Dear Friends of Holden Forests & Gardens,

In this issue of Forests & Gardens magazine, there is a common thread of persistence in pursuit of celebrating the natural world around us. Nature requires us to be patient, and the rewards are worth the wait as you’ll see in multiple stories.

The Western Reserve Herb Society and Cleveland Botanical Garden celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Herb Garden this year. The Herb Society’s approach to the garden is as relevant today as it was at its founding 50 years ago. It is community-based, with society members tending to the plants in the garden and creating a space of beauty and calm. It is a teaching garden, engaging visitors through informal conversations, informative signage and publications about herbs, history and horticulture. It is a sustainable garden that is cared for with a commitment to following the lead of nature with earth-friendly practices. It is a giving garden that creates products to share and support continued garden investment. Most of all, though, I am humbled by the passion and joy of the society members in relation to the Botanical Garden and with one another that have persisted over time.

Roger Getzig, director of collections, tells the story of trees that persist in some of the most challenging conditions. In these trees, we witness adaptation that makes one pause and be inspired by the wonder of the natural world. Steve Hribb tells his work as Station Director at the David G. Leach Research Station and a patent awarded to a rhododendron hybrid developed for southern climates. From start to finish the development of the new hybrid took more than 10 years of persistence. We are privileged to be in a position at Holden Forests & Gardens to make long-term investments to advance the mission through our plant collections, science and research programs, and all aspects of the organization entrusted to our care.

Working with our dedicated Board of Directors, we are developing a new strategic plan for Holden Forests & Gardens. The planning process has included outreach and engagement of community leaders, members, staff and volunteers. We are building on a rich legacy, and we are dedicated to creating a sustainable future that benefits the people and communities of Northeast Ohio and beyond.

We look forward to sharing the strategic framework for our future with you early next year.

You make a difference through your support. Thank you for your part in shaping and enabling our work!

With gratitude,

JILL KOSKI
President and CEO

GREETINGS!

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

FEATURES

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN ........................................................................... 3

HEAT TOLERANT RHODODENDRON RECEIVES PATENT AND HITS THE CONSUMER MARKET ................................................................ 4

FIFTY YEARS OF GROWING Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Western Reserve Herb Society Herb Garden ......................................................... 6

OVERCOMING THE ODDS

10 Trees That Are Thriving Despite Injuries and Less Than Optimal Conditions .......................................................................................... 12

SPEAKING TO THE DEAD

Scientists at Holden Forests & Gardens and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History are Using Ancient Plant Collections For Current Research .............................................................................. 14

DEPARTMENTS

BIRD BIO

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Regulus satrapa ........................................................................... 8

PLANT PROFILE

Pawpaw – Asimina triloba ........................................................................... 9

DEVELOPMENT

Cleveland’s Fleet Response Helped Make Summer Exhibit a Reality .................................................................................. 10

VOLUNTEERS

Celebrating 20 Years in the Hershey Children’s Garden with Joan Bania ........................................................................... 11

Visitors to the Kalberer Family Emergent Tower discover how a plant’s stomata work.

Holden Forests & Gardens

In this issue of Forests & Gardens magazine, there is a common thread of persistence in pursuit of celebrating the natural world around us.
A U.S. plant patent was recently awarded to a rhododendron hybrid that was developed at the Holden Arboretum. Patent No. 30,235 describes the ornamental attributes and novel adaptive traits of the cultivar ‘Holden52’, which was selected for its beauty, heat tolerance, and disease resistance.

The first outcome of this collaboration is the patented cultivar ‘Holden52’, which is being marketed and distributed by PDSI under the tradename Splendor™. The plant blooms during mid-May in Ohio (late March in Louisiana) and has rose-pink flowers with attractive patterning— purple fuscous nectary gland on the upper petal lobe and white petal midrib contrasting with the pink. The backs of the petals are more deeply pigmented than the faces, resulting in a bicolar appearance. The plant has dark, glossy foliage and a mounded growth habit, which is wider than tall. The patent description notes its resistance to *Phytophthora* root rot as well as its broad climatic range, from USDA hardiness zones 5 to 9.

A patent serves to prevent an invention from being copied or used without agreement from the patent owner(s) over a set period—20 years for most plant patents. The Holden Arboretum has a licensing agreement with PDSI to produce, market, distribute and assess a royalties fee on this plant. Rhododendron Splendor™ is included in the Southern Living Plant Collection™, a well-known brand in the South. A patent on a plant means that the garden public feels as excited about Splendor™ as we do.

