



DELAWARE
BOTANIC
GARDENS
AT PEPPER CREEK

June Newsletter

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Our roots are in the sands of coastal Delmarva

June 1, 2018

Behind the Scenes

News from President Ray Sander & Executive Director Sheryl Swed

Welcome friends to the DBG June quarterly newsletter. We have been at warp-speed since the March Newsletter.

Piet's Visit: The most significant recent event was the 3-5 May visit by Piet Oudolf to the gardens, and the many related events that Piet kindly agreed to do during a fast-paced three-day schedule.

First, Piet was glad to see his horticultural travel team volunteers who worked on placing and planting about 18,000 plants in the second phase of the Meadow Garden Planting.

As was the case last September, this was a complex and wonderful process to observe, as the professional volunteers, led by Barbra Katz, worked hand-in-hand with the local Delmarva volunteers (see Gregg Tepper's detailed outline of their work below). The actual planting was done during two

very hot and windy days. We should add that the professionals who came to help us were pleasantly surprised by the great preparations that the local volunteers had done in April to get the now "weed less" meadow ready for planting, unloading the plants, placing them in the temporary nursery and installing the grass sod on the three mounds. As we told the volunteers at a May 10 meeting, we could not make this garden journey without our volunteers, led by Gregg and Janet Point. We thank everyone who was involved in the second phase planting. It is happening, coming off the paper planning documents and becoming a reality.

With regard to our volunteers, Rodney Robinson, DBG's Landscape Architect, observed on TV, "Professionals have come in and volunteered their time to do the planting and work with Piet and work with the other people here, you just don't see that. That's very uncommon and that is one of the unique aspects of this garden."

Therefore, the second phase meadow planting was a great success.

Thank You Dinner: On May 3, DBG Board Members, advisors and out-of-state volunteers joined together for dinner in honor of Piet at Good Earth Market. The volunteers presented Piet with a DBG logo shirt with "Master Garden Designer" on the back, which he said he liked very much.



Piet, Ray and Sheryl

Sip & Saunter: On May 4, we had our first onsite garden fundraiser the “Sip & Saunter” public event. It headlined Piet, who not only gave public tours of the meadow garden, but also hosted a press availability. Because Piet talked to the press, we had major press coverage, including stories on all three Delmarva TV stations and articles in all area newspapers and their websites.

At the “Sip & Saunter” event, we were honored to have U.S. Senator Tom Carper and State Rep. Ron Gray attend.

Senator Carper was interviewed by Michael Sprouse’s Arts & Entertainment Report (WRDE-TV) and said, “We need a Botanical Garden. We need something beautiful like this. It will be a treasure for not just people from Sussex County, not just from Delmarva but for the U.S. and all over the world. So we want a lot of people to come here and enjoy it. And we will enjoy it ourselves.”

Rep. Gray presented Piet with a proclamation from the Delaware House of Representatives, which stated in part, “The House of Representatives acknowledges Piet Oudolf, designer of the Meadows at the Delaware Botanic Gardens ... for creating a magnificent two-acre Meadow.... Because of his commitment to the importance of native species for the overall health of Delawareans, this design consists of more than 65,000 herbaceous flowering plants and grasses that include 85 percent native species and the remaining 15 percent pollinator compatible exotics. We commend Mr. Oudolf for his creative genius and his leadership in demonstrating the vital importance and beauty of native species. His Meadow at Delaware Botanic Gardens will be a major attraction to the citizens of our state as well as contribute to Delaware’s quality of life and economic vitality.”

The “Sip & Saunter” event could not have been a success without the refreshments and good food provided by Dogfish Head Brewery, who are now one of our leading garden sponsors. As you will read later on, Dogfish Head also is the sponsor of the Wetland Outdoor Classroom. We continue to have the solid support from area business leaders, such as Dogfish Head and are thankful for their continued support.



