session’s objective was to quantify and qualify the macro invertebrates living in the constructed DBG Wetland or Vernal Pool.

Wetland water samples were studied, and guests used plastic white spoons to dip and identify by their shape the various Aquatic invertebrates. Everybody recorded their observations using a guide booklet, which Todd provided. It became clear that the constructed wetland is a natural area of great “biological diversity.” Todd explained that the diversity of samples proved that the DBG constructed wetlands (or vernal pool) had grown naturally over time and was healthier in 2022, than it was three years ago when the first water samples were studied in 2019.

Pointing out a neotropical bird that most likely came from Mexico or Brazil feeding at the constructed wetlands, Todd said, “This natural wetland system and everything else in the Delaware Botanic Garden has global wildlife energy impacts that are important to sustain our planet.” Participants were amazed by the array of life in the water. Reactions ranged from “I am enjoying the bugs” to “I didn’t know what to expect, but this is very interesting,” and “I now want to build a natural vernal pool in my backyard.” One adult guest summed the class up, saying, “I came for the beer but now have a deeper understanding of the important biological diversity role the wetlands or vernal pools play in nature.”

Todd may be offering other sessions throughout the year, including a session geared to younger students. Watch the DBG website for announcements.



SIP AND SAUNTER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15
5-7 PM

BEER & COCKTAIL TASTING STATIONS
WINE • FOOD • MUSIC

Members: \$100/single, \$175/couple
Nonmembers: \$110/single, \$195/couple
Go to delawaregardens.org for tickets under
Upcoming Events

For more information, please contact Sheryl Swed
at sherylswed@delawaregardens.org



SAVE
THE
DATE

Back to the Garden



ANNUAL DINNER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
6-8 PM

Members: \$140/single, \$270/couple
Nonmembers: \$150/single, \$290/couple

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE. Please contact
Sheryl Swed, sherylswed@delawaregardens.org

- Delicious coastal foods presented by **SoDel Concepts**
- Music under the tent by Musician in Residence, **Vince Varrassi** and **5th Avenue**
- Viewing the Magnificent Meadow Garden created by **Piet Oudolf**

QUICK NOTES



(L to R) Ray Sander, Victoria Brennan, Sheryl Swed and Ron Gray

Delaware Representative Ron Gray and Victoria Brennan, Delaware Chief of Fiscal Policy visited gardens, April 27th to see the new Restroom Facility and receive an update on new DBG projects that may require financial support from the Delaware Community Redevelopment Fund.



(L to R) Stephen Lea, Sheryl Swed, Cam Yorkston, Carol McCloud and Phoebe Craven

Long-time supporter Phoebe Craven visited the gardens, April 29 to see the new Restroom facility and receive update on new DBG projects.



Ray and Heidi Gilmore



Heidi and Sheryl

Heidi Gilmore, Chair of the Sussex County Land Trust Board and Shell Brothers Video Team Visited the gardens, May 10. This was part of Shell Brothers "Kudos Campaign," wherein DBG and some of our volunteers gave video Kudos to the Sussex Land Trust for their continued strong support of DBG. The DBG kudos were to be placed on the Shell Brother's Instagram project kudos page or DBG Facebook page. For every Kudo that the Sussex County Land Trust received, Shell Brothers donated \$1 to the Sussex County Land Trust.

QUICK NOTES



(L to R) Sheryl Swed, Executive Director; Bridget Curran, Seasonal Gardner; Jeremy Cole, Horticulturalist; Sam Cashdollar, Director of Grounds & Facilities; Stephen Pryce Lea, Director of Horticulture; Jane Hines, Financial Manager; Angie Phinney, Membership Manager



Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole carrying irrigation pipe to install by restroom area.

DBG Staff—Kudos

Behind the scenes, the DBG staff has been hard at work this spring ensuring we were ready to open. Since our staff are always on the move it is rare to catch them together or at work. We salute our staff.



Our newest naming rights sponsor of “The Point” at Pepper Creek is **Barbara Peters**. We thank Barbara, a long-time supporter for her continued generosity.

DBG has some wonderful naming rights opportunities. If you or someone you know might be interested in being a sponsor, here is the list of the garden features available for naming rights.

- **Observation Deck at Pepper Creek**
- **West Woodland Garden Pathway Bridge**
- **The Three Inland Dunes Gardens**
- **Reflecting Pool in Folly Garden**
- **Two Vernal Pools in East & West Woodlands**
- **The Gallery Garden**
- **Midway Woodland Edge Garden**
- **Oak Grove**
- **Piet Oudolf Meadow or sections of the**

Sustaining the Gardens NAMING RIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES

Meadow Naming rights sponsors have a special sponsor naming rights sign installed at their feature. If you are interested, please contact Executive Director Sheryl Swed, 202-262-9856 or email sherylswed@delawaregardens.org.

