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Upcoming events:

Spring Plant Sale sponsored by the Horticulture Club & Hahn Horticulture Garden

April 30, May 1 & 2, 2009

5th Annual Garden Gala June 13, 2009

"Red Carpet Gala"

Our Silver Anniversary Gala with a bit of Hollywood glamour!

Twenty-five Years Young!

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT! This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Horticulture Garden. Plans were finalized and ground was broken in 1984 for the initial phase of the what is now nearly six beautiful acres. Horticulture faculty, including Robert Lyons and Robert McDuffie, gave this place its start, producing a master plan for what had been a simple trial garden. Trees were planted, beds took shape, arbors and a gazebo were designed and constructed. All this was accomplished with little funds and countless hours of enthusiastic work on the part of faculty, staff, students, and community volunteers. The students who



The trident maple allée in the early 90's - compare to the photo on page 7! (photo courtesy of Robert Lyons)

have had hands-on opportunities to learn about ornamental plants, hardscape construction techniques, and garden maintenance and management because of this resource now number in the *thousands*.

We'll have more about our 25th Anniversary in the Summer edition of the *Garden Leaflet*. Whether you're an alum, a Friend of the Garden, or simply appreciative of all that's been accomplished over the years, plan now to attend our Silver Anniversary bash, the "Red Carpet Gala" on June 13, 2009, where we'll celebrate with a little nostalgia (and a lot of champagne).

Winter Workshop and Seminar Series

Once again, we bring you the best in gardening education with a diverse and talented array of speakers! Don't go "dormant" this winter - continue to learn about everything from vegetable gardening to fantastic trees. Registration form inside!

"Enhancing your Digital Photos in Photoshop: An Introduction"

Robert McDuffie, Professor of Landscape Design and Photographer
Thursday, January 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Location: Saunders Hall Computer Lab (Room 101)

Are your digital images just not what they should be? This workshop is a hands-on-the-keyboard experience, demonstrating how digital images can be manipulated in Photoshop to improve their quality.



(Continued on page 2)

Winter Seminar Series (cont.)

Such skills as cropping, adjusting exposure, realignment of images, and color enhancement will be explored. A great follow-up for those who've taken Robert's Introduction to Digital Photography class. This workshop is limited to 20 participants, pre-payment required. \$15 Friends of the Garden members/\$20 general public.

Friends of the Garden Lecture

"A Rosa by Any Other Name: De-mystifying Plant Nomenclature"

**Dr. Holly Scoggins, Associate Professor & Director,
Hahn Horticulture Garden**

Thursday, January 22, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Location: Fralin Auditorium

FREE for Friends of the Garden/\$20 general public

Plant common names are easy to remember but not always accurate and certainly not universal; Linneaus really was doing us a favor with the creation of binomial nomenclature! Botanical names can give wonderful insight into to the nature of the plant as well as its relationship to other plants. Glimpses of the rich history of plant exploration can also be revealed within a plant's name. You'll be far more comfortable with botanical names by the end of the evening!



"Great Woody Plants for Blue Ridge Gardens: New Favorites and Old Friends"

Dr. Richard Olsen, Research Geneticist, US National Arboretum.

Thursday, February 12, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Location: Fralin Auditorium
\$15 Friends of the Garden/\$20 general public

New plant introductions, whether as novel species or new forms of old favorites, continue to fuel the excitement of gardening in the twenty-first century. Dr. Olsen will share his new favorites as well as old friends from travels around the U.S., Europe,



and Japan that are deserving of greater attention. Including many that have gone unnoticed in the collections of the U.S. National Arboretum, where he directs the urban tree breeding program.

"The Forgotten Annuals... What Happened to Growing Plants from Seed?"

Janet Draper, Horticulturist, Smithsonian Institute

Thursday, February 26, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Location:

Fralin Auditorium

\$15 Friends of the Garden/

\$20 general public

Janet will remind us that annuals are wonderful and easy plants to include in our garden and encourage us to rethink how we can incorporate these amazing beauties in our landscapes. Ms. Draper earned a degree in Horticulture from Purdue University and went on to several internships including Mt. Cuba Center for Native Piedmont Plants in Newark, Delaware; Staudengartnerei Graf von Stein-Zeppelin (Perennial Nursery of Countess von Stein), Laufen, Germany; and Beth Chatto Gardens, Elmstead Market, England. Ms. Draper has been a horticulturist with the Smithsonian Institution for the past eleven years and is currently in charge of the Mary Livingston Ripley Garden.



