

DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS

Summer 2021

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DELAWARE
BOTANIC
GARDENS
AT PEPPER CREEK

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delawaregardens.org

Photos by Ray Bojarski

UPDATE REPORT



Half-way through a year of progress and consolidation — new additions to our staff, Board and Advisory Council; construction delays and more complete designs for next structure to advance our financial sustainability; exciting plans for additions to our gardens; continued philanthropic support from foundations, the State and

our dedicated donors; the expansion of DBG's community commitment; the widening circle of national recognition of DGB as one of the newest public gardens in the United States; and volunteer-driven programs to inform and educate our guests. All these issues are included in this edition of the Newsletter.

It has been inspiring to see the talented professionals who have stepped forward to join our Board and Advisory Council. Prior to accepting their new responsibilities, most of them have made unique contributions to DBG. It is only fitting for them to now join the DBG Team in official roles.

With six new Board Members, a new Treasurer and three new Advisory Council members added in the last seven months, the DBG Leadership Team is ready to take on the challenges of operating this amazing public garden.

In addition, we have hired three new staff members to join our stalwart staff of Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole.

Our goal and mission has always been to create an inspiring public garden on Delmarva that serves the needs of our community. It is our honor to be part of this great garden community who devotes countless hours and donates generously to this amazing public garden.

We need your continued interest and active support. Hope to see you at the Virtual Dinner on September 23. Please consider becoming a sponsor and donating to our Challenge Match.

Raymond Sheryl

Ray & Sheryl

President Ray Sander & Executive Director Sheryl Swed



Make Your Reservations NOW for the DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS VIRTUAL DINNER

In Partnership with **SoDel Concepts**
Banks Wines & Spirits and Bogle Vineyards

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 6:00–8:00 pm

5-course peach-inspired dinner with Bogle Vineyards wine, one bottle per person, special SoDel peach-inspired cocktail. Beer from Thompson Island Brewing Company as an extra treat. Special gifts include a free pass to the Garden and a certificate for a copy of the new addition of Piet Oudolf's "Hummelo" book for each reservation, which may be redeemed at the DBG Welcome Center.

Ticket prices: Couple \$275, Single \$138

Dinner Pick-up at 5:00, 5:15 or 5:30 pm

at one of the following SoDel restaurants:

Fish On in Lewes

Northeast Seafood Kitchen in Ocean View

Bluecoast in Rehoboth



Join us for our program at 6:00 p.m. on your computer, tablet or smartphone using GoToMeeting.

Reservations, Sponsorships, and Challenge Match are available at delawaregardens.org

Featuring:

Guitar and Vocals by **Robbie La Blanc**

Piano and Vocals by **Vincent Varrassi**

Menu

HOUSE DELAWARE SWEET BREAD & SEASALT HONEY BUTTER

CRAB DEVEILED EGGS

Farm Eggs | Local Blue Crab | Whipped Yolk | Pickled Mustard Seeds | Old Bay | Hot Sauce

SMOKED FISH BOARD

Rainbow Trout | Atlantic Salmon | Scallops | Smoked Peach Chutney | Stone Mustard | Toasted Rye Points

GRILLED PEACH & PECAN SALAD

302 Aquaponics Baby Red Leaf | Grilled Peaches | Candied Pecans | Rogue Smokey Blue Cheese | Balsamic Dijon Vinaigrette

SOUTHERN DELAWARE SURF & TURF

Fried Airline Chicken Breast | Broiled Crab Cake | Country Potato Salad | Toy Box Tomato, White Peach & Grilled Corn Salad

ASSORTED SWEETS

Assorted Cookies | Peach Almond Jam Bars | Cake Truffles | Marshmallow Treats



DELAWARE
BOTANIC
GARDENS
AT PEPPER CREEK

Last year, when we were confronted with the dangers of spreading COVID-19, our dinner partners, SoDel and Banks Wine & Spirits joined us in a creative virtual alternative to our in-person annual dinner. Despite the hopes of all of us and the best efforts of many of us, the COVID-19 threat has continued in 2021.

