A Farewell

From the Director, Kim Tripp

It is with mixed feelings of both regret for what I am leaving behind and excitement for new opportunities, that I write to inform you of my resignation as Director of the Botanic Garden. I was not looking for a new position, but the New York Botanical Garden offered me an extraordinary position as the Vice President for Horticulture. I have enjoyed my work at Smith a great deal but this position at NYBG, one of the premier botanical gardens in the country, is a unique professional opportunity. I assume my new duties at NYBG in February.

The Botanic Garden of Smith College is a nationally important garden that offers the Smith community an unusual window into the international research, education, and cultural activities associated with botanical gardens. As I have expressed in the past, it is critical that the Botanic Garden, in the context of the mission of the College, continues to move forward with renovation of the Lyman Conservatory and implementation of the Landscape Master Plan. I know that the College will be working to ensure that these projects move forward.

It is my most sincere hope that we will continue to work together as colleagues. I also hope that you will call on me for anything that I can do to help further the botanical and horticultural education of Smith College students and the larger Smith College community.

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to work with you at Smith College. My only regret is that my time here was relatively brief. I will always appreciate hearing from you and will be looking forward to seeing the work of the Botanic Garden of Smith College move forward under new direction.

Green at Last

Rob Nicholson

There may be no greater joy for the Lyman Conservatory staff than to watch the first fresh green tips of bulbs push their way up through the pots of dark brown potting soil. After a long winter of battling the rooftop ice and the biting winds that seek to intrude on our tropical environment, the Spring Bulb Show signals the beginning of the end of winter’s reign.

The Spring Bulb Show is a long-standing tradition of the Botanic Garden and dates back over 75 years. Each new show presents the same challenge: create a better show than last year. By many visitors’ accounts last year’s show was “the best ever,” so we have an even greater challenge this year. The show actually begins in October when students in the Horticulture class learn the basics of bulb ecology and anatomy in lecture. They then immediately apply

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**Landscape Master Plan Update**

*Kim Tripp*

There are numerous garden projects associated with the Landscape Master Plan, some in progress as I write, some planned for the near future, and others requiring capital funding that fit into a 20 year planning horizon.

In 1999, the Botanic Garden staff will be working closely with Shavaun Towers, our campus landscape architect, on these ongoing garden projects:

- Completion of the Edith Bramwell Reilly Hand Wildflower Garden in its new woodland site below the President’s House.
- Renovation of the Alice Orme Smith Rhododendron garden in its existing site (adjacent to the new site for the Wildflower Garden).
- Completion of phase II of the groundcover plantings in the new Lanning Fountain landscape.
- Renewal of the groundcover plantings in beds around and adjacent to College, Lilly, Pierce, and Seelye halls.
- Maintenance and rejuvenation of the arboretum collections.
- Monitoring, treatment, and, where necessary, removal of woolly adelgid infested hemlock trees.
- Planning for renovation of the walks and plantings throughout the Green Street corridor.

(For more details about some of these projects see Campus News on page 8.)

In addition, it is already time for the Landscape Master Plan to be given an update by its authors. Work on this has already begun. When planning upcoming building projects, particular attention will be paid to the impact on gardens, renovation of walkways, and long range planning for major landscape projects.

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**Correction**

In the last issue of *Botanic Garden News* we inadvertently omitted Sandra-Leigh Sprecker as an Individual Contributor to the Friends of the Botanic Garden. Our apologies.
Green at Last:  
**The Spring Bulb Show**  
Rob Nicholson

(Continued from page 1)  their newfound knowledge in the laboratory session, by planting over 5000 bulbs in 1000 pots. These pots are transported downstairs to our bulb cellar where they are kept at 40°F for 10 to 12 weeks. We start to bring bulbs up in early January, and by the end of the month spring begins to whisper to us. Last year’s show was the first in which an accurate count of visitors was kept. We surprised even ourselves by drawing over 13,000 visitors during the two-week period. Had not a winter storm curtailed one weekend’s visitation we surely would have surpassed 15,000.

Our debut of this year’s floral performance will be the evening of Friday, March 5, at 8:00 pm. To add a little more pop and fizz to the affair we have recruited renowned plantswoman Mary Ann McGourty to deliver a lecture which draws upon her hard won knowledge of gardening. Her slide lecture, “Ground Covers and Bulbs: The

Special Evening Programs during the Bulb Show  
Rob Nicholson

In an effort to better serve our visitors and the campus community, the Smith College Botanic Garden is experimenting with an expanded set of hours for this year’s Spring Bulb Show. We will be having two special evening programs in addition to the opening night festivities on March 5.

On March 10 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm the greenhouses will be illuminated and open to all members of the Smith College community: students and employees, their partners and their children, and Friends of the Botanic Garden. We hope that we can all share a little social time together away from the office.

La Noche de las Flores, March 12 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, will be a night with a Spanish flair. Tours will be given in Spanish by Smith students and staff in an attempt to welcome the Latin-American community of the Pioneer Valley and the Five Colleges. There is even a rumor about a Flamenco guitarist playing to the tulips. 

