



## Visualizing Global Flora

**W**e have reached the stage of visualizing what Global Flora actually will be, as the architects are putting the final touches on construction documents, the contractor is coordinating site logistics, and we are working out what will go where in these indoor landscapes, all on track to break ground in the spring!

This rendering, courtesy of Kennedy Violich Architects (KVA), depicts a view looking east through the Wet biome, with the Dry biome visible through the partition at the far end. At the other end of the Dry biome, not visible here, is the link to the Visitor Center and the pavilion housing the Durant Camellia. While the plants will be different than what's shown, the general layout of the building, the pathways and the bridge into the canopy are accurate. The curve of the building, following the track of the sun and angling up to provide height for the tallest trees in the Wet biome, and the interior topography, nestling onto the contours of the existing hill, are, to me, the architectural highlights, making the design an extraordinarily good fit for both the place and the program.

This remarkable design is made possible by the use of ETFE film as the primary glazing (as inspired by the Eden Project in the UK). Much lighter and more



flexible than glass, ETFE pillows require much less structural support, opening up new possibilities for shape and volume. With no increase in footprint or budget, we will be able to do so much more in this space. And with sustainability as a guiding principle throughout the design process, KVA entered the project into a prestigious biennial international design competition, and was honored by the LaFarge-Holcim Foundation with the Sustainable Design bronze medal for North America!

Mindful of the anticipated variety of users of Global Flora, from students and faculty conducting research, to tour groups of all ages, to staff needing to access every part, the design team has sought

to integrate many different functions smoothly into the built infrastructure while maximizing the planting area. Benches will be built into retaining walls and contain hoses and data hubs (separately!). Botany Fellow Jenn Yang '12 is working with faculty and IT experts to design the network of sensors that will provide real-time data on soil, water, and air conditions in both biomes. The data will be stored for research purposes and visualized as part of the interpretive program for visitors and anyone interested in these innovative indoor ecosystems.

In addition to the core landscape areas, the north and south walls provide

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## NOTES **from the Director**

**G**reetings from Wellesley, where it's been quite a roller coaster of a winter. After a typically glorious fall season, winter came in like a lion, with temperatures around zero for several days during the holiday break, dipping down to -10F. A few storms brought snow, but then for much of mid-late winter we had rain instead, as big temperature swings caused repeated thawing and refreezing. We'll need to look out for frost-heaved plants once spring comes for real. The Paulson Ecology of Place Initiative held a campus Winterfest on February 21, with guided walks focused on trees and birds, fire-making and hot cider; students showed up in shorts as the day was 70F and sunny. They were happy to have such a good excuse to spend time outside!

It is a great pleasure to work with Suzanne Langridge, Director of the Paulson Initiative, on everything from events such as Winterfest to co-sponsoring student internships and research projects. The Initiative is enabling us to bring a new approach to the entire landscape around the Science Center, which is about to be impacted by major building renovations. Faculty from Chemistry, Engineering, Geosciences, and Physics are working with Suzanne, Botany Fellow Jenn Yang and me in a group focused on water, co-mentoring students during the year and in the summer research program, on projects from the Paramecium Pond system (see



Pulling a sediment core for research at Paramecium Pond.

p.6) to evaluating the water coming off of the Science Center roof. We are planning to use this water for irrigation in the new greenhouses, so monitoring its quality and quantity is very important, both now as the system is being designed and later in use.

The Paulson Ecology of Place Initiative and the Suzanne Kibler Morris '44 Fellowship are enabling the Botanic Gardens to engage more deeply beyond the sciences, campus-wide. Searching for inspiration on how best to display cryptogams in Global Flora, since we will not have a separate Cryptogam House as we used to, I came across the work of Natalie Andrew, an artist and scientist who makes art with cryptogams! Lucky for us, she is local, and will lead a workshop (see sidebar) and mentor students as they develop proposals for the next iteration of the Morris Fellowship, combining art and botany in the greenhouses.

