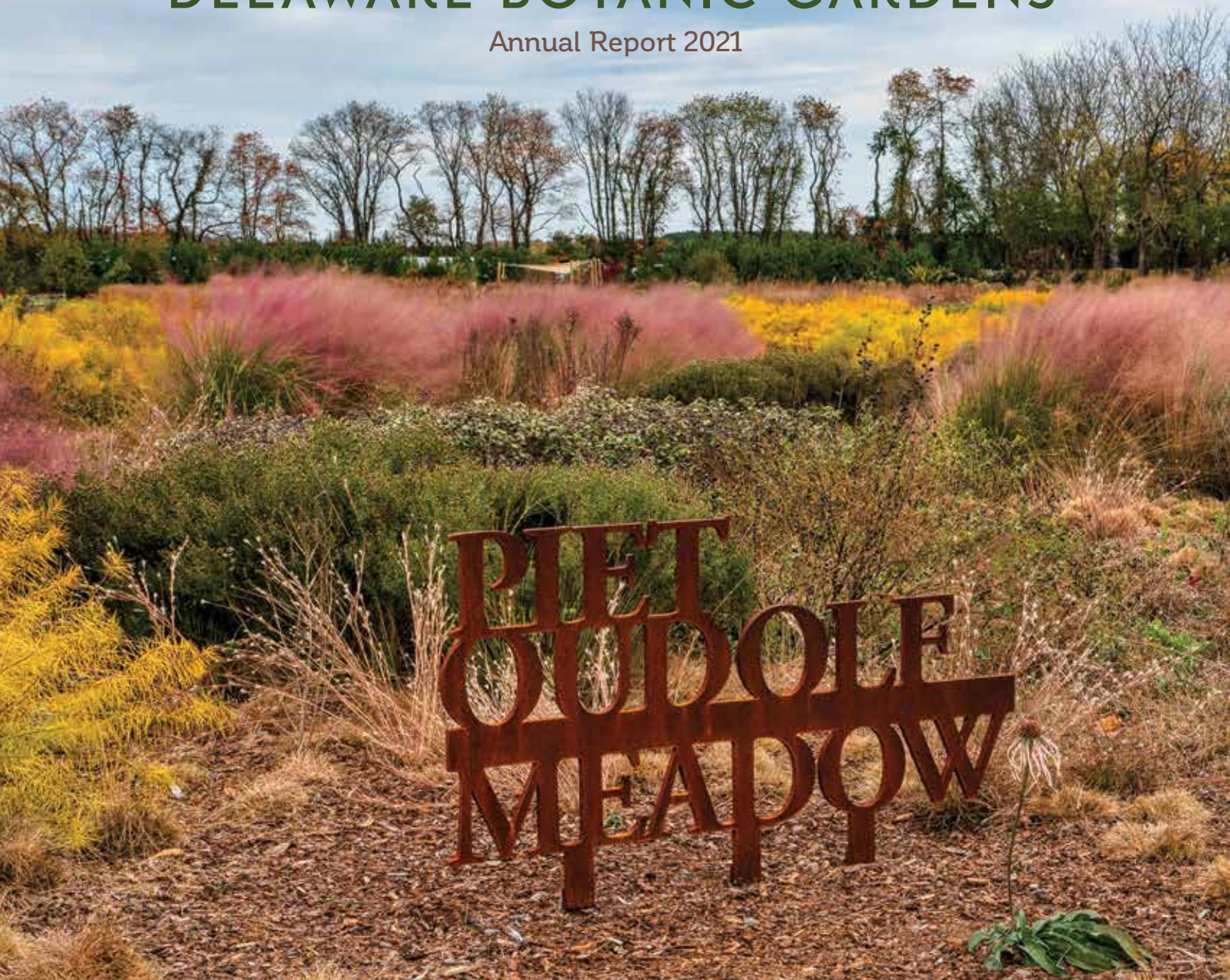


Becoming a DESTINATION: DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS

Annual Report 2021



The Slow Coast Speeds Up

“Those one-lane towns you might pass on the way to the beach have mushroomed. Dagsboro 23-miles southwest of Rehoboth is an oasis of native grasses and seasonally changing flowers that backs up to woodlands, at the 2-year-old Delaware Botanic Garden at Pepper Creek. Piet Oudolf, the landscape architect behind New York City’s High Line, designed the garden’s central meadow.” Julekha Dash, Adventure & Travel Section,

The Wall Street Journal, July 24-25, 2021.



FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT & THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021 was a continuation of the 2020 COVID-19 protocols and safety procedures but with the benefit of all the lessons learned in 2021. We continued advanced visitor registration to manage large groupings of guests and kept our outdoor check-in station to avoid enclosed interactions by our volunteers with our guests. Unlike 2020, we opened the season on time and successfully presented our three major events—the Frolic in the Folly, Sip and Saunter,

and a virtual Annual Fundraising Dinner. We increased the number and scope of tours, inaugurated Butterfly Thursdays for families and children and added a special DBG version to the Rehoboth Sea Witch festivities.

With just four paid employees, our progress would not be possible without the unstinting dedication of our volunteers. In 2021, progress was evident in every aspect of DBG and recognized by our visitors, the media, our local elected leaders and our State government. The Delaware Tourism Office selected DBG as the Eleventh Stop on the Delaware Discoveries Trail and the whimsical art installation has become a favorite selfie photo spot for our visitors. DBG was awarded \$375,000 in the 2022 Bond Bill for a new “back of the house” work building for our staff, volunteers and growing fleet of work vehicles. We were honored by the visit of Governor Carney as he celebrated National Tourism Week.

DBG has been featured in local, regional and national media—all helping to spread the word about “this hidden gem” of a garden. We were honored by our public garden colleagues when they asked DBG to make a presentation at the June 2021 American Public Garden Association Annual Conference. DBG was awarded Delaware Today magazine’s “Best in Delaware” to enjoy nature downstate. The Wall Street Journal’s July Travel Section, included pictures and a recommendation to make DBG gardens a destination on any trip to Delmarva. Finding DBG has been made considerably easier by the installation of DelDOT signs at key locations along the roads surrounding DBG, as well as a new Main Gate Entry sign.

