



Friends of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens

Fall 2012 News

IS FARMING A GOOD LIFE? The Campus Cultivation Conference at Wellesley

By Ellen Bechtel '14

Ellen was the summer farm manager for Regeneration, Wellesley's student farm. See its blog at regenerationfarm.tumblr.com for more information about the farm and the farmers, photos of lush vegetables, how-to tips for organic farming and even recipes. Membership gifts to the Friends helped support the conference.

It can be extremely nerve wracking to be working your tail off in school and realize you like farming. Is it meaningful work? Should I be studying instead? These are questions we ask ourselves. What if I like growing food enough to do it as a career? Am I doing this because I'm in a privileged position and can do it for fun? This farming thing is a life that a college degree is supposed to get me out of!

These are dangerous questions to leave inside your own head. So Regeneration Student Farm dragged them out into the open. This March, we held an intercollegiate conference to consider some answers.

If you look around, you see that there is undeniable momentum in the sustainable agriculture movement on college campuses. The idea finds a home in places like Wellesley where students are craving substantive world-changing work, practical measures to address the future, intriguing philosophical questions, and hope.

Learning how to consistently and responsibly provide food for yourself and others is exactly the right step to prepare this generation to enter the world of the future. Student farms are neither romantic nor irrelevant, but essential to the country and the planet. The era of cheap energy is over; we are drawing down our freshwater resources at an unsustainable rate; and all indicators suggest that we will continue to experience unstable

climates in the decades ahead. We have to begin to imagine new food systems that use ecologically sound principles. There is no better environment for preparing the farmers who must understand these principles than a college campus. So, can we achieve this?

Two springs ago, Middlebury College students organized a completely student-run symposium, the Campus Cultivation Conference. People from peer schools came together to share ideas, discuss deep questions, network, and grow in a short but wildly successful day. A contingent of Wellesley Regeneration students came back with hearts exploding with excitement and fingers itching for dirt.

Come winter and a lack of growing things to tend, we hoped to have another opportunity to investigate student farming with our peers. When approached, Middlebury conceded that it was too much of an undertaking for one school to plan every year and they weren't going to do it. Well, like the kid craving tomatoes and finding that she has dirt, water and a pack of seeds, we gave in. Regeneration decided that if nobody else was going to make it happen, we would.

Planning for the 2012 Campus Cultivation Conference was a bit hectic since we decided in mid-February that we should hold it on March 31st. The students in Regeneration threw themselves furiously into six weeks of emails, phone calls, a million Google docs, and hurried weekly meetings in

Café Hoop. We set up a website to track how the preparation was going. Our site made the planning so open that lots of people found opportunities to plug in and become involved. Olin College students in an entrepreneurship class used the conference as the start-up for their group's catering company. Elsa Sebastian '12, majoring in cinema and media arts, filmed parts of the conference for her documentary film class. Farmers from the Wellesley area contributed a

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Conference attendees used the greenhouse as a site for meditation.

Notes from the Director – Fall '12

Fall greetings from Wellesley! In the seven years I've been at the WCBG, no two growing seasons have been alike. As noted in the spring newsletter, we had essentially no snow this winter, followed by a dry spring and early summer. Fortunately the rain picked up by mid-summer, so we avoided the truly devastating drought that plagued much of the country, and most of our well-established plantings seem fine. We used water very efficiently in the outdoor gardens, hand-watering new and delicate plantings, while everything else fended for itself. The thirstiest trees and shrubs are planted near the Grotto, or Paramecium Pond and the little man-made brook that feeds it, naturally wetter areas.

The new bog garden needed some supplemental water and was slow to get going in the spring, but by Reunion weekend the pitcher plants had emerged and begun to bloom, followed by the gorgeous *Calopogon* orchids in mid-late June. The garden received a wonderful gift from the Caplan family and now has two split-log benches and lots of flat stones around the edges to enable observation and contemplation in this beautiful mini-ecosystem. The sundews didn't make it back this year, but the tiny yellow *Xyris*, the chain fern, cranberries, cotton grass, *Triadenum*,

and others all continue to make this a unique plant community on campus.

The greenhouses continue to attract lots of visitors, and the Greenhouse Ghosts had a very successful run as our first site-specific art installation. They will make some guest appearances in future programming, as they held up quite well. The Cannonball Tree (*Couroupita guianensis*) has put on an impressive show all on its own, with several rounds of its fantastical flowers over the past few months. If it ever sets fruit, watch out below or risk finding out how it got its name!

A big highlight of the summer was our marvelous team of student interns. Meg McClure '15 and Ellen Bechtel '14 shared the Farm Manager position, and documented their many successes and adventures at the Regeneration plot and beyond in a great blog: regenerationfarm.tumblr.com. Carly Gayle '13 focused on the Edible Ecosystem while Athena Knisely '15, Mackenzie Klema '14, Rebecca Leung '13 and Zhengyang (Echo) Yue '14 designed and implemented the Asian-themed Kitchen Garden (see pages 6-7), helped weed, water, and mulch all over the Botanic Gardens, and worked on a variety of special projects.

