



DELAWARE
BOTANIC
GARDENS
AT PEPPER CREEK

Spring 2021

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UPDATE REPORT

*President Ray Sander &
Executive Director Sheryl Swed*

Volunteers are the foundation of the Delaware Botanic Gardens.

At DBG all aspects of the management and operation, the creation and maintenance, the enhancement and expansion— are all performed by volunteers. Every Board Member is a

volunteer. Without our volunteers, we would have no site, no funds, no programs, no pictorial record of our development, no newsletter, in fact, no gardens.

Throughout the particularly challenging year 2020, our volunteers found ways to safely continue the vital management tasks, to safely maintain the crucial work at the site and to safely welcome guests and members to the gardens.

The most recent measure of the value of a volunteer hour is \$28.54 as calculated by the University of Maryland’s Do Good Institute and the Independent Sector. Every hour you spend in the gardens, welcoming visitors, planning events, raising funds, writing articles, tracking our finances is the equivalent of a \$28.54 donation to DBG. For example, those of you who have donated 100 hours of your time, have given the equivalent of \$2,854 to DBG. Since 2016, our volunteers have contributed the equivalent of over \$2 million to DGB, THAT IS WHY...

All DBG Volunteers are DBG Garden Champions.

The Spring 2021 Newsletter is dedicated to our volunteers.

THANK YOU ALL.

Ray & Sheryl

30220 Piney Neck Rd.
Dagsboro, DE 19939

PO Box 1390
Ocean View, DE 19970

delawaregardens.org

Photos by Ray Bojarski

GOVERNOR CARNEY VISITS DBG

As part of his celebration of National Travel and Tourism Week, the Governor came to DBG to see firsthand Delaware's newest public garden. He was welcomed by a group of DBG Board members and volunteers as he tried out the swing in the Delaware Discoveries Trail display (see page 5). DBG was honored to be highlighted as one of the 11 Trail stops throughout the state being used to encourage tourism. The Governor, who has followed the progress of the Garden's development for several years, was very congratulatory to the DBG team for all that has been accomplished in such a short period of time. He promised to be back soon.



BRIEF HAPPENINGS

When people think of DBG they naturally think of the over 100 people who serve as Volunteers. Our Garden Stewards soldier through cold temperatures, early spring winds and rain to ensure that our beloved gardens are in top shape. Our Docents also endure the cold and heat and rain to welcome and host our guests during open days.

Who else is in the DBG “volunteer” workforce?

Certainly it includes our four paid employees and the over 100 volunteers who track their hours on Volgistics. Think of the members of the DBG Advisory Council who we call on for professional expertise on a wide range of topics. But it also includes Mark Davidson of Pennoni who single handedly did the engineering plans and zoning presentations to the Sussex County Planning and Zoning Committee and the Sussex County Council. All pro bono.

Most recently, it includes Scott and Jen Edmonston and their team at SEA Studio for their pro bono creative design of the DBG public restrooms currently under construction. They also helped us with the interior design of the Welcome Center. Think of Board Member Bill McAvoy, who brought the Master Naturalist Program to life at DBG. We thank our “Musician in Residence” Vince Varrassi and his band for pro bono performances at the Garden.

Talk about dedication—there is Jan Poli who calls herself the “full-time” volunteer and is on site almost every weekday. Don't forget Carol Bason, who is an environmental scientist and works closely with DNREC and DELDOT on the Living Shoreline Projects and Rhyne stormwater management and

related education programs. She also writes our annual report. All pro bono.

Every discussion about DBG volunteers begins and ends with Carol McCloud. As DBG Vice President, Carol also is the Director of Garden Steward and Docent volunteers, which encompasses recruiting, training and scheduling the volunteers throughout the year. In addition, Carol is also our Tour Director, which has become a growing revenue-generating stream. In this role, Carol receives accolades for her personal and informative garden tours that are brought to life by her special love for our gardens.



Every area of the DBG site has been the scene of activities throughout the Winter/Spring. Through the hard work of our dedicated volunteers and tireless staff, these are just the highlights of what has been accomplished:

In February, the plants and grasses in the 2-acre Piet Oudolf Meadow Garden and all other gardens were cut down, followed by weeding and spreading new mulch.