Finishings Touches,” will give every gardener among us new ideas on how to combine these crucial garden elements with plants from other areas of the garden (see the calendar of events on page 1.)

This year we are including our traditional palette of bulbs such as tulips, narcissus, hyacinths, crocus, and muscari. These bulbs all hail from the Mediterranean region, but each year we try to obtain or propagate bulbs from other areas of the world. We are trying to force *Calochortus*, the beautiful Mariposa lily from California. We also are growing or starting from seed a variety of bulbs from the wonderfully diverse bulb flora of South Africa. Though these may take years to grow to flowering size, where else could you expect to see *Cyrtanthus obliqua*, *Gladiolus oppositiflorus*, or *Lachenalia viridiflora* than at the spring spectacular of the Lyman Conservatory?
A Gardener’s Wish List

Tracey Warton

It’s snowing and freezing and miserable — perfect weather for curling up with the 1999 plant and seed catalogues and planning additions to next year’s garden. I’ve noted some interesting plants you might want to keep an eye out for as you do your own planning. They are not all “new” but they have all caught my attention for one reason or another. Some we have here on campus, and some I have personal experience with in my own gardens; others are on my “wish list” — every gardener I know has one of those!

Echinacea tennesseensis is shorter than the common purple coneflower with bright pink forward-facing 3-inch flowers all summer. Hardy to zone 4, it grows 24 to 30 inches tall.

Lilium ‘White Angel’ looks like L. speciosum var. album, which I had in the garden about fifteen years ago and lost to predatory rodents. Seeing the picture brought back memories of its ethereal beauty — 5 to 6 feet tall, with pendant pure white flowers and recurved petals, wonderfully fragrant, and outstanding against a dark green background. To discourage voles, plant in wire cages or use plastic net bags specifically for bulb protection.

Clethra alnifolia ‘Ruby Spice’ is not new, but I experienced my first full growing season with this plant last year and was very impressed. This summersweet actually lived up to all the promises and dramatic prose plant catalogues are famous for. Dark rose sweet-smelling spikes are hummingbird heaven. This is a nice sturdy plant with shiny, dark green foliage. Height will hopefully top at 5 to 6 feet, but clethras take pruning pretty gracefully.

Daphne caucasica, an absolutely wonderful daphne, is finally becoming more widely available. The plant in my garden has fragrant white flowers literally from May until snowfall. We have a specimen in the Rock Garden here at Smith. Daphne caucasica, one of the parents of the Daphne × burkwoodii hybrids ‘Somerset’ and ‘Carol Mackie,’ is hard to beat underplanted with Brunnera macrophylla, Siberian bugloss, with azure blue flowers. Both Daphne ‘Carol Mackie’ and Brunnera macrophylla can be seen in the Ruth Brown Richardson perennial border, along the fence at the Botanic Garden.

Cimicifuga racemosa ‘Brunette’ is a fantastic deep purple-stemmed snakeroot, with fragrant spikes 6 feet tall. Also look for Cimicifuga racemosa ‘Hillside Black Beauty.’ This selection is from the McGourtys’ wonderful garden in Connecticut which I had the pleasure to visit last summer. (Don’t miss Mary Ann McGourty’s talk at the opening of the Bulb Show; see the events calendar on page 12.) Don’t pay the incredible prices in the mail-order catalogues — look for the plants at local nurseries where they’ll be bigger and less expensive.

Another fantastic visit last season was to Cricket Hill Garden in Thomaston, Connecticut. The very hospitable hosts grow Chinese tree peonies, fabulous plants with names like “Intoxicated Celestial Peach” and “Coiled Dragon in the Mist Grasping a Purple Pearl.” The garden in May is an unforgettable experience. Besides the Chinese tree peonies, they have some of the Daphnis and Saunders hybrids, which differ in form and color and are even more magnificent than the Chinese varieties (in my humble opinion, that is). Peony breeders are also working on hybrids between herbaceous and tree peonies, which have incredible garden potential — a few of these Itoh or intersectional hybrids can also be seen at Cricket Hill. Come see the Chinese tree peony “Grand Duke Dressed in Blue and Purple” in the Ranunculaceae bed in the Systematics Garden as well as some other fine tree peonies in the perennial border.

Salvia ‘Black and Blue’ is the salvia for the border or cutting garden. It is 3 to 4 feet tall with violet petals and almost black sepals. Flowers are in spikes that lengthen as they mature, twisting and turning. This tender perennial needs pinching at first, and staking if exposed to wind, but it’s worth the trouble. It looks great when grown with Salvia guaranitica ‘Argentine Skies’ or Salvia × ‘Indigo Spires,’ and when grouped with lush yellow roses like Rosa ‘Graham Thomas’ and ‘The Pilgrim’ (both English roses from David Austin).