Mackenzie and Rebecca finalized the design for an Edible Ecosystem-style garden at nearby Ashland Middle School, and we all helped sheet mulch the site in preparation for fall planting. Rebecca and Mackenzie also studied the aquaponics system in the greenhouse and brought it back to health in a new location and with a fresh planting of basil, which is thriving. Athena and Echo documented the most egregious weeds in the Botanic Gardens for the



The bog garden received a gift in honor of three generations of Caplan family Wellesley women..

We Did It!

Did you notice our new name on the front of the newsletter? And our new email and web addresses at the foot of the page? We are now officially and in fact Friends of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens. Call us up if you want to test it. Gail or Eileen in the office will answer "Friends of the Botanic Gardens," unless, of course there is a slip of the tongue. Post-it notes with the new name taped to the phones help keep us from forgetting. After all we spent 29 years with our old name. See the story on p. 3 of the Spring 2012 News for the reasons for the change. And remember to write your membership checks for this year to WCBG Friends!

benefit of future interns, and planned an updated garden of medicinal herbs to be planted in the Kitchen Garden (see pages 6-7) area behind the greenhouses this fall. Carly not only maintained the Edible Ecosystem garden, but also collected data and evaluated the app designed for this purpose by Orit Shaer's Human Computer Interactions lab. We are continuing to refine the app as we prioritize the kinds of data to be collected (growth and productivity of the focal fruit and nut trees, pest damage, understory community dynamics--there's a lot to be learned in this garden!)

Carly also traveled to Colorado with me in July. We first visited the Rocky Mt. Biological Lab to study how edible plants such as currants grow in the wild. We looked at sites with weather stations to quantify climatic conditions and document the surrounding plant community (which invariably included some kind of nitrogen-fixing legume). We then visited the Central Rocky Mt. Permaculture Institute, a well-established example of edible ecosystem gardening (including plenty of currants!), and finished our trip at the spectacular Knapp

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Scoping Plants and Planets: The Whitin Observatory Viewing Garden

by Gail Kahn, Assistant Director, WCBG

Observeing natural phenomena is an astronomer's stock in trade, and at the College's newly renovated Whitin Observatory, you can view a constellation of botanical as well as celestial objects. The observatory viewing garden, surrounded on three sides by walls of glass, presents a four-season opportunity to pause and enjoy nature. Originally conceived as a "moon garden," the plants are species with white or light-colored flowers, some of which are scented and attractive to moths. Being natives, they are well-adapted to the dry shade conditions and blend harmoniously with the woodland plant community beyond the garden.

The garden was designed by Emily Mueller de Celis '91 and Elise Mazareas, both from Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, and Botanic Gardens Director Kristina Jones. It was planted in the fall of 2011. A major consideration for any plantings around the observatory is keeping the sky clear for telescopic observations, so short-stature trees are a necessity. The three women finalized their woody plant selections during an outing to a nursery, only open to the trade, stocking much larger specimens than found in retail garden shops. Once Emily, Elise and Kristina took a look at the collection of ten Franklin trees (*Franklinia alatamaha*) in bloom, they knew they had a winner. Originally native to Georgia, Franklin trees are barely hardy here, but the sheltered confines of the pocket garden are a perfect setting for this elegant understory tree with spectacular white blooms. They selected three for the garden. (For more on *Franklinia*, see page 10) The fourth tree is a sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), the only magnolia species with a natural population this far north, in coastal Massachusetts. An evergreen in southern climates, the tree is deciduous at this northern edge of its range. The administration of the Science Center contributed the sweetbay magnolia to the garden in memory of Dr. Elizabeth Gaines French, mother



The pocket garden is designed to be seen through the tall windows of the Observatory addition.

of Richard French, Dean of Academic Affairs and Louise Sherwood McDowell & Sarah Frances Whiting Professor of Astrophysics. Its creamy white, vanilla-scented flowers and glossy green foliage are a dramatic focal point.

The garden's shrub layer of winterberry (*Ilex verticillata* 'Red Sprite') and inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) provides both winter interest and food for birds. Lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) connects the viewing garden to the Edible Ecosystem Teaching Garden on the other side of the observatory, where a sizeable stand has been thriving for years. The herbaceous species offer delicate accents of bloom that call to mind starry nights, misty nebulae and cometary plumes: blue star (*Amsonia* cv), foamflower (*Tiarella* 'Elizabeth Oliver') bishop's cap (*Epimedium* cv) wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) and false Solomon's seal (*Smilacina racemosa*). Beyond the shelter of the viewing garden, newly-planted pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) and highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) provide a transition to the woodland beyond, which is dominated by pitch pines and scrub oaks (*Quercus ilicifolia*).

The viewing garden is just one

way that the Whitin Observatory embraces its location at the edge of the Wellesley College Botanic Gardens and invites everyone within it to enjoy nature's wonders--from earth to sky--through the large glass walls.