We hope that you will join us and the great community of DBG supporters for this year's virtual fundraising dinner. Once again, our great partners are offering a sensational menu, beautifully paired wines and libations, and live entertainment. This year, as a token of our appreciation, each reservation will also be gifted with a copy of the recently published "Hummelo," the definitive work on Piet Oudolf's planting philosophy and his unique style.

This event is our principal way of raising funds to pay our operating expenses. **Two of DBG's most generous supporters, Ron Bass and George Robbins, are again inspiring all of us to be generous by matching their \$25,000 challenge match.** All the donations and pledges you make now, and that night will be doubled through their generosity.

Our dedicated volunteers help us to keep our personnel costs below the industry average, but utilities, technology, insurance, and maintenance are cost drivers. We need your continued participation and support as we maintain and grow this beautiful public garden in southern Delaware.

TRANSITIONS

At the July 20 Board Meeting four new Board members were approved by the DBG Board of Directors, and one new member of the Advisory Council was appointed by President Ray Sander. We are honored that these distinguished professionals bring to DBG's leadership team a remarkable mix of business savvy, horticultural experience, and dedication to public service. This infusion of talent and energy will empower DBG to get to the next level of performance by increasing our program offerings and ensuring the continuity of DBG's governance. President Sander said, "I especially thank Sheryl Swed and Carol McCloud for recruiting these outstanding board and advisory council members."

NEW DBG BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS INCLUDE:



Todd Fritchman has 28-years of experience as a Biologist/ Environmental Consultant and Biology Teacher. He is CEO of Envirotech Environmental Consulting, Lewes, DE. His company was the prime designer

- contractor building the DBG "Wetlands Outdoor Classroom" as part of the Dogfish Head Learning Garden in 2018. Todd taught the inaugural DBG "Bugs and Beer" class at the DBG Wetlands Outdoor Classroom in May 2019. He holds a BS in Biology and MS in Biological Science Education.



Ryan Revel is a Sussex Central High School Science Teacher and was the coordinator of the 2018 visit to DBG for Sussex Central High School Juniors in the International Baccalaureate Science Program. She has a

proven record of Community Service and was a Founding Member of Sussex County Habitat for Humanity and is involved with Delaware Food Bank. She holds a BS in Biology and MS in Education/Instruction.



Karen Steenhoudt has been a volunteer at DBG since 2018. She contributed to the design and building of the Inland Dunes Habitat Garden and the Living Shoreline Conservation Project at DBG. She holds a BS/MS in

Bio-Engineering and Environmental Engineering, and a MS degree in Landscape Architecture from Temple University.

Alison Willocks has been a volunteer at DBG since 2018. She is the administrator of the DBG "Volgistics" computer program that tracks volunteer hours of service and is a docent trainer for the DBG "Point-of-Sale" system. Alison has 22 years of experience in SAP Business System Design, Configuration and Leadership for large organizations. She has worked for the National Park Service as a leader in Financial and Business Management Systems, and Northrop Grumman as Manager Business Intelligence/Information Delivery. She holds a postgraduate degree in Accounting.



DBG Executive Director Sheryl Swed joined Carla Markell, Chair of the DBG Advisory Council in announcing Dr. Marianne Walch as a new DBG Advisory Council Member.

Dr. Marianne Walch has 35-years of environmental research experience in non-profit, academic, federal, and state government positions. She is Science and Restoration Coordinator at the Delaware Center for Inland Bays (CIB). She provides expertise in water quality, environmental monitoring, and ecosystem restoration. Dr. Walch was involved in the 2020 building of the DBG Living Shoreline Conservation Project, which was a partnership of DBG, CIB and Delaware Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC).



She holds a BS in microbiology from the University of Maryland and MS and PhD. degrees in Environmental Microbiology & Applied Mathematics from Harvard University.

