


ADKINS ARBORETUM

Annual Report 2008





ADKINS ARBORETUM is a preserve, a garden, a refuge, a classroom, a cultural center, a restoration site, and a place for people of all ages and from all walks of life to make a meaningful connection with nature. Since its founding in 1980, the Arboretum's mission of conserving native plants has evolved to encompass stewardship practices and community engagement toward the goal of a healthy Chesapeake Bay. Like the trees that populate its forest and shade its woodland paths, the Arboretum adapts to its changing environment while remaining a constant and vibrant force in its community.



CROWN





THE LEAFY CROWN

branches out from the trunk and serves as an indicator of a tree's strength and vigor. It stretches over the forest floor, providing habitat and shelter for what grows beneath. The Arboretum's thriving network of outreach initiatives is an indicator of its vibrancy and stability. The Arboretum reached beyond its borders in 2008 to enrich its community while promoting its mission of conservation and stewardship.

Throughout the year, the Arboretum hosted school and community groups for walks guided by volunteers through the woodland, wetland, meadows, and native gardens. Docent naturalists spoke to groups across the region through *Adkins Arboretum on the Road*, a volunteer-led outreach initiative, about native plants, habitat, and land management practices that can improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay.



In 2008 the Arboretum launched the *Land Stewardship Institute*, bringing together numerous outreach projects and partnerships to address conservation issues across the region. Through one of these partnerships, the Shore Land Stewardship Council (SLSC), the Arboretum targeted individual landowners to employ environmentally sound practices in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, the 1,000-foot-wide ribbon of land bordering the Bay and its tributaries. The *First Stop for the Bay* campaign, an SLSC initiative, directs landowners to consult county planning offices before undertaking changes on their property, and makes the case for the link between land conservation and the health of the Bay.



Photos by Ann Roblfing.

A close-up photograph of a large tree trunk in a forest. The trunk is covered in green moss and has a rough, textured bark. The ground is covered with fallen brown leaves. The background shows other trees and foliage in a soft, out-of-focus manner.

TRUNK





A TREE'S TRUNK provides strength and stability and is the center from which all branches grow. It connects the reaching crown to the grounded support structure of roots. The Arboretum's center is its broad array of education programs and cultural events that endow participants of all ages with a lasting conservation ethic.



Support for the **Arboretum's programs** flourished in 2008, as evidenced by full classrooms and expanded offerings. Participants were inspired by a winter gardening series and by offerings that included the legacy of Carl Linnaeus, "green" cleaning practices, native alternatives to invasive ornamental plants, pollinators, botanical art classes, garden design with autumn color, and natural holiday ornaments. The biennial Spring Symposium, titled *Earth's Green Mantle: How it Works*, provided an introduction to fundamental scientific principles for understanding pressing conservation concerns, such as carbon footprints, pollinators and native plants, soil health, plant genetics, and finite water resources.

Children explored the Arboretum's forest, wetland, and meadows in search of native plants, insects, and amphibians as they enjoyed nature at eye level. Ever-popular preschool programs and **Creative Kids summer camps** encouraged engagement with nature and taught valuable conservation lessons to children of all ages. A new series of programs, *Sense of Wonder Sundays*, was launched for families to enjoy the Arboretum for fun-filled Sunday afternoons geared toward spending time together outdoors. *(continued on next page)*



Through these innovative programs, parents help their children discover their inborn sense of wonder about nature, all while recapturing their own.

The [Arboretum's arts program](#) served up a feast for the senses, showcasing how art mirrors nature and making a strong case for the Arboretum's conservation mission. The annual art competition garnered entries from across the Mid-Atlantic, while bimonthly exhibits and an outdoor sculpture invitational demonstrated how artists find inspiration in the native landscape.

A new annual event, [Magic in the Meadow](#), debuted, inviting guests to experience an enchanted evening beneath the stars while supporting the children and adults served by the Arboretum's programs. Attendance at the annual [Arbor Day Run](#), [Halloween Haunted Hayride](#), [Fall Family Festival](#), and [Holiday Greens Sale](#) confirmed that families seek out the Arboretum's offerings for seasonal celebrations.



