On September 22, 2001, a dedication ceremony for the new Mary Maples Dunn Hillside Garden took place on Burton lawn. It was attended by over eighty friends, including many staff members who had worked with Mary during her tenure as the eighth president of Smith College, from 1985 until 1995. This special garden was made possible by generous gifts from members of the faculty and staff of the College, and it was planned and planted by Smith’s Botanic Garden and Physical Plant. The garden contains a diverse grouping of plants and aims to provide interest throughout the seasons, including the long New England winters. It is befitting to honor Mary with a garden since she was a key figure in the establishment of the Landscape Master Plan.

The Mary Maples Dunn Hillside Garden joins Wright Hall to Burton lawn. In 2001, the hillside was chosen as the site for the garden. Heaths, heathers, and some older specimens of rhododendron and mountain laurel remain on the site, survivors from the original planting, which had suffered greatly during the storm of 1997. The storm damaged many trees and reduced the amount of shade, which is a necessity for many of the plants in the rhododendron family.

The droughts that followed killed many of the rhododendrons and mountain laurels, leaving the hill sparse and unappealing. The addition of 19 new species has created a diverse garden and the installation of an irrigation system ensures that it will continue to flourish. The garden is designed for beauty in all four seasons: spring flowers, summer foliage textures and hues, bright autumn colors, and ornamental twigs and bark in winter. Flowering bulbs and small annuals will provide additional floral displays throughout the year.

Atop the hill on the left, five *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* ‘Pendula’ (weeping Alaska cedar) form a tall backdrop for a grouping of *Cornus sericea* ‘Winter Flame’ (red osier dogwood), branching shrubs with bright yellow and red stems in the winter. *Salix* ‘Flame’ (Flame shrub willow), to the right of the cedars, also has bright yellow to orange twigs all winter. An existing *Laburnum × watereri* ‘Vossii’ (golden chain tree) will provide pendulous yellow flowers each spring. To the right of the cedars, also has bright yellow to orange twigs all winter. An existing *Laburnum × watereri* ‘Vossii’ (golden chain tree) will provide pendulous yellow flowers each spring. To the right of the cedars, also has bright yellow to orange twigs all winter. An existing *Laburnum × watereri* ‘Vossii’ (golden chain tree) will provide pendulous yellow flowers each spring. To the right of the cedars, also has bright yellow to orange twigs all winter. An existing *Laburnum × watereri* ‘Vossii’ (golden chain tree) will provide pendulous yellow flowers each spring.

(Continued on page 4)
Renovation Update

From the Director

Michael Marcotrigiano

I type this from our temporary headquarters on Green Street. Yes, we were evicted and the sledgehammers have turned our offices into a pile of debris. The entryway to Lyman and our former offices constitute one big hole waiting to accept the new exhibition hall. The “little dig” on the north side of the Lyman complex is still one deep cavity but the cement trucks will soon pour a foundation and walls for the new underground building addition. This will house our potting room, a bulb cooler, rest rooms, my lab, an employee shower, our conservatory manager’s office, and our storage space.

Construction of our new offices, which will be situated on the front of the building west of the corridor leading to the new underground addition, has not yet begun. We are behind schedule and a bit over budget, but we are handling that in an intelligent manner. The director’s whirlpool bath, bar and grill, and the gardeners’ racquetball courts have been dropped from the program in favor of office lighting and trash receptacles (I joke here—there never was a plan for gardeners’ racquetball courts).

As planned, renovations on three greenhouses have begun. Two of them, Warm Genetics and Cool Genetics, were never open to the public, so the renovations have little impact on visitors. Lead and asbestos abatement took quite some time but now renovations can begin. Cool Temperate (the large volume house in the rear of the complex) will have its glass replaced with safer glass very soon, but it should only be closed for about a month. We continue to remain open but visitors must enter through the side entrance from the garden. The path through the open greenhouses is not as logical as it was in the past, as if traversing through our patchwork of greenhouses was ever logical!