While “normal” may not yet have been achieved in 2021, there were many signs of the growing optimism about the Gardens. New staff members were added at key positions, including former Sussex County Administrator, Dave Baker, as our new Treasurer; Stephen Pryce Lea as our new Head of Horticulture; Craig Sims as our new Director of Development; and Jane Hines as our Financial Manager. With the departure of our former Treasurer, Kathy Johnson, and two long-tenured Board Members, Ron Bass and Tom Bason, several new Board Members joined the DBG team, including Susan Lyons, Sam Seo, Todd Fritchman, Ryan Revel, Karen Steenhoudt, and Alison Willocks. Their array of experiences and energy have invigorated the DBG Leadership Team.

Progress was also vividly on display throughout the 37 acres. The Piet Oudolf Meadow after 3 to 4 years, has developed into a truly magnificent “5 season garden.” In close coordination with Piet, Stephen Pryce Lea and our dedicated volunteers and staff, planted 84,000 naturalized tulip, crocus, and grape hyacinth bulbs. These blooms welcomed our visitors as we began the 2022 Season in March. In addition, we added 31 flowering trees purchased through

OUR MISSION is to create a world-class, inspirational, educational, and sustainable public botanic garden in southern Delaware for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

OUR VISION is for beautiful, engaging gardens that inspire and educate.

OUR VALUES encompass inspirational gardens, environmental stewardship, community focus, education and research, organizational transparency, financial responsibility, and civility and respect.

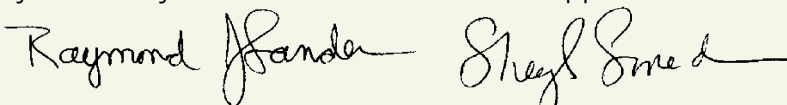
the Tree-mendous tree program sponsored by the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs. Our tree collection has also been increased by the planting of a new "Oak Grove" garden.

Our first four Naming Rights gardens—the Folly, the Knoll, the East Woodland Edge Garden and the Rhyne Garden—all have also seen additional plantings, including new bulbs and native shrubs. These important features were joined in 2021 by three additional Naming Rights features— the West Woodland Edge Garden by Mary & George Hessler, the Learning Nest by Sally Gore & Margaret Emerson and the Point by Barbara Peters. These seven special places have become destinations for our visitors where they can observe and enjoy a diverse range of horticulture. These features are a wonderful manifestation of the active support DBG has received from some of our most generous Donors. There are several other beautiful Naming Rights opportunities which are available. Please consult our website delawaregardens.org or contact Sheryl Swed, Executive Director at 202-262-9856.

The **TRUE** "destination" for all of these efforts is to reach financial sustainability. The immediate steps to financial sustainability are to improve our physical plant while we expand our garden plantings. Our capital program is empowering the building of permanent restrooms so that by spring 2022 we will no longer be dependent on portable toilets. This will improve our visitor experience and enable us to attract tour buses and student class trips. The longer project is the building of the all-weather pavilion so that we can extend the hours and days of operation regardless of the weather. Despite the complications of COVID-19 and its daunting cost increases of building materials and labor, our plans for this structure continue to be honed by our great team of SEA architects and Pennoni engineers. Plans for groundbreaking are still targeted for late 2022 with the building ready for the 2024 Season Opening. At the end of 2021, our financial position was the strongest it has ever been, giving us the opportunity to start 2022 one step closer to financial sustainability.

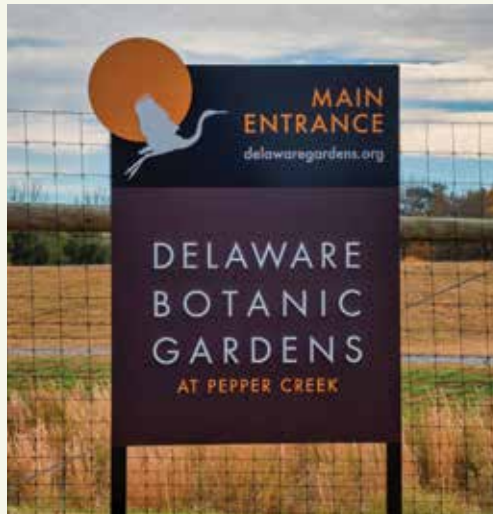
Our Annual Report 2021 describes this year's progress toward becoming a destination for inspiring gardens, biodiversity preservation, environmental stewardship, and botanic education. Now "on the map", actually several of them, we are open the entire nine-month season, we are part of the community, and are recognized as an official Delaware destination to our local and visiting public. This year we built upon the Piet Oudolf Meadow Garden foundation; we strengthened our governing organization; and we moved forward on the road to financial sustainability. With the continued development of the DBG gardens and the completion of the event buildings, DBG will indeed become a destination.

Please visit DBG soon and become a member or renew your membership. Thank you all for your continued interest and support.



Raymond J. Sander
President

Sheryl J. Swed
Executive Director



2021 Sea Witch Festival Scarecrow Show & Trail

— September & October —

DBG joined the “Scarecrow Show & Trail” with 20 other vendors located throughout Dewey Beach, Rehoboth Beach, and the surrounding area. This 9-foot Sea Witch, designed by our very creative resident artist Jan Poli, initiated DBG’s Scarecrow Trail at the Welcome Center.



NEW 2021 GARDEN STOPS

2021 was an amazing year and the first year DBG was open for the entire nine month visiting season. Piet's "Fifth" season was fantastic: The Meadow, Rhyne and Folly were beautiful, textured and artistic, while new and revitalized must-see stops throughout DBG came to be thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers.