The new rhododendron is available through the Southern Living Plant Collection and carried by many garden stores.
There is something comforting about an herb garden. Perhaps because herbs evoke warm memories of meals prepared in family kitchens. Or perhaps because herbs are so closely tied to our history, reminding us that in the past, herbal remedies eased people’s suffering and natural dyes colored their world.

For 50 years, the Western Reserve Herb Society (WRHS) has welcomed visitors into that comforting world filled with the scents, textures, colors and history of herbs, carefully tending the Herb Garden on the Botanical Garden’s campus. That garden, which officially opened on Sept. 5, 1969, represents a long-term partnership between the WRHS and the Botanical Garden, which continues to flourish today with Holden Forests & Gardens.

The garden was designed by WRHS Garden Chair Elsetta Gilchrist Barnes, ASLA, and construction on the new garden started in March 1969. When the $5,000 allotted by the WRHS members proved to be too small to complete the project, its members moved forward with determination. The group incorporated as a non-profit entity, and Katherine Patch utilized her fundraising skills to secure $32,000 in donations for the project. Barnes scoured the countrywide searching for stones that could be donated to create garden features, including dozens of millstones that helped form the central knot garden beds and other garden features.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the garden, the WRHS planned a year-long celebration, which kicked off in January with an event honoring past Herb Garden chairs who have overseen the planning and planting of the garden each season. In May, the annual meeting included a celebration of the entire garden and other months have been dedicated to the nine sections of the garden.

“The grand plan was for every month to honor one of the sections of the garden, including the terrace, trail and cutting, culinary, medicinal, fragrance, dye, edible flowers, the historic rose gardens and the iconic knot garden,” said Bobbi Henkel, who is one of three chairs of the Herb Garden.

Kris Webster and Helen Webster work on the beds in the cutting garden that are designed to resemble a quilt. The time and resources the organization puts into the garden is just one aspect of their support of Holden Forests & Gardens.

The group will wrap up its year-long celebration with a Holiday Tea in December, where the Trowel and Clipper awards will be presented to members who have made special contributions to the Herb Garden in 2019.

The passionate commitment to the garden is displayed by the 105 active members of the Herb Society who spend about 2,000 hours a year working in the gardens on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In total, the group dedicates about 10,000 hours a year to the study and promotion of the growing of herbs and their uses.

“We’re bound by a love of herbs,” said Beth Schreibman Gehring, the WRHS’s public relations and education chairperson. “We’re all herbalists in our own way. There are women in this group who paint herbs or who are culinary masters. We have crafters. Every single person who works in that garden is there because they love that garden.”

“This is a working group, and it all revolves around education,” Gehring said. “Our mission is really to teach people about the uses of herbs. We spend a lot of time together and have become a huge family. We spend a lot of time teaching each other.”

The primary beneficiaries of this labor of love are visitors to the Botanical Garden. Anyone strolling into the garden while the WRHS members are at work will find willing teachers, eager to answer questions about the herbs, or share information on the plants, growing practices and the history encompassed within the garden’s beds.

“The Herb Garden is a community-connected teaching garden following the lead of nature and founded in the relationship of gardens to people and people to one another,” said Jill Koski, president and CEO of Holden Forests & Gardens. “Ultimately, it is a giving garden. I am humbled by the passion and joy that the society members so generously give year after year.”

The group also enjoys the long-term partnership with the Cleveland Botanical Garden, which has evolved from the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland into the Cleveland Botanical Garden, and most recently becoming a part of Holden Forests & Gardens in 2014. Horticulturist Robin Johanns and a volunteer, Richard Behrens, have provided the group with horticulture support and keep an eye on the garden when members aren’t on site to tend it.

“We also thrive to find that Holden Forests & Gardens President and CEO Jill Koski understand both the value of the garden and the values of the WRHS,” Henkel said. “She got that we are not just nurturing plants, we’re nurturing each other,” she said. “Beyond caring about each other, we care about the community and every little microbe in the soil that is doing its part to make this world a better place.”

Learn more about the Western Reserve Herb Society Herb Garden and herbs at the 7th Annual Herb Fair on Oct. 12 from 10am – 3pm, featuring interactive herb tales and tours by WRHS members, and a wide selection of handcrafted items for sale, including tussie mussies, herbal teas, jams & jellies, culinary seasonings, wreaths & dried arrangements, potpourri, delicious baked goods & confections.

FALL 2019  7

FORESTS & GARDENS

FEATURE

Fifty Seasons of Growing: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Western Reserve Herb Society Herb Garden

Cait Anastis, Editor

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Golden-crowned Kinglet
Regulus satrapa
By Rebecca Thompson, Manager of Academic Programs

BIRD BIO

WINGSPAN:

DESCRIPTION:
Pale olive above and gray

They will eat a small number of seeds when insects are sparse.