WELCOME NEW TREASURER

Thanks to Kathy Johnson



At the July 28 Board of Directors' meeting President Sander announced that **Dave Baker**, a highly respected leader in Sussex County, agreed to join our executive team as our new treasurer. Dave had a distinguished public service career serving over three decades in Sussex County Government, including 14 years as Director of Finance and culminating with 6 years as the top Sussex County Administrator. Dave also has a decade of experience in the private sector as a Financial Advisor at Ameriprise Financial and Ballast Financial. At Sussex County, Dave was involved in the acquisition of the 37-acre Cannon Tract Farm by Sussex County, which years later became the DBG home site. So, he is coming full circle now as the treasurer at DBG.



Thank You Kathy Johnson
Also at the July 28 Board Meeting, the Board passed a Motion of Appreciation and Thanks for Kathy's major contributions as Treasurer for the DBG during these challenging times over the past two years. President Ray Sander saluted Kathy saying that in 2020 the work she did in personally obtaining PPP and the other government COVID-19 grants and loans enabled the gardens to maintain and pay our staff during a very difficult time. He said, "She did a fantastic job and is leaving DBG in a strong financial position. Thank you for your service."

STAFF NEWS



On July 12, **Jane Hines** joined our team as the part-time **Financial Manager**. Jane has had over 20 years of experience working as a Staff Accountant in public accounting offices. More recently, she found her passion for serving non-profits as an Accountant for the Carl M. Freeman Foundation and the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation (The Freeman Stage) for nearly 5 years. Jane is excited to continue her passion now at DBG.

MEDIA PARTNERS

We have had a three-prong media strategy, starting locally and building to regional and national. DBG continues to receive great support from our local media outlets, including **Coastal Point** (Thanks to Publisher & Board Member Susan Lyons and Executive Editor Darin McCann) and **Cape Gazette** (Thanks to Co-Publisher/General Manager Chris Rausch and writer Chris Flood).

Several regional publications also ran stories about DBG including the July issue of **Delaware Today** magazine where DBG was voted "Best in Delaware" to enjoy nature downstate. We thank Jon & Erin Westman of **Coastal Style** magazine for the featured story in their July-August issue on "Sip & Saunter." Thanks also to Becky and Marvin Carney for the two-page feature on DBG in the **Delaware Beach Book**.



Becky & Marvin Carney

On the national level, DBG was included in the text and in pictures in the July 25 **Wall Street Journal** story in the Off Duty Travel section, "For a Beach Vacation That's Not Just the Beach, Try Delaware." Julekha Dash, who visited the gardens in June, wrote, DBG was **"... an oasis of native grasses and seasonally changing flowers, that back up to a woodlands at the 2-year old Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek."** She continued, **"Piet Oudolf, the landscape architect behind New York City's High Line, designed the garden's central meadow."** Thanks to Julekha and Scott Thomas, DBG Board Member and Executive Director of the Southern Delaware Tourism Office, who helped in getting DBG included this WSJ article.

DBG was honored to be one of the few presenting gardens at the June American Public Garden Association (APGA) Annual Virtual Conference. We submitted a 20-minute video, "Soybeans to Blossoms," created by Ray Bojarski, DBG's chief photographer and drone pilot. It was narrated by local arts and media personality Michael Sprouse. We thank Ray and Michael. This was the story of how a group of Sussex County citizens had the dream of a botanic garden and a team of professionals and volunteers made that dream a reality. From all the feedback, the DBG presentation was well received and gave DBG national exposure to this important audience of public gardens.

Lastly, Stephen Pryce Lea, DBG Head of Horticulture, reached out with a wonderful article, "Summer Flora and Fauna at DBG," published in the July 9 "Coastal Point." We thank him for this outreach.

BRIEF HAPPENINGS

Sip & Saunter

On June 16, DBG hosted the **SOLD OUT** "Sip & Saunter" event with 150 special guests. This event celebrated the many people who have supported the gardens and contributed in different ways to DBG's success.

Thanks to Craig Sims, DBG Development Director, who worked hard with our volunteers on coordinating this "Sip & Saunter" event. Also, thanks to Dogfish Head Brewery for contributing festive libations; Good Earth Market's Sue Ryan and chef Niono Macari for great food, and Eva Tooker of Coastal Keys for music. Also participating was plein air artist John Schisler.

