

CONNECTIONS



2005 Year in Review

Adkins
ARBORETUM





Mission

The mission of Adkins Arboretum, a 400-acre native garden and preserve on Maryland's Eastern Shore, is to promote the appreciation and conservation of the native plants of the Delmarva Peninsula. The Arboretum's diverse setting of woodlands, meadows, wetlands, streams, and gardens serve as a model for land management and ecological restoration. Through its educational, research, cultural and recreational programs, the Arboretum strives to inspire its community to adopt land stewardship practices for a healthier and more beautiful world.

Dear Members and Supporters,

They were fanning themselves with newspapers to tolerate the steamy day on May 19, 1980 when a group of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) government officials and Arboretum supporters gathered in the Arboretum's newly paved parking lot to celebrate the Arboretum's founding and to recognize its first benefactor, Mr. Leon Andrus, a New York native who resided in Queen Anne's County on the Wye River. During 2005, 25 years later, Adkins Arboretum launched a yearlong celebration of its silver anniversary. The lives of Mr. Andrus and Judge William Adkins, II, whose names will forever be tied to the Arboretum's founding, were celebrated. Judge Adkins was Mr. Andrus' legal counsel and arranged for Mr. Andrus' gift to be used to establish the Arboretum. Mr. Andrus understood the Arboretum would belong to the people of the Eastern Shore, and thus he believed it should be named for an Eastern Shore family with a commitment to environmental conservation, thus the Adkins Arboretum.

The vision of the Arboretum as a native plant preserve was ambitious and forward thinking. Today the Arboretum is the only public garden dedicated to teaching about the native flora of the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain by displaying plants in their natural habitats. The concept of an arboretum dedicated to native trees challenged the conventional idea of an arboretum or public garden, which was historically a cultivated setting of plants collected from all over the world. Recognizing that the greatest threat to botanical diversity is human development, and that the greatest development pressures are on our coasts, one can appreciate that the Arboretum is addressing an urgent need.

How far the Arboretum has come in a quarter of a century! In 2005 the Arboretum welcomed 16,000 visitors, involved over 150 volunteers, served 1,300 members, and distributed through its plant sales over 10,000 native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. Those who provided leadership for the Arboretum during its nascent years created a solid foundation that has enabled us to become an important and valued community asset. Adkins Arboretum is their legacy.

The Arboretum Trustees and staff are looking ahead to the future. For 25 years the Arboretum has operated as a one-room schoolhouse, offering programs year-round for all ages, preschoolers to seniors. Though the existing facilities have enabled us to develop a broad range of activities, programs, and events, each is compromised by the other as they share space and staff. In the morning the program room may be a preschool classroom; at lunch, the staff lunchroom; in the afternoon, the docent training conference room and visitors' orientation room; and by early evening it will finally be cleared of the day's activities to become an art gallery for a new show's opening reception.

To address the need for appropriate space to support the Arboretum's growing and diverse programs, plans to expand the Visitor's Center are underway. This expansion was envisioned in the Arboretum's 1999 Master Plan and will be unveiled to the public in 2006. I look forward to sharing these exciting plans with you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ellie Altman, Executive Director



blue flag iris, *Iris versicolor*

The Arboretum celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2005 by expanding its programs to strengthen the connection between its mission—teaching an appreciation of the flora native to our region—and its changing and growing community. It is through these connections that the Arboretum continues to grow and flourish.



THE ARBORETUM EXPERIENCE

In 2005, Arboretum visitors experienced the wonders of nature through “new eyes.” A new exhibit wall was installed in the Visitor’s Center lobby that documents how native plant communities relate to Chesapeake Bay conservation. A beautifully photographed orientation video introduces visitors to the Arboretum’s mission and sustainable horticulture practices. And an audio tour offers visitors botanical and ecological lessons at 35 stops throughout the Arboretum in memorable and humorous segments with the voices of visitors, teachers, volunteers, staff, and other professionals. These new educational tools were funded in part by the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, the Grayce B. Kerr Fund, the Waterfowl Festival, and the 2004 Arboretum Docent Class.

Docents and volunteers continued to increase their roles in the Arboretum’s educational programs by logging more than 6,600 volunteer hours. The docent training program graduated a new class of committed volunteers to welcome and orient visitors to the Arboretum. The program includes sessions on ecology, interpretation, storytelling techniques, and plant identification to prepare docents to lead walks. To date, there are more than 30 active docents, many of whom have initiated new programs to orient visitors to the Arboretum. One of the most popular initiatives is the *Saturday Soup’n Walks*. Participants enjoy a guided walk, followed by a nutritious lunch. Themed guided walks are also offered on Saturday mornings, April through November, to give visitors glimpses into the changing seasonal beauty of the Arboretum, from spring ephemerals, late summer grasses, autumn fruit and color, to the winter trees’ architecture. In 2005 the *Native Plant Lore* column debuted in the newsletter *Native Seed*, as well as a nature journaling workshop and book club—all projects supported by the Arboretum’s volunteers.