We do not have any firm answers regarding the schedule but we are assuming that we will remain 4 months behind schedule. Our best guess (and I emphasize guess) is that we will return to our new offices around July or August of 2002 and that the exhibition area will be open soon thereafter. The greenhouse renovations will continue for at least one year after that.

Because we are without the bulb cooler and cannot accept large numbers of visitors, there will be no mum show this fall and no bulb show next spring. However, the glasshouses (with their expanded orchid collection, see article on page 7) remain open and the outdoor gardens are unaffected by the renovations.

We will keep you posted with each newsletter. Feel free to contact us if you have questions.
Plant Highlights — Pinus bungeana

In the previous issue of the Friends newsletter I touted the attributes of one of my favorite vines, Actinidia kolomikta, the arctic kiwi. With its leaf tips “dipped in milk” the unusual variegation pattern is attractive but not overly flashy. In this issue, I am recommending another uniquely variegated plant, the lacebark pine, Pinus bungeana.

From a botanical standpoint the conifers (cone bearing plants) are an impressive lot. The largest of them, the redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), can attain heights of 360 feet and diameters of 33 feet, making them the largest vascular plants on the planet. Conifers arose around 300 million years ago and are survivors of numerous changes in the Earth’s climate. More primitive than flowering plants, they are nonetheless an important economic group, providing lumber, fuel, and ornament. The pines (Pinus spp.) are the most familiar group of conifers, dominating huge tracts of land in North America and Eurasia, and are widely cultivated even in the southern hemisphere.

From an ornamental standpoint, pines are frequently thought of as “filler plants” or “screens” but there are a few, such as the lacebark pine, that deserve use as landscape specimens. The feature that sets apart the lacebark pine from all others is its amazing multicolored bark. As the tree matures the bark begins to exfoliate in puzzle-like plates, creating an interesting mosaic of creamy yellow, steel blue gray, and brown. When fully grown, the tree’s bark is a mottled chalky white. I have never seen a very old lacebark pine but they are reported to live hundreds of years. In youth or adulthood, its bark cannot be mistaken for any other conifer.

Lacebark pine is a native of northwest China. The Chinese thought much of this species, and it was often planted in sacred places or in the courtyards of the wealthy. Westerners were unaware of the species until Dr. Aleksandr von Bunge observed it in 1831 as a specimen cultivated in a temple garden. It was collected and introduced into Europe shortly thereafter. Yet, to this day it remains fairly uncommon in cultivation, with the exception of arboretum and public garden plantings. In the wild the tree can reach 70 feet but in cultivation 40 to 60 feet is more common. Lacebark pines growing in forests generally have a single dominant trunk. In cultivation it is more common to see multitrunked specimens, either because they were pruned that way in youth or from lack of competition when growing in the open. Multitrunked specimens are desirable because of the increased amount of bark on display. The most beautiful specimens have been carefully pruned to remove many of the lower limbs early in the tree’s life. The scars heal and eventually the trunk is more exposed. This pine is easy to grow, does well in any well-drained soil, and is cold hardy to Zone 4 in the United States. It prefers full sun. A few new cultivars are available. Some are extreme dwarfs with yet unknown bark characteristics, but one cultivar, ‘Rowe Arboretum,’ selected for its more compact and uniform outline, appears to maintain the great bark typical of the species. This one may be worth pursuing.

If this all sounds too good, I’ll give you the bad news. It takes many years for the attractive bark to develop and the tree is slow growing. In youth, it grows at a snail’s pace, sometimes only a few inches a year. Growth speeds up with age, but even so it takes many years for the trunk to be large enough to begin exfoliating. Larger specimens are in demand and command high prices as most of the American public demand instant landscapes. This tree, a real gem, is to be planted for the future.