One special group we celebrated was the "Living Shoreline Project" team from DBG and The Center for Inland Bays (CIB). This team was the key to designing and building the project, and DBG is indebted to them for preserving 300-feet of our Pepper Creek shoreline.



Living Shoreline Crew (L TO R) Olivia McDonald, Chris Bason, Carol Bason, Karen Steenhoudt, Dr. Marianne Walch, Stephen Pryce Lea, Doug Janiec, Bob Collins, Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole



(L to R) Stephen Pryce Lea, Sue Robinson, Sheryl Swed, Rodney Robinson, Ray Sander and Todd Fritchman



The Hager Family



Butterfly Thursdays

July 29 marked the start of a new "Butterfly Thursdays" educational event initiated by volunteer leaders Margaret Kimmel and Craig Haggerty. It ran every Thursday in August and received great reviews. On a very hot 93-degree day on August 12, we hosted 31 Butterfly event guests. We got off to a good start when WRDE-TV (NBC) covered the initial Butterfly Thursday. Thank you, Cody Decker and James Weaver of WRDE-TV. This well attended Butterfly program signals the continued spirit of innovation and community outreach we have experienced all this season.



STAFF INNOVATIONS

The Woodland Gardens Bridge

One of the earliest goals we have had for the Woodland Gardens has been to provide a continuous, circumferential walking path that would enable our guests to experience the fullness of the 12-acres. We have always envisioned a walk starting from the East Woodland Edge Garden into the Folly Garden to the Knoll passed the freshwater Vernal Pool to the Pepper Creek Point and Observation Deck along the Pepper Creek into the recently opened Western Woodland with its span of naturally occurring ferns and emerging at the West Woodland Edge Garden. Due to the inventiveness and skills of our staff, Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole, this visitor experience is now a reality. The raised walkway they have built over a very wet stretch now allows our visitors to walk unimpeded around the entire Woodlands. We are also grateful to Dave Bartoo and his DNREC team who helped us install the footings for the walkway.

The **DogFish Learning Garden** was one of the first features at DBG. This outdoor experience has been made more user-friendly with the addition of shade sails first suggested by volunteer task leader, Jan Poli, and designed and installed by Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole. This installation was completed just in time for the “Sip & Saunter” event.

DBG COMMUNITY OUTREACH

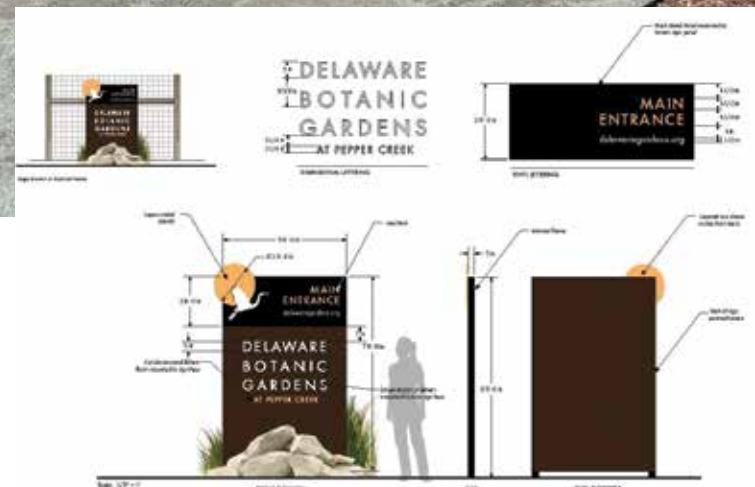
One of the often-heard comments about DBG is “the Delaware Botanic Gardens has been built by the Community for the Community.” We are all aware of the thousands of hours and tireless work of our Garden Stewards, Docents, Staff and Board. This spirit of giving back to the Community was manifest by two recent projects. In the last Newsletter we reported the astonishing results of our free admission on Earth Day and Mother’s Day in exchange for a food donation — 1,680 pounds of food collected from our guests and donated to the Food Bank of Delaware.