"A-Z Organic Gardening for the Homeowner"

Dennis Dove and Tinsley Weaver of Good Food/Good People and Full Circle Farm

Tuesday, April 7, 6:00 – 8:00p.m. Location: Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion

\$20 general public/\$15 Friends of the Garden

Organic farmers Tenley Weaver and Dennis Dove of Good Food/Good People and Full Circle Farm in Floyd, Virginia, will share their extensive expertise on organic vegetable gardening. Everything from starting seeds to harvest will be covered. They will discuss easy-to-grow crops, pest and disease-resistant cultivars, and organic practices. Spring crop seedlings will be available for purchase.

Cut here and mail it in!

Winter 2009 Garden Seminars and Workshops at the Hahn Horticulture Garden Registration Form

Pre-registration is required for hands-on workshops and recommended for seminars! Go to our website to find more details on these events – www.hort.vt.edu/hhg.

STEP 1: FILL IN YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION			
name			
address			
address line 2			
city	state	zip	
home telephone*	work or cell telephone*	e-mail*	

*phone/e-mail needed so we can contact you in the event of a weather-related cancellation.

STEP 2: SELECT COURSES			
Seminar or Workshop	Number attending	Cost (Join our Friends of the Garden program for discounted rates!)	\$ Totals
Enhancing your Digital Photos in PhotoShop: An Introduction" with Robert McDuffie Thursday, January 15, 2009, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Saunders Hall Room 101		\$20 General Public	
		\$15 for Friends of the Garden	
Friends of the Garden Seminar – "De-mystifying Plant Nomenclature" with Holly Scoggins Thursday, January 22, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Fralin Auditorium		\$20 General Public	
		FREE for Friends of the Garden	
"Great Woody Plants for Blue Ridge Gardens: New Favorites and Old Friends" with Richard Olsen Thursday, February 12, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Fralin Auditorium		\$20 General Public	
		\$15 for Friends of the Garden	
'The Forgotten Annuals... What Happened to Growing Plants from Seed?' with Janet Draper Thursday, February 26, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Fralin Auditorium		\$20 General Public	
		\$15 for Friends of the Garden	
"A-Z Organic Gardening for the Homeowner" with Dennis Dove and Tinsley Weaver Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion (limited to 40 people)		\$20 General Public	
		\$15 for Friends of the Garden	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK:			

STEP 3: MAIL THIS FORM WITH CHECK TO:	
Hahn Horticulture Garden at Virginia Tech 301 Saunders Hall Blacksburg, VA 24061	Make checks payable to Treasurer, Virginia Tech . If you've followed all three steps , consider yourself registered! We will only contact you if an event is filled or cancelled. For more information on these seminars or other Garden events, call (540) 231-5970 or e-mail vtgarden@vt.edu . Hands-on workshops fill quickly, please call to check on space if registering close to the event date.

Become a 2008-2009 Friend of the Garden! Get the Friends of the Garden member's discount rate along with other benefits! Go to our website at www.hort.vt.edu/hhg to print off a membership form. Mail it to us with this registration form but please make a separate check out for the membership to the *Virginia Tech Foundation*.

Postage
required

Hahn Horticulture Garden
301 Saunders Hall
Dept. of Horticulture
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Educatin' and Reachin' Out

First, I would like to thank our volunteers for a great year of help in the garden! We had the largest group of volunteers ever! They helped with everything from planting the new meadow garden to helping with tours and activities for school groups. Our volunteers truly make a difference!

We had a great year of programs! The monthly Garden Walk Series was a success, especially the Butterfly Walks

led by entomologist Tom McAvoy. Other programs ranged in topic from Woodland Wildflowers presented by William Cullina of the New England Wildflower Society to the popular Digital Horticulture Photography Workshops led by Landscape Design instructor, Robert McDuffie.



A Monarch sips on Ironweed nectar during the August Butterfly Walk. (photo courtesy of Shelly Maycock)

Hundreds of k-12 students visited the garden this year! This winter I am working on structured SOL-based field trips for k-12 students. The field trips will offer hands-on, experiential learning in the Garden. I recently completed correlating the Junior Master Gardener curriculum with the Virginia Standards of Learning. I hope this will encourage educators to incorporate the curriculum into their classrooms, after school clubs, summer camps, etc. The JMG curriculum is full of fun, hands-on lessons that can be used to teach across disciplines.