This winter also brought an important transition in staffing for the Botanic Gardens. Lacking the Botany Department that drove the development of the greenhouses and gardens over their first several decades, we've had a critical need for more botanical knowledge and scientific experience on staff, particularly as we develop the new teaching and research opportunities that help to keep the Botanic Gardens aligned with the mission of the College. As we build the botanical collection for the new greenhouses, we need deep knowledge of subtropical plants, as Global Flora will integrate a great range of plant species into unprecedented experimental ecosystems, going way beyond the tiny fraction of plant diversity that is available in the horticultural trade. We created the new role of Botanical Collections Manager to lead the building of the collection, experiment with different approaches to managing the indoor plant communities and keep a comprehensive database of the plants and conditions in the various mini-habitats.

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### What's a Cryptogam?

According to Natalie Andrew: Cryptogamic species are forest dwellers — ferns, mosses, lichens, fungi and slime molds. Their hidden and esoteric life-styles are a source of mystery and intrigue that, combined with their beauty, have inspired myth, folklore, artwork and scientific study in equal measure. Cryptogams bridge many categories, dwelling in a liminal space where conceptual boundaries can be shifted - a fruitful place for both artists and scientists.



Cryptogams on a hawthorn tree in the Alexandra Botanic Garden.

## She's Back! Our Newest Botany Fellow

### Introduce yourself!

My name is Jenn Yang, class of 2012, and I am thrilled to be part of the WCBG team again. It feels a bit surreal--Alden Griffith, the first Botany Fellow and a wonderful mentor, taught the first botany class that I ever took and started me off on a deep dive into plant biology. Now, I am returning as the Paulson Ecology of Place Initiative, Global Flora, and Science Center renovation are all underway, among other projects! These will shape the Wellesley experience for years to come, and I'm honored to take part as the Botany Fellow.

### In your junior year at Wellesley, you served as our 2nd Thorndike Intern. What were your takeaways from that experience?

As the Thorndike Intern, I was excited about sharing my love of plants, but remember feeling intimidated by how much I didn't know about the greenhouses and gardens. My advice now, to borrow a phrase from Douglas Adams, is "don't panic!" Through developing outreach activities, whether for a tour, app, website, or signage, I learned what excited me about different species, and was happy to share. However, the best moments for me were--and still are--hearing others share their questions, stories and impressions of each plant, and I try to seek those out more.

### Please briefly describe your research at Penn State. How did your experiences at Wellesley prepare you for a large university environment?

I was interested in the intersections of climate change, agriculture, and plant biology, which led me to join the "Roots Lab" at Penn State. My dissertation research focused on how to breed more nitrogen-efficient corn, by understanding how variations in root and leaf anatomy contribute to nitrogen uptake and stress tolerance in different corn varieties. My biology courses, independent studies, and summer research experiences prepared me for the research. I've also relied on

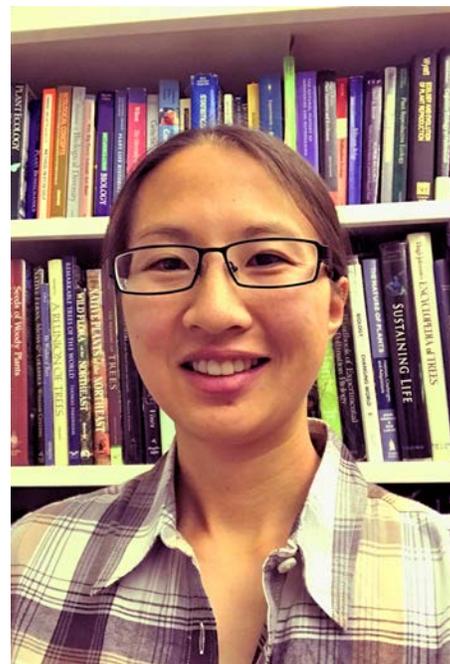
the sage advice and encouragement of Wellesley friends, alums, and faculty for many challenges through graduate school. Any students who would like to chat more about graduate school are welcome to reach out to me.