On July 22, DBG partnered with Beebe Healthcare to offer COVID-19 vaccinations at the Gardens. Joined by Sussex County Bookmobile, converted to a mobile health dispensary, and Sussex County EMS, this was our way to reach out to our Community and team with health care partners to help make our Sussex County neighbors safe. We rewarded the people getting vaccinated and the members of the health clinic team with FREE admission to the gardens and a FREE Day Pass as a gift from DBG. The gardens are one of the safest outdoor experiences to enjoy nature’s beauty this summer and fall.



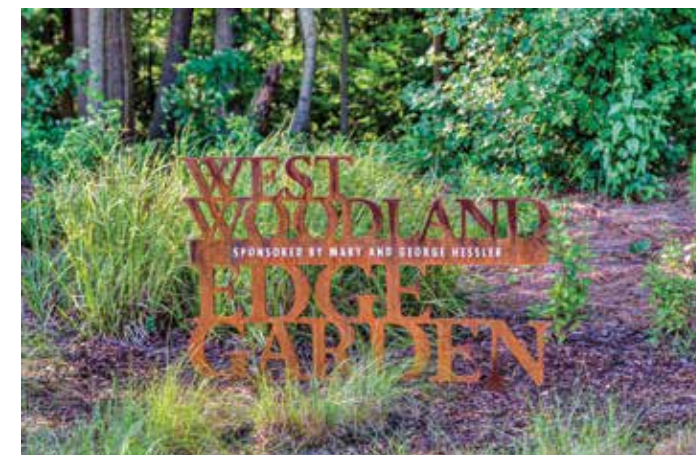
Shanna Zickgraf, RN; Kim Blanch, RN; Sally Laux, RN; Kathy McFadden, Sussex Libraries; Tracie Hitchen, Sussex Libraries; Mary Summerville, RN; Greg Bell, Sussex County EMS

NEW DBG SIGNS



Nine new signs were installed in the gardens this summer. To salute our naming rights supporters there are five new signs at the Entry Garden, Rhyne Garden, Welcome Center, East Woodland Edge and West Woodland Edge Gardens. Four other signs were installed at the Piet Oudolf Meadow, The Point, Observation Deck, and Learning Nest, which are sponsor opportunities. If you are interested in becoming a naming sponsor, please call Sheryl at 202-262-9856. These signs were designed by Gecko Group and we thank Kathy Hughes at Gecko for her team’s expertise and visits to the gardens. In September, we expect to install a new main visitor entrance sign at Piney Neck Road designed by Gecko.

In addition, there are three new interpretive signs—two in the Rhyne Garden, and one at the observation deck describing the Living Shoreline Project details. We thank Carol Bason, Joanne Shipley and Stephen Pryce Lea for their detailed work putting these interpretive signs together.



VOLUNTEERS UPDATE

“We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it’s our garden that is really nurturing us.” —Jenny Uglow



News from Carol McCloud DBG Vice President & Volunteer-Tour Director



The long hot summer not only brings our Gardens to life with an abundance of flowers, which creates such beauty, it also brings heat and humidity. However, this does not deter our dedicated core volunteers and staff. If it’s too hot they seek refuge in our Folly Garden, Woodlands and Woodland Edge Gardens to continue their labor of love maintaining, planting, weeding and curating our beautiful gardens.

Thank you for “all” that you do. Late summer is a period of transition when flower seed heads stand tall, and are beacons attracting many bees and butterflies. We look forward to the changing colors of fall which will soon be upon us. Our seedless Brandywine Red Maple trees in our Rhyne Garden will be a radiant color of red which will be a sight to behold.



Our volunteers also participate in other opportunities in the Gardens with staff. This summer we’ve achieved the following:

- Terrapin count along the Living Shoreline
- Planting new grasses, sedges & marshland perennials along the Living Shoreline at low tide
- Insect’ sweep throughout the Meadow
- Tree data collection with Bill McAvoy and our Naturalist team
- A follow-up tree inventory with volunteers led by Elizabeth Rives & Craig Haggerty using our ArcGIS software

We continue to have educational programs for our volunteers. On August 18, we held a tree identification educational training workshop called “Tree Identification Through the Seasons” presented by Elizabeth Rives a tree identification specialist and DBG volunteer. Participants engaged in 2 hours of learning basic tree ID followed by 2 hours of practicing their skills in the Woodlands. The workshop was a huge success. Thank you Elizabeth!