Smith has two specimens of Pinus bungeana behind Baldwin House. Each has a single trunk and their bark is not that impressive. We are attempting to find a specimen to be planted near the new campus center. In my opinion, the most colorful specimens on the east coast are at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. (see photo).

For more extensive information on the lacebark pine, search out Rob Nicholson’s 1988 paper in Arnoldia (Volume 48 No. 2, pp. 32-37). You’ll find some wonderful photographs from the Arnold Arboretum archives and a more detailed discussion of the natural history of this marvelous tree.

At press time, the following Web pages contained nice color images of Pinus bungeana with its wonderful bark.
http://www.biologie.uni-ulm.de/systax/dendrologie/pinubungefw.htm
http://www/fw.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/syllabus/pbungeana.htm
the grasses and beneath the golden chain tree are several soft *Juniperus* ‘Grey Owl’ (Grey Owl juniper), which in time will spread horizontally, forming layers of grey-green evergreen boughs. A single *Cotinus coggygria* ‘Royal Purple’ (purple smoke bush) will eventually peer above the switch grass. When it gets too large it will be cut back hard, and the vigorous new shoots will act as a color accent. The large white flower clusters of *Hydrangea arborescens* ‘Annabelle’ (smooth hydrangea) at the base of the hill turn first to green and then to straw color in fall, extending the show into the winter. They were combined with existing *Calluna vulgaris* (Scotch heather) and *Erica carnea* (spring heath) as well as other seasonal plantings. To the right along the path are large *Comptonia perigrina* (sweet fern). These woody shrubs are actually not ferns. They are an underutilized native species that provides fine foliage texture and an intoxicating fragrance emanating from touched foliage.

A new sitting garden is situated at the top of the hill, with a memorial bench dedicated to Rebecca Brett Hobbie ’87. A mass of deciduous azaleas will eventually be planted near the bench, shaded by the three clumps of *Betula nigra* ‘Heritage’ (river birch) with auburn exfoliating bark, two Amerasian flowering dogwoods (*Cornus × ‘Rutcan’* and *C. × ‘Rutban’*), a *Prunus sargentii* ‘Columnaris’ (Sargent cherry), and a native *Abies fraseri* (Fraser fir). To the far right, near the base of the hill, a rather impressive specimen of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (dawn redwood) is dwarfed by its giant mother on Burton lawn.

Centered on the hill are three large *Parrotia persica* (Persian parrotia), spreading multistem trees, which, with age, develop beautiful bark to complement their yellow-orange to red fall color. Remarkably, these substantial trees were moved from the small triangle at the base of the Public Safety tunnel, where they have been since they were moved to make room for the temporary Engineering Building. Smith College needs to develop a “Plants on Wheels” program!!! Below the parrotia, two cultivars of Japanese snowball viburnums (*Viburnum plicatum tomentosum* ‘Shasta’ and ‘Watanabe’) were planted. We are already impressed with ‘Watanabe,’” which unlike ‘Shasta’ has rebloomed again and again, making its claim to fame a reality.

Above the honorial plaque, which is mounted on a stone in the hillside, are *Rosa glauca* (redleaf rose) known for their smoky blue-purple foliage and small pink flowers. In fall, orange rose hips hang from the tips of their branches. To the right, shading the azaleas below, stands a lone *Ulmus parvifolia* (Chinese elm) with small, glossy leaves and a delicate branching habit. Eventually, its bark will exfoliate into small, multicolored patches. Over the next few years, as the level of shade increases, some select small rhododendrons and other members of the Ericaceae family will be reintroduced in the shady areas.

