It is truly delightful to introduce this first edition of Botanic Garden News. We are very pleased to be able to bring you our newsletter twice a year with the latest on what is happening in and around the Botanic Garden of Smith College. I write from a desk which I have occupied at Smith for only a year and a half, a very short time from a sylvan perspective, and a very full time from the perspective of an all too human director.

The Botanic Garden continues to serve the Smith College community in the broad sense, as an academic resource. It is literally the foundation of the campus upon and through which we walk and work. As a resource for classes in the sciences and humanities — from biology to dance, statistics to theatre, landscape history to Asian studies — the Botanic Garden provides the environment and raw materials to act as a living laboratory for the diverse academic endeavors of Smith College. As a public and professional resource, the Garden enjoys regular visits from individuals and groups from the local neighborhood and from as far away as Taiwan.

One of the great joys of being at the Botanic Garden is working with the students. The Horticulture class, of course, provides wonderfully rewarding moments of growing with students as they learn the applied plant biology that is the art and science of horticulture. A new initiative with Horticulture students in spring 1997 was developing planting plans for small garden areas on campus. Students learned the basics of site analysis, selected and sourced plant materials, and designed and installed the plantings themselves under Botanic Garden tutelage. It was a very popular and rewarding exercise that we look forward to continuing. I knew we were growing devoted new horticulturists when a number of the past spring’s graduating seniors returned to campus this fall to see what their gardens “had been up to.” Additionally, I am especially pleased to report that the student group, the Bad Seeds, has resprouted and they are scheming all kinds of delightful and interesting activities for Smith student plant-lovers.

As part of the College-wide self-study, the Botanic Garden has taken a close look at how, why, where, and for whom we carry out our daily work. We have devoted much energy to long range-planning, including developing master plans for the three primary venues in which we work: landscape management and hardy plant collections development; conservatory management and glasshouse collections development (including plant conservation and horticultural research and teaching); and educational outreach and activities for the public.

The adoption by the College Board of Trustees in November 1996 of the Landscape Master Plan for the Botanic Garden of Smith College provides an exceptional long-term planning document for management of the historic Olmsted landscape that is the Botanic Garden and campus of Smith College (for further information see the Landscape Master Plan Update on page 6).
In December 1996, the Feasibility Study for the Restoration and Development of Lyman Conservatory was completed by Rough Brothers Conservatory Restoration, Inc. (with Ove Arup & Partners). The document outlines a comprehensive renovation of our extraordinary turn of the century, Lord & Burnham glasshouse. The work will not alter the architecture of our glorious historic treasure but will restore its ailing structure and modernize its facilities for improved maintenance of collections and enhanced research and teaching. Planning for the restoration has begun, and we look forward to keeping you up to date on the progress of this exciting and ambitious project.

Since the development of the Landscape Master Plan and Conservatory Restoration Plan, it was clear that we needed to address outreach education, to create an Education Master Plan. A competitive grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust will fund development of an Education Master Plan over the next year. The goal is to address what kind of outreach educational programs are appropriate to the Garden mission, in the context of its primary academic service role, and to make specific programmatic and implementation recommendations. The Education Master Plan is currently under development by Garden staff, particularly our Education Coordinator, with input and advice from all Garden advisory and governing groups.

As director, I see the Botanic Garden of Smith College as a window that opens onto the wider world of the international network of botanic gardens and arboreta for our students, faculty, alumnae, and friends. I believe my role is to work to keep that window wide open, and to point students, visitors, and all who will listen, toward that window and its living green world. As one example, in the fall of 1997 I was very fortunate to have received the support of the College and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University to spend five weeks in China collecting plants for the Conservatory and research collections. It was an extraordinary opportunity not only to collect over 150 rare and interesting plants for the Garden, but to meet colleagues in China and discuss possibilities for future exchanges of plants, people, and collaborative work across the ocean.

The Botanic Garden could achieve none of our exciting work without the exceptional support and involvement of all of our friends and generous supporters. We look forward to publishing an acknowledgment of all of your contributions in the Autumn 1998 issue of Botanic Garden News. In the meanwhile, I always enjoy hearing from you whenever you can be in touch.