Ray, US Senator Tom Carper, Piet, Delaware Rep. Ron Gray, Sheryl and Gregg as Ron Gray presents Piet with Delaware House Tribute – Photo by Ken Arni



Dogfish Head Brewery’s hospitality tent at the 2018 Sip and Saunter

Montchanin Village Reception: On May 5, Piet, DBG Board Members, Cam Yorkston our Development Advisor and special guests took part in a reception at The Inn at Montchanin Village, hosted and sponsored by LeDee Lickle Wakefield, who is a member of the DBG Advisory Council. This was a chance to present the DBG Story to a group of potential up-state supporters.

At the end of this successful event, Piet thanked everyone for a productive and busy visit to Delaware. The day before, Piet had told a reporter that one of the reasons he had decided to create his meadow at DBG was because of our dedicated volunteers. Piet said, "I want to know that if I create something, there will be people after I leave who are going to keep it alive. I have never seen such a dedicated group of people before. These are skilled people who know what they're doing."



Photos from the Montchanin Reception

Workshops: To ensure we had a full range of viewpoints on many detailed issues related to opening the gardens in 2019, there were two "Workshops" held at the Lewes Public Library on March 20th and April 4. There were eighteen attendees, including, from left to right, Ruth Clausen, Janet Point, Sally Boswell, Cam Yorkston, Ron Bass, Carol McCloud, Tom Bason, Carol Bason, Grant Watchorn, Brent Baker, Peter Carter, Gregg Tepper, Sam Cashdollar, Sheryl Swed, Michele Sosnoski, Jan Poli, Ray Sander and Ray Bojarski.



After much thoughtful discussion, this group agreed that much work remained to be done, but that it was feasible to plan to have a "Preview Opening" or "Limited Opening" of the Gardens in 2019. Initially any "Preview Opening" is best limited to group tours, which will be scheduled by advanced reservations only. This will give us our first "operational" income. It will also allow us to test our ability to provide visitor services and receive feedback at the end of each tour about the Visitors' Garden Experience. It also will be a period to fine-tune and sharpen our hospitality volunteer's ability to welcome visitors, conduct tours, and answer questions about our gardens.

The Future: We have been doing a lot of homework to plan what steps we must take and what resources we must have to ensure that we can have a “preview” opening in 2019. While the exact date has not been set yet, we know that the initial opening will feature the Phase 1 garden, which includes (1) Meadow Garden, (2) Woodland Garden, (3) Folly Garden, and (4) Wetland Outdoor Classroom and inland dunes. The “Sip & Saunter” event gave us a “first look” at how the public would react to this initial offering, and the reaction was very positive.

Futures Team: The Delaware Botanic Gardens now has a “Futures Team” which is working on a detailed list of projects that must be completed before we can open in 2019. The DBG Futures Team has taken the thoughts outlined in the workshop process, and are creating an actionable checklist of items/projects that need to be completed before we open the garden gates.

The Futures Team includes Janet Point, Carol McCloud, Tom Bason, Brent Baker, Gregg Tepper, Sheryl Swed and Grant Watchorn.

We have Electric Power: On May 2, 2018, President Ray Sander wrote to Board Member Peter Carter, “Peter: today we flip the switch and the lights went on! The irrigation system can now work without staff being present. DBG has electricity!”

Thank you for all you have done to connect DBG to the Delaware Electric Coop. Through your efforts and relationships, we now have power at the site and our portable generators can be retired to emergency equipment. DEC has done all the work and supplied the transformers as in-kind donations to DBG. Thank you for introducing me to Bill Andrew [President of DEC] and giving us the opportunity to make our case for support from DEC. You have gotten DBG a \$70,000 in-kind donation. Thank you. A great team effort! Best, Ray”

The onsite wiring of our hoop houses and major activity areas was done by Nickle Electric. Ray also expressed thanks to Steve Dignan President of Nickle Electric. They are also a DBG Partner. Nickle’s in-kind generosity enabled DBG to have our immediate and near term electrical requirements met much sooner than we had expected, and at a cost which does not stress our infrastructure budget.

Development Update Notes: There is much behind the scenes work as we attempt to raise more needed funds and attract sponsors. If you are aware of anyone who has an interest in sponsoring projects for DBG, please contact Executive Director Sheryl Swed, sherylswed@delawaregardens.org or 202-262-9856.