Rosa ‘Heritage,’ another Austin selection, has truly proven itself to be the best all-around rose I have ever grown. There were 32 rose varieties in my old garden and 38 in my new one, so that’s a serious compliment. I’ve grown ‘Heritage’ in both. It was one of the first things I planted at my new house in the summer of ’97, and this past season the plant was 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide, robust, with lovely foliage and covered with fragrant pink

(Continued on page 5)
New Website Launched
Madelaine Zadik

While the Botanic Garden staff has been diligently working on all the garden renovation and restoration projects, we have also been hard at work redesigning and redefining another face we present to the world: our website. It now has a totally new look with much to explore and discover. Many thanks in particular to Connie Parks for her many hours of writing and editing, and to Belinda Darcey AC and Pam Davis ’98, web designers extraordinaire. The Friends of the Botanic Garden of Smith College generously provided funding for this project.

If you are unable to visit the Botanic Garden in Northampton, you can substitute a cyberspace visit. Even regular garden visitors will find much of interest. We guarantee that everyone visiting the website will learn something new about the Botanic Garden. On visiting the site your screen will be filled with images and information about the Lyman Conservatory, the outdoor gardens, Botanic Garden history, academics, research projects, events, the Landscape Master Plan, and the Herbarium. The site also includes an on-line version of Botanic Garden News and a wonderful photo gallery, which alone is worth a special tour. There are even scenes with full action displays of the rippling waters on Paradise Pond.

We hope you will be adventurous and visit our new website. We would love to hear any of your comments. Our address is http://www.smith.edu/garden.

A Gardener’s Wish List continued

(Continued from page 4)

roses until December! Of course, last winter was very mild. It will be interesting to see how the roses come through after the low temperatures and vicious wind-chill factors we’ve had this winter. Also, the long, mild autumn may have prevented plants from hardening off gradually before the onset of very low temperatures. We might see a lot more damage come spring. Another wonderful rose, a climber to 8 feet, is *Rosa ‘Eden,* also known as *Rosa ‘Pierre de Ronsard.’* The fragrant flowers are cream blushed pink, large, and slightly quartered with that “old rose” look.

*Nicotiana suaveolens* is an annual flowering tobacco I grew in my garden last summer. Smaller in both height and flower than the other, more well known nicotianas, this species has pendent white bells in great numbers and grows to about 2 feet. It makes a great companion to a background of delphiniums, flowers all summer, and self-sows. See it for yourself in the Solanaceae bed in the Systematics Garden this summer.

Look for *Lespedeza thunbergii ‘Alba,’* the white-flowered form of another favorite. Graham Stuart Thomas calls the species “one of the last gorgeous splashes of color of the year.” The white form of this leguminous dieback shrub looks like a waterfall, and mixes beautifully in the border. It might be nice planted next to a pond so it can cascade over the edge. I hear it’s more vertical in habit than *Lespedeza thunbergii ‘Gibraltar,’* which has dark-pink flowers and is very graceful. Both are at their best in late August into September.

For more late-season color, look for *Dendranthema* (formerly *Chrysanthemum*) ‘Sheffield’ introduced by Fred McGourty at Hillside Gardens. Large, single salmon-pink daisies bloom from September until Christmas on a very hardy and vigorous plant, with nice long stems for great cut flowers. This cultivar has been around for a long time but has never sold well at nurseries that usually close for the season before the flowers open. We have another of this same type of late flowering daisy, known here only as ‘Korean Tan,’ growing in the perennial border. It’s been very popular with visitors.

*Daylily* fans will be interested in the increasing popularity of what are called “spider variants.” These forms have long, thin, sometimes-twisted petals and names like *Hemerocallis ‘Red Ribbons,’ ‘Twist of Lemon,’ ‘Mynelles Starfish,’* and ‘Dark Star.’ Individual flowers can be 10 inches across! Although these may sound like deformed daylilies on steroids, some are exceedingly beautiful with unexpected grace.

I hope I’ve helped you forget the ice and snow and cold for a few minutes. If you have questions or comments feel free to email me at twarton@sophia.smith.edu. Enjoy the winter rest all gardeners deserve, and good luck keeping your wish list under control!
Flowers have always steered us to new colors and the harmonic use of color, even supplying pigments for dyes. Skilled gardeners, much like skilled painters, can be judged by how well they manipulate color. Gertrude Jekyll revolutionized gardening with a sophisticated approach to complementary and contrasting color dynamics. She was acutely aware of the nuance of color and its proper naming, as she wrote in *Color Schemes for the Flower Garden*:

What a wonderful range of colouring there is in black alone to a trained colour-eye! There is the dull brown-black of soot, and the velvety brown-black of the bean-flower’s blotch: to my own eye, I have never found anything so entirely black in a natural product as the patch on the lower petals of *Iris iberica*. Is it not Ruskin who says of Velasquez, that there is more colour in his black than in many another painter’s whole palette?

