

Our Summer Interns

Written by Paul Chumbley

The Hahn Horticulture Garden hires two undergraduate interns for twelve weeks over the summer. Leanne Bell of Fairfax Virginia, now a junior in Environmental Horticulture, held the M. Evans Gardner Memorial internship, endowed in 1990. The Mike and Susie Hildebrand Landscape Internship, established in 2011, was held by Tim Bell of Riner, Virginia, a Senior in Environmental Horticulture. Both internships provide a variety of hands on public garden experience. From garden maintenance, installation and construction to being involved with special events, tours, working with volunteers and assisting with “Art in the Garden” installations. Our interns were very involved in the expansion of our annual planting projects in the meadow garden and on Washington Street. We are very appreciative of the efforts, involvement and ownership they took of their duties and responsibilities. While the bulk of their internship experience involved a lot of hard work we also found time to have some fun. We took a day trip to the Richmond area to visit James River Nurseries, owned and operated by Mike and Susie Hildebrand. Mike generously spent a day leading us around many of the commercial and residential projects they were working on or had recently completed. Mike also graciously took us to a pizza lunch in Shockoe Bottom as well as a quick stop at Stone Brewery. While the garden greatly benefited from the efforts of our interns, we also hope that the experience they gained working in the garden will benefit them in the pursuits of their horticultural careers.



Leanne Bell



Tim Bell

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Stephanie Huckestein

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In This Issue

Our Summer Interns.....	1	Honoring Teresa Sanchez.....	6
Robert McDuffie Retires.....	2	Upcoming Events.....	7
2016 Garden Gala and Sponsors.....	3	Art in the Garden.....	7
2016 Events.....	4	Thank You Donors!.....	8
Article:Trend Setters.....	5		

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Our Director, Robert McDuffie, Retires!

On January 1, 2017, Robert McDuffie retired from Virginia Tech after serving in the Department of Horticulture for over 38 years. During his final two years, he was also Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden. Robert's involvement with the Hahn Garden began some 30 years ago when he—along with Bob Lyons and Richard Johnson--founded the garden. Over the course of his career, his classes designed and built many of the constructed features at the Hahn. As Director, he worked with the garden staff to re-design the garden website, construct new walkways, design and build new gardens, establish new bulb and annual beds on Washington Street and Duckpond Drive, and raise nearly a half million dollars in new gifts. He also established a travel program, organizing and leading two trips to North Carolina gardens in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and Asheville.

While on faculty in Horticulture, Robert designed the undergraduate Landscape Contracting curriculum, one of the first of its kind in the U.S. In 1997, with other faculty, he organized a student team to compete in the National Collegiate Landscape Competition, sponsored by the National Association of Landscape Professionals. With few exceptions, the Department of Horticulture has fielded a team for this event every year since.

Four years into his career at Tech, he took 43 students on what turned out to be the first of over 50 four-day field trips to visit horticultural sites around the country. In 1998, he initiated the first Department of Horticulture group study abroad program, taking 16 students to England for a two-week adventure. Eventually the program would grow and blossom, taking nearly 1000 students, faculty, horticulture professionals, and garden lovers to visit hundreds of gardens in 20 countries on 4 continents.

In recognition of outstanding teaching, Robert received several teaching awards, including the CALS Certificate of Teaching Excellence, the



Gamma Sigma Delta Faculty Teaching Award, the University William E. Wine Award for Teaching Excellence, and in 2008 was inducted into the University Academy of Teaching Excellence.

Although he officially is retiring from Virginia Tech and the Hahn, in reality he is changing jobs to join his wife, Nancy, at MCDUFFTOURS LLC, a tour company specializing in group tours for gardens, music, and food. This year, MCDUFFTOURS is offering five trips to visit gardens in Europe, Asia, New Zealand and New York City.

