




ADKINS ARBORETUM
ANNUAL REPORT
2007



A photograph of a mossy forest floor with two young plants. The plant on the left is a small, upright seedling with a single green leaf. The plant on the right is a larger seedling with a single, broad, heart-shaped green leaf. The background is a dense carpet of green moss.

Arboretum = trees = forest

The 2007 annual report parallels Adkins Arboretum's growth and development with the layers of a healthy forest, from its mature hardwood trees that dominate the tree canopy to its rich forest floor tangled with roots and the complex life of the soil. As the forest sustains itself while constantly being rejuvenated through its natural cycle of seasons and growth, the Arboretum thrives as an institution serving its diverse community with a rich array of programs.

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS:

Adkins Arboretum is a testament to the power of the individual. Its first benefactor, Leon 'Andy' Andrus, founded the nonprofit organization that operates the Arboretum today and bequeathed a portion of his estate to create the Arboretum's endowment. This generosity has enabled the Arboretum to use its endowment to leverage diverse sources of funding, all of which support a growing, rich, and well-designed array of education programs for all ages, both on the Arboretum grounds and through outreach programs that impact the larger region.

Leon Andrus's pledge to the Arboretum came from his love of trees. The pleasure he derived from five "Champion" trees on his property inspired him to support the Arboretum so that others would have a place to celebrate trees. With great foresight, he set the stage for a vibrant and stable institution.

This annual report traces the Arboretum's conservation programs and services as they parallel the life of a forest, from its towering leafy tree canopy to its floor covered in mosses, ferns, and wildflowers. The Arboretum's contributions to its community are strengthening both adults' and children's connections to the natural world in many ways. On the back of a hay wagon in the dark of the

night, children squeal with delight as goblins and ghosts haunt the Arboretum woods during the annual Halloween Haunted Hayride. On Saturday's guided nature walks, visitors from the surrounding metropolitan areas, as well as neighboring Eastern Shore counties, are enthralled by the seasonal changes of the native forests and meadows. The spring and fall native plant sales inspire gardeners to embark on new projects to enhance wildlife habitat on their properties and help restore the region's unique natural beauty with plants indigenous to the area.



Every day of the year, the staff opens the gates to the Arboretum's 400 acres for people of all walks of life. They are young and old, with interests ranging from birding and art to hiking, biking, and studying nature. But they all share with Leon Andrus the sheer joy of being in nature.

We are pleased to share with you the Arboretum's programs and achievements in this report on its 27th year, 2007. Your continued interest and support of Adkins Arboretum is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellie Altman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Ellie Altman
Executive Director

LARGE TREE CANOPY

The tree canopy towers above the forest floor, stretching its branches and fostering a diverse web of life. In 2007, the Arboretum reached beyond its borders to enrich its community and further its mission of environmental stewardship. Through a thriving network of outreach initiatives, the Arboretum is making the case for the link between native plants, education, and conservation.

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

The Arboretum assumed founding and leadership roles in five regional outreach projects—Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council (CCLC), the Eastern Shoreway, the Maryland Public Garden Consortium, Maryland's Greenways, and the Shore Land Stewardship Council (SLSC). Dubbed its “invisible assets,” these projects further the Arboretum’s

conservation mission while promoting community education and partnerships. With support from Town Creek Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Trust, and Coastal Zone Management, the Arboretum convened the SLSC in 2007. This coalition of public agencies, private businesses, and landowners helps property owners in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area make informed decisions about changes to their property to impact the Bay in a positive way.

The invisible assets were brought to the forefront in 2007. In September, a video highlighting the five projects premiered at the Members’ Twilight Party. In October, the Arboretum Board of Trustees approved planning for the Land Stewardship Institute to house these unique initiatives. And in November, the CCLC’s second annual conference attracted nearly 300 attendees. The conference

drew professionals from the fields of landscape architecture, horticulture, and community planning to learn about conservation landscaping principles and sustainable development.

The Arboretum reached a broader audience by publishing monthly articles linking native plants and conservation in *Washington Gardener*, *Attraction Magazine*, and *Groundworks*, the trade publication for the Landscape Contractors’ Association in the greater Baltimore/Washington, DC metropolitan region. Conservation Curator



Sylvan Kaufman made the case for native flora with her first book, *Invasive Plants: Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species*.

Board and staff worked closely to develop the first survey of Arboretum members. The results were used to inform a comprehensive onsite interpretive plan and to develop expanded programming in response to members' feedback.

LOWER TREE CANOPY

Smaller trees thrive in the lower forest canopy in the shaded protection of oaks and hickories.

Support for the Arboretum's broad range of education and cultural programs and events flourished in 2007. A six-week botanical art series filled so quickly that a second session was added and was fully subscribed, and a winter gardening series of programs for adults drew participants eager to learn about the principles of conservation landscaping. Children of all ages enjoyed nature at eye level as they explored the Arboretum's forest, wetland, and meadows in search of native plants, insects, and amphibians. Preschool programs and the Creative Kids Camps proved more popular than ever as parents sought new and interactive ways to give their children a positive experience with nature. New in 2007, activity backpacks focusing on the Arboretum's forest, streams, wetland,



and wildlife provided a way for families and homeschoolers to make engaging with nature both educational and accessible.