This hard work was repeated again and again in all gardens. More bulbs, other plants and focal point features were added to the Folly Garden. The newly sponsored East and West Woodland Edge Gardens were given special refresh efforts, including a new East Woodland Edge Garden trail extension.

The 1.5-acre Rhyne Garden received new bed edging, mulch and a new irrigation system. All the garden irrigation systems had to be reactivated.

In the Woodlands, the over 2 miles of ADA-compatible pathways had to be cleared of debris, remulched and compacted. In addition the woodlands had to be recertified as safe for guests. We need to give a special thanks to Board Member and Master Arborist Jeremy Hager and his business partner, Arborist Matt Romano, of Coastal Plant Care. They performed a pro-bono "safety risk assessment," and trimmed trees along pathways that posed a safety hazard. The new logs from trimmings were placed by staff and volunteers along the sides of the woodland trails. Some trees also had to be cleared for the new restroom construction site. Most recently, Jeremy and his team helped to cut and clear a giant maple tree that had fallen onto the West woodland path, taking out other trees on the way.

New plants were grown over the winter-spring by horticulturalist Jeremy Cole and our team of Garden Stewards. The new plants are being planted in various gardens to replace plants that did not survive the winter or as enhancements to the present gardens. Some of these plants are also grown to sell when we are open.

Sam and Jeremy built a new Equipment Shed to protect our Golf Carts and Gator Utility Vehicles. They also enhanced the beauty of the Folly Garden by building a new fence that screens the bulk materials storage area just east of the Folly Garden.

All these accomplishments are the result of the hard work and commitment of our staff and volunteers.



Jeremy Hager and Matt Romano

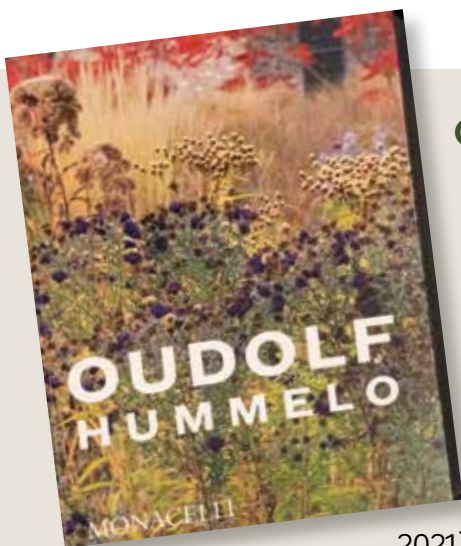


Jeremy Cole and Jan Poli In Hoop House



Jeremy, Sam and Garland by new shed

BRIEF HAPPENINGS CONTINUED



OUDOLF HUMMELO

We were honored this spring to have DBG included in the revised edition of “OUDOLF HUMMELO” by Piet Oudolf and Noel Kingsbury (Monacelli Press,

2021). On pages 378-380,

the book describes Piet’s DBG Meadow Garden design and states,

“One of Piet’s most important projects of the 2010s was a planting for Delaware Botanic Gardens.”

It continued, “Unlike many such projects, there were no wealthy benefactors, but instead a strong group of citizens who believed that they could achieve and maintain the development of a public garden with minimal resources.” The book quotes Ray Sander describing the first meetings with Piet in 2015. “We found him [Piet] very approachable and easy to deal with ... and we were surprised at the modesty of his fee proposal.”

Piet also mentioned to Ray and Sheryl at the time that the passion of the volunteers he met that first visit drew him to the DBG. This 430-page book is filled with high quality photographs and is a current history of the evolution of global garden design within the world of horticulture—a must read for garden lovers.

NAMING RIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES

One of the ways that organizations and individuals can help DBG succeed is through “naming rights.” In this program, organizations and individuals underwrite and name a specific garden, major feature or building. In the past few months, we have reported on three sponsorships which have raised \$415,000:

- Ellice and Rosa McDonald Foundation, Wilmington, DE is the sponsor of the Rhyne Garden
- Helen and Steven Raleigh, Story Hill Farm, Frankford, DE are the sponsors of the East Woodland Edge Garden



Steven and Helen Raleigh

And we are proud to announce that Mary and George Hessler, Ocean View, DE are sponsors of the West Woodland Edge Garden. We thank them for their generosity.