Benches Needed.

DBG has expanded the West Woodland trails, including a new shortcut trail that loops to the west of the Restroom Facility taking you to the Restrooms-Welcome Center Area. So, we need more benches for our guests to rest. This is a perfect time to name a bench after someone special as a timeless gift. 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. Go to delawaregardens.org/bench-orders and scroll down to bench order details.





CAPITAL PROJECTS



There have been some new developments in our pavilion planning. First, DBG is expanding the list of builders we are soliciting with requests for proposal (RFP). Mark Davidson of Pennoni Engineering and Architect Scott Edmonston at SEA Studios have helped us revise our bidder strategy. We think it is wise to expand our RFPs to both commercial builders and some of the larger residential builders, who Sea Studios have worked with in the past. We expect to select a contractor in July 2022, with work completed by September 2023.

Second, we have learned some important lessons in the building of the Restroom Facility during the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect the continuing pandemic will cause us supply chain delays and related cost increases during the pavilion project.

The good news is that we have raised \$950,000 for the pavilion, thanks to our generous supporters.

However, we anticipate we will face rising construction and furnishing costs as we work our way through this project. DBG will be careful to get this project going with the best builder at the best price. But we must be realistic and will be asking for our supporters to help us fully fund this important ongoing project, because it is key to having a financially sustainable garden. This all-weather facility is needed so we can operate all year-long for DBG educational events, volunteer training and to develop a revenue source by renting the pavilion facilities for meetings and special private events such as weddings, etc.



STAFF-VOLUNTEER POLE BUILDING

Sam Cashdollar, Director of Grounds & Facilities is working with Mark Davidson at Pennoni Engineering and Ray Sander to refine the RFP numbers for a Staff-Volunteer Pole Building. We have received several RFP responses and expect to break ground this summer. The new pole building will be located where the two old trailer-containers are now. The new pole building will have a shop-garage, gathering room for staff and volunteer meetings and restrooms. We are looking forward to this new all-weather building.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

We continue to provide educational training and outreach both onsite and off.

MARCH 4

DBG hosted students and faculty from Delaware Sea Grant/DelTech Green Infrastructure program to discuss the DBG green technology projects. We are also discussing with DelTech the possibility of future collaboration regarding Green Infrastructure.



APRIL 26

Mayors for Monarch Butterfly Workshop, Millville (DE) Town Hall. Stephen Pryce Lea, Director of Horticulture gave a talk on DBG major green projects using native plants to enhance environmental sustainability and support wildlife.



MAY 14

Native Plant Sale/Water Family Fest at James Farm Ecological Preserve. This annual event is sponsored by DBG partners DNREC and the Center for Inland Bays (CIB). DBG was very well represented by Board member, Karen Steenhoudt, and Elizabeth Rives, DBG's Tree Expert.



MEDIA-MARKETING OUTREACH

Thanks to our media partners DBG continues to enjoy a high media profile. DBG has generated an average of nearly 7 media stories a month. Noteworthy media coverage this spring included:

March 10: The Washington Post

Sunday Travel Section, "Taking a Mid-Atlantic road trip? Stop at these native plant gardens along the way," by Amy Brecount White. DBG was the first garden mentioned, and featured DBG photos by Ray Bojarski.

March 17: WRDE-TV (NBC)

Covered DBG's Opening- Ribbon-Cutting, and David Bowen of WRDE interviewed Scott Edmonston.



March 20: Delaware State News

Sunday front Page, "Delaware Botanical Gardens celebrates growth," by Logan B. Anderson.

March 26: Delaware Online/DelmarvaNow

Reporter Emily Lytle and Salisbury Times' photographer Lauren Roberts produced a story "Take a walk in the Delaware Botanical Gardens to discover natural beauties in Sussex County." This story was picked up by the Associated Press (AP) and was published in newspapers and online sites around the United States, including in USNews.com and was locally published on the front page of The Wave newspaper in Bethany Beach, DE on May 3.



April 27: 6/ABC-TV in Philadelphia

Broadcast an "Inside look at the Delaware Botanic Gardens," by Jacki Bacher. This piece was the result of Jacki taking a DBG tour with Elizabeth Rives and discovering the beauty of the DBG gardens. Great DBG coverage in the Philly metro area.



May 11: Cape May Ferry Ad

One example of a DBG outreach initiative is a new video ad produced to run at the Cape May and Lewes Ferry Terminals and to be shown twice on each ferry crossing this season. On May 11th DBG President Ray Sander recorded a video for the ad at the Folly Garden, and the producers added drone video of the gardens taken by Ray Bojarski, DBG's chief photographer and licensed drone pilot.