The Piet Oudolf Meadow—not a new stop, but certainly one that is always changing with the seasons, and a must to see. We ask ourselves, how can one enhance the already magnificent “impressionist painting in the [DBG] meadow¹?” By adding 84,000 early spring-blooming bulbs scattered within the matrix design of the Meadow’s perennials and grasses, that’s how. And that’s exactly what Stephen Pryce Lea and Carol McCloud with their dedicated garden stewards did from November 4 to November 30, 2021, during our “dormant” season—in the cold, rain and Delaware wind. Such dedication was well-rewarded when the bulbs sprang to life in early spring 2022, enhancing Piet’s 5th season sleeping meadow with shows of spring color, texture and renewal. Per Stephen, “We have selected species bulbs for naturalizing. The tulipa, crocus and the muscari will all populate and increase in numbers over the years. Hopefully, in few years’ time we will have over 100,000 bulbs blooming in the meadow.”



During our three-month dormant season, we grew, regrouped and revitalized the gardens, as demonstrated by the creativity and resourcefulness of our DBG staff. Sam Cashdollar and Jeremy Cole built two more innovative structures in 2021: **The Woodland Bridge** and the **Folly Reflecting Pool**—both functional and inspiring. The Woodland Bridge enabled the opening of the entire 12 acres as a continuous loop through the Woodland Garden. New ADA-compliant access routes now run through the western woodlands from the Welcome Center, next to the previously unseen Vernal Pools and fern spans, the Point, the Knoll and up to the Folly Garden. The bridge provides a path over an area where the “river meets the sea” or in our case, the Pepper Creek saltwater intermingles at high tide with a freshwater vernal pool in the woodland. Plant communities on either side are indicative of




¹ Liz Nalle of the Inland Bays Garden Center. “The Inland Bay Gardener: Musings of a Gardener.” Special to the Coastal Point, January 6, 2022



the beautiful gardens and the wildlife that the Folly lures. Stop by and enjoy the bubbling fountain for a peaceful moment to quiet your day.

“Hot Spot” at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology E-Bird Website—DBG Board Member, Bill McAvoy, announced at the Annual Meeting that *“The DBG is recognized as a significant hot spot on the e-bird website, where people can record their bird observations. In the year 2021, 85 species of birds have been observed at the DBG. Last summer I asked entomologists from my program to visit DBG and do a survey of invertebrates in the meadow garden. ... Preliminary results show ... some very interesting and rare species.”*

DBG placed bird boxes throughout the Meadow and the Woodlands to encourage Delmarva’s native birds to establish a residence as they transition between the Garden’s many habitats. Board Member Peter Carter coordinated a partnership to enlist the carpentry skills of Sussex Technical High School students and their instructor Edward Stough, who built the bird boxes. Diane Scobey and Jennifer Rubinstein sponsored a Birdbox Fundraiser last summer where over 50 members purchased a box displaying their name. Diane also made a beautiful hand-crafted Blue Bird which is on display at the Welcome Center. While the custom boxes were built for four species: Bluebird, Wren, Downy Woodpecker and Pileated Woodpecker, a crafty Eastern Screech Owl signed a lease for a woodpecker box in Spring of 2022. You can see all of the bird species identified as visitors at DBG on the E-Bird website: [Explore Hotspots - eBird](#). 

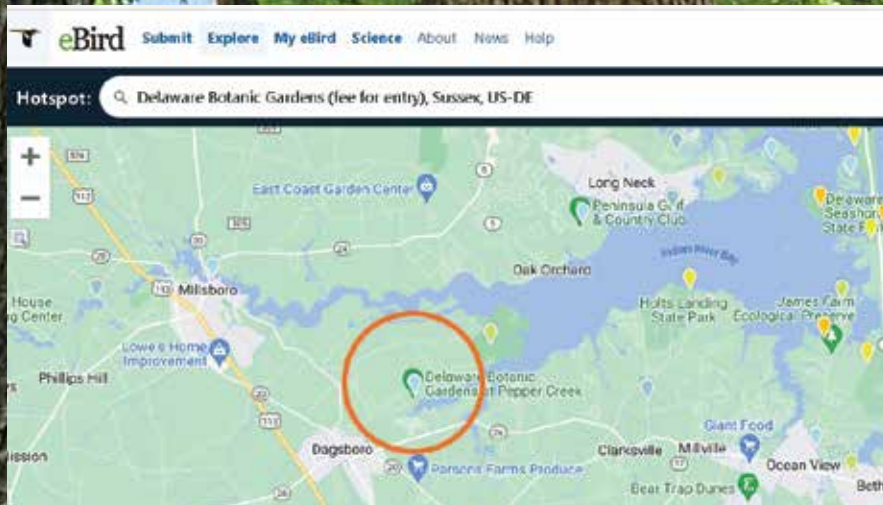
the salinity change in the water and transitional environment, making for a very interesting and educational stop along the DBG way. A whimsical wooden troll awaits unsuspecting visitors when they cross over to the other side.

Terms like ‘peace’ and ‘serenity’ are two of the most often heard terms to describe the **Folly Garden**. The Folly has become a place to be mindful of nature and provides a sense of place in the Gardens. Sam and Jeremy worked through the bitter cold winter days to build an inspiring pond for reflecting on



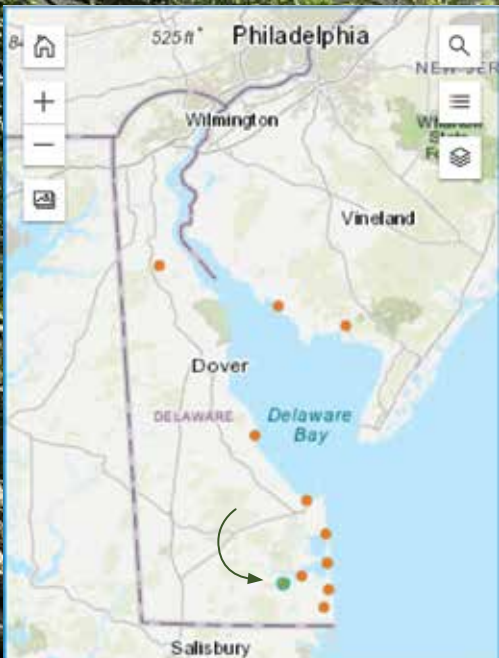
April 2021: One of two Delmarva Birding Weekends at DBG. Twenty-six Delmarva Bird Group attendees spotted 38 species of birds. They also gathered to enjoy the “perfect” binocular view from the Learning Nest.