Mary and George Hessler

Future naming opportunities include:

- Learning Nest
- Inland Dunes Gardens
- Observation Deck
- The Point at Pepper Creek
- The Pinery
- Piet Oudolf Meadow Garden

If any organization or individual is interested in a naming opportunity, please contact Sheryl Swed, DBG Executive Director at 202-262-9856 or email sherylswed@delawaregardens.org.



(L-R) Carol McCloud, Lisa Ami, Sheryl Swed, Stephen Pryce Lea

TREE-MENDOUS PROGRAM

This Tree Planting Program, conceived by Lisa Ami, is a project of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs (DFGC) in direct support of DBG. Individuals donate money to the DFGC, and that money is in turn donated to DBG as part of the “Tree-mendous” program. DBG then buys trees and plants them at DBG. We thank the members of the DFGC for this important contribution.

DISCOVERIES TRAIL PAINTING

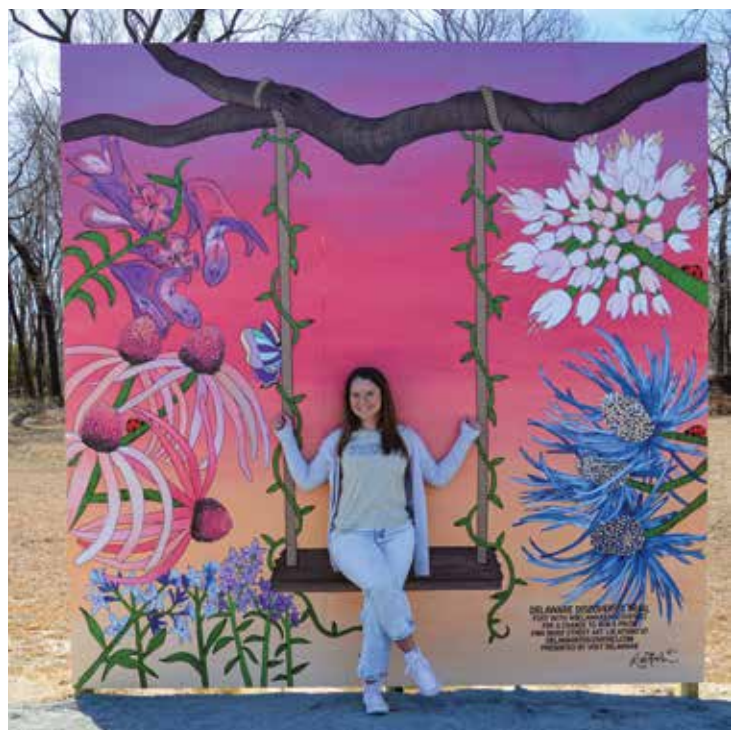
Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole built a 10-foot x 10-foot platform for a painting by Leah Beach for a new DBG stop on the Delaware Discoveries Trail.

A week before we opened, Leah Beach, a local artist, was busy painting flowers from the Piet Oudolf Meadow Garden on the platform. She added a butterfly and an old-fashioned rope tree “swing” as a bit of whimsy. This painting was completed for opening day.

This tourism project is a partnership with the Delaware Tourism Office and DBG. Sheryl Swed, Executive Director, worked closely with Jaclyn Ott, Delaware Tourism Office, and Board member Scott Thomas, Executive Director of the Southern Delaware Tourism Office, to bring this new feature to the Entry Garden area.

Liz Keller, Delaware Tourism Director said, “The Delaware Discoveries Trail is a one-of-a-kind experience. This is part of innovative ways to keep the State top of mind of travelers. The artwork at DBG in Dagsboro is just in time for spring, the 11th Discoveries Trail location and it showcases one of the state’s newest outdoor attractions.”

Sheryl said, “As we enter our third season, we are honored that DBG has been selected to be one of the stops on Delaware Discoveries Trail. It is exciting to have this new activity for travelers to experience at DBG and we hope it will increase awareness of the many features of the Gardens. The painting beautifully reflects the colors and flowers in the Piet Oudolf Meadow.”