The largest tree measured 44 feet tall with a
trunk diameter (DBH) of 10.4 inches in 2016.

This species has no significant insect or
disease problems and is resistant to deer
browses. Because it is tap-rooted in the moist,
well-drained soils where it grows naturally, container-grown plants are recommended, although at least one Ohio nursery has

BEST LOCATION TO VIEW:
At the Arboretum, look for golden-crowned kinglets along the Woodland and Old Valley Trails. At the Botanical Garden, watch for them in the Woodland Garden.

Pawpaw
Asimina triloba
By Ethan Johnson, Plant Records Curator

In 2009, the fruit of the pawpaw tree became
Ohio's official native fruit, joining the scarlet
carnation, the state's flower; the white
triumphant, the state's flower and tomatoes, the
state fruit as symbols of the Buckeye State.

In the plant profile:

LIGHT:
Part shade to full sun, will persist
in mostly shaded areas

SOIL TYPE:
Seasonally wet to moist,
acidic to neutral pH

MATURE SIZE:
25-30' or more

BEST LOCATION:
USDA Zones 5b–8a

SOURCE:
Mail order, via a landscaper,
or ask your local garden center if they

In home landscapes, pawpaw trees are useful
for screening or occasionally as a specimen.
They eventually form colonies from root suckers, which should be removed if a single-trunked specimen is desired. Its leaves turn yellow with crimson-colored tingeing in fall. During summer, the large, 6-12' long droopy leaves are easily distinguished from other native plants. The leaves unfold throughout May along with the beard- and fly-pollinated field, lurid purple flowers.

The golden-crowned kinglet is a small, efﬁcient, insectivorous passerine. It will eat a small number of seeds when insects are sparse.

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Soil profile

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Cleveland’s Fleet Response Helped Make Summer Exhibit a Reality

Special thanks to our Woodland Express presenting sponsor, Fleet Response. Fleet Response provides claims management, accident management, driver safety training, subrogation and other high value services to a variety of clients. They provide flexibility, allowing clients to customize processes, programs and reporting, visibility and accountability. This family-owned company was founded by Ron Mawaka Sr. in Cleveland in 1986. More than 150 employees provide support for accident, maintenance, and safety programs.

Under the leadership of CEO and President, Scott Mawaka, the company has been named a Plain Dealer and Ohio Business Magazine Top Workplace and featured as a growing firm in Crain’s Cleveland Business.

If you are interested in sponsoring a Holden Forests & Gardens exhibit or event, contact Samantha Lengel, director of corporate and foundation giving, at 216.707.2605.

Harvest Moon
A Benefit Event for Holden Forests & Gardens

Friday, Sept. 20, 2019, 7pm
Cleveland Botanical Garden – Geis Terrace
Make your reservation at cbgarden.org/support/harvest-moon.aspx. Capacity is limited, so make your reservation today.
Enjoy a five-course dinner prepared by Cleveland’s top chefs — Ben Bebenroth (Spice Kitchen + Bar), Chris Hodgson (Driftwood Group), Cory Kobrinski (Astoria Cafe & Maritime), Chris News (Cleveland Botanical Garden’s Ben Appetit) and Bridget Thibeault (Luna Bakery & Cafe) — featuring Green Corps produce.
Experience elegant, farm-style seating on the Geis Terrace, with live music and locally brewed beer. A VIP reception will kick off the evening for sponsors and their guests.
Proceeds will support Green Corps, HF&G’s urban agricultural work-study program for high school teens, which teaches them leadership and communication skills while helping to bring fresh produce into inner-city neighborhoods where access to produce may be limited.

Celebrate 20 Years in the Hershey Children’s Garden with Joan Bania

A volunteer that has been there for almost all of them

By Sarah Hartley, Volunteer Coordinator

This year marks the 20th birthday of Hershey Children’s Garden, which opened in 1999. The following year, Joan Bania started volunteering in the garden, helping with the gardening and special events, such as the annual Egg Hunt and Bootanical Bash.

If I must choose my most memorable experience, I would have to say that it would be during the season in which we grew purple dragon carrots, bunny tail radishes, chocolate mint and a giant pumpkin that we called, “The Great Pumpkin.” It was a joy to grow some things in the Children’s Garden that were a little out of the ordinary, and that sparked the interest of young and old alike! The children that visited the Hershey Children’s Garden that season were astounded to learn that a carrot could grow and be purple instead of the usual orange color. They were also astounded to learn that a pumpkin can grow to be enormous size! It is fun and a challenge indeed to see how tall a plant can grow, or how large a fruit or vegetable can develop to be.