DESTINATION



The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 'eBird' website was established to contribute to science by capturing and sharing information about birds across the world. DBG was considered a "significant" contributor to the site by recording the sightings of 85 species of birds in 2021.

DESTINATION



Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek

Living shorelines are increasingly being added to the map of structures that protect the Delaware Bay and Inland Bays edge. DBG's living shoreline was added to the map in 2021.



MONITORING ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

In 2021, our gardens planted in Phase 1 of the Master Plan had matured to the point where DBG could begin fulfilling its research and education goals by monitoring plant community success. It was a year to identify how the gardens were meeting their sustainability expectations, whether it be for shoreline erosion control, carbon sequestration, or stormwater management. Research programs were put in place to begin to analyze the results.

The Living Shoreline Takes Hold—As a requirement of the Community Water Quality Improvement Grant, the Center for the Inland Bays (CIB) monitored the 2020-built Living Shoreline for restoration success: salt marsh plant growth, sediment accretion, and the “anchored branch toe (ABT)” structural durability. Findings in 2021 indicate that the ABT is operating as expected.

We're seeing the fruits of our labor: a sound anchored branch toe structure that weathered 2021 winter storms and tidal surges; the beginnings of sediment depositing behind the ABT; and healthy new salt meadow and saltmarsh cord grasses that will support a viable marshland.

Per Dr. Marianne Walch, CIB Director of Estuary Science and Restoration and DBG Advisory Council member, there is also a vibrant population of aquatic and terrestrial creatures that use the restored wetland habitat. CIB's Diamondback Terrapin Survey volunteers recorded a population of 30 turtles using the site daily. They found that the ABT structure not only stabilizes the shoreline, but is also providing food and protective habitat for blue crabs and juvenile fish.

As mitigation for construction and roadwork that removes wetland areas, DelDOT will stabilize the remaining 700' of the DBG Pepper Creek shoreline edge in 2022. The conceptual plan developed in 2021 shows a natural “rock sill” with habitat-connecting openings and planted sand to restore the low marsh to its 1920 location. The rock sill structure is considered a “hybrid” living shoreline and, as designed, provides the same environmental benefits as the traditional type.

DBG promoted environmental stewardship by monitoring the Gardens' resilience to climate change and by installing and demonstrating green technology solutions for home or business use. With more extremes in temperature variation and greater intensity in storm patterns, DBG is becoming a place where its diverse, native plant communities and their associated coastal habitats can be monitored for adaptability, resilience, or resistance to climate change. It has become a place where “educating by example” is blooming along with the flowers.

Board Member Bill McAvoy, along with a group of Master Naturalists, set up random plots in the woodlands to collect tree data. They measured tree trunk diameters, heights of trees, and checked the health of the trees. The data were entered into a software program that estimates the amount of carbon dioxide that the forest is sequestering through photosynthesis and how much carbon the forest is currently storing overall.

The result: the DBG Woodland Garden is sequestering 58 tons of carbon dioxide and storing 400 tons of carbon. Bill explained that on average one broadleaf deciduous tree will absorb one ton of carbon throughout its lifetime. As the forest matures and trees grow larger, their capacity to sequester and store carbon becomes greater. Globally about 40 billion tons of carbon dioxide is put into the atmosphere each year through human activities, so the 12-acre woodland at DBG is doing its small part in helping to slow global warming.

2021 saw the sponsorship and planting of more trees throughout the Gardens further extending the Garden's tree canopy for the purpose of adapting to climate change. An Oak Grove of 105 deciduous trees, of which 80 were oaks, was planted north of the hoop houses along the service road. Also, the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs sponsored the purchase of 31 flowering trees through their “TREE-mendous Program”. These trees were planted in the Edge Gardens and in a newly created “Magnolia Grove” near one of the Woodland's vernal pools. Just think, another 136 trees in the Gardens to lessen the impacts of global warming!

Partnering with the Electric Vehicle Institute (EVI), DBG took the initiative to install two electric vehicle charger stations in the guest parking lot. Guests can now use green energy to charge their vehicles while visiting.

Installing gardens that incorporate Green Infrastructure elements have allowed DBG to

The TEDI and the Tree-mendous Programs provide the means for DBG to support the State of Delaware's environmental goals for reforestation to reduce global warming. DBG's new tree contributions in the Magnolia Grove, the Oak Grove and the Rhyne with its Brandywine red maple trees join other Delaware contributors on the map who promote reforestation.



Lisa Arni of the Tree-mendous Program with Stephen Pryce Lea.



A Tree-Planting Partnership

The **Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative** is a partnership that includes the Urban and Community Forestry (UFC) programs in the Department of Agriculture's Delaware Forest Service, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy and other stakeholders.

expand its 2021 environmental education program with models of best practices in stormwater management. One might even call DBG a “one-stop” shop to view multiple ways in which our communities can naturally improve stormwater control. The highly functional Rhyne Garden Conveyance (photo below) and the in-progress Green Technology rain collection and redistribution

devices of the state-of-the-art restroom facility serve as models for sustainability. Funding for the plantings and green technology equipment was made possible by Nonpoint Source Program grants from DNREC. The effectiveness of our ‘educating by example’ programs will be measured as we implement our green technology knowledge transfer survey in 2022. 🐦





Sussex County Land Trust Board Meeting at the Learning Garden.


STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATION

In order to have the successful year 2021 brought us in growing the Gardens, there had to be a locally respected organization behind it, as well as reliable and sustainable financial sources to fund it. As the Gardens matured, so did the DBG organization and its funding base.

Expanding the Organization—Delaware is described as a “Big, Small Town²” where “distance [is measured] not in miles, but time.” DBG is only an hour or so from most places on the Delmarva peninsula, but awareness of its presence was limited through 2020. The ‘WOW factor’ Piet Oudolf Meadow did its job to bring our first visitors to the Gardens, but DBG needed a recurring base of regional customers to reach financial sustainability. To reach this goal, DBG expanded its organization by attracting more of the region’s academia, science, and business professionals to its Board, Advisory Council, and Management Team. DBG added 7 new Board members, 1 Advisory Council Member, and 3 new staff members, shown on page 12. With their additional talent and guidance to the governing organization, DBG reinforces its commitment to building Gardens rich in the region’s character and culture.

Stephen Pryce Lea—DBG’s new Director of Horticulture joined the staff on March 8, 2021

and has been on a fast track getting to know the Gardens, other staff members and our volunteers. He selected and designed the placement of the 84,000 spring bulbs for the Meadow in a style compatible with Piet Oudolf’s matrix design. He also engaged with supporters and volunteers by beginning a seasonal Gardening for Wildlife Program and managing several of our State water quality improvement grants. Stephen has created a wonderful stop in Instagram every morning with his posts of the Gardens happenings. He has a superb eye for natural beauty and makes sure that no one misses plants of the 5th Season in the eerie, frosty, and foggy mornings on the Meadow’s moors.

Embracing the Community—The DBG Organization would be nonexistent without the support of its volunteers. It is one of the newest public gardens in the United States, and one of the very few where volunteers perform the full range of gardening, administrative, and management tasks, as well as supporting our staff in day-to-day operations. Gov. John Carney saluted the role of the DBG volunteers, presenting a **Governor’s 2021 Outstanding Volunteer Service Award** to our multi-talented volunteers. This award honors those who made a “positive impact in their communities or across the state through service and volunteering.” DBG is very proud of the thousands of hours that our volunteers and Carol McCloud, DBG Vice President and Director of Volunteers, have donated. “Without their time, energy, and dedication, there would be no beautiful gardens in Sussex County for the community to visit and enjoy” (Ray Sander, DBG President.) 

² Kristin Norton, “10 Delaware Stereotypes That Are Completely Accurate”, In Stereotypes.



ADDITIONS TO THE DBG TEAM

DBG Team Reflects Delaware's Business, Scientific, and Academic Community



David Baker



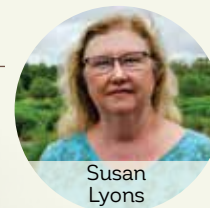
Stephen Pryce Lea



Alison Willocks

New DBG Board of Directors

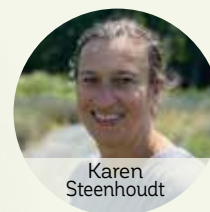
- **David Baker:** DBG Treasurer; former Sussex County Administrator (retired) (President Biden appointee, January 2022)
- **Todd Fritchman:** CEO of Envirotech Environmental Consulting
- **Susan Lyons:** Publisher of the Coastal Point
- **Ryan Revel:** Science Teacher at Sussex Central High School
- **Samuel Seo:** Urban Forester, Horticulturist, and Educator
- **Karen Steenhoudt:** Landscape Designer-Architect
- **Alison Willocks:** Financial and Business Consultant, former accountant for the National Parks Service



Susan Lyons



Jane Hines



Karen Steenhoudt

New DBG Advisory Council

- **Dr. Marianne Walch:** Director, Estuary Science and Restoration, Delaware Center for the Inland Bays



Samuel Seo



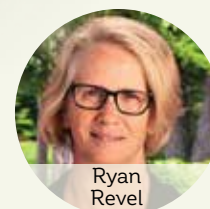
Todd Fritchman

New DBG Staff

- **Jane Hines:** DBG Financial Manager; former accountant for Joshua & Carl M. Foundations
- **Stephen Pryce Lea:** DBG Director of Horticulture; former Director of Garden Operations, Philadelphia Zoological Gardens
- **Craig Sims:** Director of Development (through December 2021)



Craig Sims



Ryan Revel



Dr. Marianne Walch



ON THE ROAD TO FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

As a nonprofit, DBG must rely on the generosity of many individuals and organizations to become financially sustainable.

Along with increased membership and our annual garden events, several initiatives solidified 2021 revenue with contributions from our State legislators and agencies, foundations, partners, naming rights sponsors, and purchasers of DBG memorabilia and inscribed benches. At the end of 2021, our financial position was the strongest it has ever been, giving us the opportunity to start 2022 one step closer to financial sustainability. We thank our development consultants - Cam and Kathy Yorkston, our volunteer grant writers, and all of our contributors for enabling this banner year.

Sponsors of note in 2021:

- Foundations: **Ellice & Rosa McDonald Foundation; The Welfare Foundation**
- Naming: **Mary & George Hessler**, West Woodland Edge Garden
- Naming: **Sally Gore & Peg Emerson**, The Learning Nest
- Naming: **Barbara Peters**, The Point
- Grants: **DNREC**, 'Protecting Water Quality of DBG Natural Resources with Green Technologies'
- Government: **Delaware General Assembly** Joint Committee on Capital Improvement (Bond Bill)
- Contributing Partners: **SEA Studio Architects (SEA); Coastal Plant Care**

Increasing the Capacity to Support the Public: Working toward financial sustainability, 2021 brought about the design and implementation of critical infrastructure that will make it possible to support a larger population of visitors to DBG and extend the visiting season. SEA Studio Architects

designed two very important structures: a state-of-the-art Restroom Facility and the Annette Pennoni Meadow Pavilion. 2021 brought Sussex County sewer connectivity to the DBG site enabling construction of the restrooms. Construction began in late autumn, with placement of the building's frame and foundation like a puzzle piece in the Woodlands' edge. Aptly, SEA's design called for a woodland-compatible rustic cedar outside, with a wonderous ultramodern restroom inside. Per Scott Edmonston, President and Principal Architect of SEA, "The [Annette Pennoni Meadow] Pavilion will be...a net zero sustainable building...[with] solar panels to provide the energy [used] in the building. A large Great Hall can be sub-divided into smaller spaces, [providing] a year-round - all weather place for events and rental opportunity for meetings, weddings, etc." Both of these structures will



Mary & George Hessler




Sally Gore & Peg Emerson



Barbara Peters

facilitate tourism, social events, business meetings and educational programs previously unavailable at DBG. We are looking forward to welcoming school and tour buses bringing their fares to enjoy the DBG artistry.

