

Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion (0915)
200 Garden Lane
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Located on Washington Street on the campus of Virginia Tech
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Education & Outreach Coordinator:
Stephanie Huckestein
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Paul Chumbley, Dabney Blanton
Woody Plant Curator: Dr. Alex Niemiera
Dept. Head, Horticulture: Dr. Roger Harris

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Newsletter of the
Hahn Horticulture Garden
at Virginia Tech

garden leaflet

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upcoming events

Free lunchtime garden walks:

"Butterflies!" Three chances to learn about them with Entomologist Tom McAvoy: August 4, 11, and 18. All from noon to 1:00 pm

"Know your late-season weeds" with Angela Post: September 8, noon to 1:00 p.m.

Seminars & Workshops:

"Embellishing Your Sandcast Leaf with Paints" with Rachel Yungman, Sat., Aug. 7, 2010, 10:00 a.m. Fee includes instruction and supplies to finish your previously-made leaf. Friends of the Garden \$15, general public \$20.

"Fungiphobia" with Skip "Toadstool" Taliaferro, the Mushroom Man! Thurs., Sept. 16, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. He'll discuss fungi found in the Central Appalachians including ID, what's good, toxic, or poisonous, and other properties. Friends of the Garden \$15, general public \$20. Place TBD.

Register by calling Stephanie at (540) 231-5970. For more events, check our Education and Events page at www.hort.vt.edu/hhg

save the date

7th Annual Garden Gala June 11, 2011

Down and Dirty Garden Symposium II: The Wicked Garden August 27, 2011

6th Annual Garden Gala: "Tropical Paradise"

Tropical Monsoon was more like it! Despite the rain, everyone seemed to have a marvelous time. Much appreciation goes out to our 260+ guests for all the fun (and funds), raising more than \$15,000 toward garden operations. Our Gala Sponsors really stepped up this year, and 60 businesses and individuals contributed auction items ranging from rare plants to a vacation in the Outer Banks (see donor list on page 3). The garden was beautiful, rum punch flowed, and the PanJammers provided non-stop island sounds. A "festive" (ahem) array of Hawaiian shirts saw the light of day. We had some somber moments too, as we noted the absence of Peggy Hahn. Honorary Gala Chair T. Marshall Hahn helped announce the campaign for the Peggy Lee Hahn Memorial Endowment for Garden Excellence (more on page 2). Dawn & Gary Lerch served as Honorary Gala Hosts; unfortunately Gary was ill and could not join us. Dawn and Gary are die-hard Hokies, and as a HORT alum, Dawn has brought the support of many in the green industry to the Garden in her role with CALS Development.

We couldn't do this without our Gala Committee: Dawn Lerch, David Pippin, Elissa Steeves, Linda Fiedler, Paul & Sonya Westervelt, Lori Greiner, Kathy Duncan, Stephanie Huckestein, Paul Chumbley, Dabney Blanton and myself. Stephanie, Linda, and Elissa do an outstanding job of soliciting and organizing countless auction items each year, and David creates the marvelous floral arrangements. Thanks also to all our additional gala volunteers including auction helpers, food servers, and checker-inners. Finally, mark your calendar for the 7th annual Garden Gala on June 11, 2011.



Holly introduces Honorary Host Dawn Lerch (left). It appears that Birds of Paradise are nesting on Holly's head.



Nancy and Vernon Meacham bid on plants for their garden. Nice shirt, Vernon!



Auction Empress Linda Fiedler (right) and B.J. Larkin share a laugh in the plant auction tent.

Rain or shine, it's the best party in Blacksburg!

Dr. Holly Scoggins, Associate Professor and Garden Director, HHG



John and Sharen Hillison pause beside one of David Pippin's beautiful tropical arrangements.

Gala Sponsors 2010

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Contributions to the Hahn Horticulture Garden (July 2009 through June 2010)

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June Johnson
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Erica Jones
Skip & Carole Jubb

(Continued on page 3)

Introducing the Peggy Lee Hahn Memorial Endowment for Garden Excellence

At the passing of garden namesake Peggy Lee Hahn in December, her family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations could be made to the Hahn Horticulture Garden. As evidence of Peggy's place in the hearts of so many, 48 individuals, companies, and foundations donated nearly \$40,000 to the Garden via the Virginia Tech Foundation.

As with most any other public garden (or non-profit, for that matter), securing a source of operating funds is a priority. The HHG's income stream has indeed grown over the years with the addition of facility rentals and events like the Garden Gala, so building long-term stability is now an option. With the blessing of Dr. T. Marshall Hahn and family, an endowment agreement was forged with the VT Foundation, Dean Alan Grant of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and myself. The donations given in Peggy's honor will be used to get the fund started.

Our goal is \$500,000. At the current rate of return, this will provide about \$25,000 annually for the most pressing needs of our program. I realize this is a long-term proposition, but it is also an opportunity to honor the legacy of a wonderful individual, as well as securing the future of the garden. **The great thing about an endowment is your gift will continue to give far into the future.**

For more on the Endowment for Garden Excellence and other opportunities to give, visit the "Support" page of our website or contact me at (540) 231-5783, Email perennials@vt.edu. Together we can make this happen! *Dr. Holly Scoggins*

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Happy campers! The inaugural class of 2010: Back row: Linda Harris, Cortney Martin, Mark White, John Tuck, Camp Director Stephanie Huckestein, Joshua Sheldon, Erica Jones, Ellery Roberts. Front row: David Harris, Grayson Lawrence, Emma Sheldon, Jack Leland, Neal Klemba, Defne Bish, Lily Zhu, Joseph Tuck.