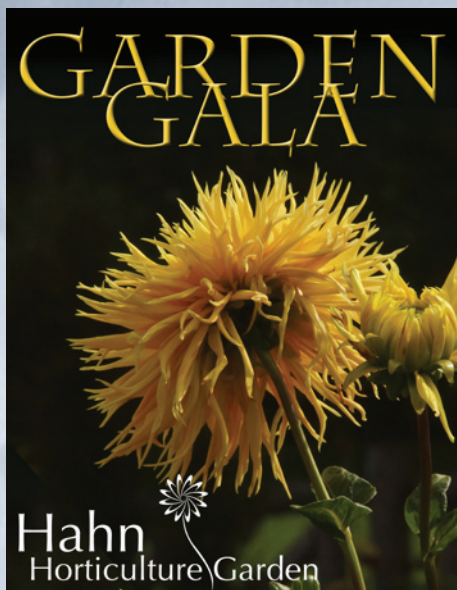


The 2016 Garden Gala

The 12th annual Garden Gala at the Hahn Horticulture Garden was a great success! We enjoyed food inspirations from Italy and Japan! The honorary gala chair was T. Marshall Hahn. Tom and Marge Teates were our honorary hosts for the 2016 Gala. They are honored for their longtime support of the garden not just for their monetary support, but for the long hours given as volunteers. We would like to thank the Horticulture Club, who helped out with running the Gala.



Tom and Marge Teates



Save the Date! The 13th Annual Garden Gala

June 10, 2017
5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Ticket request and sponsorship forms will be available in April at www.hort.vt.edu/hhg

2017 Auction Item Preview

Continuing the funky furniture trend, we will have a moon chair for bid during the Live Auction. Once again built by The Building Trades Students at Blacksburg High School and hand-painted by a former horticulture student, the chairs are fun, colorful and unique. The design was modified from a chair at Chanticleer.



2016 Gala Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors

Aztec Rental Center, Inc., Blacksburg, VA
aztecrental.com

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www.greenbriernurseries.com

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Richmond, VA
www.stranges.com

2016 Events

Written by Stephanie Huckestein

The Hahn Horticulture Garden was the place to be in 2016! The Simply Elemental Art Exhibit was once again a huge success! The event was organized by an incredible volunteer committee led by long-term volunteer, Paula Golden. Paula and the rest of the committee did a fabulous job with this event! It brought hundreds of people through the garden to check out the 30+ whimsical art pieces. It was the second year for the Simply Elemental Art Exhibit which was on display for the months of August and September. The 2017 committee, chaired by Knic Umstead, is already putting the call out for artists. If interested in submitting work, please visit <http://tiny.cc/elemental17>. The Art in the Garden committee also organized the year-long indoor exhibit, which features the work of local artists for a two month span. We are thankful to the following talented artists for sharing their work in the pavilion in 2016: Gwen Douglas, Jennifer Carpenter, Lisbeth Weisband, Robert Lyons, Karen Sewell, and Karin Tauber.

In addition to the art exhibits, the Hahn Garden is thankful to those who attended our lectures and workshops in 2016. We offered around two Learn at Lunch programs per month, which are free and open to anyone to attend. To start off the year, Dr. David Kingston led a very interesting lecture on Drug Discoveries from Nature in which he talked about his adventures in the rain forest and the amazing plants that have been used to treat diseases such as cancers and malaria. Ellen Reynolds of Beagle Ridge Herb Farm led a fun and informative Lavender Workshop in which she talked about the many varieties, their uses, and how to grow them. We then enjoyed tasty treats in the Cooking with Lavender workshop that followed. Who knew lavender could be so yummy! Jody Strom of Moss and Rose led several creative hands-on workshops in 2016 including two floral design workshops in which participants created lovely arrangements to take home. Jody and I also led a super fun Fairy Garden Workshop. The initial intention was for it to be for kids, but we had a number of adults interested, so we had participants ranging from 6-70 years old. What fun! The fairy gardens they made were all so different but each and every one was lovely! Participants of the three day Garden Photography Workshop were lucky to learn techniques to capture beautiful garden photos by three very talented photographers: Robert McDuffie, Bob Lyons, and Anne Hammond-Tooke. And to round out the year, the ever-so-creative and fun David Pippin from Richmond led a Holiday Wreath Workshop in which participants created unique and lovely wreaths to enjoy over the holiday season. We had the 7th (or maybe 8th) group of children become Certified Junior Master Gardeners in May 2016. A number of the children in that recent group were siblings of Certified Junior Master Gardeners that completed the program in earlier years. We are so pleased to be able to share our love of gardening with these kids!