At Sissinghurst, Vita Sackville-West bled one of her gardens of color and planted only white flowers, a “moon garden” that was designed for night viewing. Being a contrarian, I toyed with the opposite notion, a garden of all black flowers (a noon garden?) and began to compile a list. What soon became clear is that black is probably the rarest of flower colors and that “true black” species, not horticultural black is probably the rarest of flower colors and that “true black” species, not horticultural

*Lisianthus nigriceps* of Mexico, *La Flor de Muerto*, is an intriguing plant. It is one of the rarities of the plant world, a black flower. Native only to the states of Veracruz, Oaxaca, and Chiapas in Mexico, the black lisianthus has been sporadically collected since its first description in 1831, and documented collections number less than two dozen. I set to planning a collecting trip and was lucky to recruit an old botanizing partner, Dr. Melvin Shemluck, to be a second set of eyes. By studying pressed specimens at Harvard’s Gray Herbarium we familiarized ourselves with the look of its hanging tubular flowers, compiled a short list of possible sites, and knew when we were likely to find the plant in flower. We zeroed in on a site in the Zapotec Indian region of Oaxaca where the plant had been collected in 1939 by Richard E. Schultes.

We returned to this site and hoped that after 50 years the black lisianthus still bloomed in the hills of the Chinantla region. Our goal was to bring back live plants or preserved specimens for further study of its pigmentation and to garner a few clues into its pollination biology.

In Oaxaca City, the regional biological research center agreed to collaborate and assigned a first-rate field botanist, Raul Rivera, to accompany us. We approached the targeted area from the lowland tropical farmland of Veracruz and headed south into the Sierra de Villa Alta, a mountainous landscape inhabited by the Zapotec people, an old foe of the Aztecs. The road put the lie to the line on the map. Instead of the promised fat red route, we were navigating a two-rutted stone yard, obviously a road the mapmaker had never traversed.

We bumped along, occasionally stopping to botanize a patch of intact forest in this rural checkerboard, engaged in a chess match with agriculture. A few giant strangler figs gave us the impression of how mighty a forest this once was. Occasionally a broken tree limb lay next to the road and we would delight in the epiphytic vegetation anchored onto the bark, beautiful bromeliads and species of orchids such as *Hexisea*. In the full heat of the sun these plants would eventually die, so we removed specimens for herbarium sheets and for the botanical garden back in Oaxaca. We passed upward into a pine zone and spotted huge sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, a species found as far north as New York.

On the cusp of the fourth hour we were rewarded. We spotted a roadside tree of *Saurauia aspera*, a plant of the kiwifruit family, which also yields an edible fruit. Remembering that Schultes had listed it as an associated species with lisianthus, we redoubled our efforts at scanning the passing vegetation. After a mere fifty yards, a constellation of little black bells appeared, just three feet out my window. In a narrow band of vegetation, sandwiched between the road and a burnt-over field, we found a few dozen plants of various ages. We felt awash with relief that the jostling days on rough roads and weeks of preparation were not in vain, and happy that the fires had halted where they had.

The plant was a single stalked herb to 5 feet, rather open and sparsely branched. But the inch and a half flowers were a special breed. Depending on the angle of sight they were a blackish purple, like the skin of an eggplant, or inky black, fully devoid of color. In bud the emerging flowers looked like glistening drops of coal oil, and when opened they presented a tubular bell of black satin. We parked our vehicle and began the process of preparing specimens for the herbarium and laboratory.

On returning from our fieldwork we connected with Dr. Kenneth Markham of the New Zealand Institute for Industrial Research and Development, the foremost authority on floral pigments of lisianthus and its relatives. With our samples he decoded what pigment molecules are at play in the black tubular blossom. Floral pigments are made of hundreds of different molecules that fall into only a few different classes: flavonoids, carotinoids, and betalains. Flavonoids are water-soluble and are found in the vacuoles of plant cells. A number of flavonoids are known. Anthocyanins bring red, blue, and purple coloring to flowers such as delphiniums, geraniums, and roses and such fruits as grapes and plums. Other flavonoids, such as aurones, flavonals, and flavones, are responsible for cream or yellow pigmentation. Dr. Markham found two anthocyanin

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Campus News

Bill Belden

Spring is fast approaching and with that comes a busy schedule for the staff of the Botanic Garden. We will start our spring cleanup as soon as the weather breaks, and then move to our usual mulching and planting in preparation for Commencement and Reunion. The staff will be working on two major improvements this spring along with our regular workload. One project is in the Green Street area, the other around College, Pierce, Lilly, and Seelye halls.

The Green Street project is still being refined, although initial decisions have been made. All of the trees and shrubs will be removed in the border from the Sage circle to the crosswalk leading to the campus post office. The sidewalk will be widened and a fence installed matching the fence along Elm Street. The pedestrian walks in this area will be realigned to lead foot traffic to the most logical points for crossing Green Street, the intent being to eliminate “goat tracks” across green space and tree roots. The final phase of this project is the replanting of trees, as recommended by the campus Landscape Master Plan, going back to Olmsted’s original plan. Tree selections will be made once a survey of the campus is completed and all underground utilities. This will give us an accurate idea of where the utilities are so that we can avoid planting large trees on top of them.