Tanger’s Earth Day Donation: In honor of Earth Day, April 22, 2018, Tanger Outlets in Rehoboth Beach donated to Delaware Botanic Gardens. “We are so amazed by the sweat-equity so many volunteers already have committed to the planting of Delaware Botanic Gardens,” said Amy Schnerr, General Manager of Tanger Outlets Rehoboth Beach. “Tanger is honored to provide this modest donation toward such an important attraction that our local and tourist communities will enjoy for generations to come.”



Ray, Joe Venezia, Amy Schnerr, Janet and Sheryl

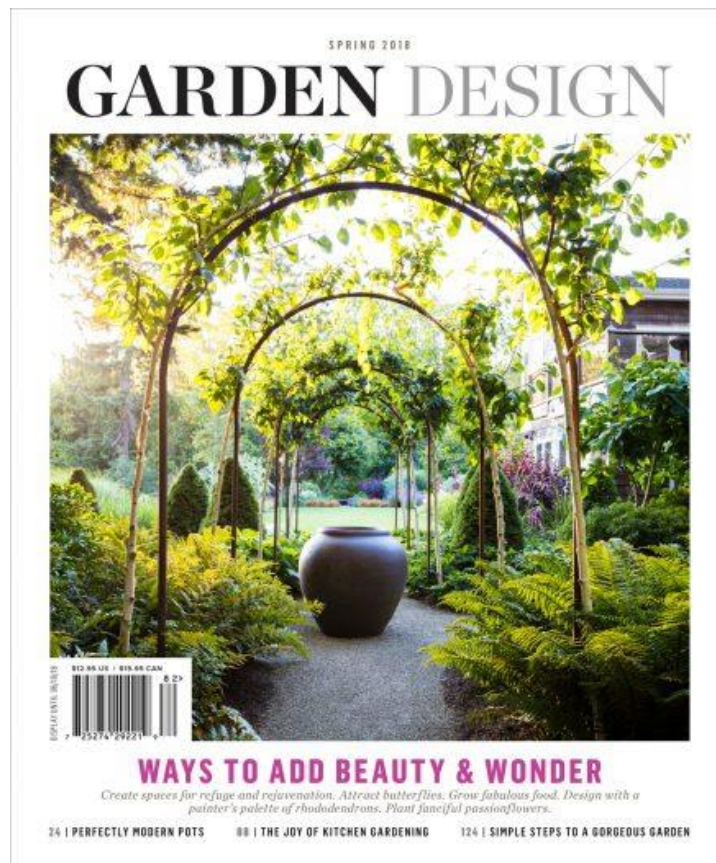
GoFundMe.com: We want to bring you up-to-date on our online Meadow Campaign fund raising initiative on GoFundMe.com. As of the time we finalized this newsletter, we raised \$17,625.



In addition to the DBG email alerts and mention in the last newsletter, we sent out a GoFundMe press release, which received good coverage in the *Cape Gazette* and *Coastal Point*. In fact, after talking to Ray and Sheryl, *Coastal Point* had an editorial, “Delaware Botanic Gardens still needs help.” In addition, we had the Bethany Beach-Fenwick Island Chamber of Commerce send out an email alert on the GoFundMe.com campaign to its 1,200 members. While the original campaign video and copy was geared to the Phase II planting, we have refreshed the video and copy to support the final June planting. This has been an amazing experience in online fund raising. It also allowed our communications-marketing team to learn new lessons in a truly multi-media campaign.

Please go to www.gofundme.com/DelawareBotanicGardens and click the “Donate Now” button. Thank you.

Garden Design Magazine: As noted in a recent Email Alert, DBG is featured in the Spring Issue of *Garden Design Magazine* (pages 6-7). One quote was, “Delaware Botanic Gardens (DBG) at Pepper Creek in Dagsboro is a lesson in how a small group of people can make big things happen.” It is rare for a Botanic Garden to get such coverage, and the magazine editors loved Ray Bojarski’s photos. DBG has a special subscription deal with *Garden Design*. If you go to www.gardendesign.com/dbg you can subscribe for a year at \$45 and the magazine will donate \$12 to DBG. This quarterly magazine is the “Architectural Digest” of the garden world, with no ads and high quality photos of the best gardens in the world.