### What drew you back to Wellesley and the Botany Fellow position?

A happy coincidence. I came to reunion last summer, and visited Kristina Jones. We had kept in touch and she knew the ups and downs I'd had through the PhD. I was getting ready to defend and graduate, but wasn't sure about next steps. I had been on a research assistantship with limited teaching opportunities, so after five years of digging up corn, I was ready to engage with a greater diversity of plants and responsibilities. I started in the fall as a research tech supporting the Edible Ecosystem Teaching Garden (my favorite place on campus) and Farm in a Box, and ended up involved in many exciting projects such as Global Flora. Now as Botany Fellow, I have the opportunity to add some teaching and research into the mix, along with these projects, which is a perfect blend for me.

### What sorts of things will you be doing as our Botany Fellow?

My focus as Botany Fellow is to expand learning opportunities for students in the Botanic Gardens, in the short and long term. In the short term, I am giving guest lectures, tours, and workshops for students, and am always open to additional teaching opportunities. I support the Paulson Ecology of Place Initiative, which advocates for deeper student engagement with nature and the campus landscape. We are also planning for activities for summer research students and interns, which will include a diverse meadows experiment, workshops, field trips, and other projects. In the long term, I'm working on developing the research-grade sensor network for Global Flora, which will be a novel and interdisciplinary platform to introduce



Jenn Yang '12 is engaged in many activities supporting the Botanic Gardens and the Paulson Ecology of Place Initiative.

students to environmental and biological monitoring. Along with that, I am laying groundwork for more horticultural education for students, beyond the BISC 108 course, by engaging with horticultural organizations and certificate programs, to develop more on-campus opportunities.

### Where do you see your career taking you?

This post-doc, which is not quite a traditional academic post-doc, will be important for informing my goals. I have many interests and am still trying to find the best fit. You'll have to ask me in a couple years!

by Botany Fellow Jenn Yang '12  
responding to questions from Gail  
Kahn, WCBG Assistant Director

## What Did You Do with Your Final Project?

That is the question we asked the twenty-one artists who have received their Certificate in Botanical Art and Illustration (CBA) from the Friends since the first ones were awarded in June 2010. The CBA final project is a series of about a half-dozen plant portraits with a common theme. A selection of these were hung on the walls of the Visitor Center during the spring that the artist received her certificate, and after the College's reunion weekend the works went home with the artist. What happened then?

**Susie White** hung her portraits of tillandsias on the kitchen walls of her new condo. The kitchen wall color (Benjamin Moore "Soft Fern" at 25% strength) was especially chosen to highlight the botanical art.



© Susie White

After **Sue Neff** received her certificate, she was invited to show her work at the Green Briar Nature Center in East Sandwich, MA. With the garden's permission, Sue had taken specimens from Green Briar to use in painting her final project. She was fortunate to sell some of her art at the show. As for the rest, one is hanging in her Cape house, and a few are in her closet. Sue says, "I continue to paint for the joy of it!"

**Joyce Westner's** Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) now hangs on her living room wall, but it had a lovely journey after her final project left Wellesley. It was juried into a New England Society of Botanical Artists exhibit, "From the Mountains to the Sea: Plants, Trees and Shrubs of New England," traveling to seven venues throughout the region including the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.



© Joyce Westner

**Carrie Megan** also painted her living room a soft green to show off pieces from her final project on exotic fruits and vegetables. The rest of her paintings were sold during a solo show at the Newton Free Library.



© Carrie Megan

**Celeste Hurley** rotates her final project paintings through the rooms in her home purely for her pleasure and according to her seasonal decor. The Brown-Eyed Susan Vine (*Thunbergia alata cv.*) brightens up her office space along with her certificate. Her Sugar Pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo cv.*), painted specifically for her kitchen, was entered into the “RAW” exhibit at the South Shore Art Center in October.



© Celeste Hurley

In the years since **Barbara DeGregorio** received her certificate, she has continued to add to her final project documenting significant trees in the Boston Common, Boston Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall. Currently she has seventeen pieces, which have been displayed at Mass Audubon’s Habitat Education Center & Wildlife Sanctuary, the Boston Public Library, and most recently at a Boston corporate venue.