Kim Tripp
"Vote Early and Often" is a slogan of Bostonian ward politics. But every November for the last 75 years the Lyman Conservatory has held its own election, thought by most to have more honest results and far better looking candidates.

Each year the Fall Mum Show fills the greenhouses with subtle autumn colors as the chrysanthemums that the greenhouse staff and student interns have been growing all year burst on schedule into full bloom. Hybrid seed produced each year by students in the Horticulture course are grown to flowering size. Visitors to the show are then invited to vote for the best mum of the new crop, with the winners becoming part of the permanent collection of Smith chrysanthemums. Each winner is named for the student who produced the cross, and we occasionally have the pleasure of meeting alums from past Horticulture classes who return and inquire about their creations.

The top vote getter for 1997 was “Sarah McMullen,” a beautiful 3” spoon mum of light purple petals colored dark purple on the inside of the spoon. Others receiving high marks were “Brennan Bruss,” a strong red 2” daisy mum, and “Amanda Burton,” a striking 1 ½” pompom blossom of pinkish purple. To the winners, congratulations and welcome to greenhouse immortality. Unlike Boston politics, once elected you’re in for good.

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Student Projects

Susan McGlew

The Botanic Garden enjoys and utilizes the energy and intellect of many Smith undergraduates during the academic year. Two interns, funded by the Career Development Office, are taking on specific projects. Another intern, funded by the Smith Club of Tokyo, is working in the Japanese Garden.

Brita Dempsey ’00 is working with the Director, Curator, and Conservatory Manager as the Cary MacRae McDaniel ’69 Botanic Garden Intern, to develop interpretive signage. Brita brings a huge charge of enthusiasm and a good deal of expertise to the project. Her fall semester work, which included meeting with signage experts at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Wave Hill, produced a prototype sign and an assortment of potential materials. This spring, Brita will develop a sign for each room in Lyman Conservatory and for the Rock Garden and Systematics Garden. Look for her work when you visit campus or attend your next reunion!

Lissa Harris ’98 is working as the Botanic Garden Curatorial Intern, helping the garden staff input data to the plant records database. Lissa has gathered information from student landscape projects installed by the Horticulture class last May. She has been verifying that all the new plants were properly accessioned and mapped. Lissa enjoyed her field trips to the new plantings and found that accurate record keeping of living plants can be rather complicated. Her accuracy and efficiency really keep us on the move.

Our Japanese Garden Intern, Nicole Davignon AC, returned to Smith as an Ada Comstock Scholar. After traveling to Japan with Professor Taitetsu Unno in May, looking at Japanese gardens and architecture, Nicole is planning a more specific landscape architecture concentration within her Architecture major. Last fall Nicole cleaned up the Japanese Garden and assessed the plantings. This spring she hopes to come up with a new planting list and work with Director Kim Tripp and garden designer David Slawson to refurbish and install new plants in the garden.

Once again, Kew Gardens’ Jodrell Research Laboratory was home to two Smith College undergraduates. Caroline Kellogg ’98 and Mollie Kornblum ’98 spent twelve weeks in the summer of 1997 researching the intricacies of plant conservation and DNA sequencing under the able guidance of Drs. Michael Fay and Mark Chase. The interns learned a tremendous amount from the experience and shared slides and anecdotes from their work with the Friends Visiting Committee. Special thanks are in order for Visiting Committee member Lisa Morrison Baird ’76, Professor of Biology at the University of San Diego, for her special correspondence with the students while they were in England. Kew internship stipend support was provided by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

The Bad Seeds is an organization of students who call themselves “a band of disorganized plant nerds.” Members have one thing in common — they adore plants. Last fall the Bad Seeds met for activities including a night hike, apple picking, and production of the first edition of their newsletter, The Seedling. Plans for this spring include tapping sugar maples (Acer saccharum), selling T-shirts, learning to propagate plants, and discussing their love for plants and gardening. If you would like to know more about the Bad Seeds contact Sallie Holt ’00 (585-7447) or Sara Cohen ’00 (585-6861).
Conservatory News