Whitin Observatory Viewing Garden Plant List

Trees:

Sweetbay Magnolia
(*Magnolia virginiana*)
Franklin Tree (*Franklinia alatamaha*)

Shrubs:

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata* 'Red Sprite')
Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)
Lowbush Blueberry
(*Vaccinium angustifolium*)

Herbaceous Plants:

Blue Star (*Amsonia* cv)
Foamflower (*Tiarella* 'Elizabeth Oliver')
Bishop's Cap (*Epimedium* cv)
Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
False Solomon's Seal
(*Smilacina racemosa*)

The Thorndike Internship

Last year's Thorndike intern Julie Vining '12 handed over her intern's notebook to her successor Rebecca Leung '13 in a small ceremony celebrated in late April at the Visitor's Center. John Thorndike was on hand at the tea to welcome the new intern. The internship was established in the fall of 2009 to honor John's wife Dorothy, an enthusiastic plantswoman and docent for many years.

In addition to helping organize and promote various greenhouse events during the year, Julie had recently encouraged a small group of student docents to give



John Thorndike (l.) with his son John, greeted Thorndike Interns Julie Vining '12 (l.) and Rebecca Leung '13 at the celebratory tea in April.

greenhouse tours. All her work is in the notebook for her successor who starts this month. Rebecca, an economics major, has already had a special involvement with the Botanic Gardens as a summer intern. Look for her name in the Director's notes on p.2 and on the Asian Garden plot plan on p.7. Rebecca says she is excited to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes at the greenhouses. She has not yet decided on a career direction, but says, "I'll be happy if it brings me half the joy I get from being in the greenhouses." ♦

Cheatgrass in the Cape Cod Dunes

By Alden Griffith, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies

Don't you have your summers off? Over the years I have repeatedly had to answer this question with a gentle "not quite." When I wrote in the spring newsletter, I was gearing up for the coming field season: a summer that saw the beginning of several new research projects. Now that the season is fading, I want to briefly highlight some of the projects that brought my students and me to both Atlantic beaches on Cape Cod and Glacier National Park.

As I wrote last time, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is one of the most widespread and problematic invasive plants in western North America, but it tends to be only an occasional species in the Northeast. However, its presence in east coast dune systems is intriguing, not only because of the similarity to Great Basin sagebrush/bunchgrass ecosystems, but because cheatgrass populations exist there within natural plant communities (i.e. not just along roadsides and parking lots). On Cape Cod, we have the unique opportunity to study a highly invasive grass in an area where it is not (yet?) highly invasive. This opens the door to many interesting ecological questions regarding why biological invasions succeed or fail and how ecosystems respond.

This summer, I traveled all over Cape Cod along with my two intrepid and eager students, Shuangxou Long '15 and Olivia Froehlich '14. Overall, we found that cheatgrass is widely distributed across the length of the Cape. However, like most plants, its distribution becomes much more patchy and interesting as you zoom in to particular regions and locations. As the summer progressed, our ecological questions about cheatgrass began to become more refined, and in one sense were completely turned around: the most relevant question often changed from "why is it growing here?" to "why isn't it

growing here?" For example, at some locations there would be a large patch of cheatgrass restricted only to the edge of a beach parking lot, but in other sites the grass would be growing more naturally in the dunes. To grow in the dunes, does it require some sort of disturbance? Are populations limited by seed production and/or dispersal? Are they limited by "safe sites" that allow a few lucky seeds to survive the challenges of life as a small seedling? Is the soil too dry, or the beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*) too competitive?

With these questions in mind we set up research plots at two locations (Wellfleet and North Truro). Focusing in on cheatgrass populations and demography, we counted all cheatgrass individuals in our plots and estimated their total seed production by counting the number of spikelets per plant. In one plot we estimated that over 3,000 cheatgrass seeds were produced in one square meter. The fate of those seeds is the focus of the next phase of this project, as is continued monitoring of individual plants in order to understand the magnitude and dynamics of cheatgrass population growth.

In addition to our focus on cheatgrass individuals, we also surveyed the entire plant community within the plots by estimating the cover/dominance of each species. One pattern that emerged early on is that cheatgrass seed production tends to be lower in areas with more beachgrass cover. But like almost everything in ecology, this pattern exists amidst a sea of variability and other interacting factors. At this stage there are still more questions than answers regarding cheatgrass on Cape Cod, but we're off to a good start with field sites established, preliminary data in hand, and a solid research trajectory! ♦

Our Alpine Research Adventure

By Olivia Froehlich '14 and Shuangxou Long '15

This summer we were given one of the most incredible opportunities of our lives. As a continuation of the summer research program at Wellesley College, we were able to participate in a weeklong trip to Glacier National Park in western Montana. Our campsite at Two Medicine was just a few steps away from a lake, and we were surrounded on all sides by beautiful mountain peaks, wildflowers in full bloom, and



Does the tagged plant, *Smelowskia calcynia*, need the protection of other plants around it to thrive?

wide open blue skies. While a lot of our research this summer focused on the competitive interactions among plants, our trip to Glacier looked at the other side of things: how plants can facilitate one another's growth in high stress environments. It made sense then that part of studying a high stress environment was to experience that environment for ourselves. During the 3.5 mile trek and 2,500 foot ascent to the research site, we were bombarded by 60 mph wind gusts that felt like they might blow



The wind threatened to blow student researcher Shuangxou Long '15 off the mountain on the hike in.

us off the side of the mountain! But once we reached the research site, we felt as if we were on top of the world, with views for miles on end in every direction.