We invite you to explore this new garden area on campus.
Plant and Seed Swapping: Ethical and Legal Dilemmas

In the most recent issue of its newsletter, the New York Botanical Garden characterizes itself as “an advocate for the plant kingdom.” This is an apt description of the role of every botanic garden. Our traditional functions include collecting plants, exhibiting and displaying those collections, providing education and interpretation for the general public as well as specialized audiences, conducting scientific research, and working on conservation, both ex situ and in situ. The long history of botanic gardens exchanging plant material has resulted in highly diverse plant collections in gardens the world over. It enables gardens to readily add to their collections; provides plants for educational, scientific, and display purposes; and promotes ex situ conservation of endangered species. Seed, in particular, are an excellent means of exchange since they are so easy to ship and are less likely than green material to introduce exotic plant diseases and pests. A formal system has evolved whereby participating gardens produce an Index Seminum (Latin for seed list) with their seed offerings, facilitating this free exchange between collaborating institutions. New gardens and those having experienced natural disasters have found it to be a useful tool in building up their collections.

Since its inception, the Botanic Garden of Smith College has participated in exchanges with other botanic gardens and arboreta, colleges and universities, and botanists engaged in scientific research. Early on we received material from such places as the Missouri Botanical Gardens, Massachusetts Agricultural College, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and the Royal Botanical Garden at Buitenzorg in Indonesia. In 1895 the Botanic Garden produced its first Index Seminum, which was sent to 100 different institutions. This project was initiated by William Ganong, the first director of the Botanic Garden, to reciprocate and facilitate future exchanges. Our Index Seminum has grown markedly since then. This past year we sent our list to 321 gardens located everywhere from Argentina to Zimbabwe. In analyzing our current collection, we have estimated that approximately 70% of our Conservatory collection and 20% of our outdoor collection has its origins in material that we have received through exchanges with other botanical institutions.

The time period during which the Botanic Garden of Smith College was established was marked by the widespread introduction of Japanese, Korean, and Chinese plants into cultivation. The results are quite visible on campus today. In the systematics garden, the large Ginkgo biloba and the Sciadopitys verticillata (Japanese umbrella pine) date from that period, and elsewhere on campus one can find Chinese species of dogwood, redbud, rhododendron, and cherry as well as other choice ornamental Asian species. One of the most significant introductions from eastern Asia is Metasequoia glyptostroboides, the dawn redwood. Known from the fossil record, it was thought to be extinct until 1941, when trees were found growing in remote regions of China. We received seed collected from the original discovery through a distribution program of the Arnold Arboretum, resulting in the large specimen on Burton lawn.

Recently, we came across post cards from 1975 announcing that the Botanic Garden was selling rooted cuttings from that tree for $4.00! Until recently seed exchange was considered an unquestionable good. It is what botanic gardens do. Gardens around the world are able to acquire species to which they would otherwise not have access. Visitors to gardens all over the globe are enjoying the delights of seeing exotic blooms of plants that originated in faraway places, scientists are conducting studies of materials that, although native to other countries, are growing on their own soil, and there are cases of plants in cultivation that are now extinct in the wild. Our Franklinia in the Rock Garden, a Georgia native, is an example. So what could possibly be wrong with the sharing of plant genetic resources?

Overcollection and the disruption of habitats have resulted in the extinction of many plant species and many species becoming endangered and threatened. This problem is being addressed through the 1975 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES). CITES provides a legal framework for the regulation of trade in endangered species that are exploited commercially. It operates through the issue and control of permits for a specified list of protected species. Botanic gardens sometimes provide safe storage for materials seized by customs and legal authorities. After litigation, these plants frequently become part of the gardens’ permanent collections. The Botanic Garden at Smith serves as such a site and we recently received a shipment of moth orchids (Phalaenopsis cultivars) under such circumstances.

Another serious problem is the proliferation of exotic invasives that are damaging ecosystems in all parts of the world. It has become the responsibility of botanic gardens to educate the public about this issue as well.
Plant and Seed Swapping

(Continued from page 5)

as to restrict distribution of known invasive materials and to monitor introduced plants for their potential to escape cultivation and become invasive, as is the case with *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife). Guidelines for evaluating a particular plant’s potential invasiveness are being developed, but it is difficult to predict a plant’s behavior outside its native environment.