Rob Nicholson

On rare occasions our staff will do their own collecting of seed or cuttings in the tropics, and we have brought back a number of plants that are now unique to the Lyman Conservatory. Such an example is Mystisticodendron amesianum, a rare member of the tomato family endemic to the northern Andes. This species is a close relative of the angel-trumpet trees (Brugmansia), plants renowned for their spectacular, pastel-colored 12" trumpet-flowers. Mystisticodendron is thought by some botanists to be a highly mutated form of a Brugmansia with thin, willow-like leaves and a blossom that is divided into long, white, spoon-like petals. The plant was first collected and described by the legendary tropical botanist Dr. Richard Evans Schultes, who found it in the Sibundoy Valley of southern Colombia. Schultes did bring back cuttings of the plant, but it was subsequently lost in cultivation. The reintroduction of this rare Andean germplasm allows for further explorations into the complex genetics of the Brugmansia alliance. This could revive a line of research for which Smith College was renowned fifty years ago when Dr. Albert Blakeslee and his students did groundbreaking heredity studies using Datura and Brugmansia. That the Blakeslee Range greenhouses are again filling with germplasm of these large-flowered beauties seems to be a homecoming of the best botanical kind.

Trees on Campus

William Belden

The outdoor garden staff of the Botanic Garden are continuing to remove trees that have been determined to be hazardous because of deferred maintenance and two heavy snowstorms in December 1996 and April 1997. We spent many hours viewing and evaluating every tree on the campus to decide which ones were the most precarious and ultimately slated for removal. In-house staff are handling small tree removals, whereas C.L. Frank & Co., a Northampton arborist firm, will remove several large trees.

We are also developing a program for handling the hemlock woolly adelgid, a small aphid-like insect that feeds on several species of hemlock. North American species are especially susceptible to the pest, which was accidentally introduced from Asia. This again called for a tour of campus in search of every hemlock tree in the arboretum. Results from this observation tour guided decisions on how to handle the difficult-to-control pest. Because some of the hemlocks are so heavily infested, a decision was made to remove several, some this winter and the rest this summer. We will also monitor several others that do not show any sign of having the pest. Finally, we will begin a program to save many of the trees, using dormant/summer oil on several and doing stem injection on a selected few that have already shown signs of being infected.
Volunteer News

Madelaine Zadik

This past January the Botanic Garden harvested a new crop of volunteers who just completed three days of intensive training at Smith. This enthusiastic group joins our dedicated corps of volunteers who offer their time to the Botanic Garden in a variety of capacities. This past year volunteers worked over 1400 hours, including giving guided tours to 95 groups. Offering guided tours to the public on this scale simply would not be possible without these committed volunteers. This past June the gardens at the President’s House were featured as part of the annual Northampton Garden Tour sponsored by the Friends of Forbes Library. Volunteers were on hand to answer questions and provide information about the gardens, including some of the history recently unearthed in the garden journals of the Kneeland family. Over 500 visitors passed through the gardens that day! Additionally, volunteers work on the Index Seminum, our international seed exchange; provide hospitality for Botanic Garden events; staff our bulb and mum shows; and provide general office support. This year they will also be helping to count visitors to the Conservatory.

The work of this devoted group is truly invaluable to the Botanic Garden. It would not be possible for us to do as much as we do without these extraordinary individuals who give so generously of their time. Many many thanks.

Education Programs

Madelaine Zadik

We are particularly excited this season about our new and continuing programs. The calendar of the Botanic Garden is filled with teacher workshops, school visits and guided tours, volunteer training and monthly meetings, workshops for children during reunion weekends, tours for alumnae groups, and more. To a large degree these programs have been made possible by the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, which, we are proud to announce, has renewed our grant for a third year.