Wren Bird Box



Bluebird Bird Box



Downy Woodpecker Bird Box

BIRD BOX FUND RAISER

In the fall of 2020, DBG partnered with Sussex Technical High School to build bird boxes that are designed to attract four species of birds native to our site: Blue Bird, Wren, Downy Woodpecker and Pileated Woodpecker.

These boxes help raise funds for the gardens and provide shelter for the growing avian population throughout the garden's 37-acres. The gardens are a beacon for wildlife. A late winter bird survey recorded 38 species of birds at DBG. This bird box project is the result of a generous donation from Diane Scobey and Jennifer Rubinstein.

Thank you to Diane, Jennifer and to Board Member Peter Carter, who was the DBG educational liaison working with carpentry instructor Edward Stough and the students at Sussex Technical High School. Thank you all!

We invite bird box sponsors to order their bird box at delawaregardens.org. Each donation will entitle the sponsor to have a name inscribed on their bird box. Each box is \$150.



PETER CARTER'S PLANT LABEL DONATION



Board Member Peter Carter recently was thanked by Ray Sander for his generous donation of 350 staked identification labels for plants and trees. Ray said, "Peter as a member of the board of

directors, is well aware of our limited budget, so we are especially thankful for Peter's generous donation."

Peter said, "In a late fall visit to the gardens, I realized that very few of our visitors could identify the hundreds of species of plant life that abound in our acreage. I decided to donate something special and meaningful for the enjoyment of the visitors to our gardens and invested \$3,600 toward the purchase of classic 2-by-4-inch plant labels on 20-inch stakes."

Sheryl Swed said, "Peter as a retired teacher and superintendent of schools, has been our board's educational outreach champion. He has engaged with both students and their teachers to ensure that DBG is a welcoming and educational place to learn and enjoy nature."

MASTER NATURALIST UPDATE BY BOARD MEMBER BILL MCAVOY

I am pleased to provide this update on the Master Naturalist Program at DBG. This new 2021 program was outlined in the Fall/Winter DBG Newsletter. This is a science-based natural resource training program jointly coordinated by University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and Delaware Nature Society.

Some of the activities include:

- A late DBG winter bird survey was conducted on March 2, 2021. Led by Sheila Smith (Master Naturalist and Omithologist), with Master Naturalists (and DBG volunteers) Gail Dubowe, Linda Oberkoffer, Alex Belano, and Mary Hall. Thirty-eight species of birds were recorded. Spring, summer and fall surveys are planned for this year.
- A mid-summer pollinator survey is planned for the Meadow Garden. Entomologist Jay Davis has agreed to conduct the survey with our Master Naturalists assisting.
- A tree survey and study of the garden's woodlands is being planned for this summer.

NEW BENCHES

This spring, thanks to generous sponsors, DBG added 17 new benches that are being placed along the Rhyne Garden path and near the new Restroom area. We thank Ron Bass and George Robbins for assembling the new benches.

NEW MEMBERSHIP | VOLUNTEER CARDS

As we began the new year, the Board's Executive Committee decided to issue Membership Cards to simplify the admission process and to encourage "social distancing" at the check in point. Special thanks to a team led by Board Member and DBG Treasurer Kathy Johnson and including: Board Vice President and Volunteer Director Carol McCloud, Membership Coordinator Angie Phinney, Graphic Designer Joanne Shipley and our printer Harry Orth for making this project a success.



TRANSITIONS

In February, we saw two veteran DBG Board members shift positions from the Board to the Advisory Council. We take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their distinguished service as key volunteer board leaders at DBG.



Ron Bass has been one of our most dedicated financial supporters along with his partner **George Robbins**. They have been our annual dinner challengers for the past 3 years, and acquired the naming rights for the Knoll Garden. Ron and George have not only worked to make the Knoll garden a very special place, overlooking Pepper Creek, but they regularly volunteer to do any task that needs to be done onsite. Ron served on the Board for 3 years. He was a key member of the Executive Committee and Budget Committee. Ron shared his wise council on many vital matters as we worked toward our Grand Opening in September 2019 and made operational adjustments to adapt to the coronavirus situation in 2020 and 2021.