Our overall question was focused on how alpine cushion plants can facilitate the population growth of the small perennial plant, *Smelowskia calcynia*. Would *Smelowskia* populations be able to persist up here and contribute to biodiversity without the habitat provided by other plants? With help from students studying alpine ecology at the University of Montana, we tagged and collected data on nearly 150 plants on the first day, despite the extreme conditions. Our experience in the field the next morning was like night and day. With clear skies and

"Spending a week at Glacier National Park was absolutely breathtaking! (literally). Let's just say that Montana will be expecting a visit sometime in the future."
- Shuangxou Long '15



Olivia Froehlich '14 and Shuangxou Long '15 tagged alpine plants and collected data..

no wind, we breezed through the remaining work; marking and measuring close to 300 plants in three different locations, spanning what appeared to be a wide variety of growing patterns.

After saying goodbye to a wonderful week at Two Medicine, we took the scenic route back to Missoula, curving along mountainsides and lakes. The trip was slowly coming to an end and we were filled with mixed emotions--relief at the prospect of a shower and a real bed, sad to leave such a beautiful place but happy to have accomplished so much.

Membership gifts to the Friends and donations made at this summer's "Along the Way" artists' lectures helped fund this summer research trip to Glacier National Park.

Rules for a Good Garden

By Rebecca Leung '13 and Mackenzie Klema '14

These gardening instructions were compiled by the summer caretaker of the Asian Garden to hand over to its fall caretaker.

Daily Commandments

- I. Thou shalt water the garden deeply twice a week. Three hours shall be the time of the watering, and the time of the water shall be three, no more, no less. Thou shall carefully hand water the sections without drip-hoses (the bok choi, bean, and luffa sections).
- II. Thou shalt pluck any ungodly weeds thou seest. (Grass beneath the squashes/melons/luffa is fine.)
- III. Thou shalt keep the sassy, stinky calabash gourd in its place. Cut its tendrils without mercy if they begin to creep onto the other vegetables or the trees.
- IV. If thou seest thine bok choi struggling to survive, thou shalt rejuvenate it with Neptune's Harvest.
- V. Thou shalt mound soil around the base of the bok choi as it grows in order to "blanch" the stalks.
- VI. Thou shalt not forget about Kristina's tomatoes. Their area needs to be weeded, and the plants should be suckered.
- VII. Thou shalt attend to the edamame with tender loving care. Some hungry insect is nibbling at the leaves and the Fels Naptha soap from above the potting room sink should be shaved off into a spray bottle and sprayed under the leaves if the problem persists (Use only enough soap to make the water cloudy).



When to Harvest Things

- VIII. Harvest the bounty whenever thou seest it.

As for harvesting the stranger things in

the garden:

Taro: It should be harvested when the leaves turn yellow. This shouldn't happen until fall because the plants take 200 days to mature. However, the leaves can also be eaten, but then you can't eat the bulb. Take your pick. (Also see this site for more info: raygrogan2-ivil.tripod.com/trogrowcookeat/id9)

Eggplants: Some of the eggplants are likely mislabeled. When the fruit comes in, you may want to move or amend the signs by consulting the seed packages in the potting room cubbies.

Peppers: Most of the hot peppers are ready when they are red. Hybrid golden hot peppers are ready when orange.

Bitter gourd: It looks like you can harvest the bitter gourd any time from when it is 1 inch long. Here's a great site on the subject: harvesttotable.com/2008/06/bitter_melon_you_can Also it is really ugly! Google it to see.

Cilantro: Eat the cilantro! It is a monster! Cut off the blooms if you do not want them to reseed themselves.

Spinach: Malabar spinach can be harvested as soon as the stems are growing well. Caution: it is apparently a bit of an acquired taste and is mucilaginous.

Ginger: Harvest ginger sometime in late fall. Sources say to harvest when the leaves turn brown (8-10 months?!), but this has already happened. Let's experiment with this.

Additional Planting

- IX. Sew thy kale, radishes, and snow peas in August. Depending on how large the beans get, something small could be planted in front of them. If we want some kale, we can



Garden gateway with buckets of red rice

Drawings by Carol Govan

dig up the boisterous horseradish in the corner to make room.

- X. Plant thy garlic cloves in mid-to late October.

Cleaning Up the Garden

- XI. In order to have a clean slate next year, the following must be taken out of the garden, most easily in mid to late fall:

Soaker hoses (They wrap around the middle two triangles and then the two walls closest to the greenhouses; at each black junction they can be detached.)

Rocks

Poles (There are four supporting the pole beans and three tied to the wall with the bitter gourds.)