Sixty teachers have completed our training workshops, and they have left the Botanic Garden filled with enthusiasm and new ideas for how to incorporate the plant sciences into their curricula. Many return to the Botanic Garden with their classes well prepared for tours of our facilities. The teachers come to us hungry for information, and it is gratifying to see that we can have such a positive effect. The grant has also provided money for transportation, thus enabling many more schools to bring their students for field trips to the Botanic Garden.

The Botanic Garden and the Smith College Museum of Art have entered into a new relationship. Together we have created a wonderful synergy, reinforcing on many levels the children’s learning on a given theme.

Through the funding provided us this year by the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, we will take an analytical look at outreach education, develop an Education Master Plan, and build a foundation for managing the educational activities of the Botanic Garden for the future.
Landscape Master Plan Update

Kim Tripp

We are fortunate to be able to call upon the Landscape Master Plan for the Botanic Garden of Smith College as a comprehensive planning document for the next quarter of a century. The plan was developed by the firm of Rolland/Towers, Inc. of New Haven, Connecticut. The co-authors of the plan, Rolland/Towers principal landscape architect Shavaun Towers and Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, FASLA, of Vancouver, are Smith alumnae and, as such, brought a unique understanding of the College and the Botanic Garden to the plan’s development. In 1997 Rolland/Towers, Inc. was awarded the ASLA Award of Excellence for their work. We congratulate the members of Rolland/Towers, Inc. and are very proud to be the beneficiaries of their work on our Landscape Master Plan.

The Botanic Garden Landscape Master Plan (LMP) outlines a 25 year prescription for development and restoration of the historic Olmsted landscape that is the Botanic Garden and Smith College campus. The LMP was developed through extensive interview, analysis, and plan development which drew on all the constituents of the Garden and the College. The LMP prescribes specific recommendations for restoration/preservation of historic spaces and attributes, as well as new features to enhance current/future use and appreciation of the landscape (such as new gardens, bridges, walkways, open spaces, and relocated parking facilities). The Landscape Master Plan was formally adopted by the College Board of Trustees in fall 1996.

Implementation of selected aspects of the LMP has already begun. Restoration of Lanning Fountain and gardens, renovation of the Systematic Garden entry and walkways, renewal of the President’s House gardens, development of a comprehensive plan for completion of deferred arboriculture, restoration of Olmstedian open spaces in central campus, and refreshment of the Japanese Garden and tea hut have been completed or initiated.

Implementation of larger, capital projects recommended by the LMP will be considered on an individual basis by the College Board of Trustees for approval and funding. Currently under consideration, for example, is reclamation of the Dickinson lot as green gathering space, subsequent to construction of the recently approved College parking garage adjacent to Green Street.

As a wonderful addition to the Landscape Master Plan, we were delightfully surprised to learn of the existence of archival garden journals and plans of the Kneeland family, who once owned, resided in, and gardened on the site where the President’s House and gardens currently stand. These documents were donated to the Smith College Archives through the joint generosity of the Kneeland family and Historic Northampton. The journals are filled with exquisite detail on the original gardens and plantings on the site and make an excellent resource for garden development and management. The formal donation of the Kneeland garden books in March 1997 was a rewarding setting for a lecture on the landscape and natural history of the site by Professor C. John Burk, which followed a ceremonial presentation of the archives by Kerry Buckley, Director of Historic Northampton, and the Kneeland family to President Simmons and the College.

Contributions Wanted

We are looking for contributions of all sorts for the fall issue of Botanic Garden News. We welcome submissions of photographs and artwork as well as suggestions for articles and topics that you think we should cover. Please contact Madelaine Zadik at the Botanic Garden.
Report from the Friends

Noriko Sato and Rebecca Truelove

The Friends of the Botanic Garden of Smith College welcomes the first edition of Botanic Garden News, made possible by the hard work of the staff of the Botanic Garden and by contributions of the Friends of the Botanic Garden.

The Friends of the Botanic Garden was founded in 1992 by Susan Cohen ’62 and Paula Deitz ’59 as a way to bring together alumnae and others who share an appreciation for the Botanic Garden of Smith College. Our mission is to support the collections and enhance the resources of the Botanic Garden and the campus as a whole for the benefit of the College and the community.