In 1992 world leaders gathered in Rio de Janeiro for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and devised a strategy for sustainable development, to ensure a healthy and viable world for future generations. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was one of the key agreements. It established the goals of:

- 1) conservation of biological diversity,
- 2) sustainable use of that biodiversity, and
- 3) fair and equitable sharing of any benefits from the use of genetic resources with the countries of origin of those resources.

Although developing countries may be rich in biodiversity, they may not have the resources to develop commercially profitable products. If others are able to derive financial rewards from that germplasm, the CBD calls for those rewards to be shared with the countries of origin. Although the United States is not a signatory to the CBD, most U.S. botanic gardens would like to follow the spirit of the agreement. It is the third goal of fair and equitable sharing of any resulting benefits that has created concerns over how to deal with exchanges of plant material between gardens. Since the CBD’s inception, these issues have been the topic of many discussions at meetings of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA).

The world has moved from viewing plant germplasm as the domain of all humanity, to it belonging to anyone with the resources to profit from it, to it being the legal property of the nation-states where the plant originates. Although the CBD legally refers only to material obtained after 1993, there is a call to apply the standard to material acquired before then as well. Does that mean we should be paying royalties to Peru and other South American countries every time someone buys a potato? Actually, agricultural crops were recently excluded as the common heritage of all people, but what about all those tulips sold this fall? What constitutes an agricultural, medicinal, or horticultural crop? At the June 2001 AABGA meeting Yulia Kuzovkina-Eischen, a Russian graduate student at Ohio State University, mentioned that Colorado blue spruce is a very popular landscape tree sold by Russian nurseries. Should the United States be getting royalties? There are many such taxa that were introduced long ago. On the other hand, should businesses be allowed to patent germplasm without proper remuneration of the cultures where it arose? Is the conservation of biodiversity better served through the distribution of germplasm or through restrictions on distribution? If we grow plants from seed we received from a garden in India and we only need one for our collection, under the CBD we could not distribute any extras to a third party without getting permission from the government of India. Wouldn’t it better for conservation of biodiversity to facilitate easy sharing of the germplasm with other noncommercial institutions? A compounding factor is that often the same germplasm being restricted by some botanic gardens is readily available through commercial nurseries and seed companies. With the growth of the Internet, the international exchange of germplasm is exploding. The flip side of the CBD is that bureaucratic delays or prohibitions may cost many thousands of people their lives due to delays in the development of new medicines.

The CBD may have been a response to large corporations exploiting the natural resources of developing nations, but botanic gardens have gotten caught in the middle. Certainly programs of *ex situ* conservation forward the goals of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, yet botanic gardens are generally not reaping fortunes from the exchange of germplasm. Many of the *Indices Semina* now include “Material Transfer Agreements” that specifically state how the seed can be used and/or distributed. However, many of those conditions vary from garden to garden, depending on their interpretation of the CBD. Gardens must now keep records of pre- and post-CBD material, as well as the exact provenance of the material, so that we do not inadvertently distribute material that is restricted. The CBD states that agreements must be worked out between a party receiving seed and the government of the country where the species originates. But not all plants restrict themselves to a single country and many signatory states do not have governmental systems in place to implement the treaty. What about agreements that have been made with governments that no longer exist?

While the aims of the CBD are to pave the way for ethical action, the implementation is not simple and straightforward. Obviously, many practicalities still need to be worked out and many questions still need to be resolved, not to mention the complex issues raised by the pharmaceutical industries and new genetic engineering technologies. Perhaps we need to ask ourselves how we measure the value of each plant. Does that value reside only in a plant’s use or potential for financial rewards? At the Botanic Garden at Smith (as at other institutions) we are involved in an ongoing process of examining our practices and developing policy. The challenge, on a practical level, is how to follow ethical practices and legal standards while still fulfilling our mission as a botanic garden.
The orchid family, the Orchidaceae, is one of the most diverse and storied families of plants known to botany and has recently been celebrated in the popular books, *Orchid Fever* by Eric Hansen and *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean. Renowned scientists such as Charles Darwin puzzled over orchid pollinators and even today, a hundred and fifty years later, the pollination biology and population dynamics of orchid species remain current topics for research. The conservation of wild orchid populations, owing to their enormous horticultural popularity and their slow reproductive rates, is also a botanical and horticultural hot-button issue.