What is your favorite feature of the Children’s Garden? Why?

A: My favorite feature of the Children’s Garden is the Vegetable Patch, because it educates children about where food comes from. It also encourages them to grow fruits and vegetables that will provide them with food for their healthy diets.

Is there an area or activity in the Children’s Garden that you wish more people knew about?

A: I wish more people knew about the Four Seasons Fountain Court with its sundial and how the four seasons in a garden connect to our earth’s journey around the sun, and how the phases of the moon affects changes on earth. When I am volunteering, I often explain to our visitors that by standing below the moons, with their feet on the letter of the current month, they can tell the time of day by the shadow cast by their raised right hand.

What has been your most memorable experience in volunteering with us?

A: If I must choose my most memorable experience, I would have to say that it would be during the season in which we grew purple dragon carrots, bunny tail radishes, chocolate mint and a giant pumpkin that we called, “The Great Pumpkin.” It was a joy to grow some things in the Children’s Garden that were a little out of the ordinary, and that sparked the interest of young and old alike! The children that visited the Hershey Children’s Garden that season were astounded to learn that a carrot could grow and be purple instead of the usual orange color. They were also astounded to learn that a pumpkin can grow to be enormous size! It is fun and a challenge indeed to see how tall a plant can grow, or how large a fruit or vegetable can develop to be.

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**FEATURE**

**Overcoming the Odds: 10 Trees That Are Thriving Despite Injuries and Less Than Optimal Conditions**

By Roger Gettig, Director of Collections

Trees are resilient; they have to be. Entrenched in one location for life, they have no other option than to deal with whatever challenges come their way. While members of the horticulture staff follow best practices when planting trees, conditions change over time, and trees that start from seeds often sprout in less than optimal conditions. Here are 10 trees at the Holden Arboretum that have defied the odds that you can find growing within easy walking distance of the Corning Visitor Center.

In 1958, a bald cypress (Taxodium distichum) was planted on the west side of the island in Corning Lake. That end of the island has eroded away, leaving the tree surrounded by water. Now the bald cypress stands alone, an island unto itself.

A Siberian larch, on the east side of Sperry Road after you enter the Arboretum, was hit by lightning in 1991. Lightning can create an explosive shock wave splitting open the bark, and it can create a steam explosion by super-heating the cambium layer beneath the bark. Death can result when the tree’s ability to transport water is compromised. This tree has spent the past 28 years compartmentalizing the damage while it continues to grow.

Osage orange (Maclura pomifera) trees used to be used as “living fences” for livestock until the use of barbed wire became common. Sometimes people string barbed wire between the trees, and we can see reminders of this in rows of Osage orange trees next to the Rhododendron Discovery Garden. The three rows of barbed wire are gone, but the trees’ reaction to the wire remains as scars of persistent grim smirks.

On the path to the Kalberer Emergent Tower, you can see through an old red maple (Acer rubrum). It is hollow, yet still alive. We don’t know how it happened. We don’t know how it persists. But it does.

This red oak (Quercus rubra) is on the edge of a cliff in Bole Woods, reaching into a light gap. Leaning trees and trees on slopes often form “reaction wood” to prevent them from breaking under their own weight or blowing over down a slope. This tree has created a massive root up-slope, an anchor in defiance to gravity.

Surrounded by other trees on a narrow strip of land at the base of a hill, competition for resources is fierce for this red elm (Ulmus rubra). Somehow it managed to send a root across the stream and found a wide-open area to exploit. Look for it the next time you visit the Habitat Hut.

Streams meander, always redefining their banks. This red maple (Acer rubrum) is trying to prevent the inevitable in the Myrtle S. Holden Wildflower Garden. The entire bole of the tree now hovers above the stream flowing underneath it. Water, erosion and gravity will win in the long run, but this maple has outlasted our expectations.

Along a slope down to Pierson Creek, a Canada hemlock (Tsuga canadensis) was damaged when it was young. Maybe a log flattened it rolling its way downhill; we will never know. What we do know is that the roots held on and the tree eventually re-oriented itself. It is large enough now not to be bullied by the next log.
Scientists at Holden Forests & Gardens and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History are Using Ancient Plant Collections For Current Research

Plant specimens collected and archived in museums more than a century ago may increase our understanding of how human actions affect the natural world, creating collaborations for new research that stretch across the decades.

Human activities have significantly transformed our planet over the past 100 years. This transformation, often referred to as global change, can include the effects of habitat fragmentation, climate change and invasive species, all of which pose threats to natural systems including temperate forests. These threats can directly impact plant growth and survival or may affect plants by altering their relationship with beneficial soil microbes.