© Pam Gordon

**Pam Gordon’s** watercolor of the Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) was exhibited at Filoli Gardens’ 16th Annual Juried Botanical Art Exhibition. Pam traveled to Woodside, California with her daughter to see the exhibit and visit Filoli, which is a National Trust for Historic Preservation property well known to plant lovers. The walnuts that Pam collected from the Wellesley College Botanic Gardens while completing this painting still sit on her studio windowsill, giving off a faint, unmistakable black walnut smell.



© Lucy Sur

Paintings from **Lucy Sur’s** final project have appeared in quite a few shows since she received her certificate. She had a solo exhibit at the Heritage Museum and Gardens in Sandwich, MA, and a joint exhibit at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster. Lucy received an honorable mention for her Red Daylily (*Hemerocallis cv.*) in the juried All Cape Art Show. “Sitting down to draw or paint at least a couple of times a week is really important to keeping up your skills,” notes Lucy. “I don’t always manage that, but persistence and determination can go a long way!”

## Paramecium Pond: More Than Just a Pond

**B**uilt in the 1920s, Paramecium Pond is a jewel in the Wellesley landscape. Despite its long-time status as a beautiful campus landmark, the pond holds many secrets in regards to its water use, chemistry, sediment load and biodiversity. Looking out on the pond now, you might notice the colorful buoys that are continually recording the pond's temperature. This is part of a concerted effort since the fall of 2016 to unravel the pond's mysteries that we, as student researchers in Professor Dan Brabander's Geosciences lab group, are working on.

Paramecium Pond is of interest to many stakeholders across campus. Their interests include how the pond was originally constructed, how it has changed over time, and what historical factors affect the pond today. Answering these questions is important because the pond poses major sustainability challenges to the college. Paramecium Pond is one of the largest consumers of Wellesley College's filtered and treated drinking water, with 16% of the drinking water consumption feeding the pond. Paramecium Pond also requires periodic dredging because there is no outlet for sediment traveling down the Silver Thread, leading to terminal deposition in the pond. To combat this deposition of sediment (which has historically piled up above the water level!), the pond was dredged in both the 1970s and the 1990s, at a significant cost to the college.

Research on Paramecium Pond is different from many on-campus research groups. While most research is conducted in laboratories in the neighboring Science Center, you may catch our lab rowing out into the middle of the pond to collect our data – in rain, shine, or even ice! We also prioritize working alongside

the community. In the fall of 2016, we invited people in the college community who have worked on Paramecium Pond in both research and management capacities to a stakeholder workshop. We asked them to outline questions they were interested in and share their knowledge that would help answer these questions. This community workshop led directly to our research questions about the pond's history and change through time, as well as the potential impacts it has on present-day pond management.

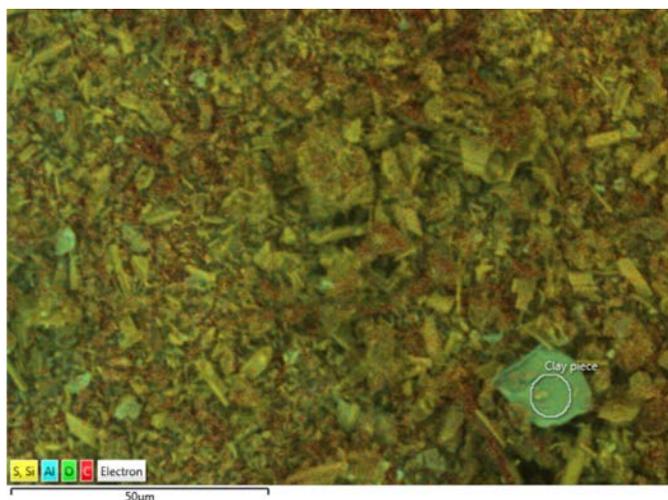
To answer these questions, we focused our efforts on two aspects of the pond: the sediment record and the water column. For the sediment record, we took sediment cores from the center of the pond that extended 1.5 meters from the sediment surface. Since sediment accumulates through time, gathering data from a sediment core gives us information about the pond in chronological order, with the oldest sediment at the bottom. Recently, we used the analysis techniques of X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and to find out whether clay or microalgae called diatoms exist at a depth of 1.5 meters. As seen in the image, we found that there is clay at 1.4 m beneath the bottom of the pond and also a large amount of organic material (shown in red), likely from microalgae.