Maturation of the Gardens, enabled by expansion of our governing organization and its supporting financial base, led to DBG becoming a destination on the map in 2021, maybe only an hour's distance away from most. To us, it's a 'big deal' to be on the map. We are happy to be a road stop along the way, happy to be a destination of inspiration and education, and thankful to those who are making it so. 



VALUED VOLUNTEERS

DBG VOLUNTEER TRENDS

120,571
TOTAL HOURS
2016-2021
\$3.1 MILLION VALUE

19,716
TOTAL HOURS
2021
\$500,392 VALUE

GARDEN STEWARDS & DOCENTS VOLUNTEER STATISTICS FOR 2021

105
VOLUNTEERS

21
VOLUNTEERS
"IN THE WINGS"

7,500
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$190,350
VALUE

27
PRE-BOOKED TOURS

GARDEN STEWARDS

Akhter, Jeanette
Barretto, Paul
Bass, Ron
Belano, Alex
Broomfield, Tony
Brouillard, Damien
Buono, Donna
Bushong, Marjorie
Caro, Lauren
Carroll, Jane
Cousineau, Violette
Cowan, Jeannette
Csicsek, Jack
Daugherty, Jerry
Dean-Pratt, Bridget
Dennis, Peggy
Donhauser, Carol
Dubowe, Gail
Dudley, Belinda
Dudley, Karen
Ferguson, Les
Filliaggi, Antoinette
Franklin, Laura
Gaulding, Carol
Gilbert, Barry
Grodman, Pam
Haggerty, Craig
Hall, Mary
Halteman, Judy
Hammond, George
Healey, Jamie
Hitz, Bill
Hopmans, Nancy
Jackson, Mary Ann
Johnson, Jeff
Kelley, Bill
Kelley, Kate
Kelly, Theresa
Kimmel, Margaret
Klima, Don
Lesperance, Kathy
Licinski, Ben
Licinski, Falon
Maggio, Claudine
Marshall, James

Marshall, Judith
Martin, Judy
McCloud, Carol
McGarry, Eileen
McGrellis, Andy
McNamee, Bonnie
Miller, Maureen
Millet, Cheryl
Mills, Beth
Morano, Maureen
Moses, Julie
Moussa, Suzanne
Nowell, Karen
Oberkofler, John
Oberkofler, Linda
O'Hare, Sharyn
Osterdale, Ann
Palmerino, Ed
Peters, Jane
Phinney, Angela
Polcino, Holly
Poli, Jan-Marie
Precht, Tricia
Quirk, Cheryl
Ravida, Peggie
Rives, Elizabeth
Rogers, Faith
Rondeau, Tom
Saville, Garland
Scarangella, Sally
Schaab, Angela
Schaab, Kurt
Schoch, Sandy
Schoch, Tony
Sellmayer, Kate
Shaughnessy, Scott
Sherlock, Maureen
Shields, Maria
Shuck, Carl
Spencer, Cynthia
Steenhoudt, Karen
Stewart, Liz
Stokes, Gary
Stokes, Jane
Townsend, Maria
Truitt, Tammy

Vane, Carolyn
Weissman, Barry
Wells, Gwenn
West, Anne
Willocks, Alison
Wisniewski, Bob
Wisniewski, C.B. (Carolyn)
Wisniewski, Rob
Witting, Olga
Yori, James

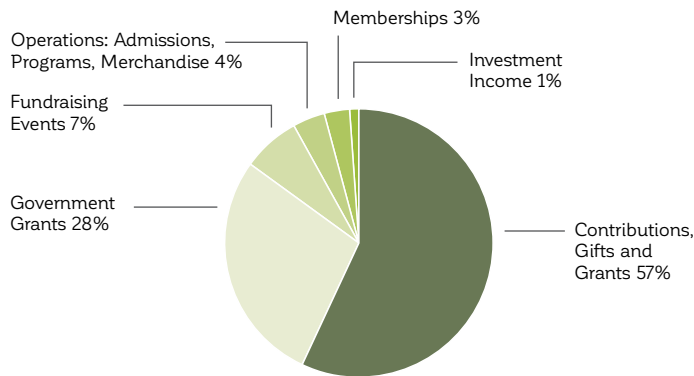
DOCENTS

McCloud, Carol
Buono, Donna
Carroll, Jane
Colombo, Diane
Cowan, Jeannette
Easton, Lorraine
Haggerty, Craig
Hall, Mary
Kimmel, Margaret
Lesperance, Kathy
Long, Pat
Marshall, Jim
Martin, Judy
Phinney, Angela
Precht, Tricia
Quirk, Cheryl
Ravida, Peggie
Rives, Elizabeth
Scarangella, Sally
Schaab, Angela
Schaab, Kurt
Sherwin, Diann
Simeral, Jill
Somers, Carole
Stokes, Gary
Stokes, Jane
Willocks, Alison
Weissman, Barry
Yerkes, Jacqui