Seeking answers to how human activities affect the natural world, scientists at Holden Forests & Gardens and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pa., are using the repositories of plant materials collected by museum botanists over the past century. These repositories of plant material collected and archived by generations of botanists are called herbaria.

"Herbarium specimens allow us to look at plant communities in the 1800s and tell how these communities have changed over time." — David Burke

by scientists. Botanists have collected herbarium specimens for centuries, but these specimens are now being used in new ways.

The work started in 2017, when Mason Heberling, PhD, now an assistant curator of botany at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, received a postdoctoral research fellowship from the National Science Foundation to use herbarium specimens to look at trait changes in non-native, introduced species in the region.

"At the start of my fellowship, I went through many herbarium specimens, looking to see what traits or information may be captured in the specimens," Heberling said. "One thing that stuck out to me was the number of specimens that not only had intact roots, but also old soil still stuck to roots. I was unaware of anyone studying these roots or soil. I was interested in using these specimens to better understand these changes."

In my previous projects, I was working closely with Dr. Susan Halicz in whose lab I received a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Tennessee. On a widespread invasive forest species, garlic mustard, I was interested in the function of soil microbes that colonize plant roots and assist plants in nutrient capture, help plants resist disease and improve tolerance to drought. Human activities over the past few decades to centuries may have impacted these important fungi by changing the communities in forest soil or reducing root colonization, which can lead to reduced plant growth and success.

"Generally, as scientists, we are restricted to the kinds of experiments and thought – 'I wonder if he can do anything with 100-year-old roots?' So, I called him, he was super enthusiastic about the idea, and that was the start of this cool project together," Heberling said.

The result was a paper, published in the journal Applications in Plant Science, demonstrating for the first time that herbarium samples can successfully be used to examine mycorrhizal communities collected as far back as 1881. Although many old herbarium samples could not be analyzed, at least half of all specimens for some plant species, such as the forest wildflower Wake Robin (red trillium), could be successfully examined using techniques that amplified a specific stretch of fungal DNA.

"Using these techniques, researchers can study how human activities have affected mycorrhizal fungi – soil microbes that colonize plant roots and assist plants in nutrient capture, help plants resist disease and improve tolerance to drought. Human activities over the past few decades to centuries may have impacted these important fungi by changing the communities in forest soil or reducing root colonization, which can lead to reduced plant growth and success.

The paper "Utilizing Herbarium Specimens to Quantify Historical Mycorrhizal Communities," serves as a pioneering first step to show other scientists how these collections, often overlooked by plant ecologists, can help answer pressing questions about the impacts of human activity on plant communities.

"Generally, as scientists, we are restricted to the kinds of experiments that we can set up today," Burke said. "What the herbarium specimens allow us to do is review the tape here and look at the plant communities in the 1800s and tell how these communities have changed over time. It's a different way of collecting information about how these communities might have changed and how human activities have affected them. We can conduct an experiment over 20 years, and that can be very powerful, but with this approach, we can look at things over the past 100 years, and that's even more powerful."

Mason Heberling, PhD, Carnegie Museum of Natural History

"Although I had not met David Burke in person, I knew his work well and thought – 'I wonder if he can do anything with 100-year-old roots?' So, I called him, he was super enthusiastic about the idea, and that was the start of this cool project together," Heberling said.

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David Burke, PhD, Holden Forests & Gardens Chief Program Officer

"Herbarium specimens are the same," Burke said. "They don't go back thousands of years, but they do give us the opportunity to go back to the late 1800s.

The project has broader implications than just a single study. The Carnegie Museum herbarium, which has more than 540,000 specimens collected since the 1800s, is only one of about 3,000 herbaria in 165 countries containing an estimated 350 million specimens. These specimens allow modern researchers to build on the work of the botanists and ecologists who contributed to the specimen collections.

"Science is a conversation we have with one another about what we know about the world. It's the accumulation of information over time," Burke said. "We're having the conversation with people who are long dead through the research that they left behind. We're also having a conversation with those who come after us because we are adding to the body of knowledge."

Carnegie Museum's oldest herbarium specimen roots.

Searching for ways to look at the changes that have taken place over time is not new to science. It's similar to researchers examining the pollen trapped in layers of lake sediment to see how plant communities have changed since the last ice age.

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Host your holiday party or corporate event in a beautiful setting. Contact our private events staff at the Holden Arboretum, 440.602.3835 or the Cleveland Botanical Garden, 216.707.2858 for details.