LINKING CONSERVATION AND SCIENCE

With a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Arboretum developed its plant data management program, mapping plant communities and individual plants and censusing permanent plots for monitoring of long-term changes. Volunteers are collecting data about insects, mushrooms, and birds that will be incorporated into the native plant database. Once completed, the database will be accessible to the general public through the Arboretum’s Web site and a public access computer station, bringing the world of plants, animals, and insects closer to the visitor.

Reflecting its commitment to research, the Arboretum signed a memorandum of understanding with the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium at Delaware State University in Dover, DE. Under this agreement, the Herbarium will keep plant specimens from the Arboretum’s collection for long-term preservation. The Phillips Herbarium has an extensive collection of native plant specimens from the Delmarva Peninsula, as well as professional taxonomists and botanists who oversee the collection’s maintenance. Kept under proper conditions, these plants can be preserved for hundreds of years and used by present and future botanists for plant identification and to study the changing distribution of plants. As a research site for Project OwlNet, a program that studies the migration patterns of saw-whet owls, the Arboretum offered a public program that allowed visitors to experience the wonder of these elusive birds. The Arboretum entered its third year of monitoring pink lady’s slipper orchids and trumpet vine control plots in the North Meadow.

The Arboretum’s Weed Warrior program continues to grow, with new volunteers joining this effort to manage invasive plants and to work on restoration projects. By practicing best land management techniques, the Arboretum demonstrates land stewardship to homeowners.



pink lady's slipper, *Cypripedium acaule*



As the Eastern Shore's population swells, demands for recreational amenities grow. The Arboretum's neighboring town of Ridgely is planning for this growth by addressing the recreational needs of its residents. Working with town, county, and state personnel, the Arboretum is involved in planning a bike and pedestrian trail that will connect the Arboretum and the town of Ridgely.

WEAVING THE MESSAGE

In celebrating the Arboretum's 25th anniversary in 2005, staff took the Arboretum's message to new audiences through programming initiatives both on site and off site. In addition to an anniversary banner display at the entrance to the Visitor's Center, a special commemorative poster and T-shirt were designed featuring artwork from the 2005 Spring Garden Symposium. On site, a special anniversary lecture series featured local historians, environmentalists, gardeners, and writers who examined the significance of the region's native landscape. The Arboretum's five-part series on Eastern Shore gardening introduced local residents to gardening with native plants. Through the first annual Creative Kids Camp, children ages six to 12 enjoyed a summer filled with the discovery of the outdoors. Campers also grabbed nets, field guides, and collecting jars to explore nature's wonders in the Arboretum's meadows, woodlands, and wetlands. The plant nursery and new Children's Garden were home to the camp's classroom, crafts workshop, ball field, water sports arena, and bathhouse. The annual plant sales, which attracted many first-time attendees, benefited from new educational displays that assisted shoppers with selecting native plants for various soil types and for wildlife benefits.

By leading walks for special groups, volunteers promoted the benefits of native plants to numerous civic organizations and garden clubs. Through the *Adkins Arboretum on the Road Program*, volunteers spoke to communities throughout the region on such topics as native plants throughout the seasons, native wildflowers, fall gardening, autumn color, and native plants of winter interest. The Arboretum promoted its conservation message by exhibiting at numerous regional festivals and special events, including the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's Rural Life Day, the Waterfowl Festival, and the Chestertown Tea Party. A new gardening column featured in each issue of *Attraction Magazine* helped to further the Arboretum's mission of promoting the importance of native plants in the home landscape.

CREATING A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Arboretum broadened its role as a catalyst in connecting organizations to the region's conservation needs by continuing its involvement in the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, a coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to researching, promoting, and educating the public about conservation-based gardening and landscaping practices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Council is committed to fostering changes in public attitudes and the implementation of practices that result in a cleaner, healthier, and more beautiful environment that benefits residents and the region's biological diversity.

For three years the Arboretum has advocated for the designation of U. S. 301 from Queenstown to the Delaware state line as a scenic byway—the Eastern Shoreway. Even though U. S. 301 is a limited access, dualized thoroughfare, it passes through some of the Eastern Shore's most scenic forests and fields and deserves to be protected. With funding from the National Fish and Wildlife and Town Creek foundations, the Arboretum worked in 2005 with consultants to design a native landscape at the state line. The Maryland State Highway Administration plans to install the landscaping and designate U. S. 301 as one of Maryland's "Beautiful Highways" in 2007.

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A unique partnership developed in 2005 between the Arboretum and the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, harvesting the Arboretum's native winged sumac to feed the Zoo's new



butterfly fly, *Asclepias tuberosa*

As the Arboretum's silver anniversary celebration ends, it is poised with strong connections to civic organizations, local governments, schools, and homeowners to inspire its community to adopt land stewardship practices for a healthier and more beautiful world for the next 25 years.



Sifaka lemurs, an endangered species of primate native only to Madagascar. Winged sumac is one of the fibrous greens compatible with the lemurs' diets. In the summer, the Zoo can harvest as much as 165 pounds of leaves and stems from the Arboretum, which is then processed and frozen for year-round use.