Tom Bason has been the DBG "technology wizard" who guided us through many vital technology upgrades since 2018. He served as the DBG webmaster. Tom researched and implemented the



point-of-sale and reservation-ticketing systems that have served us so well since we opened to the public. He also has served on the board for 3 years. Tom served on the Executive Committee, Budget Committee and Nominations Committee. It is impossible to overstate the unique role Tom has played as we hired new staff and went "virtual" in managing garden operations and communications in 2020-2021.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Lyons is a native Sussex Countian. With 37 years in the newspaper business, Susan is one of the founders of the *Coastal Point*, a community newspaper that started in 2003.



She is currently the publisher of that paper. She has been a long-time member and supporter of DBG. She was an early volunteer in the gardens and helped to plant the Meadow Garden. Susan and *Coastal Point* have been very supportive of DBG's public outreach programs. She served for 10 years on the Board of the Maryland-Delaware-Washington, D.C. Press Association. She served four terms on the board of the Bethany Beach-Fenwick Island Chamber of Commerce. She was named the chamber's business partner of the year in 2008 and was one of Delaware Today's top businesswomen nominees in 2013. She brings to DBG a vast business experience, service to community, and a love of gardening.

Sam Seo is an urban forester, horticulturist, and educator. Having served in various capacities within greening organizations in Virginia, D.C., New York City and Delaware, Sam brings a strong understanding of how gardens and non-profits can impact their communities.



Currently serving as the coordinator of the Delaware Tree Stewards Program, he educates and organizes volunteers in the development of planting projects statewide.

He is a certified arborist and is nearing completion of a master's in public policy from the University of Delaware, with a focus on how people interact with and benefit from vegetation in the built environment. Sam currently resides in Wilmington, Delaware.

WELCOME ABOARD Craig and Stephen to the DBG Family!



The staff (L-R) Craig Sims, Stephen Pryce Lea (standing) and Jeremy Cole and Sam Cashdollar seated.

Craig Sims, DBG Development Director joined the staff on January 8 and has already made his leadership mark with his creation of DBG's new by-weekly electronic publication "Garden Snips" and engaging new donors and supporters. He manages the DBG Facebook social media account, and is actively involved in events, including the April 16 "Frolic in the Folly" and upcoming June 16 "Sip & Saunter."

Stephen Pryce Lea, Head of Horticulture joined the staff on March 8 and has been on a fast track getting to know the gardens, other staff members and our volunteers. He also has engaged with supporters and volunteers with his horticultural knowledge. Stephen is managing the DBG Instagram social media account, where he regularly posts beautiful photos of the gardens. Stephen's initial observations are later in this newsletter.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AND CONSTRUCTION



ANNETTE PENNONI MEADOW PAVILION UPDATE

We are in the final stages of acquiring full funding for the Annette Pennoni Meadow Pavilion. It is hard to overstate the importance of this all-season, all-weather pavilion. It will strengthen our financial sustainability by enabling us to extend our season to include the winter holidays and by allowing us to schedule programs regardless of the weather.

The creative design will be both modern and functional, with glass enclosure doors on the meadow side of the building that can open and close to enable an indoor-outdoor experience.

We are honored to have engaged AIA award winning architect, Scott Edmonston (SEA Studio Architects) to design and plan the pavilion. Scott is working with Mark Davidson at Pennoni Associates to finalize the plans for the pavilion. Chuck Pennoni has agreed to sponsor the naming rights for the pavilion. Our special thanks to Chuck Pennoni and



his family for this generous donation. The pavilion will be named after Chuck's beloved wife, "The Annette Pennoni Meadow Pavilion."

The Pavilion cost is currently estimated at \$910,000, and we are asking our supporters to help us fully fund this important asset.



Jen & Scott Edmonston and Erich Pfeffer Photo by Craig Sims

PERMANENT RESTROOMS

When the final restroom plans were approved, construction began in March. We look forward to completing the 1,175 square foot building sometime this summer. The restrooms, designed pro bono by Scott Edmonston, have several environmentally friendly "green" features. WN Builders, owned by Wanderson Nogueira, is the contractor. WN Builders also constructed the Welcome Center. The restrooms are located in the west woodlands just south of the Welcome Center and near the west woodlands trail. The building design includes a deck overlooking the woodlands and a living wall. Plans call for drilling a new well which will serve the restrooms and the future Annette Pennoni Meadow Pavilion.