We have plans to bring you great programs in 2017! Please check out our website at <http://www.hort.vt.edu/hhg> for updates and if you do not receive our program notification emails and would like to, please send an email to vtgarden@vt.edu and we'll add you to the list.



Trend Setters at the Spring Plant Sale

Written by Lisa Lipsey

Gardeners as artists are individualist, driven mostly by our own visions as we organize and develop gardens according to what inspires us. Plants are our media used to create the picture, and inspiration often comes as new plants are introduced and made available at our local garden centers. We are not only artists but scientists who must know a plant's environmental requirements such as hardiness, soil pH, moisture and nutrients, and that plant's physiology which determines ultimate size, growth rate, habit, and bloom time. That's a lot to think about before the buying and the hole digging begins.

When thinking about plants for garden renovations or additions, it is more mentally manageable to group and to categorize. I begin selecting plants for a developing landscape plan by listing plants according to type and in order of ultimate size. Plan and plant from big to small. From high canopy or shade trees, to smaller ornamental trees, to shrubs, then perennials, groundcovers, annuals, and finally bulbs, I select according to the vision within site parameters and artistic style. Trees will give you a sense of overall structure and scale to your garden with shrubs following for volume, diversity and layering.

According to a recent article in *Garden Design* magazine, one of the top garden trends for 2017 is the use of dwarf shrubs in our gardens. Providing beauty with less effort than their larger parents, dwarf shrubs are easily maintained and versatile. They can be used effectively in containers as well as in the landscape.

The Horticulture Club and the Hahn Garden Plant Sale, April 20 – 22nd, will have many dwarf shrubs offered for sale in addition to the best selection of trees, perennials and annuals in the New River Valley. Following are just a few that I'm really excited about. Quantities have been sacrificed for greater variety this year so come to our Plant Sale Preview at noon on Wednesday, April 19th, to plan your buying strategy.

***Aronia melanocarpa* Low Scape® Mound**

Developed at the University of Connecticut, this Chokeberry like its parent is tough and deer resistant yet grows only 1 – 2' high. Plants are covered with white flowers in spring, followed by black, edible fruit in summer, and spectacular red foliage in fall. Great as a spiller in containers, planted on slopes, as a lawn substitute or tucked anywhere in your garden, Low Scape® Mound is an irresistible addition to any garden.

***Buddleia Humdinger*™ 'Little Nuggett' PPAF**

Impressive golden foliage with beautifully contrasting magenta flowers, this Butterfly Bush blooms weeks before typical varieties and grows in sun to only 3' tall by 4' wide. Flowers are slightly fragrant, butterfly magnets and plants are deer resistant.

***Deutzia x rosea* 'Nikko Blush'**

From the National Arboretum's plant breeding program, 'Nikko Blush' was selected as a pink flowering dwarf that is relatively fast growing to a height of 3'. Flowers appear



Aronia melanocarpa Low Scape® Mound photo from Walters Gardens & Spring Meadows Nursery, Inc.



Buddleia Humdinger™ 'Little Nuggett' PPAF photo from Walters Gardens & Spring Meadows Nursery, Inc.



Deutzia x rosea 'Nikko Blush' photo from Monrovia.

in late April through May, are slightly fragrant and attract hummingbirds. Again, another deer resistant shrub that can be used as a groundcover, on slopes and in containers.

***Hydrangea paniculata* Bobo®**

Large white flowers in late summer fading to pink into fall on a small, compact hydrangea - what more could you ask for? Mike Hildebrand, owner of James River Nurseries outside Richmond, says Bobo® is the best landscape hydrangea he's seen in years. Blooming on new growth, flowers are held upright and plants grow to 3' high, thriving in full sun to part shade. A great container plant as well.

***Physocarpus opulifolius* Little Devil™**

A dwarf Ninebark is a wonderful thing! From the breeding program at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Little Devil™ reaches 3-4' high with blush pink spring flowers held against rich, dark foliage. A powdery mildew resistant variety, this plant makes a great substitute for the invasive barberry.