Little black signs, of which there are many.

The spirit rocks (Put them

somewhere special lest we never have green thumbs again! If possible, find a nice weed to plant in said rocks.)

Things that are perennial or will need to be dug up in the garden:

Horseradish, Fish Plant, Water Celery, Ginger and Taro.

Note that Eric Toensmeier says (in *Perennial Vegetables*) that you can overwinter taro in zone 6 if you are intentional about it. "With a well protected location and plenty of mulch it can be done. A northern growing season is still not long enough to mature taro as a root crop in a single year, but one could eat roots at the end of the second year, or just harvest the edible leaves."



The summer interns. Perching on the chair: (from the l.) Rebecca Leung '13, Mackenzie Klema '14, Carly Gayle '13, Meg McClure '15, Echo Yue '14. Sitting in the chair: (from the l.) Athena Knisley '15 and Ellen Bechtel '14.

Asian Garden 2012 Plant List

The list of things being grown is long and interesting:

Beans:

Edamame
Hyacinth Bean
Asparagus/Yardlong Bean (purple)
Winged Bean
Snow Peas

Chinese Cabbage:

Canton Long
Wong Bok
Pak Choi (purple)

Eggplants:

Kermit
Lao Purple Stripe
Striped Togo
Listada de Gandia
Long White Angel

Hot Peppers:

Red Cap Mushroom
Hybrid Kim-Chi
Hybrid Volcano
Hot Paper Lantern

Hybrid Golden Hot

Oriental Summer Squash:

Hybrid Green Ball
Hybrid Green BT

Greens:

Malabar Spinach
Molokheiya Green

Herbs:

Eryngio, Mexican Coriander
Saltwort
Thai Basil

Fish Plant

Red Mint

Other:

Oriental Luffa
Bunching Onion
Taro
Red Rice
Water Celery
Ginger
Lemongrass
Japanese Daikon

Gourd:

Calabash
Bitter Gourd

The garden is definitely worth a look and bring your camera!

Programs

To register for classes, use the form on page 11 or visit www.wellesley.edu/wcbgfriends and print a registration form.

A Rich Spot of Earth

Former Director of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello, Peter J. Hatch reveals the garden's bounty and legacy and its continuing impact on the culinary, garden, and landscape history of the United States.

Location: Arnold Arboretum's Hunnewell Building, 125 Arborway, Boston. Free parking. Thurs., Oct. 18 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

HOR 13 010

Members \$20 / Non-Members \$25

Beginning Watercolor Painting

Join Jeanne Kunze in an art and plant exploration inspired by the interrelationship of paper, brushes, water, and pigments. Some previous drawing experience is helpful.

4 Sat.: Oct. 20, 27; Nov. 3, 17

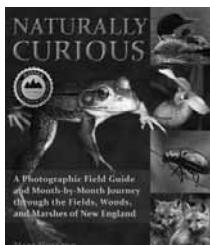
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. WCC 13 126

Members \$150 / Non-Members \$195

Naturally Curious

Meet Mary Holland, author of *Naturally Curious, A Photographic Field Guide and Month-by-Month Journey through the Fields, Woods, and Marshes of New England*. Mary guides you through highlights of native plants and wildlife, beginning in March when the earth awakens and ending in February at the end-of-year cycle.

At: Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA



- All classes are held in the WCBG Visitor Center unless otherwise noted.
- For classes over the lunch hour: Bring your own lunch or walk to local shops.
- Full course descriptions and material lists may be found on our website.
- Parking on campus is restricted. Use of the Davis Parking Garage or car pooling from off campus is encouraged.

Sat., Nov. 3 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. HOR 13 020

Members \$10 / Non-Members \$15

Gardens for a Beautiful America

At the opening of the 20th century, photographer Frances Benjamin Johnston (1864-1952) was front and center in the national movement to beautify America. With colored slides from Johnston's own collection, preserved at the Library of Congress since



the 1940s, historian Sam Watters will speak about the photographer's role as documentarian, fine artist, and garden club prophet.

Morning Presentation

Mon., Oct. 29 10:00 a.m. HOR 13 030

AM location: Arnold Arboretum's Weld Hill Research Building, 1300 Centre Street, Roslindale. Free parking.

Optional tours of the Weld Hill Research Building will be available at 9:30 a.m. for those registered for the morning lecture.

Early registration through October 15: \$20 / After October 15: \$25

Evening Presentation

Mon., Oct. 29 7:00 p.m. HOR 13 035

PM location: Arnold Arboretum's Hunnewell Building, 125 Arborway, Boston. Free parking.

Early registration through October 15: \$20 / After October 15: \$25

Tea Horse Road

Ethnobotanist Dr. Selena Ahmed, co-author of the book *Tea Horse Road: China's Ancient Trade Road with Tibet*, explores the culture, ecology and health attributes of tea (*Camellia sinensis*). Sample a variety of teas traded along the ancient tea route.