Smith’s connection to the world of orchids has been ongoing for over a hundred years. Blanche Ames Ames (Smith class of 1899) was married to the preeminent Harvard orchidologist Oakes Ames. Her pen and ink renderings are respected for their graceful style and accuracy of detail. Upon her death in 1969, Richard Evans Schultes of Harvard stated, “Truly a great lady and an outstanding artist, Blanche Ames’ influence will long be felt in botany, for she spent a great part of her life interpreting the beauty of plants for others.”

The Lyman Plant House has included orchids in its collections for as long as anyone can remember. Conservatory collections can grow by a selective and judicious process but often serendipity enters into the equation. This year our orchids were transformed into a spectacular collection with the donation of plants from three disparate sources.

In 1999 the Smith College Botanic Garden registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a “rescue center.” This means that we are on the list of botanic gardens that may be contacted when illegally smuggled plants or those plants with improper documentation are confiscated at the nation’s airports. Often these plants may be wild collected and bear no identification. Thus they present us with a long term taxonomic challenge, as until they flower they cannot be properly identified. This year we have received orchids from Thailand, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Vietnam. The largest shipment to us was 300 Phalaenopsis plants (moth orchids) many of which were in full flower to greet the incoming class of 2005 when they arrived. Not a week goes by without a new orchid arriving here. We are amazed that such beautiful and unusual orchids could have been smuggled in. Over the past several years we have cultivated many hundreds of orchids. Each time we visited, newly blooming orchids would amaze us, rarities we had never heard of or seen before.

A total of 289 plants representing 74 genera were brought to the Lyman Conservatory and transformed our orchid collection seemingly overnight. Not a week goes by without a new bloom presenting itself to the amazed eyes of our students and visitors.

Perhaps the Paphiopedilum species, terrestrial tropical slipper orchids, are the best portion of the collection, with 60 plants representing 14 species orchids and 46 choice hybrids and cultivars. These spectacular orchids have already begun to bloom for us and promise years of satisfying displays.

*Catasetum* is a genus of orchids native to the New World that was often the subject of paintings by the late Margaret Mee, the British botanical artist who roamed the Amazon. Charles Darwin also wrote extensively about the genus and its rapidly firing pollen dispersal mechanism. He considered them “the most fascinating of all the orchids.” The Neptune Collection includes 14 catasetums including the spectacular species *C. fimbriatum* and *C.
Partnerships Within and Beyond the Garden was the theme of the World Botanic Garden Congress attended by Smith Botanic Garden staff in June of 2000. “Twinning” became a buzzword for this process of sharing expertise, technology and other resources. Under the aegis of Botanic Gardens Conservation International many botanists and botanic garden staff from resource poor nations were able to attend the conference. In the flurry of business cards, many contacts were made, fostering international cooperation between botanic gardens in the developing world and less developed nations.

One of the most telling facts about botanic gardens is their skewed distribution worldwide. For example, Europe boasts 450 gardens while Africa, so much larger and botanically diverse, numbers only 40 gardens. If forest conservation is to be supported and environmental education of future generations pursued, then support of these gardens in less developed nations is crucial.

The Smith College Botanic Garden, in a small way, has begun to assist. The Limbe Botanic Garden of the nation of Cameroon is located in the coastal city of Limbe and was founded by German colonialists in 1892. Nearby is one of the more amazing mountains on the planet, Mount Cameroon. The 13,435 foot high giant features unbroken virgin rainforest from sea level to the upper portion of the mountain, while the peak is cloaked in montane grassland.