I had considered having a kid's garden camp for several years and finally went for it this summer with great success! We had 14 excited and eager children, ages 6-11, attend our first Junior Master Gardener Day Camp, July 12-16th. As the state coordinator for the Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program, I wanted to personally experience the program activities with children, rather than just teaching educator workshops. JMG is an international youth gardening program of the University Extension network. JMG's mission is to "grow good kids by igniting a passion for learning, success, and service through a unique gardening education."

Camp leaders and "Hahn Garden Grasshoppers" had a week full of fun and learning. I can't thank the volunteers enough who helped; Linda Harris, Erica Jones, and Susan Parker put a lot of time and hard work in preparing and assisting with the camp! The camp could not have happened without their help!

Each morning's activities were focused on a particular garden-related theme. Of course there was a lot of talk about plants! The Garden Grasshoppers learned about plant needs, plant uses, propagation, and enjoyed plant parts as their snack each day. I was very impressed that most of the children tasted just about every fruit and vegetable we put in front of them; even unusual produce such as fresh papaya, daikon and jicama (with help from ranch and goddess dressings)!

Graduate students from the Entomology Department (Will Kuhn, Shaohui Wu, and Amy Snyder) delivered an

Junior Master Gardener Day Camp

Hahn Garden Grasshoppers Rule!



informative presentation about insects on "Bug Day". They brought both dead and live specimens to share with us. With a bit of squeamish-ness, I held the giant tropical millipede, which was actually very cool! The children then got their very own brightly colored insect net and we went on an insect collection, identification, and examination expedition in the garden.

Most camp activities included use of recycled materials, so the volunteers and I collected lots of newspaper and plastic for projects. Campers made paper pots, paper cards, paper garden hats, used milk jugs for our gallon greenhouses, and plastic pepper jars for terrariums. Each child went home with probably too many things (apologies to parents), but we sure did have fun making them! And hopefully they are all composting kitchen scraps by feeding their worms in the vermicompost bin they constructed. Watch for more information on next summer's camp!

Stephanie Huckestein, Education and Outreach Coordinator, HHG



Camper Ellery Roberts holds a tropical millipede during "Bug Day." Photos H.L. Scoggins

Music in the Garden II with the Jugbusters; May 20th: a great crowd, cold beer, and a beautiful day! Food and beverages were sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Faculty Association. We shall do this again!



Garden Notes: The Kiosk Patio

Most of you have heard the proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." Well, it also takes a village to build a patio. At least, that was the case in the construction of our new, permeable, kiosk patio with a seating wall. Robert McDuffie, Associate Professor, provided the design for the space and a lot of free labor, thanks to the students of his Landscape Construction class. Paul Chumbley, horticulturist at the garden, was instrumental in the patio installation, leading the hands-on construction effort and ensuring for its timely progress and completion outside the allotted class



In addition to our in-house efforts, we had a lot of help from some local and regional professionals. David J. Stallings of Chandler Concrete of Virginia, Inc., located in Christiansburg, donated the entirety of materials for the seating walls located on the perimeter of the patio. Jeff Younginer of Davis Supply in Kernersville, NC donated a generous portion of the Techo Bloc® pavers and the freight to get the materials to us.

Brian Ferguson with Marshall Concrete, Inc. traveled from his headquarters in Rocky Mount, Virginia to provide technical assistance with the installation. So, maybe not quite an entire village, but we certainly had a considerable number of people involved in this project. At times, all the moving parts and pieces felt like total chaos, but in the end it is wonderful to know that so many more people are integrally connected to the garden as a result of this new space. For more information on the patio installation and additional information about permeable pavers, visit our blog at hahnhorticulturegarden.blogspot.com

Dabney Blanton, Horticulturist, HHG



"Measure twice, cut once." Paul Chumbley sizes up a Techo Bloc® paver. Photo H. L. Scoggins.

Meet Our Summer Intern: Mr. J.B. Snelson

I'm J.B. (Jonathan Bundy) Snelson, this year's M. Evan Gardener Summer intern. Born in Mechanicsville, VA, I lived in that area my entire life until I started Virginia Tech in the fall of 2000. During this time I also joined the Virginia National Guard. After my third military withdrawal, during 2004, I moved back to Mechanicsville. In 2008, after four years of "life" I decided to return to VT to complete my degree. Initially, I came seeking a degree in Agricultural Education, but after several horticulture classes and meeting some really great 'garden people', I was pretty much sold on horticulture. I completed my undergraduate degree in Ag Sciences with a minor in horticulture this past spring and hope to start on master's degree in horticulture this fall. Back home, I have a great family. My parents have been nothing but supportive in my return to school, and I could not have done it without their encouragement. I have a 25 year old brother who is my best bud and partner in crime, and two sisters (8 & 10) who really make my trips home fun. After finishing my education, I hope to move back to eastern VA for a career in the greenhouse/nursery business. I currently live in Christiansburg, work a few jobs, and look forward to my days in the garden. My hobbies include hunting, fishing, archery, and my little vegetable garden. Stop by the Hahn Mondays, Thursdays, or Fridays and let's talk gardening! *J.B. Snelson, HHG Intern*



(Continued from page 4)

2009 - 2010 Friends of the Garden: Individual, Couples, Seniors, Students (\$25-\$50)

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Thank you to all who have contributed to the growth of the garden! Please bring any omissions to the attention of Dr. Holly Scoggins at perennials@vt.edu or (540) 231-5783.