Tues., Nov. 6

4:00 p.m. (Tea served) HOR 13 040
Members \$10 / Non-Members \$15

Coffee Life in Japan

BU Professor Dr. Merry White traces Japan's vibrant café society from the turn of the twentieth century, when Japan helped to launch the Brazilian coffee industry, to the present day.

Wed., Nov. 28

1:00 p.m. (Coffee served)
HOR 13 050
Members \$10 / Non-Members \$15



Travel With The Friends

ON LOCATION: The Kampong

All abilities are welcome!

Join Sarah Roche at the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Coconut Grove, Florida (www.ntbg.org/gardens/kampong.php) for 3 days of botanical art.

Take home a journal filled with field sketches useful for future art works and fond memories of a unique experience.

Fee includes 3 days of class instruction only. Travel, accommodations, food, and other expenses not included.
Contact the Friends office for more details.

3 days: Tuesday, Jan. 15 – Thursday, Jan. 17

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

CBA elective BAC 13 230

Members \$325 / Non-Members \$400



ART OF THE GARDEN:

England Tour

Travel with botanical artist Sarah Roche on a tour of extraordinary public and private gardens in England. Fly overnight from Boston to London Visit the Chelsea Flower Show, Kew, and more – including gardens in the Cotswolds. 8 days: Sun., May 19 – Mon., May 27

TVL 13 201

Contact the Friends office for more details.

Watercolor Painting in the Botanic Gardens

Suitable for adults at all levels of experience, Susan Swinand offers weekly critiques and suggests projects to spark your creativity and develop your skill in handling watercolors. With our small class size, your individual needs and interests are addressed one-on-one. 7 Thurs.: Feb. 7, 14, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. **WCC 13 202**
(Snow Date: April 4)

Members \$200 / Non-Members \$250

Secrets from the Farm Stand



Christy Raymond
Kantlehner and Chris
Kantlehner of White
Barn Farm (www.whitebarnfarm.org) will
demystify the produce
appearing in farm stands,
farmers' markets and in
CSA boxes and tell you
how to incorporate this
cornucopia of veggies
into your meals.

Wednesday, Feb. 27
1:00 p.m. lecture **HOR 13 060**
Members \$10 / Non-Members \$15

Scientific Botanical Illustration: Begonias

Under the guidance of Jeanne Kunze, use traditional dip and technical pens to illustrate live begonias — their wide range of plant habit, varied leaf shapes, flowers and textures. Prerequisite: Pen & Ink I or Calligraphy, including Pen & Ink Applied and Italic Calligraphy, both offered this academic year. 5 Saturdays: March 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

(Snow Date: April 27) **BAC 13 213**
Members \$250 / Non-Members \$300

Garden as Community

Looking for a way to get a bigger bang from your garden, be it a small or large space? Follow nature's lead by combining plants into guilds -- diverse assemblages of plants growing in healthy, self-sufficient communities in nature. WCBG Director Kristina Jones will explore the functions and interrelationships of organisms in natural plant communities, and how they can be applied to our gardens.

Following the lecture, if the weather cooperates, join us for a late winter tour of the Edible Ecosystem Teaching Garden and a spot of tea.
Monday, March 18
1:30 p.m. lecture **HOR 13 070**
Members \$10 / Non-Members \$15

See Our Full Course Listing Online.

More classes of interest ... complete details online, in our program brochures, or contact the Friends office.



Putting Perspective into Your Art

with *Carol Ann Morley*

3 days: Saturday, Nov. 10 – Monday, Nov. 12
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Celebrating the Season

with *Sarah Roche*

2 mornings: Tuesday, Nov. 27 and
Thursday, Nov. 29: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Pen & Ink Applied

Also a great way to polish up your dip pen skills!
with *Carol Ann Morley*

3 days: Wednesday, Jan. 2 – Friday, Jan. 4
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Snow Date: Sat, Jan. 5)

Colored Pencil I: Fundamentals

All levels of students welcome.

with *Carol Ann Morley*

3 days: Wednesday, Jan. 9 – Friday, Jan. 11
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Snow Date: Jan. 12

Go with the Flow: Italic Handwriting

Designed with the calligraphy beginner in mind.
with *Linda Oliver*

5 Fridays: Jan. 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15; March 1
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Snow Date: March 8)

Volunteer with the Friends

WCBG Friends volunteers aid the Botanic Gardens' activities in many areas:

- As docents who give tours of the greenhouses or botanic gardens.
- As children's program coordinators who work on kids' activities in the Visitor Center.
- As hosts who welcome attendees during College community events.
- As participants in special projects in areas of exhibit interpretation.
- As gardeners who assist WCBG staff with garden maintenance tasks.

2012-2013 Docent Training Schedule:

Training for Leading Tours of the Gardens under Glass
Fridays, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon on

Foundations of Botanical Drawing and Painting

with *Sarah Roche*

All abilities are welcome!

Feb. 5, 12, 26; Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26; Apr. 2 OR
Feb. 6, 13, 27; Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27; Apr. 3
Classes meet weekly 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

This course is the core of WCBG Friends' Botanical Art Program.