We also wanted to determine how the pond functioned over short and long time periods, such as storms and seasons. In order to understand the impact of storms and seasons, we put a group of instruments called "hobologgers" into the pond that record the temperature and clarity of the water at the surface and at various depths in the water column. In the fall of 2017, we also started sampling the surface water and different depths of the pond every month, gathering data about temperature and chemical composition. This data has shown that near the inlet, the pond temperature fluctuates greatly in comparison to other pond areas.

The Paramecium Pond project represents our desire to better understand and connect with the campus environment we call home. Our work is part of a growing network of research initiatives that



Students and Professor Dan Brabander rowing on Paramecium Pond.



Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) image of pond sediment from 144-146 centimeters below the pond bottom. Colors represent elements: carbon in red, oxygen in green, aluminum in blue, and silica in yellow. A small blue/green block shows a clay piece in the sediment.

## pretty Place



Nilsjeer/Abbe Sico

rowing out to deploy data loggers on the pond in early September.

fall under the umbrella of the Wendy Paulson '69 Ecology of Place Initiative, an initiative that aims to strengthen connections between our community, academics, and the Wellesley landscape. Involvement in this project has given us a valuable undergraduate research experience and added value to our Wellesley College careers. We hope that our research can better inform the college community about the wonders of the pond while ensuring that it remains sustainable. We are very thankful for support and guidance from Suzanne Langridge, Director of the Paulson Initiative, Kristina Jones, Director of the Botanic Gardens and all the Botanic Gardens staff, and Professors Dan Brabander and James Besancon, and Lab Instructors Kathleen Gilbert and Maria Waller of the Geosciences Department.

by Kimberly Chia Yan Min '19, Sarah Smith Tripp '19, Madeline Cahillane '18 and Charli Klein '19

## The Paulson Initiative: Turning Ideas into Actions

The Wendy Judge Paulson '69 Ecology of Place Initiative aims to inspire and prepare Wellesley College students across disciplines to value sense of place and connection to nature, enriching their academic experience, personal well-being, and community, so that they engage the world with a deep ecoliteracy. We are accomplishing this through both curricular and co-curricular pathways, as well as partnering with off campus organizations and mentors to provide opportunities for real world experiences.

When I read about this position developing and leading an initiative that was so diverse, creative, collaborative, and broad reaching, I knew I had to apply. My interdisciplinary doctoral degree in environmental studies and ecology and evolutionary biology, experience teaching hands-on university courses, liberal arts degree from a women's college, personal experience with deep nature connection, and a knack for connecting different people and ideas all came together in this exciting position. The Wellesley campus is also an ideal place for this initiative, with a central and unique founding philosophy keeping the natural forms of the land and protecting the hills, meadows, and forest, embracing connection to landscape, place, and nature.

It has been an exciting few months! Within the first seven weeks of my arrival, I collaborated across campus to develop a day of celebration and interaction with the landscape to commemorate the launch of the Paulson Initiative and Sustainability Year. There were "Bioblitzes" across campus, where the community could step into the meadows to identify insects, look for turtles by Paramesium Pond, or peer under microscopes at microorganisms they collected from Lake Waban. There were



Suzanne Langridge is creating programs and projects to develop the ecoliteracy of Wellesley students.

**Paulson** *Continued on page 10*

# Learn With Us

Due to construction projects taking place at the Science Center – including our new Global Flora greenhouse – WCBG Friends programs are now being held at various locations near Wellesley College. Please pay attention to the location given in the course listing.

- \* For classes over the lunch hour, bring your own lunch.
- \* Full course descriptions and materials lists may be found on our website.
- \* Pre-registration is required. Print a form online: [www.wellesley.edu/wcbg/learn](http://www.wellesley.edu/wcbg/learn).

For Spring-Summer 2018, courses are being held at two locations:

## Wellesley College Club

Located at the Rte. 16 entrance to the College

## Wellesley Community Center

219 Washington St., Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

Attendees for programs taking place at the Wellesley College Club can park at the College Club lot for the duration of the program. All other parking on campus is restricted to the Davis Parking Facility at the Rte. 135 entrance to the college.