Special thanks to Board Members Brent Baker, Board Secretary and DBG Communications Director; Scott Thomas, Executive Director Southern Delaware Tourism Office; and Susan Lyons, Publisher of The Coastal Point Newspaper, for helping to expand our mix of media and advertising-marketing in Delmarva to a new level.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE



News from Carol McCloud

DBG Vice President & Volunteer Director

With spring in the air and the flowering of our beautiful Gardens, as I write my column, I reflect on how fortunate

we are to have so many talented/outstanding people who volunteer at the Gardens. The amazing thing about our Volunteers is it starts from the top and runs throughout our entire organization. Our Board Officers as well as members, Administrative, Garden Stewards, and Docents all are Volunteers. We are truly a Volunteer run organization. We Volunteer for the love of the Gardens. As volunteers & staff we are all dedicated and have a “can do” attitude. We all work side-by-side to continue to support this wonderful project.

On March 17, 2022 we reopened the Gardens to the public. We were thrilled that we were able to increase our open hours to 9:00–4:00 Thursday through Sunday. This gives our guests more opportunities to visit our beautiful gardens which, also, has increased our attendance. By extending our hours it also doubled our need of Docents to be onsite. In February, we sent a survey to all our volunteers in hopes of gaining more Docents as well as have our current Docents take on additional hours to cover the extended hours. I was not surprised with the results. Our Docents responded with a resounding yes to increasing their hours as did several of our Garden Stewards responding yes to become new Docents. Without all their support we would not have been able to have our Gardens open longer each day. Since our

reopening we have had new volunteer’s signup for both Docents and Garden Stewards.

If you’d like to join our incredible volunteers as a Garden Steward, Docent or Administrative duties, please go to our website at delawaregardens.org/volunteers-to-help, and signup. You will be so glad that you did. You will gain wonderful new lasting friendships.



Planting the Rhyne Garden

Every spring and fall we hold a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration for our Volunteers. This year it was a very special celebration on May 11th. Our Volunteers’ dedication by consistently coming to the Gardens and contributing hours to the Gardens’ success earned them the honor of receiving the Volunteer Delaware - Governor’s Volunteer Outstanding Service Award on February 24, 2022. They received a plaque and a jacket with a logo. There were 85 honorees who were presented the volunteer honoree jackets and Award Plaque. We would like to recognize Peter Carter, DBG Board member, for his financial support in cost—sharing the purchase of the jackets.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS WHO MET THE CRITERIA IN 2021 FOR 2022:

100+ Hours

Brent Baker
 Carol Bason
 Tom Bason
 Ray Bojarski
 Tony Broomfield
 Donna Buono
 Jeannette Cowan
 Pam Grodman
 Craig Haggerty
 Mary Hall
 Jeff Johnson
 Kathy Johnson
 Margaret Kimmel
 Don Klima
 Kathy Lesperance
 Sue Lyons
 James Marshall
 Judy Marshall
 Judy Martin
 Carol McCloud
 Maureen Morano
 Jane Peters
 Jan Poli
 Tricia Precht
 Cheryl Quirk
 Elizabeth Rives
 Tom Rondeau
 Ray Sander
 Garland Saville
 Angela Schaab
 Kurt Schaab
 Gary Stokes
 Jane Stokes
 Sheryl Swed
 Alison Willocks
 Rob Wisniewski

50+ Hours

Sally Scarangella
 Jamie Healey
 Barry Weissman
 Karen Dudley
 Bonnie McNamee
 Jeanette Akhter
 Ron Bass
 Julie Moses
 Ed Palmerino
 Les Ferguson
 Andy McGrellis
 Lorraine Easton
 Angela Phinney
 Jill Simeral
 Jane Carroll
 Pat Long

20+ Hours

Gail Dubowe
 Eileen McGarry
 Margaret Ravida
 Cheryl Millet
 Carole Somers
 Diann Sherwin
 George Hammond
 Barry Gilbert
 Ann Osterdale
 Damien Brouillard
 Debbie Woods
 Linda Oberkofler

Volunteer Incentive Program 2021 for Admission to the Gardens in 2022

- Any volunteer who volunteers 100+ hours in a given year earns free admission plus 2 accompanying guests into the Gardens the following year.
- Any volunteer who volunteers 50+ hours in a given year earns free admission plus 1 accompanying guest into the Gardens the following year.
- Any volunteer who volunteers 20+ hours earns free admission into the Gardens the following year.



