Construction Spurs New Campus Landscaping

With the construction of a large new residence (South Hall) and a new entrance and parking lot at the north end of campus, Delaware Valley College’s landscape has seen an unprecedented transformation over the past year.

Throughout the process of designing and planting the new spaces, the Henry Schmieder Arboretum has worked closely with Eve Minson (of the Department of Ornamental Horticulture and Environmental Design), the Physical Plant department, and generous alumni. Such diligent collaboration has resulted in completely new landscapes that improve Arboretum collections and improve the experience of campus life.

The extensive landscaping was completed within three months after it began in late July of last year. This would have been impossible if not for the generosity of Ornamental Horticulture and Environmental Design alumni in the nursery industry.

The College was able to select and receive hundreds of trees and shrubs through an arrangement with Moon Nurseries, whose president is Class of 1981 alumnus John Pursell.

Moon also provided sod (including its installation) and planting labor to enable the busy Arboretum and Grounds Maintenance departments to complete landscaping the lower courtyard of South in time for Homecoming Weekend (the first three days of October).

Large specimen trees and rare conifers were selected from the nearby nursery of Marty Brooks, Class of 1954, who donated nearly $20,000 in plants and time (and specialized equipment required to get the plants to their sites).

Centerton Nursery president Ray Blew, Jr., Class of 1952, donated five hundred of the latest daylilies and two hundred hostas to the projects. Many were still in bloom as of late July 2006.

2006 Exhibit is Best in Show

Delaware Valley College’s exhibit at the 2006 Philadelphia Flower Show earned a perfect score and won Best in Show in the Academic Educational category and the Bulkley Medal of the Herb Society of America!

“Pioneers of Penn’s Woods” celebrated the botanists who discovered and collected plants of our regional flora.

“Superb attention to detail and composition throughout the display,” was noted by the judges.

Many thanks to OHED faculty Howard Eyre and Eve Minson for their skills and direction that led our students to earn top honors this year.
As is often the case with physical changes to a site, there have been costs in terms of plants lost. The Arboretum strongly advocated saving a large specimen of *Acer buergerianum* (Trident maple), and it now stands prominently at the courtyard between South Hall Phase II and Elson Hall near Alumni Lane. [In an earlier issue of *Gold Leaves*, we told the story of the *Parrotia persica* (Persian parrotia) that was saved and moved across campus to its new home north of Work Hall at the Iris Garden.]

Unfortunately, seven other trees, many over fifty years old, had to be removed in preparation for the construction of Phase II. Some trees were the oldest representatives of their species on campus and part of the Arboretum self-guided tour, including a *Cladrastis kentukea* (yellowwood), a *Carpinus caroliniana* (hornbeam), and a *Cunninghamia lanceolata* (Chinafir). They were in the footprint of Phase II and too close to major utilities to consider transplanting. Others lost to construction included old native oaks and hickories.

A few specimen trees possibly dating back to the arboretum established in the early years of National Farm School stood on the slope behind old Eisner Hall and in an island in the former parking lot between Berkowitz Hall and Eisner (where South Hall and its south lawn exist today).

On the other side of campus, six thirty-year-old sugar maples and a red oak that lined the former north drive leading to the North Gate were removed for construction of the new parking lot over the site of the old football and hockey field.

In the new Admissions parking lot the islands are large, leaving ample room for the planting of trees that can grow big enough to provide welcome shade. Already, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* *Summit* (Summit ash) and *Quercus palustris* (pin oak) left from this year’s Flower Show exhibit were planted in one island in early spring.

Numerous old trees that shaded Eisner Hall, considered the oldest building on campus, had to be removed in 2004 prior to construction for South Hall and the Dining Hall access driveway. Evidence suggests some were part of the original arboretum, according to a 1903 Annual Report of the National Farm School. The new slope is slated for replanting with a mix of tree species.

**Trees lost to construction...**

**Trees saved during construction...**

Mature *Gleditsia triacanthos inermis* (thornless honeylocust) trees line the new entrance from New Britain Road (Admissions Drive), finally giving clear purpose to the allee of trees that has graced the lawn in front of the Admissions House for more than thirty years. We hope this graceful cathedral of gothic branches and fine foliage will survive the root disturbance that inevitably occurred in construction of the road and in resulting grade changes.
Holiday season is a good time to reflect upon the past year. So many wonderful events have occurred. The Rose Garden, through the efforts of Nancy Blois and support by Dave Wolff, has been spectacular and has won a third place award in the AARS (2006 All-American Rose Selections) competition in the Student Category. His September 20 lecture drew more than eighty people, including Environmental Design students and Arboretum members.