The Garden and Pavilion were incredibly popular this year with over 130 events! We were booked with weddings from May through October and we're already starting to book up for 2009!

Stay up to date on garden happenings by checking out our awesome web site www.hort.vt.edu/hhg, and our new Garden Blog, both created by web mistress Dr. Holly Scoggins. I look forward to even bigger and better programs in 2009!

- *Stephanie Huckestein, Education and Outreach Coordinator*

New Garden Blog

Yes, everybody and their mother has a blog, but now we have one, too! Check it out for frequent posting of news, opinions, cool plants, and random garden stuff - all from the staff of the Hahn Horticulture Garden. The Blogspot program makes it easy to leave comments after each article - so if you visit, let us know you've been there! - *HS*
<http://hahnhorticulturegarden.blogspot.com>

Garden Hoops Report (!?)

Basketball and gardening collide (oof!) for Cheick Diakite - Virginia Tech's starting senior center. As many of you know, he's become an important part of the garden, working with us part-time since his sophomore summer.

The "Big Man from Mali", as sports announcer Bill Roth refers to him, comes in MIGHTY handy, as you might imagine. At 6' 9" and 225 lbs, that's some mulch-moving power, plus he's the official hanger-upper of the big, heavy flower baskets around the pavilion. He's gained experience in planting, watering, greenhouse growing, and lots more. His easy smile and good nature have made him a pleasure to work with, even as he's kindly put up with all kinds of nonsense around here (example: the skunk incident of '08).

He's also very serious about the opportunity to get a degree; majoring in Agricultural and Applied Economics, he's on track to graduate this spring.

We wish Cheick much success in his Senior season and beyond. Join us in rooting for him as the tough ACC schedule gets underway!

- *H.S.*



Cheick takes a charge from the Hokie Bird. (photo courtesy of Ivan Morozov)

Thank you to our members - 2007-2008

The current edition of the Friends of the Garden membership program has been in place since 2002. Over the past six years, our Friends have funded garden operations to the tune of \$35,000. I can't tell you what an impact this makes on our ability to improve plant collections, pay student workers, present educational programs - the list goes on and on. Many of you have been Friends since the very first year...and whether new or old, we appreciate each and every one of you.

Below are the members for the 2007-2008 membership season. We did encounter some issues with receiving the forms from the VT Foundation, so if you're sure that you joined, but your name does not appear, please contact me. This year, we're having you mail the forms directly to the garden, then we forward them to the Foundation - it's been a much smoother process.

If you've yet to join for this year (2008-2009), it's certainly not too late! Though memberships run from June to July, you still have time to enjoy discounts on registration for our seminars and workshops, the spring plant sale discount, and free admission and discounts to 235 public gardens and arboreta across the country through the American Horticulture Society reciprocal admission program. Simply visit our website for a membership form (www.hort.vt.edu/hhg); you can print it off and mail in or bring by the garden.

Thanks again to all of our garden Friends! - *Dr. Holly Scoggins*

Friends of the Garden for 2007-2008

Senior, Individual, and Couples

Mary & Buck Adkins
 Carlene Arthur
 John & Vicky Barden
 Charles & Chris Blanton
 Mary Lynn Brammer
 Barbara Buit & Bernadette Kyle
 Christina Coen
 Elizabeth Cramer
 Andrea Dixon
 Kathy Duncan
 Charlene & Joseph Eska
 G. Thomas Evans
 Sandra Ferraraccio
 Jane Floyd
 Stanley Francis
 Deborah Fullbright
 Joyce & Albert Gillespie
 Karolyn & Clarence Givens
 Shirley Gordon
 Denise Greene
 Robert & Linda Guiles
 Angie Hall
 Jeanne Hamilton
 Richard Harrison
 May Hart
 Gloria, Ed, & Samantha Henneke
 David Hensel
 Ann & Paul Hlusko