Techniques of Botanical Drawing and Painting

with *Sarah Roche*

Feb. 7, 14, 28; Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28; Apr. 4
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Artists enrolling in Techniques should have successfully completed at least two Foundations courses and have the permission of the instructor.

Going Nuts! Rendering Nuts, Seeds and Pods in Graphite

with *Carrie Megan*

5 Mondays: Feb. 25; March 4, 11, 25; April 1
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Snow Date: April 8)



Photoshop (and Photoshop Elements) Demystified

with *Patricia Buchanan*

3 Fridays: March 15, 22, 29
9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(Snow Date: April 5)

smART Business Creative Management Techniques for Artists

with *Liz Haywood-Sullivan*

2 days: Saturday, Feb. 16 and Sunday, Feb. 17
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Snow Date: Feb. 18)

A “Rare and Elegant Shrub:” The Franklin Tree

From John Bartram’s diary, October 1, 1765:

“Journey of 20 mile was all low flat ground ... When we came near the river (Altamaha), the soil is very sandy near the surface & the timber poor for about a mile from the low lands, which is often overflowed with the river ... We missed our way & fell 4 mile below Fort Barrington, where we lodged this night. This day we found severall very curious shrubs ...”

The “curious shrubs” that American plant explorer John Bartram and his son William encountered near Georgia’s Altamaha River (its modern-day spelling) were a new discovery to European botany, one of many that father and son contributed. As skilled botanists, horticulturists, and in William’s case, a botanical illustrator, the two men introduced many native North American plants to the world through collection and propagation. The Bartrams could not procure seeds from the “curious shrubs” during their 1765 journey, but the new find continued to intrigue them. In 1773 William returned to the Altamaha and wrote: “On drawing near the fort, I was greatly delighted at the appearance of two new beautiful shrubs, in all their blooming graces. One of them appeared to be a species of *Gordonia*, but the flowers are larger, and more fragrant than those of the *Gordonia lascanthus*, and are sessile; the seed vessel is also very different.”

William collected seeds of this “rare and elegant flowering shrub,” as he termed it, which the two men propagated in the family garden in Philadelphia. As William Bartram noted, it is in the Tea (Theaceae) family as are *Gordonia* species. A small multi-stemmed tree or shrub growing 10-25 feet in height, the plant produces large, camellia-like, honeysuckle-scented flowers in late summer-fall. The oblong leaves are glossy dark green which turn vivid orange-red in autumn. Seed is contained in a round capsule which takes a year or more to mature. After studying it closely for several years, William Bartram placed the plant within its own new genus, calling it the Franklin tree, *Franklinia alatamaha* after his good friend Benjamin Franklin and the Georgia river where it was discovered. Although the nomenclature of the tree has changed from time to time (it was often labeled as

Gordonia pubescens), the tree is currently known by Bartram’s appellation, and is the only species within its genus.

From the start, William noticed the rarity of *Franklinia* in the wild and its very limited range of distribution. “We never saw it grow in any other place, nor have I ever since seen it growing wild, in all my travels ...” he wrote in 1791. By the mid-1800’s, *Franklinia* had become extinct in the wild. One theory for its disappearance is susceptibility to a disease common in cotton, which came to be grown extensively in the region. Its continued existence in cultivation is the direct result of the Bartrams’ collection and propagation efforts. In addition to the *Franklinia* that has grown beside the Woodland Pond in the H. H. Hunnewell Arboretum for many years,



William Bartram’s illustration of *Franklinia alatamaha*.

three Franklin trees now reside in the new Whitin Observatory Viewing Garden (see page 3), scions of the Bartrams’ “rare and elegant flowering shrub.”

Farming

Continued from page 1

fascinating panel on identity in farming and produce for a delicious meal.

The Observatory bustled with excitement as about 20 students representing seven colleges, including Middlebury, Brandeis, Olin, Babson, Tufts, and Bennington, arrived on the appointed day. The program included workshops on vision and asset mapping, a roundtable discussion on the farm-campus relationship, meditation in the greenhouses and a brainstorming session for a regional student farm networking site being built by two students in a Wellesley web design class. It ended with a gloriously huge and heartwarming communal dinner at Instead, the Feminist Co-op.

Best of all, everyone brought back several new friends and loads of energy to begin the growing season. We could feel and use the friendly connections

more as the summer approached, bringing with it actual farming needs. Tufts’ Tom Thumb garden proposed to buy some organic herbs in bulk with us, and Middlebury is hoping to host a weekend visit of Regeneration-ers to explore their farm. It was almost surprising how well it all worked.

What we demonstrated was that this kind of conference can grow organically. From the seed of an idea and the power of its questions, it survived a new environment. Everyone touched by the day came away knowing something powerful had just happened. We’d like to think that the 2012 Campus Cultivation Conference was a successful second generation. Our greatest hope is that it will again take root somewhere, to become a yearly event that gets passed among schools. Like farming, that requires trust and hope. We ate the ripened fruit and threw the seeds to the wind, hoping they’ll be picked up. Will they? Let’s pray for rain.