The second project consists of removing most of the shrubs around College and Lilly halls and replanting with ground cover and turf. Large mulched areas around Seelye and Pierce halls will be planted with ground covers or seeded for lawn. We have ordered Matteuccia struthiopteris, ostrich fern, Geranium sanguineum ‘Album,’ a white-flowering geranium, and Epimedium grandiflorum, a white-flowering epimedium, for use in these areas, all of which should be here by mid-April.

We will continue the relocation of the Edith Bramwell Reilly Hand Wildflower Garden to the site below the President’s House, on the lower end of the vista. Final plans for this area are still being developed and we hope to begin some planting this spring. We installed new pathways last fall and are planning to build stone steps in some of the steeper terrain. Work will resume on this project as soon as the weather allows.

Additionally, we will be finishing the planting around the Lanning Fountain. Plants will include Geranium sanguineum ‘Album,’ a white geranium, Osmunda regalis ‘Purpurascens,’ royal fern, and Filipendula vulgaris ‘Flore Pleno,’ a double-flowered dropwort. Students in this spring’s Horticulture class will be working on redesigning and planting areas of the Sabin-Reed shade and fern garden, adjacent to the Lanning Fountain.

Although we have an aggressive schedule for this spring, I am confident that, with the talented staff we are lucky to have, we will be able to accomplish what we have planned and be ready for Commencement and Reunion weekends. We hope you will enjoy all of the improvements the staff of the Botanic Garden is making to our beautiful campus.

The Plant Sale: May 8, 1999

Rob Nicholson

After a one year hiatus, the Smith College Botanic Garden Plant Sale returns to Burton Lawn on May 8 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (members of the Friends of the Botanic Garden will be admitted at 9:00 am). If the past is any indication we can expect some of the most knowledgeable and sharp-eyed gardeners in the region to attend and do battle among our tables of rarities.

Over 100 different species of hardy plants and houseplants will be included, both native and exotic, grown from plants within the Garden’s collections and from seed obtained from all corners of the globe. Among the offerings will be perennials such as Pulsatilla halleri, Aquilegia baikalensis, Kniphofia rooperi, Asarum canadense, and Mazus repans. Trees and shrubs include Maackia amurensis, Cephalotaxus koreana, Callicarpa dichotoma, Acer griseum, and Itea virginica ‘Henry’s Garnet.’ Visitors to our conservatory always ask where they can get the plants we are growing, and we often have to tell them that the plants are not available commercially. Frequently we may have the only specimen in cultivation. From our thousands of plants we try to produce a quality list of tropical and subtropical houseplants.

We are still in the midst of rooting cuttings and potting up seedlings. Gabrielle Dean ’00, Megan McIntyre ’01, and Penelope Stranc ’99 are helping to produce the thousands of plants that make up the sale.

Funds raised from the sale help to support student research and plant collections improvements. So it is a simple formula: as you increase the beauty of your garden, you increase the beauty and utility of ours.
This month, the eminent British historian John Dixon Hunt will deliver the first Beatrix Farrand Lectures in Landscape Studies at Smith College. Professor Hunt, who is Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania, will present these slide lectures as part of the landscape architecture studio course this spring.

Through his teaching and writing, Mr. Hunt has become a leader in promoting landscape studies as a major component of cultural history. Before beginning his tenure at the University of Pennsylvania, he served as Director of Studies in Landscape Architecture at Dumbarton Oaks, in Washington, D.C., a division of Harvard University. Among his important books are *Garden and Grove: The Italian Renaissance in the English Imagination*; *Garden and the Picturesque: Studies in the History of Landscape Architecture*; and *Greater Perfection: The Practice of Garden Theory*.

Mr. Hunt will offer a survey of landscape and garden history from ancient gardens to contemporary designs. In his illustrated talks, Mr. Hunt will weave together ideas, concepts, theories, and forms from gardens and landscapes around the world and discuss how, throughout history, the literature of garden-making influenced the practice of garden design. Among the gardens he will discuss in his first lecture are the Villa Lante, Courances, and Rousham.

The lectures will take place in Wright Hall at 1:10 pm and are open to the public. Smith alumnae and Friends of the Botanic Garden are invited to special visits and tours on campus following the lectures.

These lectures, sponsored by the Department of Art and the Faculty Planning Group for the Program in Landscape Studies, are supported by the Beatrix Farrand Fund for Landscape Studies. This fund, named for the distinguished American landscape designer who received an honorary degree from Smith in 1936, will endow a new faculty position in landscape studies as part of the proposed interdepartmental program. For more information call Jad Davis, (800) 526-2023.

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A group of enthusiastic new volunteers has completed our intensive training program at the Botanic Garden. We are gearing up for our busy spring season of school tours, and the new volunteers are working diligently toward their first “solo” tours. Our veteran volunteers have been providing much encouragement for the new recruits and have been actively participating in their training.