Pamela & Paul Hoag
 June Hoffman
 Emily Hurst & Jeffrey Grant
 Evelyn Kimball
 Donna Knarr
 Michael Kosztarab
 Catherine S. Leitch
 Suzie & Randy Leslie
 Lynn Lipsey
 Janice Litschert
 Bob & Susan Lockwood
 Linda & Timothy Mack
 Victor Meadows
 Donna Meeks
 Janice & Keith Mileski
 Kathy Mills
 Paula & Craig Moore
 Teresa Mucha
 Edward Munns, Jr.
 Sharon & George Nichols
 Karen & John Novak
 Elizabeth & Charley O'Brien
 John & Amy Ogburn
 Suzanna Pisano
 Patricia Polentz
 Judy Pospichal
 Jeanne & L. David Roper
 Pam Simmons
 Jan Spahr
 Arthur Squires
 Connie Stone
 Jim Topping

Terry Tosh
 Gale Washburn
 Eve Willis
 Libba & Barry Wolfe
 Janice Woodard
 Robert & Esther Youngs
 Anna Yousten
 Ann & Shim Zudekoff

Sponsor

Susan Brickhouse
 Bonnie & Franklyn Moreno
 Vicki Board Wert

Benefactor

Noah Magnifico
 Brenda Schnell

Patron

Thomas, Margaret, and Daniel
 Teates
 Dorothy Woods

Ambassador

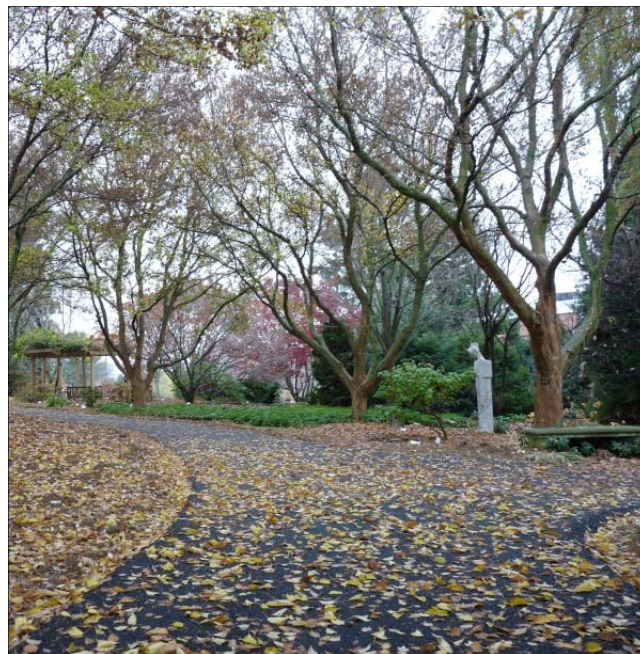
Peggy Lee & T. Marshall Hahn
 Mike & Susie Hildebrand, James
 River Nurseries
 Warren & Margie Kark
 Saunders Brothers, Inc.
 Wayne Sawyer, Bennett's Creek
 Nursery
 Paul & Sonya Westervelt

Down the [New] Garden Path...

Virginia Tech's motto - *Ut Prosim* - That I May Serve - is a motto I am proud to be associated with and words I strive to live up to. Part of a public garden's mission is to serve its visitors as a place providing respite, education, and many other wonderful things. In effort to better serve our visitors, we recently continued the path system established in the meadow garden into the older sections of the garden. A circulation path system has been in two incarnations of the garden's Master Plan, one in 2001 and one from back in the mid-80's, so it is extremely exciting that this long-standing vision for the garden has finally come into existence. Dr. Holly Scoggins, our Garden Director, took advantage of the opportunity to piggy-back onto a Virginia Tech Facilities project to create the path system at a ridiculously minimal cost to the garden.

The circulation path is already creating much wonderful foot traffic through the garden, and allowing for new traffic that we previously have not been able to host, like wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers. Another added benefit of the path is its reduction of turf wear and tear, and vast stretches of mud that result from hundreds of students and other visitors walking through the garden each week. I've heard a few people express their dismay over the choice of asphalt as the material for the path. To be honest, I used to feel similarly. But, as I have had time to reflect on the purpose of the pathway and its ability to open the garden for so many new visitors, I have become its biggest fan. Also, asphalt is, by far, the most cost-effective, long-lasting, lowest maintenance material available. So, to the asphalt haters, take a moment to think of this new pathway system with Virginia Tech's motto in mind and you, too, will see the beauty of it all. *Ut Prosim* aside, on a purely aesthetic level, I think the pathway is looking quite nice! Please come check it out! Oh, and one more thing... Chanticleer (that famous garden in Pennsylvania) has asphalt paths. 'Nuff said!