## Charles Darwin: Keen Observer of the Natural World

Carol Govan will talk about English naturalist, geologist and biologist Charles Darwin (1809-1882) who rocked the world when he published his thesis that plants evolve and change to adapt to their changing habitats. He established that the vast diversity of life on Earth has all descended from common ancestors.

### HOR 18 060

NOTE NEW DATE:

Friday, March 30, 10:00 a.m.

Wellesley College Club

Members Free | Non-Members \$10

## Spring Studio Focus: Spring Flowers

Celebrate the beauty and vibrancy of spring flowers! Focusing in on their structure, this class will explore the nuances of their color and textures and record them in watercolor. We will use live material, focused photography and detailed color notes to accurately paint the beauty of spring flowers close up. This class with Sarah Roche is suitable for artists at both Foundations and Techniques levels of experience.

### BAC 18 104 / 204

4 Tuesdays: May 1, 8, 15, 22

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Classes are at the Wellesley College Club.

Members \$150 | Non-Members \$200



© Sarah Roche

## Introduction to Botanical Art

Explore the world of botanical art over four days in this course designed especially for you - the beginner. Sarah Roche guides your experience through structured exercises, projects and demonstrations, exposing you to the basic techniques and methods of botanical drawing and watercolor painting. All experience levels welcome.

### BAC 18 101A

4 days: Mon., June 4 – Thurs., June 7

Mon. – Wed.: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Thurs.: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wellesley Community Center

Members \$250 | Non-Members \$300



## Drawing and Painting for the Petrified

In this relaxed, informative seminar, you will work towards developing your drawing and painting skills. Sarah Roche encourages your observational skills to grow as you experiment with line drawings and the accurate representations of botanical forms. Leap into watercolor painting with a series of fun beginning botanical watercolor exercises. All anxiety levels welcome!

### BAC 18 010

3 Wed.: May 9, 16, 23

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Wellesley College Club

Members \$125 | Non-Members \$150



### Tidal Treasures

Spend a day (or two) at the beach! Discover seaweed and other treasures left in the sea wrack along the shore. Ellen Duarte will show you how to collect, mount, and study seaweed through drawing. We have the opportunity to work outdoors and inside at a beach home on Buzzards Bay. Any sketchbook medium is welcome. Open to any skill level. Class takes place rain or shine. You can choose one or both of the class sessions.

#### BAC 19 030A

Wed., July 18  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### BAC 19 030B

Wed., July 25  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Class held at a private home  
in Marion, MA

Each session:

*Members \$75 | Non-Members \$90*

Special pricing for both sessions:

*Members \$140 | Non-Members \$170*

### Painting Composite Flowers

With the guidance of Catherine Watters, explore the magical world of composite flowers (species in the Asteraceae family): cosmos, dahlias, sunflowers, zinnias, and more. You will discover the Fibonacci sequence of the center disc, mix vibrant colors and apply great texture ranging from satiny petals to hairy stems. This class is suitable for advanced Foundations and Techniques level students.

#### BAC 19 240

3 days: Mon., Aug. 6 – Wed., Aug. 8  
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wellesley Community Center

*Members \$395 | Non-Members \$495*



© Catherine Watters



© Carol Ann Morley

### Pen and Ink Review

Enjoy this opportunity to revisit your lost pen and ink skills or enhance the ones that you have. Carol Ann Morley reviews all the basic Crowquill dip pen techniques. Use this practice time to gain confidence in mastering pen and ink skills. Open to all levels of skill. This class is a good preparation for the gold ink class.

#### BAC 19 143X

2 days: Mon., Aug. 20 and Tue., Aug 21  
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wellesley Community Center

*Members \$170 | Non-Members \$220*

### Drawing With Gold Ink

Carol Ann Morley helps you explore the beauty of gold ink and take your pen and ink drawings to a new level. Working with the traditional Crowquill dip pen, find out how easily 18 carat gold liquid Spectralite ink flows from the pen nib. Bring along your favorite botanical drawing, transfer it to a toned paper and watch your drawing transform into a glowing illuminated botanical. Some drawing and dip pen skill advised.