Last fall, volunteers Janet Bissell and Hut Beall researched and developed a special tour, *Elements of Renaissance Gardens*, as part of our ongoing collaboration with the Smith College Museum of Art in creating programs for school groups. The tour is designed to complement the Renaissance exhibit at the Museum, *A Renaissance Treasury*. Janet and Hut are offering the tour to the public on February 27 as part of a series of workshops that the Museum has scheduled in conjunction with the exhibit.

We rely on our dedicated volunteer corps for staffing the Bulb and Chrysanthemum Shows, counting visitors, filling our Index Seminum orders, processing Friends of the Botanic Garden memberships, and putting on our plant sale (this year’s sale is coming up on May 8; see the article on page 7). We are indebted to these wonderful people who so generously donate their time and energies, enabling the Botanic Garden to do so much more. Again, many many thanks.
Several years ago, Smith College celebrated the centennial of the Smith College Botanic Garden, commemorating the completion of the Lyman Plant House in the winter of 1895-96, the planting of the Systematics Garden, and the designation of the campus as an arboretum. Botany had been studied at the College, however, for twenty years before the founding of the Garden, and the first botany instructor, Henry Griswold Jesup, was an interesting, if somewhat enigmatic figure whose pioneering contributions to botany and botanical education in the Connecticut Valley of western Massachusetts have gone too long neglected. Neither his entry in the third edition of *Who’s Who in America* nor his memorial notice in *Rhodora*, the Journal of the New England Botanical Club, included his work at Smith, and even President L. Clark Seelye, who appointed Mr. Jesup to the faculty in 1876, misspelled his name (as Jessup) in his first report to the Trustees.

Jespup was born in 1826 in Westport, Connecticut. He received an A.B. degree from Yale College in 1847 and an M.A. degree there in 1850. After two years spent teaching and traveling in antebellum Georgia, he returned north to enter Union Theological Seminary. Graduating in 1853 and ordained in the Congregational Church, he preached in Stanwich, Connecticut for almost a decade, resigning the pulpit in 1862 for reasons of poor health.

He then reportedly “took up the study of Botany first that he might have some diversion in the midst of his bodily ailments.” Just how he trained himself as a botanist remains a mystery, but we do know he spent a year in Minnesota and then moved to Amherst, Massachusetts, where he resided until the spring of 1876.

In Amherst, Jesup was not affiliated with any of the local churches. Neither did he hold an official appointment at Amherst College, and the best records of his activities are probably the labels on the herbarium specimens he began collecting in the area by 1865 or earlier. Such early collections are important to modern botanists because they help to document the presence of native plant species, many of which have since become threatened, endangered, or extinct, in the nineteenth century flora of the region. Historic collections also help establish the time of invasion of nonnative plants, some of which are noxious weeds at present. A number of Jesup’s specimens are now in the herbarium of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Examining their labels, one quickly realizes that despite his infirmities, Jesup must have spent a great deal of time out-of-doors, often in rigorous environments. From 1871, for example, we find grasses, sedges, and rushes he collected on the slopes of Mount Toby and the spikemoss, *Selaginella rupestris*, now uncommon, from both a rocky ledge in Sunderland and the summit of Mount Holyoke. From 1872, we find orchids and bog laurel collected in a Belchertown wetland, willows from a Connecticut River island, and sedges from a Deerfield swamp.

At Amherst College at that time, Professor Edward Tuckerman was revising Edward Hitchcock’s 1827 flora of the region. In the 1875 introduction to this *Flora Amherstiensis*, Tuckerman acknowledged Jesup’s fieldwork, stating that he had botanized “the larger part of the ground afresh, with unsurpassed care” and added over forty “particularly interesting” species to our knowledge of the local flora, including a record of the showy lady slipper, *Cypripedium reginae* (then *Cypripedium spectabile*), from a now-extinct population on Mount Holyoke. Tuckerman also acknowledged Jesup’s contributions to “the foundation and the building up of [Amherst College’s] new North American herbarium.”

Jesup also participated within a broader botanical community that had begun to develop throughout the area. He helped draw up plans for a new Connecticut Valley Botanical Society at a meeting in June of 1873 at the Springfield, Massachusetts home of Maria Owen, a well-known student of the flora of Nantucket Island. The group, according to Maria Owen’s reminiscences, was “the first of its kind in New England” because it was “open to both sexes.” Jesup served as its first president. Members were drawn both from the academic institutions of the area and “from little country towns, women and men both, hard workers in bread-winning occupations, who yet managed to find time for their beloved science and made progress in it.”

In the spring of 1876, President L. Clark Seelye appointed Jesup, described as “a gentleman who has been making a specialty of Botany,” to the Smith College faculty. Jesup was “to give instruction needed in that science...for $50 and Board.” Aside from whatever teaching he might have done in Georgia, it was Jesup’s first academic job. The new Amherst flora had just been published, and Jesup would have just turned fifty years of age. He was one of a group of temporary
Smith’s First Botanist

appointees, along with instructors of mathematics, modern languages, and “light gymnastics.” According to Seelye’s first report to the Trustees, “The persons procured for this special work were so situated that they could do it without inconvenience and were glad to contribute thus to the success of the College.” A part of his compensation may also have included lodging in Dewey House, since a student reminiscence from that spring, reported in Seelye’s Early History of Smith College, included family prayers, later discontinued, led “by Professor Jesup, who occupied the small room downstairs for that term, probably the only time any of the men of the Faculty resided in a college house.”