Notes from the Director *Continued from page 2*

Ranch, where Betsy Knapp '64 and her husband Bud are implementing edible ecosystem gardens at 9000' elevation!

Our whole summer crew also took a field trip to several permaculture/edible ecosystem sites in central Massachusetts, including ones at UMass-Amherst, Eric Toensmeier's incredibly diverse and productive backyard in Holyoke, Sirius Ecovillage, and Wildside, the gorgeous, off-the-grid home of Sue Bridge '60. I think I speak for all of us when I say that it is very exciting to see successful examples of intensive, ecologically-sound agriculture in such a range of places!



The sweet-smelling, odd-looking flowers of *Couroupita guaiensis*.

Other summer highlights included local trips to Garden in the Woods (where we tested out the great new online key for identifying New England plants, known as GoBotany), the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the Ponkapoag Bog (carnivorous plants everywhere!). The interns enjoyed living and cooking together in the Sustainability Co-op on campus, and really bonded into a great team. They all continue to be engaged with the student farm, botanic gardens, and the Botanistas, and are planning a harvest celebration in the fall.

Enjoy the fall season, and I hope to see you at Wellesley soon!

Kristina Niovi Jones, Director
Wellesley College Botanic Gardens
kjones@wellesley.edu 781-283-3027

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: Home: _____ **Work/Cell:** _____

EMAIL: _____

If applicable, Wellesley College Class _____ CBA student ? _____

_____ I would like information on volunteering at WCBG Friends.

Mail this completed form and your payment to :

Friends of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens

106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02481-8203

COURSE REGISTRATION

See programs and classes information and cancellation policy

Course ID#	Class title	Fee
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

SEPARATE CHECK FOR PROGRAM FEES \$ _____

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Friends of WCBG cannot accept credit cards for course fees. Checks or cash only please.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FRIENDS

(for the academic year July 2012-June 2013)

My membership gift for the current academic year \$ _____

Membership Gift Payment Type (circle one):

CHECK or MasterCard / Visa / AMEX

Account number: _____

Exp. date: Month: _____ Year: _____

Membership Levels

Patron:

Durant Society \$2500+

Alum (6-10 yrs out) \$1000

Alum (1-5 yrs out) \$500

Benefactor: \$1000

Supporter: \$500

Donor: \$250

Sponsor: \$100

Contributor: \$50

Alum (1-5 yrs out): \$15

or SEPARATE CHECK FOR MEMBERSHIP GIFT

made payable to: *Friends of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens*

LOGO ITEMS FOR SALE (more details online)

WCBG / WCFH Mugs _____ Pair(s) of mugs at \$15 = \$ _____

WCBG Recycled Fleece Vest _____ at \$40 each = \$ _____

_____ Women's Medium _____ Men's Medium

_____ Women's Large _____ Men's Large

_____ Women's Extra Large _____ Men's Extra-Large

Shipping / Handling at \$5 for each vest, tote, pair of mugs = \$ _____

SEPARATE CHECK FOR LOGO ITEMS. TOTAL = \$ _____

made payable to: *Friends of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens*

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Friends of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens

106 Central Street

Wellesley, MA 02481-8203

781-283-3094 wcbgfriends@wellesley.edu

www.wellesley.edu/wcbgfriends

Editorial Committee:

Kristina Niovi Jones
Carole Ely '79

Gail Kahn
Eileen Sprague

Vivi Leavy '62
Ray Pace, layout



Friends of Wellesley College
Botanic Gardens
Science Center
106 Central Street
Wellesley, MA 02481-8203

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Monitoring cheatgrass
on Cape Cod
see story on page 4

Plantastic Days
Once a month, we're hosting a free program for families to discover through art, culture and science just how fantastic plants can be. Hands-on activities, crafts and scavenger hunts will engage everyone from toddlers to grandparents.
Drop in any time between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. to explore the theme of the month.

Spooky Plants

Sunday: Oct. 21

Meet our carnivorous plants; learn spooky tales of other strange plants. Plant a spider plant to take home.



Thankful Plants

Sunday: Nov. 18

Find out what plants we're especially thankful for—and why. Bring your own list and see how it compares! We'll be tasting some of our favorite plants.

Party Plants

Sunday: Dec. 30

We'll take a trip around the world and the calendar to see what plants are important in the celebrations of many cultures.

Black Belt Plants

Monday: Jan. 21

Figure out why a plant needs to defend itself, and discover all the pointy, nasty, sneaky ways that plants use to get the better of animals.

Plants on a Tropical Vacation

Monday: Feb. 18

Discover the many uses of the beautiful tropical plants here, and enjoy activities to remind you of warm climates!

The First Perky Plants of Spring

Sunday: March 17

Come on a "signs of spring" scavenger hunt, and search the greenhouses for relatives of the shamrock.

Scented Plants

Sunday: April 28

Most of us know why a flower smells good ... but why do the leaves of certain plants have strong smells? Explore the science of scent. Plant some herbs to take home.



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