Training new Garden Steward & Docent volunteers, who want to learn more about DBG and improve their gardening knowledge continues on a consistent basis. In September we’ll be adding a new opportunity for our Garden Stewards. After going through training, those volunteers who would like to do light garden duties and answer guest questions, while the gardens are open to the public, will be given the opportunity. Our volunteer days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 until 12:00. If you’d like to become a volunteer, please go to our website at delawaregardens.org/volunteer-to-help to sign up. You definitely will make a wonderful group of new friends.

We would not be able to open our Garden Gates each day without our Docents. We cannot thank them enough for enduring the heat of summer while greeting our guests with friendly and warm smiles. Your dedication and love of the Gardens shines through every time you are assisting our guests. Thank you!

TOURS: Our Garden tours are very popular and sell out regularly. Our tours are given at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday. You can go on our website: delawaregardens.org to register for the tour. We are now able to do group tours up to 25 guests. These tours need to be booked through me not our website. If you’d like to book a future group tour you can contact me at carol.mccloud@delawaregardens.org. Stephen Pryce Lea, Elizabeth Rives and I share the tour guide opportunities. It is an honor and a privilege to share the history and beauty of our Gardens with our guests.



CAPITAL PROJECTS AND CONSTRUCTION

Annette Pennoni Meadow Pavilion Update

The latest drawings of the pavilion were shown to Board members and staff on July 27 in a briefing to discuss some key planning details. Architect Scott Edmonston led the discussion at the SEA Studio’s office. This was a chance for our DBG leaders to see what is being planned and ask questions, so the design can be the best that it can be. Mark Davidson from Pennoni Engineering was there, and he is preparing the Request for Proposal (RFP) to build the pavilion. The hope is to be ready to issue the RFP to contractors late this year or in the spring next year. After the contractor’s bid is accepted, it is expected to take about one-year to complete the pavilion building.



Permanent Restrooms Update

Due to supply chain delays being experienced throughout the construction industry, the custom windows for the restrooms were delayed for several months. The windows arrived on July 29 and were quickly installed. The roof is being finished, and the plumbers and electricians must do their work next before we can start the drywall. The completion date has been pushed back due to delays in receiving materials. We are still hoping to get all restroom building work done by the end of September. Then, our team will landscape the restroom area.



QUICK NOTES

Recent Major Developments on Fundraising Front

The Trustees of THE WELFARE FOUNDATION presented DBG with a \$100,000 grant to assist in the building of the Pennoni Meadow Pavilion. We thank the trustees for this, their third major grant to DBG.

The 2022 Delaware Bond Bill awarded \$70 Million for infrastructure projects to approximately 170 Delaware townships, libraries, first responders, schools and nonprofits. Thanks to the great support from our local elected officials, DBG was awarded \$375,000 for important infrastructure projects at DBG. Please join us in thanking Senator Gerald Hocker, Speaker of the House Pete Schwartzkopf and Representative Ron Gray for their advocacy for DBG.

Our request was for funding for (1) the fire suppression system for the planned Pennoni Meadow Pavilion, (2) the installation of lighting in the Parking Area and in the Meadow and (3) the creation of a multipurpose “back of the

Sheryl Swed, Cam Yorkston, Nancy Frederick, Mike Riska, Raymond Sander



Elaine Vincent, Michael Vincent, Sheryl Swed, Scott Edmonston

house” space for staff, volunteers and our growing inventory of equipment. This last item would allow us to retire the two converted trailers which we have used since 2017 for our volunteer office and garage. The estimates for these improvements totaled \$724,000. Our \$375,000 2022 Bond Bill allotment will not cover the full costs of these improvements which will require our DBG Reality Team of engineers, designers and contractors to once again “do much with less.”

In addition, DBG was awarded \$5,000 in Grant-in-Aid for our 2022 educational programs.