#### BAC 19 243

3 days: Wed., Aug 22 - Fri., Aug 24  
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wellesley Community Center

*Members \$250 | Non-Members \$300*

## Certificate in Botanical Art and Illustration

### 2018 Awards Ceremony

**Sunday, June 3, Time TBD: lecture, ceremony and reception**

“Robin’s Favorites: Three Gardens, Three Gardening Books,  
and Three Botanical Artists” with Robin Wilkerson

Free; please call 781-283-3094 or email [wcbgfriends@wellesley.edu](mailto:wcbgfriends@wellesley.edu)  
to let us know you are attending. CBA Artist Exhibition:  
mid-May – June 10 in WCBG Visitor Center

## Friends Receive Two Generous Bequests

The Friends were recently the recipients of two unexpected gifts: generous bequests from the estates of Al Henick and Janet Ruth Stein Taylor MA '53.

Al was a long-time Friend and volunteer docent, and his passing was noted in the Spring 2016 Newsletter. With a relaxed and affable manner, Al made his tours a pleasant experience for all. He had a wealth of information to share, and while



he gave tours of the greenhouses, his real passion was for the outdoor gardens. Al also volunteered at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, and the cross-pollination of his learning enriched both institutions. His bequest is a final act of caring from a steadfast Friend.

Janet Ruth Stein Taylor was less familiar to Friends staff and volunteers, as she lived and worked at a distance from Wellesley for a large part of her life. After receiving her Master's Degree in Botany from Wellesley in 1953, she went to the University of California, Berkeley for her Ph.D. and spent the majority of her career as a faculty member in the University of British Columbia's Department of Botany. Her research interests were in freshwater and estuarine algae. Janet taught the introductory botany course at UBC for many years, and was a co-author of the textbook *Evolutionary Survey of the Plant Kingdom*, "a book that put the Botany Department on the textbook bestseller list



for almost a decade," according to UBC faculty. Janet's husband, Roy Taylor, was the Director of the UBC Botanical Garden for many years. The Friends are grateful that she remembered Wellesley and its Botanic Gardens with her bequest.

### **Paulson** *Continued from page 7*

student talks about the sculptures and trees on campus, frisbee on Severance Lawn, "pop up poetry," outdoor yoga class, and Haiku in the woods. It was inspiring to see the community interacting and connecting to the landscape where they work and live. In addition, President Johnson, Wendy Paulson, and writer and conservationist Terry Tempest Williams provided inspiring remarks at a reception in the evening.

Since then, we have started pilot programs to develop courses and projects across the curriculum that use the campus as a "living laboratory," for example removing invasive *Phragmites* from the meadows on campus and using it to make paper with the Book Arts Program and working with an interdisciplinary Water Challenge Group of students, staff, and faculty to develop sustainable water management on campus. We are partnering with the Sustainability

Committee and several departments for a Creativity Contest which invites the college community to submit creative pieces that express nature or sustainability themes with a reception in the spring. We are also integrating the landscape and celebration of the seasons into current and new events. Terry Tempest Williams is returning to campus on April 24 for a writing workshop with students and a public reading and conversation on writing, women, and nature. It is inspiring and exciting to collaborate with creative students, staff and faculty across the college on something I am passionate about!

In the next year, I hope to take lessons from these pilot programs to inform the future development and direction of the Paulson Initiative's first five years. I hope to see you on the landscape!

by Suzanne Langridge  
Director, Paulson Ecology of  
Place Initiative

### **Global Flora** *Continued from page 1*

special opportunities to grow and study plants. The tall north wall provides thermal mass for passive temperature regulation, and will be the primary home for the cryptogam collection. Ferns, lycopods, and other non-seed plants will grow on a variety of surfaces in the Dry biome and both above and below the bridge in the Wet biome, enabling close viewing of these amazingly diverse plants that otherwise could be missed in the landscape. Similarly, along the south curve in full sunlight will be table-height planters showcasing small plants of notable form, such as caudiciforms in the Dry house and carnivorous plants in the Wet house.