DBG EVENTS—FROLIC IN THE FOLLY



On April 16, DBG hosted our first onsite event since 2019. More than 90 guests in socially distanced groups took part in a list of rolling activities including:

- Carol McCloud discussed the history of the Folly Garden which displays over 30,500 bulbs and plants;
- Jan Poli offered a flower arrangement demonstration;
- Stephen Pryce Lea presented an update in the Meadow Garden; and
- Carol Bason explained the Living Shoreline Project at the Pepper Creek Observation Deck.

The overall festive atmosphere was enhanced by the refreshments, live music and vocals by Vincent Varrassi & his group and artists creating & displaying their work.

This “sellout” event was a great success to kickoff the 2021 event season.

DBG EVENTS



DONATIONS OF 1,680 POUNDS OF FOOD TO THE FOOD BANK OF DELAWARE FROM DBG VISITORS.

In celebration of Earth Day, April 22, Mother's Day, May 9 and American Public Garden Association "Go Public Gardens" week, May 7-16, DBG offered free admission for visitors who brought a donation of food for the Food Bank of Delaware. The over 400 garden guests on these two days donated

more than three quarters of a ton of needed food to the Food Bank of Delaware. This is a great example of the generosity of the DGB community helping others in our community and working with another great non profit organization, the Food Bank of Delaware.



DELMARVA BIRDING WEEKEND

April 26. DBG hosted the Delmarva Birding Group as DBG builds new partnerships with various birding groups. Among the 26 birders who visited DBG, many had amazing cameras and zoom lenses. They spotted 38 species.

Photos by Craig Sims

Upcoming Event



SIP & SAUNTER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16
5-7 PM

Sponsored by Dogfish Head Brewery

BEER & COCKTAIL TASTING STATIONS
WINE | CATERING by Good Earth Market
MUSIC provided by Coastal Keys

Tickets \$100 per person | \$175 couple

Register at delawaregardens.org/new-events
For more information please contact Craig Sims
610-241-2637

craig.sims@delawaregardens.org



VOLUNTEERS UPDATE

News from Carol McCloud DBG Vice President & Volunteer Director



“A truly great Volunteer is hard to find, difficult to part with, and impossible to forget.”

As we continue to work through the challenges of COVID-19, our passionate volunteers and staff worked together to achieve success in making sure our Gardens were ready for our guests. They were

thrilled to experience the abundance of bulbs that started waking up and peeking through in an array of beauty in the Folly Garden. It was spectacular and continues to bloom. Their labor of love maintaining, planting, weeding and curating our beautiful gardens came through just in time for our guests who returned on March 18. It is a task that never ends no matter the season and they continue to volunteer throughout the year. We look forward to the 75,000 perennials in the Piet Oudolf Meadow to come bursting through in June. As well as the 12,000 native plants, 34 trees and 300 shrubberies in the Rhyne Garden in May through August.

All the volunteers' hard work is worth it to hear our guests share how wonderful their experience was at the Gardens and they will return to experience other seasons as well.

So far this year, we've had several training & educational programs: Our on-the-job training is continuous. We offered a virtual educational program on March 4, "A Piet Oudolf Story" by Deborah Chud. On March 8 we had our new and seasoned Docent training in preparation for reopening. Also, on March 16 we held another Docent POS training session.

A significant milestone was the arrival of our new Head of Horticulture, Stephen Pryce Lea, on March 8. Stephen jumped in immediately and engaged with our volunteers and staff. His positive "can do" attitude, experience and flexibility makes him an outstanding addition. We are so pleased that he is a part of the DBG family.