- Dabney Blanton, Horticulturist



The new path winds through the trident maple allée. (photo courtesy of Dabney Blanton)

Editor's note: Dabney is now a full-time horticulturist here at the garden. A 2007 graduate of the Dept. of Horticulture (she also served as a garden intern that summer), she brings a generous amount of enthusiasm for both public gardening and plants of all kinds.

Mail-order Gardening Part II - Vegetable Seeds

Last winter, I wrote about some of my favorite mail-order nurseries and web sites - this season I thought I'd share some favorite seed sources [contact information at the end of the article]. It's no secret that more folks than ever are interested in growing their own food—the Garden Writer's Association's comprehensive annual survey found that 39% of the consumers interviewed planned to grow vegetables and/or fruit this year.

Count me in. As Joel and I now have a lot more space at our farm in Newport, our vegetable garden has grown from the requisite tomatoes, 'taters, corn, and okra (okra is requisite for me, maybe not everyone...) to a sprawling enterprise. Last season was the Summer of the Potato at our place. Joel noted correctly that eight varieties *might* have been a bit excessive for two people (O.K., so I went a little nuts...). I've ordered seed potatoes from several vendors over the years, but have been consistently pleased with both **High Mowing** and **Fedco Seeds'** "Moose Tubers" division - lots of heirloom and fingerling varieties. To complete your garlic mashed potatoes recipe, both of these companies carry a good selection of garlic for fall planting but neither compare with **Territorial Seed Company's** 22 varieties—yow!

Speaking of excessive, I've recently discovered **Tomato Growers Supply** - they carry more than 500 varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant. My question to those of you already familiar with this company is...holy cow, how do you choose?! When it comes to tomatoes, nothing beats the taste and color of heirloom varieties, but the wait can

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Located on Washington Street on the campus of Virginia Tech

Phone: 540-231-5970 Email: vtgarden@vt.edu Web: www.hort.vt.edu/hhg

Garden Director, Garden Leaflet, and Website: Dr. Holly Scoggins; Education & Outreach Coordinator: Stephanie Huckestein; Horticulturists: Paul Chumbley, Dabney Blanton; Woody Plant Curator: Dr. Alex Niemiera.

If you'd rather not receive this publication, please contact us by phone or email - it won't hurt our feelings (well, maybe a little bit).

(Continued from page 7)

be agonizing as most take 80 or 90 days to bear. If you're in the western, cooler part of the state (like Blacksburg), try some varieties that perform well in our shorter grower season. I'm always hunting for a tomato that will ripen by early July - this year we're trying 'Mountain Spring', developed at N.C. State's Fletcher research station by Dr. Randy Gardner, available through several of these sources. **Johnny's Selected Seeds** is a favorite seed source of commercial growers and market gardeners—note the fourteen pages of lettuce and micro greens—but the home gardener can try the same proven varieties with the “mini” and “packet” sizes (or go for it and get 1,000 zucchini seeds for \$37.40. Now that's a frightening thought). When it comes to sweet corn, no one beats Johnny's; a great selection plus lots of growing information and a comprehensive guide to the rather complicated world of sweet corn genetics. The variety 'Sugar Buns' (hee!) has been a favorite of ours for several years. Last season we tried 'Spring Treat' (yellow) and 'Fleet' (bicolor) with excellent results; both tolerated relatively early planting in cool soil.

So flip through some catalogues, hop onto these websites, attend our organic gardening seminar April 7, and get ready to grow your own this summer. It doesn't get any more “locavore” than that. - H.S.

p.s. In the event you don't want to mess with starting your own seeds, my Floriculture class will be growing veggie transplants for the fabulous Spring Plant Sale!

A few great resources for vegetable seeds; most carry both organic- and conventionally-sourced seeds.

High Mowing Organic Seeds, Wolcott, Vermont. www.highmowingseeds.com (802) 472-6174

Fedco Seeds and Garden Supplies Co-op, Clinton, Maine. www.fedcoseeds.com (207) 873-7333

Johnny's Selected Seeds, Winslow, Maine. www.johnnyseeds.com (877) 564-6697

Pinetree Garden Seeds, New Gloucester, Maine. www.superseeds.com (207) 926-3400 [catalogue is much better than website]

Territorial Seed Company, Cottage Grove, Oregon. www.territorialseed.com (800) 626-0866.

Tomato Growers Supply Company, Ft. Myers, Florida www.tomatogrowers.com (888) 478-7333