Training & Development

So far this year we have had several training sessions including:

- **February 3, Volunteer Training—Cutting Back the Meadow**
- **March 10, Docent Training/Refresher Class**
- **March 11, POS Training/Refresher**
- **March 15, POS Training/Refresher**
- **April 25, Volunteer Training—Tree Identification Program**
- **May 4, POS Training**

TOURS

DBG Garden Tours (20 guests max) given each open day at 10:00 a.m. are very popular. If you'd like to take a tour, please go to our website: delawaregardens.org and sign up. Or you can sign up as a walk-in, if there are spaces available. We also have prebooked larger group tours. So far this season we have 32 confirmed group tours with several more waiting for confirmation. Since the opening of our restrooms we can now accommodate bus tours as well. Several of the groups coming this year are coming by bus. How exciting.

Check out our website delawaregardens.org for specialty tours:

- **Meadow Garden Tour, Late Spring, Early Summer, Summer & Fall with Director of Horticulture Stephen Pryce Lea**
- **Tree Identification in the Woodlands with Elizabeth Rives, Docent, Certified Naturalist and tree and shrub expert**
- **Butterfly Tour/Program with Margaret Kimmel, Science Educator, Seasonal Naturalist for Delaware Seashore State Park**

As the Director of Tours, I share the privilege of also being a Tour Guide. The opportunity of being a tour guide is shared with Stephen Pryce Lea, Elizabeth Rives, Margaret Kimmel & Gary Stokes. If you are interested in having a large group tour, please contact me at carol.mccloud@delawaregardens.org

Carol

This year their free admission began on March 17, 2022 and runs through March 17, 2023.

Another small token of our appreciation to our Volunteers, for their dedication, this year we are offering them a 10% discount on the merchandise sold in our Welcome Center.

I'd like to thank all of our volunteers for their passion and dedication to DBG. It is an honor and a privilege to volunteer alongside you. You are greatly appreciated. Carol



HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

News from Stephen Pryce Lea

Director of Horticulture

We had an exciting and busy start to the 2022 season, thanks to increased media

attention enabling record-breaking attendance numbers and new product lines encouraging an increase in gift shop sales.

Spectacular Spring bulb displays delighted our visitors, crediting our dedicated Volunteers who planted 84,000 bulbs bringing early-spring color and excitement to the Piet Oudolf Meadow.

Visitors to the garden enjoyed a succession of bulbs from early March to late April adding large splashes of color across the meadow and the Folly Garden. This extra layer of early spring interest throughout the spring has helped people come out to enjoy the gardens.

An uptake in plant sales has been encouraging with many guests enjoying the selection of native and non-native pollinator plants available. We look to continue having plants available for sale, with many of the plants grown by our onsite staff with support from volunteers. Proceeds of the plant sales will be used to benefit DBG staff.

DBG staff and volunteers planted a new native Oak Grove of 80 Oak trees, and another 40 native trees to create a new woodland habitat on the Northeast side of the gardens. The tree planting is the first phase of creating this Oak grove; next we will be adding an under-canopy of native flowering and fruiting shrubs.

New Spring planting projects include the East and West rain gardens on either side of the cedar-clad restrooms, new shade-loving perennials added to the Folly Garden. The Reflecting Pool designed by Jan Poli and built by





Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole has been a great added attraction, and a new naming opportunity.

Planting of replacement plants in the meadow garden completed in May, with Piet approving a selection of new perennial plant addition to replace those that have continued failures. Later this year we will be adding a new Little Bluestem grass called "Ha Ha Tonka." This will replace the failed "Black Mountain" grasses and will be a great addition to the lower meadow.



During early May we also completed the installation of the double-sided living wall with a selection of shade-loving ferns and sedge grasses at the entrance to the restrooms.



The meadow has been buzzing with native bees, hoverflies, and essential pollinators since early spring, with swallowtail butterflies and even early monarch butterflies enjoying the warmer days of spring.

Bluebirds and Tree Swallows are regular visitors to the meadow, many rearing young in nearby donor-sponsored nesting boxes, and several pairs of cardinals bring bright flashes of red to the Folly and Learning

Garden as they dart between trees and pines searching for tasty bugs.

We were successful with the extension of the DNREC Green Technology Grant in the Entry Garden - the demonstration hedgerow project will begin in the Fall, with a new DNREC grant - over \$74,000. Starting during October, completed around the time we re-open for Spring 2023. We will have a wonderful new Gateway Garden to welcome our returning guests.

In addition, we were awarded a \$5,000 grant from Delaware Forestry Commission Urban Community Forestry UCF to plant another 1,000 sapling trees in the fall.

Lastly, I would like to welcome our new seasonal gardener Bridget Curran to the DBG staff. She will be with us this season, after graduating Plymouth State University, Plymouth New Hampshire. She is a hard worker and always has a smile on her face.

Kudos to the team for all the hard work that has gone into making the 2022 Spring season a huge success. Here's to a record-breaking year with the garden achieving targets and receiving numerous accolades.

Gratitude to the team of Board, staff and volunteers that make the DGB dream a reality.



Stephen