TOUR GUIDES

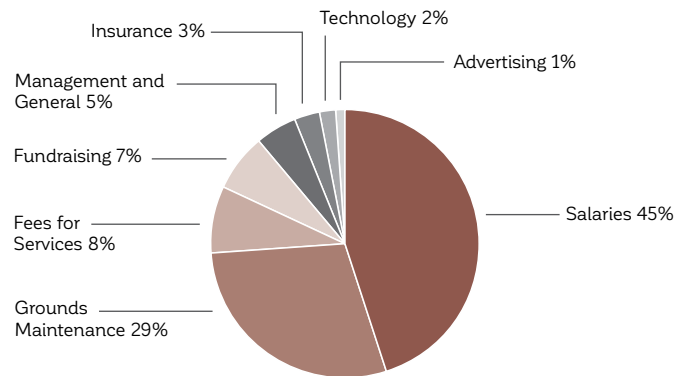
McCloud, Carol
Kimmel, Margaret
Lea, Stephen Pryce
Rives, Elizabeth
Stokes, Gary

DBG CAPITAL AND OPERATING INCOME
2021 Income Total \$1,588,000



Source: IRS form 990 Part VIII Statement of Revenue

DBG CAPITAL AND OPERATING EXPENSES
2021 Expenditures Total \$515,000



Source: IRS form 990 Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses, net of depreciation as a non-cash expense.

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL PROJECT WORK IN 2021

Projects Completed:

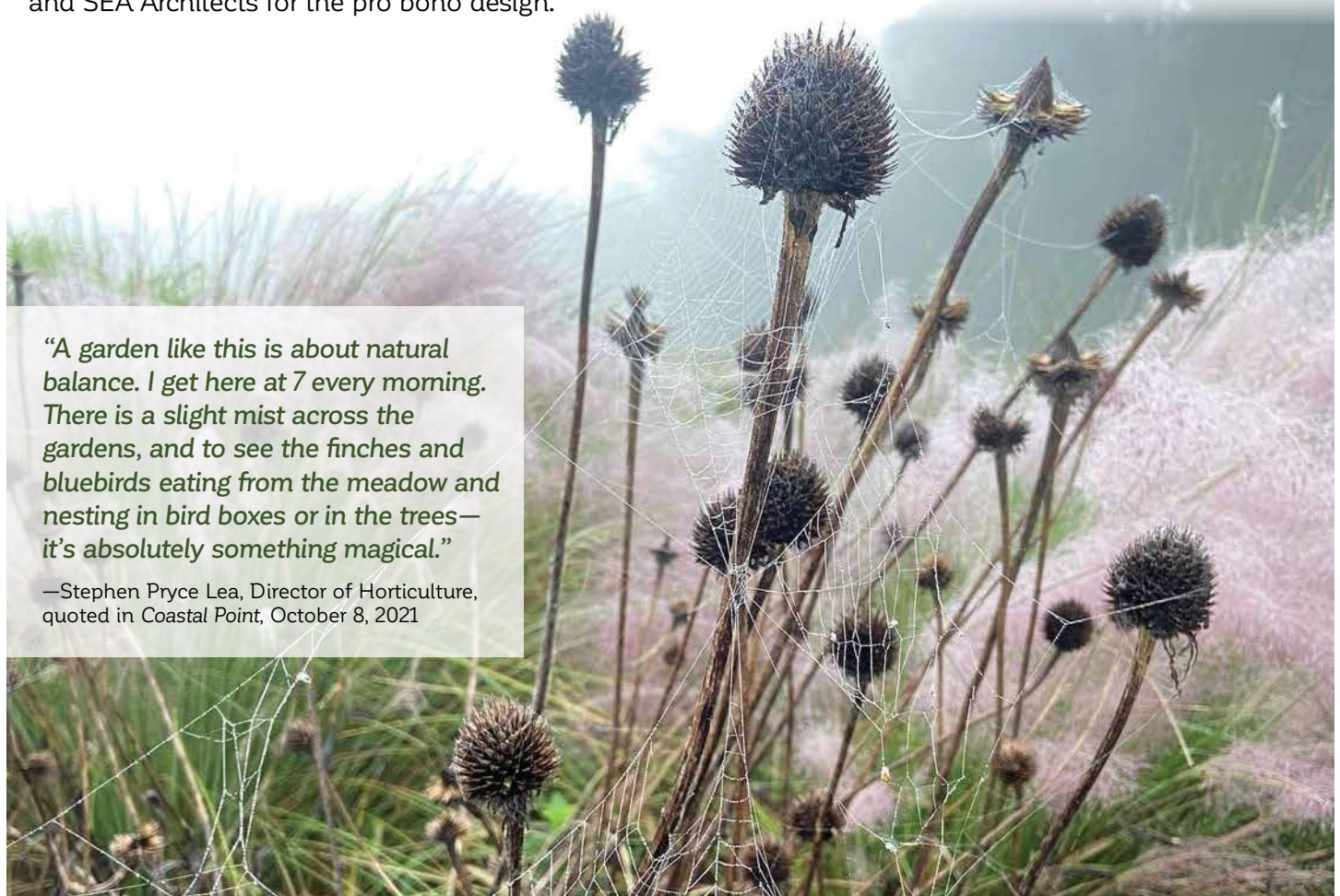
- Rhyne Garden stormwater management project (BMP—best management practices) – thank you to DNREC for their project funding

Projects Underway:

- Permanent Restrooms: Construction began in 2021 for our ADA accessible, environmentally sustainable restrooms—Thanks to generous funding from the Ellice & Rosa McDonald Foundation, State of DE Bond Bill, the Crystal Trust, the Marmot Foundation, DNREC for restroom-related Green Technologies (Living Wall and Rain Garden) and SEA Architects for the pro bono design.

Funding Received:

- The Annette Pennoni Meadow Pavilion; construction targeted to begin in 2022/2023 – with thanks to Pennoni, the Welfare Foundation, the Crystal Trust, the Ellice & Rosa McDonald Foundation.
- The Staff and Volunteer/Staff Building; construction to begin in 2022 – Thank you to the State of DE for Bond Bill funding in 2021.
- The purchase of golf carts—Thanks to Sheryl Swed and Ray Sander.