Held that same evening was our Fall Raffle drawing, with which the Arboretum raised over $400, thanks to the generosity of donors and members who purchased raffle tickets. Before the presentation, a reception catered by students in the Food Science Club was held. As usual, the hors d’oeuvres and service were impressive. **Raffle prizes and their winners:** Celtic “Green Man” - Liz Ball; One year membership to the Schmieder Arboretum—Mae Steere and Mrs. W. A. Lyons; $25 Gift Certificate to Point Phillip Perennials—Bill Happ; *Betula nigra* ‘Fox Valley’ - Kathie Watkins; *Viburnum lantana* ‘Variegata’ - Kathie Watkins; *Viburnum dilatatum* ‘Michael Dodge’ - Kathie Watkins; *Buxus* ‘Green Velvet’ - Billie Satchell; *Heptacodium miconioides*—Ryan Dawson; *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*—Theresa Kruse; *Salix purpurea* ‘Nana’ - Kathleen Costello; Hosta collection—Charlotte Freeman; Instant Shade Garden—Nancy Halpin; Iris collection—Billie Satchell; Perennial collection—Herb Johns.

**FIRST LECTURE THIS FALL**

**SPECIAL EVENT held in September:**

Ecological Landscape Architect Darrel Morrison

With *Landscape Design: Where Art and Nature Meet*, Dr. Darrel Morrison explored the aesthetic characteristics of naturally evolving landscapes using beautiful images of his work at public gardens such as the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas, and the prairie at University of Wisconsin Arboretum. His September 20 lecture drew more than eighty people, including Environmental Design students and Arboretum members.

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**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

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The DVC campus has become even more beautiful because of new plantings throughout. I should also mention that two willow oaks in front of South Hall have been dedicated in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Leamer, who have supported the Arboretum in many ways for the past ten years. Memories of their efforts will linger long past the retirement of Dr. Leamer in July 2007.

In addition, the Iris Garden has been dedicated to Carol Moyer, a Partners Volunteer, and will now be known as the Carol Ann Moyer Iris Garden. Through the efforts of Carol and her husband Jim, the Iris Garden has been rejuvenated and has captured the interest of faculty, staff, students and members of the community.

Thank you for supporting the Henry Schmieder Arboretum. Special thanks to Bill Rein, Dr. Mingwang Liu, and Sharon Haddon for working with me in making our Arboretum events successful.

I look forward to seeing you during one of our events. Have a Happy Holiday!

Dr. Barbara Muse, Arboretum Director
**Rebuilt Iris Garden Blooms First Year**

Our one-year-after-replanting Iris Garden bloomed beautifully this year, due to the hard work of one volunteer, Carol Moyer (with some assistance from the Arboretum crew and Carol’s husband Jim). The quantity of iris cultivars (approximately 700!), the organization of the irises by category, and labyrinth-like layout, makes the DVC campus a destination for American Iris Society members and is probably now one of the best iris collections in the eastern U.S., according to the leadership of the Delaware Valley Iris Society (who was instrumental in getting the original collection here in 1997). The June 2006 Delaware Valley Iris Society Newsletter says “The 80-foot diameter garden is impressive...Strolling the mulched walkways between the planted circles is a restful, Zen-like experience.”

Carol has brought home numerous blue ribbons and top honors for the irises she cut and entered into two Iris Shows this spring. Show participants must groom carefully each stem and flower according to exact guidelines. Despite our Iris Queen Carol being new at this, on my desk right now are a pile of winning ribbons. We have ribbons for Special Award, Best Specimen, five blue (First Place) ribbons, five Red (Second Place) ribbons, ten White (Third Place) Ribbons, and two Pink (Honorable Mention) ribbons, all from the DVIS Show held in early June! At the Early Iris Show held May 6 in York, PA, the Arboretum earned a Silver medal, eight First Place ribbons, nine Second Place ribbons, one Third, and one Honorable Mention for the flower specimens Carol cut from our collection.

**Rose Garden wins 3rd place in AARS competition**

Inspired by fellow Partner volunteer Nancy Halpin’s suggestion, this summer Nancy Blois entered our “new” Rose Garden in the 2006 All-America Rose Selections (AARS) “Designing with Roses” competition. The garden earned third place in the Student category, with Kansas State University gardens earning first and second places. When designed in 2002-2003 by Nancy Blois, Horticulturist Bill Rein, and Environmental Design student Beverly Auvil, Nancy made sure to include herbaceous perennials and shrubs that would provide interest when the roses were not at their peak. This could only have helped our garden beat the competition!