It is a hotspot of biodiversity in this region of the world, and the Limbe Botanic Garden is the base for The Mount Cameroon Project, which seeks to maintain the biodiversity of this forest in cooperation with local peoples. Over 200 species of birds flit through the forest, and to date, forty-nine plant species have been found that occur nowhere else in Africa.

While tens of thousands of people enjoy our annual Spring Bulb Show, few suspected that the show would, in an odd turn of events, help fund conservation efforts in Cameroon. At the conclusion of this year’s show we decided to give away all pots of bulbs that were forced into bloom for the show. A donation box was set up with a statement explaining that all funds collected would be sent to the Limbe Botanic Garden. We had no idea how well the “giveaway” would proceed. As hundreds of pots of bulbs exited out the greenhouse doors, hundreds of dollars flowed into the box, and a final tally revealed we had raised $900 for Limbe. The North Carolina Zoological Society and its Curator of Horticulture, Virginia Wall, have a preexisting financial arrangement with the staff of Limbe, so they kindly arranged the money transfer through their channels. We asked that the funds be utilized for conservation efforts and environmental education.

Though the Bulb Show will be on hiatus for a year or two because of the Conservatory renovations, upon completion we plan to resume our post-show dispersal of bulbs and continue funding Limbe and/or other gardens in need.

By increasing the horticultural diversity of our local gardens, we will in some small way help to preserve biodiversity on this peak of wonders far across the Atlantic.
News in Brief

New Chair of the Friends of the Botanic Garden

We are delighted to announce that Clara Couric Batchelor ’72 has agreed to serve as the chair of the Friends Advisory Committee. Since establishing her firm, CBA Landscape Architects, in 1984 in Brookline, Massachusetts, Ms. Batchelor has designed hundreds of landscapes ranging from inner city parks to coastal art museums. Her work is highly contextual, responding to the surrounding architecture, neighborhood fabric, and natural features. Ms. Batchelor’s projects have been published in Garden Design; People, Places, Plants; and noted in the New York Times.

Although an ardent admirer of the Botanic Garden throughout her years at Smith, Clara did not hear the words landscape architecture until after graduation. As a geology major she knew that all rocks eventually become soil. She decided to pursue a degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, graduating with a Masters in Landscape Architecture in 1976.

Clara’s goals for the Friends of the Botanic Garden Committee are to establish more internships in a variety of related fields such as botany, urban gardening, and landscape architecture, sponsor lectures relative to these fields, promote the botanic garden as a significant resource for students, and ensure a strong endowment for the Smith Botanic Garden.

Museum Assessment Program Grant

In April of this year the Botanic Garden was awarded a Collections Management Assessment Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This program, administered by the Department of Museum Advancement and Excellence at the American Association of Museums, is designed to help us improve all aspects of how we manage our plant collections and help us build a stronger organization. This summer we completed a self-study, which allowed us to step back from the day-to-day work of the Botanic Garden, take an in-depth view of our mission, goals, use of resources, and operations, and to focus on collections planning, policy, and procedure. One thing that became quite clear is our need for a single staff person to oversee the management of our collections. We are hoping to be able to add a new position and hire someone in the next year. We are now awaiting a peer reviewer who will conduct a site visit, examining our operations in light of current standards and best practices, and provide a fresh and objective perspective. Bringing their expertise to the Garden, the surveyor will produce an assessment report that will share models and resources for recommended changes, and help us to prioritize necessary changes, all of which should be very helpful.

Kew Interns

Two Smith students, Chloe Diamond ’02 and Mary Mohrin ’02, successfully completed a summer internship in molecular biology and conservation genetics at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in England. This semester Chloe is doing a special studies project on the ultraviolet effects on coral reefs and, in particular, heat shock proteins. After graduation she plans to go on to graduate school for molecular biology or general biology. This semester Mary is in Australia, through the School for Field Studies, investigating ways to preserve the rainforests.