“A garden like this is about natural balance. I get here at 7 every morning. There is a slight mist across the gardens, and to see the finches and bluebirds eating from the meadow and nesting in bird boxes or in the trees—it’s absolutely something magical.”

—Stephen Pryce Lea, Director of Horticulture, quoted in Coastal Point, October 8, 2021

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

AWARDS

Governors 2021 Outstanding Volunteer Service Award

EVENTS

Season Opening Day & Restroom Pavilion Ribbon Cutting (3/17/2021)

DESTINATION

Delaware 'Discoveries Trail' Mural Painting (March 2021)



As the new 11th stop on the Delaware Discoveries Trail Map, DBG, in partnership with the Delaware Tourism Office, added our first botanic artistry to the Gardens.

Frolic in the Folly (4/16/2021)

Bird Box Campaign (April–December 2021)

Bench Fund Raiser (April–December 2021)

Volunteer Appreciation Day (4/29/2021)

Governor John Carney's Visit (5/7/2021)

Sip & Saunter (6/16/2021)

Virtual Annual Dinner (9/23/2021)

Volunteer Appreciation Day (10/13/2021)

Fall Harvest (October 14–November 14, 2021)

Sussex County Land Trust Board Meeting (10/20/2021)

Sea Witch Festival & Scarecrow Trail (October 29–31, 2021)

Season Closing Day (11/14/2021)

Annual Public Meeting (12/07/2021)

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Point-of-Sales (POS) Training (3/16/2021)

Piet Oudolf Story Workshop (3/8/2021)

"Butterfly Thursday" Workshops (July–August 2021)



Tree Identification Training (8/18/2021)

Director of Horticulture "Fall Gardening for Wildlife" Tours (October–November 2021)

PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Earth Day 'Free Day' with Food Donations (4/22/2021)*

Mother's Day 'Free Day' with Food Donations (5/9/2021)*

APGA Conference & Video Presentation (June 6–10, 2021)



- COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic (7/22/2021)
- Gallery One DBG Paintings Show (July–August 2021)
- “Fall Native Plant Container” Workshop at Inland Bays Garden Center Demo (9/20/2021)
- Dagsboro Days’ Night Out (10/5/2021)
- Delaware Resorts 55+ Expo (11/5/2021)
- Veterans Day ‘Free Day’ with Food Donations (11/11/2021)*

*Donations to Food Bank of Delaware.

PREARRANGED AND PUBLIC TOURS

- Salt Air Gardeners Club (4/15/2021)
- Delaware Tech Community College (4/26/2021)
- Delmarva Birding Group (4/26/2021)
- Jewish Family Services of Delaware (4/30/2021)
- Girl Scout Troup, Lewes, DE (5/1/2021)
- Lord Baltimore Women’s Club (5/6/2021)
- Salt Pond Women’s Club (5/13/2021)
- Riding Travel Club of Lewes (5/20/2021)
- Four Seasons Gardeners of Heritage Shores (5/21/2021)
- The Refuge (5/27/2021)
- Coastal Gardeners Club (6/3/2021)
- Philanthropic Education Organization PEO (6/3/2021)
- Nobles Pond Ladybug Garden Club (6/10/2021)
- Millsboro Garden Club (6/11/2021)
- Laura Hammond Tour (6/17/2021)
- Master Gardeners of Harrisburg, PA (6/25/2021)
- Lower Shore Land Trust (7/1/2021)
- Bayside Institute (7/9/2021)
- APGA American Public Gardens Assoc. (7/18/2021)
- St. Martha’s Episcopal Church (7/22/2021)

- Joanne Murphy Tour (8/10/2021)
- Windhurst HOA Tour (8/19/2021)
- Master Gardeners of Eastern Shore VA Chapter (8/26/2021)
- UD Landscape Architecture Program (Students & Faculty) (8/28/2021)
- Lewes Beekeeping Club (9/11/2021)
- Kings Creek Garden Club (9/13/2021)
- The Camera Club (9/26-27/2021)
- West Chester Garden Club (9/30/2021)
- St. Martha’s Episcopal Church (10/1/2021)
- Sussex Gardeners Club (10/7/2021)
- Zwaanendael Women’s Club (10/14/2021)
- Delmarva Birding Group (10/18/2021)
- Sussex Land Trust (10/20/2021)
- CHEER Coastal Leisure Center (11/5/2021)



PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA OUTREACH

- Wall Street Journal, “Travel” (7/24/2021)
- Delaware Today, Best Place in Delaware (downstate) to “Experience Nature” (7/29/2021)
- WRDE-TV “Butterfly Thursdays” (7/29/2021)
- WRDE-TV “Seymore of Delmarva” (9/8/2021)
- WRDE-TV “Sea Witch Festival” (10/14/2021)
- Sixteen (16) News Releases to 67 media organizations
- Social Media: Instagram and Facebook
- Garden Snips: DBG biweekly electronic publication (1st Issue February 2021)

FUNDS RAISED

The following donors made gifts from January 1 through December 31, 2021, through Annual Giving, Capital Campaign, In Kind Giving, and Matching Gifts/Sponsorships from Special Events. The Delaware Botanic Gardens strives to insure all names and giving levels are correct. If you believe there is an error, please contact DBG at your convenience.

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as DBG grows and evolves...

- Join over 500 others as a member of the Gardens
- Give a DBG gift membership or schedule a tour for your organization
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- Sponsor a garden entity and receive naming rights for that feature



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2021 Annual Report: Carol Bason (Writer/Editor);
Joanne Shipley (Graphic Design); Ray Bojarski, Carol Bason,
Stephen Pryce Lea (Photography)

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Photographer & Certified Drone Pilot*
Heidi J. A. Gilmore, *Legal Advisor*