This year, Nancy Blois brought some fresh accents into the Garden. Companion perennials and annuals, as well as a climbing Clematis ‘Jackmanii’, were added to the central feature (an iron obelisk created by Bob Carver, who is a longtime member of the College’s Physical Plant staff; Bob made all the iron features in both the Lois Burpee Herb Garden and for the New Rose Garden). Partner Dave Wolff brought four new AARS test roses to evaluate for a year, and has periodically applied fertilizer, pruned, and cleaned up fallen leaves to combat disease.

**Latest Volunteer Recognition Tour**

In July, our loyal Partners joined faculty and Arboretum staff for an enjoyable trip to Point Phillip Perennials, the home of volunteers Kay and Herb Johns, near Danielsville, Northampton County. Herb gave us a great tour, including new gardens they created since our visit last year. (Kay tells us their triplet granddaughters have become excellent garden assistants!) We enjoyed lunch, held a short awards ceremony, and, as usual, their pool was open to anyone who wanted to take a dip! Before departing, we had an opportunity to buy from their diverse selection of perennials, shrubs, and trees.
New Plant Highlights

The new Admissions Drive ends in a circle that serves as a pickup and drop-off site for Admissions and the Allman Building. A heavily planted island at the center of the circle includes a yellowwood, a pin oak, three PHS Gold Medal-winning Emerald Sentinel™ redcedars (Juniperus virginiana ‘Corcorcor’), blue-panicled Vitex ‘Colonial Blue’ (Chastetree), Syringa patula ‘Miss Kim’ (Manchurian lilac), broad sweeps of tough, long-blooming perennials (such as Echinacea ‘Kim’s Knee High’, Coreopsis ‘Moonbeam’, and Agastache ‘Blue Fortune’), in addition to switchgrass (Panicum virgatum ‘Heavy Metal’), and masses of Rosa ‘Radrazz’ (Knockout™) and R. ‘Radcon’ (Pink Knockout™) roses. All were planted in September 2005.

The diversity of plants should prove to be a highlight in the summer and fall.

Plants Donated in 2005

Thanks to a number of DVC alumni and the opportunity provided by the new construction, we had tremendous help in getting new plants into the campus arboretum. Marty Brooks and his son Lowell provided and helped plant three large specimens of Acer griseum (Paperbark maple) in the upper courtyard of the new South hall and five large Carpinus betulus ‘Franz Fontaine’ (Fastigate European hornbeam) along the lower courtyard. Marty also donated a tall Cedrus atlantica ‘Fastigiata’ (upright Atlas cedar) now in a nook at the corner of the east wing and south wall, a Styrax japonica ‘Issai’ (Japanese Snowbell) we planted at the east stairs, a Fagus sylvatica ‘Rotundifolia’, or Roundleaf beech, planted at the intersection of Campus Loop Road and the Dining Hall access road, and a Picea pungens ‘Montgomery’, or Montgomery spruce, we planted in the Conifer Garden.

Ray Blew, Jr., provided masses of hardy color with a donation of over 500 daylilies, including ‘Red Hot Returns’ – a brand new release from Centerline Nursery. Ray also donated ‘Jovial’ (candy apple red, midseason bloom), ‘Red Rum’, and ‘Happy Returns’ (clear yellow), all of which we planted east of South Hall. Because of its color, ‘Final Touch’ (cool pink with green throat, late season) was planted along the new brick steps to the west of the Greenhouse Complex, built by Howard Eyre’s Landscape Construction class. Ray also provided hundreds of Hosta ‘Crusader’, a compact form with dark green leaves edged white, which were planted at the north end of South Hall Phase II near Alumni Lane.

Other plant donations last year included:

Corylus avellana ‘Contorta’ – Marlena Balliett ‘04
Rhus chinensis ‘September Beauty’ – Bill Lamack ‘89
Viburnum plicatum tomentosum ‘Shasta’ – Nancy Blois
Carpinus betulus ‘Pendula’ – Princeton Nurseries
Leptodermis oblonga – Dr. Mingwang Liu
Betula nigra ‘Summer Cascade’ – Michael Colibraro and Dr. and Mrs. Joshua Feldstein ‘52
Hydrangea paniculata ‘Pink Diamond’ & ‘Unique’ – John Stella ‘86

2005 Dedications

The following trees were dedicated by members of the DVC community last year:

Magnolia x ‘Butterflies’ - in memory of Rebecca Finley-Kerns
Cladrastis kentuckea (yellowwood) - in memory of Nick Flower