Important Events - Save the Dates

Please save the dates for the most important upcoming DBG events:

- June 2 - Annual Meeting: The DBG Annual Public Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2018, at the South Coastal Library in Bethany Beach from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. President Ray Sander will give his update report and we will show a video of the history of the building of the gardens created by Ray Bojarski. All are welcome.
- June 20-26 - Final major phase Meadow Planting. The June planting will be “drop-in” plants – all in a sea of prairie drop seed, and two cultivars of Little Bluestem, a native grass – 34,000 herbaceous plants and grasses. The DBG Garden Stewards, volunteers from other regional gardens and our travel horticultural team will be planting.
- September 6 - 1st Annual Dinner at the Gardens. Become a sponsor now by going to our website, <http://www.delawaregardens.org/new-events>.

1st Annual Dinner at the Gardens: We expect to have 300 people attend our First Annual Fundraising Dinner at the Gardens on September 6. You can become a sponsor of this event by going to our website at www.delawaregardens.org/new-events and selecting from several sponsorship options.

Cocktails will start at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. SoDel Concepts will set up several serving stations around the Meadow Garden. The dinner tent will be available as well as a smaller tent for Ted Bank’s bourbon tasting, with a special station sponsored by Dogfish Head Brewery.



2017 DBG Farm Dinner at Good Earth

Tickets are \$200 and will be available on our website mid-June. Again, Sponsorship Opportunities are available via our website events page now. The dinner event will end at about 8 p.m. Please join us for a fun filled evening at the Gardens.

Speakers/Tour Bureau Corner

Carol McCloud, Board Member and Outreach Coordinator



Carol McCloud

Delaware Botanic Gardens has an outstanding Speakers/Tour Bureau for the Gardens. Our talented and well-informed speakers do an outstanding job of sharing information and updates about the Gardens. Their love, passion and knowledge of the project truly comes through in their presentations. Besides giving presentations, we also give private tours of the site to local and non-local businesses and Garden Clubs. We do ask for a donation to Delaware Botanic Gardens for either a tour or presentation. Another outreach program to the community was our attendance at community Expo’s, Earth Day Celebrations and the Center for the Inland Bays annual plant sale. Attending these types of programs helps us to spread the word with Table Top displays about our amazing Botanic Gardens project. It also gives us the opportunity to have new people sign up to be volunteers, sponsors and members.

I had the distinct pleasure of working with “19 Stewards” of our Gardens to be Docents at our recent Sip & Saunter. They did an outstanding job with the 150 guests that attended the affair. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I would like to thank them for all they did to help make our first on-site event a great success:

Carol Bason, Donna Buono, Marjorie Busong, Ruth Clausen, Karen Dudley, Terry Griswold, Angie Holleger, Peggy Kircher, Karen Nowell, Angela Phinney, Janet Point, Cheryl Quirk, Peggie Ravid, Jane Rice, Angela Schaab, Kurt Schaab, Dianne Shawley, Heather Spencer and Bonnie Wright.

With our upcoming opening in 2019 we will be in need of many more Docents and Hospitality volunteers. Please go to our website www.Delawaregardens.org if you are interested in volunteering.

On the Move in 2018

Wetlands Outdoor Classroom: On March 14, Envirotech Environmental Consulting Inc. (EECI) began construction of the Wetland Outdoor Classroom, which is sponsored by Dogfish Head Brewery & Distillery. "This is a very exciting project and Dogfish Head is honored to be part of it. I look forward to coming back to see all the students young and older that this garden will be able to touch in Sussex County. The Outdoor Classroom will open the eyes of students to the natural beauty of this area," said Mariah Calagione, co-founder-owner of Dogfish Head.



Ray, Mariah Calagione, Sheryl and Mark Carter

The Outdoor Classroom is now completed, with only a few landscaping-trail changes to go. This outdoor classroom is at the center of our educational mission.

Todd Fritchman of Envirotech said, "This outdoor classroom will engage and inspire young people as they experience natural wonders. Getting their hands "wet and dirty" will allow students to study wetland's water quality, vegetation and introduce them to aquatic species. Whether it is a child dipping a net in the water to study an aquatic insect or a science student researching the wetlands for a school paper – they will have fun!"