BARK





Like the crown, **A TREE'S BARK**

indicates the strength of the complex system inside. It also serves as the “face” of the tree, making a visual impression on those who view it up close. The stewardship of the Arboretum grounds serves as a model for visitors and the community. In 2008, the Arboretum was designated an **Important Bird Area** by MD/DC Audubon, a testament to the diversity of its habitat. In addition, a plan was completed for managing the Arboretum’s natural areas. This document reflects new challenges and opportunities in managing the Arboretum as a demonstration, restoration, and education site, and includes extensive information on managing invasive plants.



ROOTS



Arguably its most critical component,

A TREE'S ROOTS anchor

it in the landscape, sustaining it with soil-borne microorganisms and nutrients and providing support as the tree stretches toward the sky. The Arboretum's roots are its supporters—its members, staff, Trustees, volunteers, and program participants. In 2008, the Arboretum's capital campaign, *The Campaign to Build a Green Legacy*, reached 70 percent of its goal, with two major gifts demonstrating that the Arboretum is a valued community resource, an asset in which to invest.



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2008

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	2008 Total	2007 Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUES					
Dividends	\$ 78,086	-	-	\$ 78,086	\$ 44,932
Interest	60,136	-	-	60,136	67,341
Merchandise sales	189,780	-	-	189,780	174,205
Donations and fees	214,034	1,112,530	-	1,326,564	538,629
Grant income	228,900	-	-	228,900	158,818
In-kind	35,639	-	-	35,639	13,930
Miscellaneous income	5,417	-	-	5,417	5,388
Net assets released from restrictions	502,585	(502,585)	-	-	-
Total support and revenues	1,314,574	609,945	-	1,924,519	1,003,243
EXPENSES					
Program services	668,026	-	-	668,026	552,196
Supporting services	297,334	-	-	297,334	282,009
Fundraising expenses	168,149	-	-	168,149	148,322
Total expenses	1,133,509	-	-	1,133,509	982,527
OTHER INCOME					
Gains (losses) on investments	(1,634,151)	-	-	(1,634,151)	477,035
Increase in pledge allowance	(20,000)	-	-	(20,000)	-
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	(3,331)	-	-	(3,331)	-
Total other income (loss)	(1,657,482)	-	-	(1,657,482)	477,035
Change in net assets	(1,476,417)	609,946	-	(866,472)	497,751
Net assets, beginning	5,901,765	124,515	86,533	6,112,813	5,615,062
Net assets, ending	\$ 4,425,348	\$ 734,460	\$ 86,533	\$ 5,246,341	\$6,112,813

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2008 and 2007

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,236,750	\$ 934,325
Investments in marketable securities	2,391,964	4,342,585
Unconditional promises to give, less discount of 2008 \$8,856; 2007 \$4,291 and allowance for uncollectible promises to give 2008 \$25,000; 2007 \$5,000	292,958	193,391
Dividends and interest receivable	13,839	13,839
Capital bond receivable	250,000	250,000
Grants receivable	59,108	77,260
Other receivables	714	201
Inventory	52,521	48,338
Prepaid expenses	1,045	1,604
Property and equipment, less accumulated depreciation 2008 \$358,567; 2007 \$312,144	1,145,656	1,155,709
Total assets	\$ 6,144,555	\$ 7,017,252
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 40,448	\$ 25,468
Line of credit	488,920	239,000
Note payable	-	257,756
Deferred revenue	368,846	382,215
Total liabilities	898,214	904,439
COMMITMENTS AND SUBSEQUENT EVENT		
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	4,425,348	5,901,765
Temporarily restricted	734,460	124,515
Permanently restricted	86,533	86,533
Total net assets	5,246,341	6,112,813
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 6,144,555	\$ 7,017,252

DONORS



Thank you to the members and friends who supported the Arboretum with gifts to the 2008 Annual Appeal between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008. (Gift recognition listed does not include membership gifts.)

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. Please contact Kate Rattie, director of advancement & planning, at 410-654-2847, ext. 33 or at krattie@adkinsarboretum.org with corrections.

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