***Viburnum obovatum* 'Mrs. Schiller's Delight'**

'Mrs. Schiller's Delight' is a Viburnum that doesn't look like a Viburnum. Cloaked in small white flowers in April, habit is tight, leaves are small and semi-evergreen in our climate.

Flowers are followed by red berries changing to black, and are enjoyed by birds. Mature height is 2-3' with similar spread. It is best grown in moist soil with ample sun.

If you are space challenged, want a cool container plant or seek a reduction in pruning chores, in addition to the plants described here, there will be many more dwarfs and unusually shaped plants available at The Plant Sale. Here are just a few:

- *Carpinus betulus* 'Franz Fontiane' – columnar form; vertical accent
- *Cotoneaster procumbens* Little Dipper™ - dense, low habit; deer resistant
- *Hydrangea paniculata* Little Lime® - a dwarf Limelight; blooms on new wood
- *Rubus* BrazelBerries® Raspberry Shortcake™ - dwarf and thornless
- *Spiraea* Double Play® Gold – long blooming; golden foliage; deer resistant
- *Styrax japonica* Marleys Pink® - a weeper with pink blooms
- *Vaccinium* BrazelBerries® Peach Sorbet™ – beautiful spring & fall foliage



From left to right: *Hydrangea paniculata* Bobo® photo by Proven Winners, *Physocarpus opulifolius* Little Devil™ photo by Dr. David C. Zlesak, and *Viburnum obovatum* 'Mrs. Schiller's Delight' photo by Garden Supply Company.



Honoring Volunteer Teresa Sanchez

Teresa Sanchez was a dedicated Hahn Garden volunteer for many, many years. Her work at the Garden made not just a physical impact but her smile and blue eyes brightened many a Monday night when once again weeding was on the agenda. This past fall, her family and friends honored her by planting an *Aesculus x carnea* 'Fort McNair' in the meadow. A label identifying the gift was placed adjacent to the tree.

Events at the Hahn

Become a Friend of the Garden and enjoy our member discounts (visit our web site for a membership form).

For up to date information on all Garden events, please visit www.hort.vt.edu/hhg/events



Garden Tools

with Charles from Way Cool Tools, Crozet, VA
Saturday, March 25, 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Way Cool Tools from Crozet, VA will present a program on garden tools at the Hahn Pavilion.

One of the owners, Charles, will demonstrate their broadfork and other implements in the garden, and share some tips on caring for their heirloom-quality tools. The tools they sell are American-made, ergonomic, and virtually unbreakable. They offer some unique and hard-to-find, specialized items.

Check out their website - waycooltools.com and consider replacing your worn-out garden tools with some of their superior and reasonably-priced implements. Charles will bring an assortment of tools with him to purchase after his presentation, including pruners, spades, edgers, and rakes.

FREE

Lunchtime Learning: Community Food Forests

with Catherine Bukowski
April 12, 12:00—1:00 p.m.

Community food forests are food production systems that mimic a forest ecosystem by organizing edible perennial vegetation in similar layers to a young woodland. Fruit and nut trees form the canopy, berry bushes are placed in the understory and herbs and low-growing plants such as strawberries and oregano cover the ground. She has visited and documented twenty four sites across the country and continues to work on establishing a local one at the Hale-Y community garden with the support of VT Engage. She will discuss and show various examples of what she has seen in the development of the sites as well as their ability to transform underutilized urban areas into abundant landscapes that serve various community functions.

FREE



Art in the Garden

Hahn Horticulture Garden

Shows for 2017

Mar - April	Sidra Kaluszka
May - June	Gabby
July - August	Aileen Fletcher
Sept - Oct	Joe Kelly
Nov - Dec	Pat West



Painting by Sidra Kaluszka

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Simply Elemental is currently accepting artist proposals for their 2017 exhibition.

Proposal deadline is April 15, 2017.

Visit <http://tiny.cc/elemental17> to learn more.

Friends of the Garden 2016 THANK YOU!

See the gala article listing 2016 gala sponsors.

Please bring any omissions to the attention of Stephanie Huckestein at vtgarden@vt.edu.

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