Jesup’s botany classes would have been taught in College Hall, dedicated just the year before. Examples of the local flora, including cattails, arrow arum, staghorn sumac, and Christmas fern, handsomely carved in Indiana limestone, still decorate the College Hall entrance that faces out across the Connecticut Valley, over downtown Northampton to the Holyoke Range beyond; and it seems likely that Mr. Jesup’s students saw many of these plants behind the campus in the woods and wetlands on the margins of Paradise Pond. There was no herbarium at Smith College until 1886, the year Lilly Hall was completed. Nonetheless, the present Herbarium, now situated on the fourth floor of Burton Hall, contains several of Mr. Jesup’s specimens, including the parasitic pinesap, Monotropa hypopitys, several unusual grape ferns of the genus Botrychium, and a remounted sheet of the adder’s tongue fern, Ophioglossum vulgatum, a species now officially “threatened” in Massachusetts, collected in Conway in 1874.

H. G. Jesup taught at Smith College only one semester. He was replaced by Miss Bessey Capen, who would resign shortly thereafter to form her own academy, the Capen School. However, H. G. Jesup by no means disappeared into botanical obscurity. Instead, he was appointed Instructor in Botany at Dartmouth College in the fall of 1876 and, in a meteoric progress through the academic ranks, named Chandler Professor of Natural History within the year. A Dartmouth graduate of the class of 1879 recalled him as “an all-round nature lover, and interested in all things out of doors, from mountains to diatoms.” Though “totally unfit for hiking expeditions,” Professor Jesup managed to explore the Dartmouth area sufficiently to complete by 1882 a major work of scholarship, A Catalogue of the Flora and Fauna within Thirty Miles of Hanover. He also relentlessly continued collecting herbarium specimens. Some of these were kept at Dartmouth College while others were stored in Jesup’s private living quarters from which, with the aid of Dartmouth undergraduates, they were rescued from a fire in February 1881. The specimens now form part of the Jesup Herbarium, a collection within the Dartmouth College Department of Biological Sciences that has grown to contain nearly 67,000 mounted specimens of ferns, fern allies, gymnosperms, and flowering plants. Jesup taught at Dartmouth until 1899, when he retired at the age of seventy-three. Remembered as “a man of great industry, singularly kindly and generous of disposition, an enthusiastic and successful instructor,” he persisted in fieldwork through the mid-1890s, even ascending Mt. Mansfield in 1895. One wonders whether he ever visited Northampton during that last decade of the nineteenth century, if he knew that Smith College had expanded to include the surroundings of Paradise Pond and some of the woodland along the Mill River, if he had seen the recently constructed Lyman Plant House, the growing Herbarium, still in Lilly Hall, and the plans by William Francis Ganong, newly appointed Professor of Botany, Frederick Law Olmsted, and the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot which designated the entire campus as a botanical garden with plant materials selected and arranged for educational, scientific, and aesthetic purposes. It is hard to guess just what his response might have been, and one imagines him, perhaps erroneously, as a classic pioneer, a figure from the first days at the College, pleased by his own contributions to progress in his science but in some ways nostalgic for a simpler and less complicated past.

Black Beauty

(Continued from page 6)

pigments. The percent dry weight of these pigment molecules in the dried flower tissue was the real surprise, coming in at a whopping 23%. According to Dr. Markham, this is extraordinarily high and compares to only 1.1 to 1.4% found in the purple florist’s lisianthus. Other flavonoids were also found and may be serving to enhance color intensity.

The possibility of transgenic applications, using genes from the Flor de Muerto to create new strains of florist’s lisianthus, is intriguing, and we hope to explore this potential with our Mexican and New Zealand colleagues in the future.
Report from the Friends
Noriko Sato and Rebecca Truelove

As our term as Co-Chairs for the Friends of the Botanic Garden of Smith College winds to an end, we would like to reflect on the past three years. As alumnae of Smith, we feel the Botanic Garden is an extraordinary place that we want to preserve and share with all current and future Smith College family members. The Friends of the Botanic Garden aims to help accomplish this by offering the wealth of its resources, from program speakers to internship mentors.

During our term, the Friends of the Botanic Garden Advisory Committee has been able to work with someone who has successfully channelled these resources to the greatest benefit for the Smith campus and community: Kim Tripp. We, on behalf of the entire Advisory Committee, wish to thank Kim for her vision and leadership in collaborating on an agenda for the Friends. In addition to her active participation in our meetings and thoughtful consideration of the many Committee suggestions, she included the Committee in the Landscape Master Plan progress reports, the creation of the new Botanic Garden website, and the planned renovation of the Conservatory. The Committee’s partnership with Kim has allowed the Friends to genuinely pursue its mission: to do what is best for Smith.