The Loss of an Old Giant

On Saturday September 8, a loud crash and splash announced the demise of a venerable old red oak, Quercus rubra, that had been looking over the Paradise Pond for well over a hundred years. The tree was a least 4 ½ feet in diameter at the base. It had looked perfectly healthy and showed no outward signs of disease or stress, but the base of the trunk was almost completely hollow and thus could no longer support the weight of so large a tree. It fell into the pond, leaving only a small channel for boaters and making removal unusually difficult. It took a crew with a winch and a crane several hours to lift the heavy, large mass from the pond and cut it into trunk length pieces to haul away.

If a tree dies, plant another in its place.

Linnaeus
We wish to acknowledge the many, many hours our dedicated volunteers have given to the Botanic Garden this past year. It is through their efforts that we are able to do as much as we do for the public. A heartfelt thank you goes out to:

Anne Beach
Carl Beach
Hut Beall
Anne Bialek
Janet Bissell
Diane Bowman
Kathie Bredin
Cathryn Brubaker
Betty Conway
Ryan Crowell
Susan Dorais
Jean Duncan
Pearl Edwards
Lisa Ferree
Mary Friel
Anne Gannon
Kelly Gay
Jay Girard
Ellice Gonzalez
Mina Harrison
Mary Ann Hoyt
Anne Keppler
Joyce Ketcham
Cheryl Jones
Gloria LaFlamme
Carolyn Lawry
Mary Lunt
Susette Lyons
Joanna Mann
Sigi Marrocco
Joan Martin
Irene Montague
Tom Morse
Louis Musante
Dee Dee Niswonger
Kate O'Connor
Connie Parks
Pam Parsons
Virginia Rechtschaffen
William Rice
Robin Silva
Barbara Smith
Diana Souza
Judith St. James
Ginny Sullivan
Elizabeth Terp
Elsa Vitols
Kester Warlow-Harry
Eva Weber
Lisa Westervelt

As a staff person who helps to coordinate volunteers at the Botanic Garden, I took note when I heard Patrick Dougherty, “The Twig Man,” was coming to Smith. He was going to build an outdoor sculpture on Burton lawn with the assistance of lots of volunteers. I had enjoyed seeing his 1991 sculpture at the Smith College Museum of Art when I was an Ada Comstock Scholar. But it wasn’t until I met Patrick and saw his presentation that I actually signed up to help with the project. I recognized a kindred spirit, having designed and built a house in the woods myself. I spent years constructing cedar canoes and turning functional forms on a wood lathe and was intrigued by Patrick’s slides of his wood sculptures. They just looked so whimsical and fun to build. How could I not help?

I was impressed by how Patrick drew people into the project and then, having given a few instructions and a very brief demonstration, let them teach other new recruits when he was busy talking to reporters and posing for pictures with his sculpture. He had an amazing talent for making you feel as if you were doing a great job, hence, you would be back again to help out another day. I’m sure I’m not the only one who felt this way. He couldn’t have made this sculpture in three weeks without an enormous amount of help from volunteers. Patrick has a knack for encouraging people’s desire to help with his sculpture.

He seemed surprisingly calm and relaxed two days before the opening reception. He chatted with photographers and school groups that came by as if he had all the time in the world, while it appeared to me that the sculpture was a long way from being finished. Amazingly he got it finished an hour before the reception with the help of the dedicated volunteers. Patrick has a knack for encouraging people’s desire to help with his sculpture.

Most of all, I enjoyed seeing young children running through the rooms gleefully with their class and then sitting down afterwards patiently to draw in sketchbooks. It was also fun to be drawn into conversations with strangers while walking by after the project was completed and explaining how it was built. I loved working on Paradise Gate!
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While a collection of orchids is always a visual feast for our many visitors, they also remain as a source of inspiration and research material for the future Blanche Ames Ameses and Charles Darwins that pass through our doors.
You are invited to join

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