Ray, Sheryl and Todd Fritchman of Envirotech

DBG President, Ray Sander, stated, "We are thankful to have the support of Dogfish Head Brewery, and our designer and builder Envirotech. The Outdoor Classroom brings alive our mission to create an inspirational and educational garden for the enjoyment of the public."



Ray, Sam, Carol and Gregg host DFS and DNREC

Grant for Trees: Last February, we met at the site with representatives of the Delaware Forest Service (DFS) and Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) concerning a DFS Urban and Community Forest Grant to reforest the street edge of the Gardens. DFS provides these urban forestry grants to meet goals to "help bring people together, build awareness about proper tree care in community settings", and benefit the environment by increasing the tree canopy. In April, we were one of sixteen projects across the State chosen for the tree-planting funding! The \$5,000 grant will add over 270 native trees along the Garden's Piney Neck Road property line. For the 50:50 cost-share match requirement, our volunteers will

provide 'in-kind services' by planting and maintaining the trees. Thank you to Carol Bason, Gregg Tepper, Sam Cashdollar and Sally Boswell for establishing a critical relationship with DFS and DNREC through this grant application effort.

Financial Challenge: We are always looking for grant ideas and opportunities, but we also need additional financial support. We talk a lot about fundraising, and all our members, friends and partners should clearly understand the building a botanic garden from scratch is costly. Frankly, we still need continuing donations from all hands, to bring the gardens to life and open the gates. We are simply not there yet, in terms of funds. We are talking to our government leaders about grant opportunities.

We need all of our family and friends to think about our financial challenge and how to help DBG. Go to www.gofundme.com/DelawareBotanicGardens to participate in our new Meadow Campaign.

Garden Stewards Corner

Janet Point, Board Member and Garden Stewards Coordinator

Our garden stewards planted, divided seeds, weeded, maintained pathways, and helped to act as ambassadors for this exciting garden project. This wonderful team also brought wheelbarrows, found pine straw and native plants for the garden. They built dry stacked stone walls and brought their friends and family to the garden. Braving this unusually cool and windy spring, the team pursued the emerging weeds in the meadow, cleaning up the planted areas and making the upper and lower sections of the meadow pristine. The Folly Garden is bursting with the bulbs planted last fall and a variety of spring ephemerals are showing in the woodlands.

Of course, the entire group was thrilled to welcome the delivery of plants and the traveling horticulture teams for the second phase of the installation of the Piet Oudolf Meadow Garden. Board members Ruth Rogers Clausen and Carol McCloud joined Gregg Tepper our Director of Horticulture and Janet Point on many of the days working at the garden.



Janet Point

Thank you to all of our local team that worked in the garden up and through the delivery of nearly 17,000 plants in April! Thanks to Jeanette Akhter, Pete Anderson, Cyndy Aviles, Brent Baker, Donna Blank, Ron Blank, Tony Broomfield, Donna Buono, Marjorie Bushong, Jeff Conti, Sandy Daniels, Barbara Deal, Barbara Dewey, Donald Duca, Karen Dudley, Janet Dunsmuir, Kit Fecko, Carol Gentes, Patti Gottdiener, Terry Griswold, Carla Hackley, Craig Haggerty, Laurie Harknett, Susan Harrell, Angie Holleger, Liz Hollyfield, Doug Isaac, David Jayne, Peggy Kircher, Don Klima, Liz Lear, Melinda Linde, Susan Lyons, Joan McAleer, Fran Meehan, Beth Mills, Christine Moore, Maureen Morano, Karen Nowell, Pat Okin, Ed Palmerino, Judy Pfister, Angela Phinney, Wallace Pill, Jan Poli, Robert Poli, Trichia Precht, Peggie Ravid, Jane Rice, Maureen Ryan, Angela Schaab, Kurt Schaab, Sally Scarangela, Amy Schnerr, Dianne Shawley, Tommy Smith, Dina Smoot, Heather Spencer, Pam Switzer, Mardi Thompson, Carl Tull, Matthew Turnbull, Alan B. Tuttle, Joey Venezia, Pamela White, Gwynn Wilhelem, Jessica Williamson and Bonnie Wright. Thank you all.