Each year we have a Volunteer Incentive Program, initiated by The Board of Directors, to salute our dedicated volunteers. This year we added a new category for our Volunteers. In previous years we had two levels, in 2020 we added a third. Volunteers volunteering 100 hours are given free admission plus two guests. Volunteers volunteering 50 hours are given free admission plus one guest. Our new category, Volunteers volunteering 20 hours, is given free admission. The hours are accrued from the previous year.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I sent an announcement, on March 16 to congratulate our volunteers in 2020 who qualified for 2021. The Incentive Program Qualifiers are:

100 Hours Volunteered

Jeanette Akhter***
Carol Bason***
Ray Bojarski***
Tony Bloomfield***
Donna Buono***
Karen Dudley***
Craig Haggerty***
Mary Hall**
Margaret Kimmel***
Don Klima***
Jeff Johnson**
James Marshall**
Judy Marshall**
Julie Moses*
Jane Peters**
Jan Poli***
Tricia Precht***
Cheryl Quirk***
Tom Rondeau*
Garland Saville**
Angela Schaab***
Jane Stokes**
Alison Willocks***
Ron Wisniewski***

50 Hours Volunteered

Violette Cousineau*
Jeanette Cowan*
Les Ferguson**
George Hammond*
Jamie Healey*
Judy Martin**
Bonnie McNamee*
Maureen Morano***
Linda Oberkofler*
Ed Palmerino***
Peggy Ravida***
Elizabeth Rives*
Sally Scarangella**
Kurt Schaab***
James Yori*

20 hours Volunteered

Jerry Daugherty*
Bridget Dean-Pratt*
Bill Hitz*
Kathy Lesperance*
John Oberkofler*
Ann Osterdale*
Kate Sellmayer*
Maria Shields*
Gary Stokes*
Anne West*

*** indicates third year
** second year
* first year

*Congratulations to all our
hardworking, dedicated volunteers.
You've earned it!*



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

On April 19, DBG celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Month with a Pizza Party at the Gardens for our dedicated volunteers.

Our volunteer days for spring are Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, weather permitting. Starting in June our volunteer days will continue to be Monday through Wednesday; however, the hours will be 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

If you would like to become a volunteer at the Delaware Botanic Gardens, please go to our website at delawaregardens.org/volunteer-to-help to sign up. You will love volunteering with our amazing team and staff.

I'd like to thank all our volunteers (Garden Stewards, Docents and Administrative) for their never-ending dedication, passion and love for the Gardens. It is an honor and a privilege to volunteer alongside you. You are greatly appreciated.

TOURS Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we are still unable to have our large guided tours in the Gardens. However, we do offer smaller tours (15–20 guests) on Thursdays and Saturdays at 10:00 am. Our tours are very popular with our guests. Stephen Pryce Lea, Elizabeth Rives and I share the tour guide opportunities. I'm in the process of training other Volunteers to be Tour Guides, which will open-up more days that tours will be available. Check out delawaregardens.org for updates. If you would like to contact me for a future tour, I can be reached at carol.mccloud@delawaregardens.org.

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

News from Stephen Pryce Lea Head of Horticulture



Spring Abundance...

Joyous return of all things Spring! Snowdrops to tulips in all but a few weeks. Spring bulbs heralding the return of warmer, wetter weather, as gardeners prepare for an increase of guests, flowers, weeds and wildlife!

Welcoming the return of many of our volunteers, a new Head

of Horticulture and devoted returning guests, all adapting to new policies and safety procedures as we re-open the garden gates.

Throughout March, meadows were tended, weeded, and mulched in preparation for late April's critical renewal planting, helping to maintain design criteria by filling gap and reducing on-going maintenance.

Guests return delighted by the array of Spring bulbs that adorn the Folly garden, from the bold snowdrops and crocus that brave the frosts to trumpeting daffodils that announce Spring's arrival.

Over the Winter months, Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole worked tirelessly to ensure all aspects of the garden were ready for our returning volunteers and 2021 Spring opening.

Completing new woodland pathways ahead of the bridge construction that will complete the circuit. Pathways freshly lined with natural log edging, mulched and rolled flat to ensure ease of walking for guests of all abilities.

Sustainability remains a priority across garden and facility tasks, Sam ensured DBG was well prepared to tackle the weed and water retention issues that many gardens struggle to manage. Bulk ordering of pine mulch and straw well ahead of the season and returning volunteers enabled cost and time efficient savings.