The Friends group organizes and sponsors lectures and workshops, offering students, faculty, and the community exposure to highly acclaimed professionals. We welcome each new student with the gift of an ivy plant, and in the spring of alternate years we sponsor a plant sale on campus. We also sponsor volunteer guides who give tours of the Botanic Garden to school groups and others. In 1995, the Centennial of the Lyman Conservatory brought many alumnae and Friends to the Glasshouse Symposium. Throughout the same year, many Smith Clubs joined in the 100th anniversary festivities by hosting garden parties from Albany to Australia. This year we are very excited to sponsor a symposium to be held March 18, “Leadership in Landscape: Sustainable Development.”

To extend opportunities for students beyond the campus itself, the Friends established in 1994 a summer internship program at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, allowing Smith to become the first undergraduate institution to send interns to Kew. The travel costs for the interns are covered by an endowment created through the generosity of the family of Muriel Kohn Pokross ’34.

The generosity of the Friends has underwritten several capital investments for the Botanic Garden, including a tree spade and a state-of-the-art plant label engraving machine. The Friends are working to continue and expand the calendar of events, establish new internships, and raise the profile of the Botanic Garden through new publications such as this newsletter and the development of the Garden’s website (watch for a new look at www.smith.edu/garden). We encourage you to support the Friends and join us in promoting Smith’s world-class gardens.

You are invited to join

The Friends of the Botanic Garden of Smith College

ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- A copy of Celebrating a Century: The Botanic Garden of Smith College to new members
- The Botanic Garden News, including a calendar of events, twice a year
- Invitations to plant show preview parties and receptions
- Invitations to Botanic Garden symposia
- Invitations to Botanic Garden travel/study programs

YES, I WANT TO BECOME A FRIEND OF THE BOTANIC GARDEN OF SMITH COLLEGE

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Enclosed is my check to The Friends of the Botanic Garden of Smith College in the amount of $_________.

All contributions are tax-deductible. Send to: Friends of the Botanic Garden of Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063.
## Calendar of Events — Spring 1998

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<th>Date</th>
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| March 6    | 6:00 pm       | Seelye 201      | **Spring Bulb Show: Lecture and Opening**
Anne Spiegel, rock gardener and active member of the Berkshire Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society, will share her expertise in creating and maintaining a xeric ledge garden. |
| March 6    | 7:00 to 8:00 pm | Lyman Conservatory | **Spring Bulb Show Opening Reception**
Special evening hours. Refreshments to be served.                                                                                                          |
| March 18   | 9:30 am to 4:00 pm | Wright Hall Auditorium | **Leadership in Landscape: Sustainable Development**
A symposium of lectures and panel discussions featuring leaders in the field of sustainable development: Carol Franklin, Peter Jacobs, Cornelia Hahn Oberlander ’44, and Marc Rosenbaum.
Pre-registration is required.
A $75 participation fee includes lunch. |
| April 13   | 4:30 pm       | Stoddard Hall Auditorium | **Evolution in a Landscape: The Botanic Garden of Smith College**
An illustrated discussion of the development of the garden from the founding of the College to the present by C. John Burk, Elsie Damon Simonds Professor of Biological Sciences, Smith College. |
| April 17   | 4:30 pm       | Seelye 106      | **Olmsted’s Footsteps**
Slide lecture by Nancy Watkins Denig ’68, ASLA, MLA, and Principal of Denig Design Associates. Nancy’s work at the National Zoo will be profiled as she discusses how issues of sustainable development relate to reconstruction methods on Olmsted historic sites. |
| May 2      | 10:00 am to 12:00 noon | Lyman Conservatory | **Workshop: Perusing the Perennial Border**
Participants in this hands-on workshop will learn perennial border management techniques for a selection of plants grown at Smith, and take home some divisions of these plants to include in their home gardens.
Pre-registration is required.
A $25 participation fee includes all materials. |