Master Gardeners continue to play an important role in the Arboretum's volunteer program, providing advice about sustainable horticulture and ecologically sound gardening practices at the Arboretum's plant sales. In addition to maintaining an ongoing relationship with the Queen Anne's County Master Gardener program, the Arboretum was the site for a pilot training course on the ecology of native plants for the State Master Gardener Advanced Training Program.

New volunteer leaders have come to the Arboretum through its relationship with the Legacy Leadership Institute for the Environment (LLIE). LLIE, a partnership between the University of Maryland Center on Aging, the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, and Adkins Arboretum, draws on the time and talents of retired professionals who are interested in enhancing environmental organizations' capacities to promote stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. LLIE graduates have assisted the Arboretum in a number of research, marketing, and membership initiatives.

Through a relationship developed in 2005 with the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, the Arboretum formulated a development strategy for planned giving and gift and tribute programs. In the fall, the William Adkins Legacy Society, a planned giving society named for the Arboretum's namesake, the late William H. Adkins, II, was announced and an estate planning workshop was held to inform members about making planned or deferred gifts. By creating a donor-advised fund at the Foundation, the Arboretum leveraged a \$2,000 grant from the Foundation to receive an additional \$10,000 from the Foundation's discretionary funds, fund advisors, and Roundtable members to expand its Children's Environmental Program.

THE FUTURE— DEMONSTRATING OUR CONNECTION TO THE LAND

As the Arboretum looks to its future to strengthen its role in demonstrating the importance of native plants in protecting the region's ecological balance, connections will continue to be made with individuals and community organizations that share its vision. An ambitious demonstration project researched and developed in 2005, but originally conceived in the Arboretum's 1999 Master Plan, is the redesign of the seven-acre visitor's entrance and parking area. The project will restore the Arboretum's impervious parking area to a demonstration native meadow and will replace the parking lot with a pervious parking area located at the Arboretum's entrance with a natural stormwater drainage system of vegetative swales. This project, part of the overall redesign of the approach to the Visitor's Center, will immerse visitors in the Arboretum experience and its conservation mission immediately upon their arrival. Through a comprehensive interpretive program, visitors will learn the importance of conserving native plants and implementing Bay-friendly stewardship practices in their own backyards. Funding for this project was received from both the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's 2005 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program.

Another important effort launched in 2005 that is helping guide the Arboretum in its earth-friendly practices is the Green Team, an initiative of the Arboretum's volunteers to examine opportunities to recycle, reuse, and conserve energy in all aspects of Arboretum operations. These practices will also provide opportunities to further educate visitors on the role they can play in protecting the environment.

As the Arboretum's silver anniversary celebration ends, it is poised with strong connections to civic organizations, local governments, schools, and homeowners to inspire its community to adopt land stewardship practices for a healthier and more beautiful world for the next 25 years.

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Town Creek Foundation
Waterfowl Festival

Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2005

	Operations	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Support and Revenues				
Dividends	\$37,946	-	-	\$37,946
Interest	42,596	-	-	42,596
Merchandise sales	156,620	-	-	156,620
Donations and fees	141,859	68,206	5,033	215,098
Grant income	225,335	-	-	225,335
In-kind	10,848	-	-	10,848
Capital bond bill	65,114	-	-	65,114
Miscellaneous income	5,202	-	-	5,202
Net assets released from restrictions	78,341	(78,341)	-	-
Total support and revenues	763,861	(10,135)	5,033	758,759
Expenses				
Program services	607,887	-	-	607,887
Supporting services	260,463	-	-	260,463
Fundraising expenses	94,775	-	-	94,775
Total expenses	963,125	-	-	963,125
Other Income				
Gains on investments	248,806	-	-	248,806
Increase in net assets	49,542	(10,135)	5,033	44,440
Net assets, beginning	4,732,099	133,785	32,644	4,898,528
Net assets, ending	\$4,781,641	\$123,650	\$37,677	\$4,942,968

Adkins Arboretum, Ltd.
Statements of Financial Position
December 31, 2005 and 2004

	2005	2004
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 194,355	\$ 349,445
Investments in marketable securities	4,327,928	4,217,222
Unconditional promises to give, less discount of 2005 \$1,311; 2004 \$3,827 and allowance for uncollectible promises to give 2005 \$5,000; 2004 \$5,000	116,874	178,246
Dividends and interest receivable	14,853	24,164
Grants receivable	12,889	7,783
Other receivables	472	761
Inventory	50,084	38,269
Prepaid expenses	4,110	-
Property and equipment, less accumulated depreciation 2005 \$214,323; 2004 \$175,664	475,234	344,264
Total assets	\$ 5,196,799	\$ 5,160,154
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 24,206	\$ 27,660
Line of credit	168,508	174,761
Deferred revenue	61,117	59,205
Total liabilities	253,831	261,626
Commitments		
Net assets		
Unrestricted	4,782,785	4,732,099
Temporarily restricted	123,650	133,785
Permanently restricted	37,677	32,644
Total net assets	4,942,968	4,898,528
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 5,196,799	\$ 5,160,154

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sweet gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*