

NEWS RELEASE

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Adkins Arboretum Dedicates Restored Wetland Bridge

On April 25, supporters of Adkins Arboretum's [Campaign to Build a Green Legacy](#) joined Arboretum trustees and friends to dedicate the Arboretum's restored wetland bridge, a gift from Honorary Campaign Chair and former Board President Dr. Peter B. Stifel in honor of his children, Katherine B. Stifel and Andrew P. Stifel.

Nearly a quarter of a million children and adults have crossed this beloved bridge, the gateway to the Arboretum Visitor's Center and its 400 acres of natural beauty. Often pausing along the way to listen to a chorus of bullfrogs, visitors are immediately immersed in the majesty and wonder of nature. The bridge offers a unique panoramic open view of the wetland and nearby woods, and is the centerpiece of recent improvements to the Arboretum grounds.



*Joined by Adkins Arboretum Capital Campaign Chair Patricia Bowell, at right, Katherine Stifel and Dr. Peter B. Stifel cut the ribbon to dedicate the Arboretum's restored wetland bridge. The Honorary Chair of the Arboretum's **Campaign to Build a Green Legacy**, Peter Stifel dedicated the bridge in honor of his children.*

"Dreams can be realized, but not without stopping along the way to celebrate milestones and to recognize the benefactors who make dreams come true," said Arboretum Executive Director Ellie Altman, referring to Stifel's support of the multi-year campaign that will nearly triple the size of the existing Visitor's Center and will create a native garden gateway. "They take a leap of

faith, knowing that Adkins Arboretum, a place with a conservation mission rooted simply in the love of trees, is critical to the people of the Eastern Shore.”

Campaign Chair Pat Bowell, citing the bridge dedication as “a major milestone event,” related a story of conversations with Arboretum members and supporters about improvements to the site. “All were voicing a message that they love the bridge. The personal tales were endless, and all were filled with emotion and deep affection...I quickly realized that crossing over on this bridge is part of the educational experience for many and that it is truly an outdoor classroom.”

Speaking to a crowd of 60 friends and supporters, Stifel spoke about his career as a University of Maryland geologist, “learning about and teaching about every aspect of the natural world,” and expressed hope that his support of the Arboretum will “give the opportunity to everyone to be in the outdoors and to say ‘yes’ as I did when asked to support the capital improvements to the Arboretum Visitor’s Center and grounds.” The bridge, he said, “will carry thousands more people to great pleasure, peace, knowledge, and contentment.”

The Campaign to Build a Green Legacy is a multi-year campaign to build the new **W. Flaccus and Ruth B. Stifel Center at Adkins Arboretum**, named for Peter Stifel’s parents; to create an ecologically sensitive Native Garden Gateway that will bring new gardens, greener parking alternatives, and a stormwater management system that will reduce runoff into Chesapeake Bay tributaries; and to provide endowment funds to support new and existing educational programs. The campaign has reached the goal of adding \$1 million to the Arboretum’s endowment, and now seeks to raise \$1.9 million to break ground for the Visitor’s Center. For more information on the campaign, contact Kate Rattie, Director of Advancement and Planning, at 410.634.2847, ext. 33 or krattie@adkinsarboretum.org.

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*Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre native garden and preserve at the headwaters of the Tuckahoe Creek in Caroline County. Open year round, the Arboretum offers educational programs for all ages about nature and gardening. Through its **Campaign to Build a Green Legacy**, it will build the **W. Flaccus and Ruth B. Stifel Center at Adkins Arboretum** and a “green” entranceway to broaden educational offerings and research initiatives promoting best practices in conservation and land stewardship. For additional information about Arboretum programs, visit www.adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-634-2847, ext. 0.*

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