In the last newsletter, we asked for your memories and recollections of time spent at the Botanic Garden. We are pleased to note that the Botanic Garden is memorable to a wide range of alumnae and members of the Northampton community. Not surprisingly, it seems the Botanic Garden is the source of inspiration for many artists. One studio art major, introduced to the Botanic Garden in a drawing class project, used the Garden as a place to wander and generate ideas whenever she felt stymied by an academic assignment. A recent alumna talked of escaping to the Conservatory when she became overwhelmed with her parents during Family Weekend, only to discover her parents admiring the Palm House. Fortunately, a soothing afternoon in the Conservatory restored everyone’s good spirits. The Garden has also provided the background for many romantic interludes: a local resident remembers her first kiss as a teenager in the Conservatory, and we also hear that the rock garden bench, just outside the Conservatory, has been a favored marriage proposal spot for several alumnae.

We hope you enjoyed this small sample of the many memories associated with the Botanic Garden of Smith College, and we trust you will support our successors and a new Director of the Botanic Garden as they continue to strengthen and preserve the Botanic Garden for the future. Thank you for your support over the past three years.

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 members-only hours at plant sales
• Invitations to Botanic Garden symposia
• Invitations to Botanic Garden travel/study programs

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ Patron $1,000  ☐ Family/Dual $50
☐ Benefactor $500  ☐ Individual $25
☐ Sustaining $250  ☐ Student $10
☐ Contributing $100

Name: __________________________  Class Year (alumnae): ________

Address: __________________________

City/State: __________________________ Zip: ___________

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

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: The Friends of the Botanic Garden of Smith College  Northampton, MA 01063
The Beatrix Farrand Lectures in Landscape Studies
Three lectures given by John Dixon Hunt, Chair, Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania. See article on page 8.

**Friday**
**February 12**
1:10 pm
Wright Hall

**Place-making and History Writing: The Role of Landscape Studies**
*John Dixon Hunt*, followed by a visit to the Mortimer Rare Book Room.

**Friday**
**February 19**
1:10 pm
Wright Hall

**An Epitome of the World: From Renaissance Gardens to the Picturesque**
*John Dixon Hunt*, followed by a tour of *A Renaissance Treasury* at the Museum of Art.

**Friday**
**February 26**
1:10 pm
Wright Hall

**Between Formalism and Ecology: Landscape Architecture by 2000 A.D.**
*John Dixon Hunt*, followed by a tour of the Lyman Conservatory.

**Saturday**
**February 27**
1:00 pm
Lyman Conservatory

**Elements of Renaissance Gardens**
Tour of the Lyman Conservatory with a Renaissance perspective, given by *Janet Bissell* and *Hut Beall*, volunteers at the Botanic Garden.

**Friday**
**March 5**
7:00 pm
Seelye 106

**Spring Bulb Show Lecture**
**Ground Covers and Bulbs: The Finishing Touches**

**Friday**
**March 5**
8:00 pm
Lyman Conservatory

**Spring Bulb Show Opening Reception:**
**Illuminated Conservatory**
Special evening hours following the Spring Bulb Show. Special evening hours following the Spring Bulb Show. Refreshments will be served.

**Wednesday**
**March 10**
6:00 - 9:00 pm
Lyman Conservatory

**Special Evening at the Bulb Show**
The Smith College community is invited to attend a special evening illumination of the Spring Bulb Show. This evening is open to all students and employees of Smith College, their partners and children, and members of the Friends of the Botanic Garden. See article on page 3.

**Friday**
**March 12**
6:00 - 9:00 pm
Lyman Conservatory

**La Noche de las Flores**
A Bulb Show night with a Spanish flair. Tours will be given in Spanish by Smith students and staff in an attempt to welcome the Latin-American community of the Pioneer Valley and the Five Colleges. See article on page 3.

**Wednesday**
**April 14**
4:30 pm
McConnell B-05

**Biodiversity, Sustainability, and the Human Prospect**
*Peter Raven*, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Alfred F. Blakeslee Lecture in Biological Sciences.

**Monday**
**April 26**
5:00 pm
Seelye 106

**Rock Gardening for Everyone**
*Priscilla Twombly*, co-owner of Twombly Nursery, known for its unusual plant material and four acres of display gardens. She also managed the rock garden department of Oliver Nurseries for ten years. Reception following in Rock Garden.

**Tuesday**
**May 4**
5:00 pm
Seelye 107

**The Mulberry Tree - From Seed to Silk**
*Susan McGlew*, botanist and educator, former Curator at the Botanic Garden of Smith College. Part of the Northampton Silk Project’s Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series.

**Saturday**
**May 8**
10 am - 2 pm
Burton Lawn

**Spring Plant Sale**
Specially propagated plants from the Botanic Garden of Smith College (see the article on page 7). Special early 9:00 am opening for members of the Friends of the Botanic Garden.