DBG Donor Visits

With the gardens in peak bloom, several of DBG’s most generous supporters from upstate, visited the gardens. Accompanied by Cam and Cathy Yorkston, DBG Fundraising Consultants and Mike Riska, DBG Advisory Council member, DBG welcomed Nancy Frederick, Phoebe Craven and Steve & Peg Castorani. In addition Pat Anderson of the Crystal Trust visited to review the progress which was underwritten by the Crystal Trust grants. These visits help DBG to be appreciated as a great addition to our entire state.

Ray Sander, Sheryl Swed, Pat Anderson, Cam Yorkston, Carol McCloud, Stephen Pryce Lea



Stephen Pryce Lea, Kathy Yorkston, Carol McCloud, Phoebe Craven, Sheryl Swed, Ray Sander, Mike Riska, Cam Yorkston

Gallery One—DBG Paintings

In the June-July period DBG opened the gates to the artists at Gallery One in Ocean View, DE. Gallery One then held a “Delaware Botanic

Garden” show from July 29 to August 31 at the gallery. Thanks to DBG member and Gallery One artist Jeanne Mueller and DBG Board member Brent Baker for coordinating this outreach.



Stephen Pryce Lea, Jennifer Rubenstein, Diane Scobey, Peter Carter



Sam Cashdollar, Sheryl Swed, Diane Scobey, Jennifer Rubenstein, Ray Sander

Bluebird Fundraisers

As previously reported, this project was underwritten by a generous donation from Diane Scobey and Jennifer Rubenstein. The carpentry skills of Sussex Technical High School students and their instructor, Edward Stough, built the bird boxes and DBG supporters have responded enthusiastically. To date 40 bird boxes have been purchased and \$6,000 raised by this creative program. There are still bird boxes available for sponsorship at delawaregardens.org.

On July 23, Diane and Jennifer visited DBG to review the progress of the Bird Box Project and to present a beautifully hand-crafted Blue Bird which was created by Diane. It is in the Welcome Center near the Bird Box display. Come see this beautiful addition celebrating DBG’s avian population.



HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

News from Stephen Pryce Lea Head of Horticulture



Celebrating a Summer of Success at DBG

It has been a colorful Summer at the Delaware Botanic Gardens with many garden areas planted over the last few years, really putting on a stunning show!

DBG successes are plentiful as we rejoice in a glorious summer season it is important to acknowledge the hard work, commitment, and devotion from the DBG community, that has led to increased visitor numbers and media engagement.

The Rhyne Garden certainly set a flower-filled tone for visitors with an array of pollinators, proving that if you plant, they will come. Welcoming many return visitors, members, and guests back to the gardens. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, many guests are in awe of the progress achieved in recent years, excited to support the garden's sustainable growth, and keen to return to enjoy the garden's seasonal changes.

Many garden plants are now well established with the Rhyne Garden and Piet's meadow overflowing with perennials and grasses, all putting on a magnificent display attracting guests and pollinators to share in the colorful parade.

Guests often visit the gardens, seeking advice for their own native flower gardens, inspired by the gardens native and natural plant combinations, and the host of wildlife they attract. Hummingbirds, Swallowtails, and Monarch butterflies are now regular visitors to the garden with many birds and

thousands of pollinators enjoying the full-sun meadow and like our gardening volunteers seeking the shade of the Folly and Woodland edge gardens as the midday temperatures soar.

Challenges aside the gardens have followed protocol and united to host several socially distant events. The gardens take center stage, entertaining visitors during these events. Garden tours are increasingly popular with several larger groups this summer and volunteer-led pollinator sold-out events through August.

Summer success behind us, Fall provides the opportunity for plants and people to re-energize as the garden's focus turns to in-house propagation, fall maintenance and preparation for a new season with spring bulb, tree, shrubs, and perennial planting amongst the top priorities.

Take a moment to enjoy the upcoming Fall season with flowering grasses and autumnal shades emerging, congratulations to everyone on a job well done, on lessons learned, and on the significant improvements made!

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