The deeper we get in the planning, the more the anticipation grows. Fingers crossed, next year at this time the plants should be moving in!

by Kristina Niovi Jones, Director

**Director's Notes** *Continued from page 2*

At this time of cuts and budget restructuring across the college, we couldn't add a Collections Manager without eliminating an existing staff position. After much back and forth between the college administration and the union, the most junior union position was cut. With modern climate controls and other advances in the new greenhouses, we anticipate significantly less need for routine maintenance by horticultural staff. The person whose position was cut, David Sommers (who chose a different union position at the college without a loss of pay), loves plants, has an unusually acute eye for the beauty of nature, and takes great pleasure in sharing his knowledge. I appreciate what David brought to the Botanic Gardens during his time here, and wish him well.

As this newsletter goes to press, we have just hired Rob Nicholson as Botanical Collections Manager. Suffice it to say that we developed the job description based largely on what Rob had brought to Smith College as their Conservatory Manager, building their fabulous greenhouse collection over the past 25 years. Rob came out of early retirement for this opportunity because he is excited about the potential of Global Flora to push the envelope on what a conservatory can be. I can't imagine a better match, and am thrilled to welcome him to Wellesley.

Wishing you peace and comfort this winter, and a glorious spring.



Kristina Niovi Jones, Director  
 Wellesley College Botanic Gardens  
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*Friends of*  
**WCBG**

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**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

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 Gail Kahn  
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 Ray Pace, layout

**MEMBERSHIP IN WCBG FRIENDS**

A membership level of \$50 or above entitles you to discounts on WCBG Friends programs and discount admission to botanical gardens across the U.S. through the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program. For an up-to-date list of participating gardens and for details on how to enjoy benefits, see: [www.ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap](http://www.ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap)

**Your membership is valid for a full calendar year.**



Membership gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Payment Type (*circle one*): Check / MasterCard / Visa / Amex

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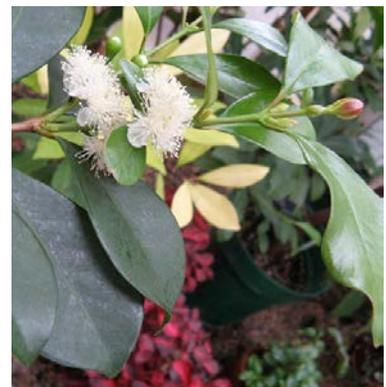
## Dorm Plants: Bob, Bertha and the Trees

**W**ith the greenhouses coming down this semester for renewal, I realized that I would feel lost without a green space where I could be in the peaceful company of plants, no matter the season. As I saw the greenhouse plants being sent off to new homes it occurred to me that instead of encouraging students to visit the plants in a greenhouse, we could bring the greenhouse to the students; thus began the dorm plants initiative. I worked closely with the horticulture staff to choose plants that grow well indoors in relatively lower-temperature and lower-light conditions like dracaenas, crotons, figs, and palms. Then, after surveying each dorm's space and light conditions, and receiving enthusiastic consent from participating House Presidents, I assigned each of the fourteen plants we had selected to a dorm.

Now, these plants live happily in their new homes. Some have been named by their house councils, like "Bob," the Strawberry Guava

(Stone-Davis Hall), and "Bertha the Car the Irregular Fig" (Claffin), who is named after a house-council member's old car. In most dorms, eco-reps care for the plants. The eco-rep in Claffin wrote that Bertha makes their porch "even homier," and many other dorms have expressed content with their new plant friends. SCoop, the Sustainability Cooperative, has adopted three trees which occupy the kitchen and living room areas and transform the house into a forest. And after surviving their first Wintersession, the plants have been doing wonderfully!

There is certainly something to be said about groups of students communally caring for a living thing. It keeps us grounded, helping us understand the importance of life and, in this case, the beauty of the natural world. I am very pleased with the dorm plant project, and very interested in planning more events to sustain student enthusiasm for the



Bob in bloom in the greenhouse in 2010.

plants who call their dorms home. I hope we continue to fill our indoor spaces with green as we make Wellesley a more beautiful and peaceful place, both indoors and out.

by Mia Tuccillo '20  
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