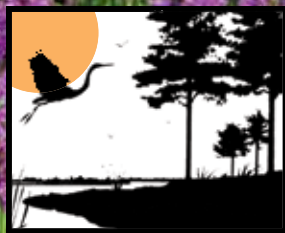
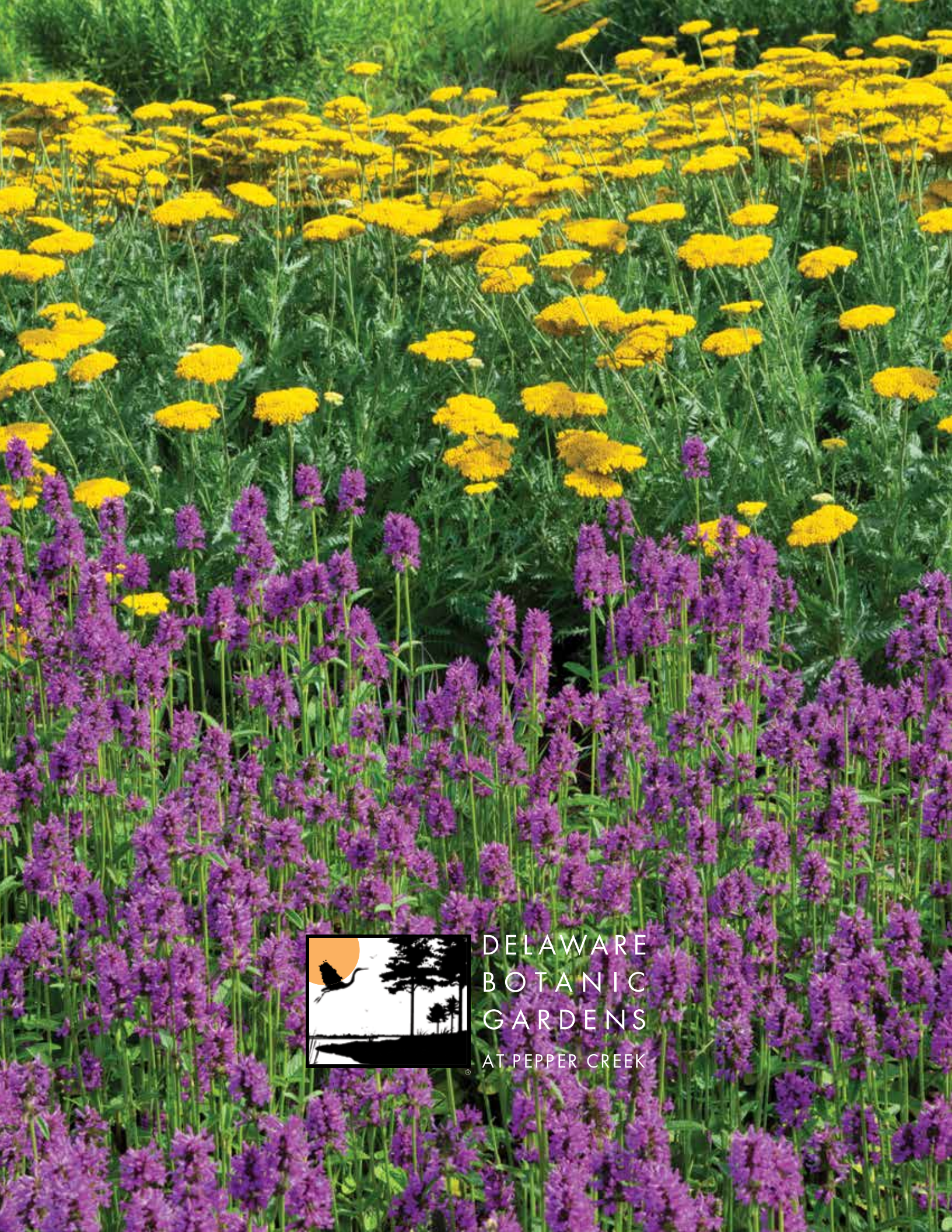
Guests have welcomed the gardens improvements, regularly commenting on the artistry throughout the garden, a collaboration of staff and volunteer's flair and initiative at work.

A new year of colorful abundance enjoyed through the seasons, excited anticipation of a year ahead at the Delaware Botanic Gardens. Celebrating each new day and the wealth of natural beauty, talented staff and dedicated volunteers it brings.





Thanks to many devoted DBG people we are moving forward to more normal times.



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