Volunteers working in the Meadow Garden



Don Klima on the wall he built

In the Garden

News from Gregg Tepper, Director of Horticulture



Gregg in the Garden

On April 25, at roughly 8 am, the first of several shipments of plants for the second phase of our DBG meadow planting arrived at the garden site. Our dedicated local volunteers were on-hand to receive these and stage them in our temporary “nursery”. The next several shipments arrived that morning and early afternoon, close to 17,000 perennials!

The next two days would be our time to engage design professionals Roy Diblik and Austin Eischeid to transfer the meadow plan from paper to the ground’s surface by means of orange spray paint. The designs on paper, in their many varying shapes, were soon appearing on the mulch surface. Each shape represented a different plant and/or combination of plants. While this was being laid out, another crew of design professionals were writing flags with the names and total numbers of the plants used in each section. Once written, the flags were placed in the shapes and the next step would be bringing the plants that corresponded with these flags out to the site!

Once the plants were bought over and placed, the planting process began. Volunteers from near and far made it happen over the next four days. The planting involved two processes, one was to use garden “knives” to put in the smaller 2” plug plants, which came in trays and the other was to use three soil augers to put in the larger 4” wide pots. Though it took some time, the group was very efficient in getting the plants in and we were right on schedule. Once Piet Oudolf arrived on May 3, he was delighted with our progress and helped to place the remaining “scatter” plants as he called them. Overall, the entire process was completed in nine days. My heartfelt thanks to our amazing volunteer group that made this possible!

As Director of Horticulture, I am very pleased about the second phase Meadow Garden Planting in May. The professional team and local garden Stewards came together and made it happen. I look forward to 2019, when the gardens are open to the public, but there is still much to be done and this next 12 months will be very busy. Thanks to all our Garden Stewards.

Featured Native Plant

Ruth Clausen, Board Member and Horticulture Author



Ruth Clausen

Wild indigoes? What is a wild indigo? DBG’s Meadow Garden hosts several *Baptisias*.

Does your garden include wild, a.k.a. false indigoes, properly known as *Baptisia* plants? They are perfect for meadows, borders, and wild gardens too. This genus is native along the coastal plain of the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern regions as well as the Midwest. Tough, long-lived, butterfly attracting, deer-resistant, and mostly pest and disease free these deep-rooted, herbaceous perennials belong to the pea (Fabaceae) family. Their showy spikes of typical pea-shaped flowers, usually blue, white, or yellow, appear in early to late spring. Lupine-like, the blooms open from the bottom up and are excellent for cutting. Later, inflated black seedheads (popular in dried flower designs) provide textural contrast to native perennials, including yarrows and milkweeds, in borders or meadows. Trim the shrub-like plants after bloom time and treat as architectural features.

Culture: Slow to establish, false indigos thrive in full sun. They tolerate drought due to their deep roots that make them tricky to transplant. Well-drained, average to poor soil is fine; rich, overly fertilized soil may cause soft floppy growth. All should thrive in DBGs acid, sandy loam.

At **DBG**, you will find four kinds of baptisias planted in the meadow. All reach 3' - 4' tall. 'Purple Smoke' is a hybrid of *B. australis* x *B. leucantha* (Zone 4-9). It hoists its hazy purple flower spikes on strong charcoal-colored stems above grayish green, trice-divided leaves. The long-blooming hybrid 'Midnight Prairie Blues' (a.k.a. 'Midnight') boasts 24" tall spikes of very deep blue flowers on vase-shaped plants (Zone 4-8). The striking buttery yellow flowers of hybrid 'Carolina Moonlight' (Zones 3-9) rise above bluish green foliage. White wild indigo (*B. leucantha*, syn, *B. alba*, Zones 3-9) tolerates light shade. Its erect spikes of creamy white flowers are borne on upright stems.



Baptisia australis

Wild indigo

Photograph from Ruth Clausen

Let's work together to Open the Garden Gates

All photographs that are not attributed were taken by Ray Bojarski



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