The Arboretum's arts program showcased how art mirrors nature, making a strong case for the Arboretum's conservation mission. The annual art competition drew entries from across the mid-Atlantic, while bimonthly exhibits and an outdoor environmental art show demonstrated how artists find inspiration in the native landscape. This inspiration took a literary as well as a visual tack, as writer Catherine Carter gave a reading before a packed house from her Pulitzer Prize-nominated book of poems, *The Memory of Gills*.

The annual Halloween Haunted Hayrides enjoyed unprecedented attendance in 2007, and the Fall Family Festival and Holiday Greens Sale confirmed that families look to the Arboretum for ways to

celebrate the seasons.

GROUNDCOVER LAYER

Thriving at the base of the forest canopy, groundcovers stabilize the forest soils and provide habitat and food for many creatures. The Arboretum's communications, interpretation, and capacity building initiatives reflect solid footing for the future. The April issue of *Native Seed*, the Arboretum newsletter, debuted in full color, and the Arboretum's Capital Campaign Brochure

won a prestigious first-place prize in the American Association of Museums 2007 Museum Publications Design Competition, raising the Arboretum's profile as a source of professional-caliber publications.

Also in 2007 the Arboretum purchased Raiser's Edge, the leading donor database management software in the fundraising industry. This acquisition proved critical to the Arboretum's capacity to support a sophisticated fundraising program.

A natural areas management plan debuted, providing guidance for protecting and maintaining the Arboretum's plant communities. This document covers monitoring and mapping plants and communities, wildlife surveys, invasive plant management, and management of restoration projects. Additionally, a wetland bog garden project begun in 2006 and funded by the Waterfowl Festival was completed with planting of bog species not previously found at the Arboretum.

"Green" efforts increased substantially as the Arboretum explored better ways to mimic nature in an effort to reduce its carbon footprint. The 2006 Annual Report was published electronically on the Arboretum Web site, saving paper, ink, and printing and distribution costs. Staff used recycled and recyclable resources in the Visitor's Center and took measures to conserve energy

use. In addition, the Arboretum gift shop stocked an Arboretum logo stainless steel water bottle, a green alternative to plastic bottles.

ROOTS

Roots anchor and provide water and nutrients for the forest flora, trees, shrubs, ferns, and wildflowers. The Arboretum's roots are its supporters: its members, volunteers, Board, and staff. In 2007, the Leon Andrus Society, the highest level of member support, grew from five founding members to 22 strong. This growth demonstrates that the Arboretum is a valued community resource in which members want to invest.



With support from National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, the Arboretum developed and implemented two unique interpretive programs for volunteers. This initiative fostered partnerships among volunteers and organizations across the Eastern Shore, linking the organizations to the Chesapeake Bay and carrying out a mission of stewardship and environmental, cultural, and historical resource preservation. In addition, a monthly newsletter was developed for all active volunteers to keep them abreast of new volunteer opportunities and as way for them to share their interests and inspirations with each other.

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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year Ended December 31, 2007

	Operations	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUES				
Dividends	\$ 44,932	-	-	\$ 44,932
Interest	67,341	-	-	67,341
Merchandise sales	174,205	-	-	174,205
Donations and fees	184,128	304,501	50,000	538,629
Grant income	158,818	-	-	158,818
In-kind	13,930	-	-	13,930
Miscellaneous income	5,388	-	-	5,417
Net assets released from restrictions	304,501	(304,501)	-	-
Total support and revenues	953,243	-	50,000	1,003,243
EXPENSES				
Program services	552,196	-	-	552,196
Supporting services	282,009	-	-	282,009
Fundraising expenses	148,322	-	-	148,322
Total expenses	982,527	-	-	982,527
OTHER INCOME				
Gains on investments	477,035	-	-	477,035
Change in net assets	447,751	-	50,000	497,751
Net assets, beginning	5,454,014	124,515	36,533	5,615,062
Net assets, ending	\$ 5,901,765	\$ 124,515	\$ 86,533	\$ 6,112,813

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2007 and 2006

	2007	2006
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 934,325	\$ 255,011
Investments in marketable securities	4,342,585	4,558,506
Unconditional promises to give, less discount of 2007 \$4,291; 2006 \$4,693 and allowance for uncollectible promises to give 2007 \$5,000; 2006 \$5,000	193,391	157,949
Dividends and interest receivable	13,839	14,368
Capital bond receivable	250,000	550,000
Grants receivable	77,260	106,244
Other receivables	201	195
Inventory	48,338	47,927
Prepaid expenses	1,604	1,610
Property and equipment, less accumulated depreciation 2007 \$312,144; 2006 \$262,038	1,155,709	1,077,537
Total assets	\$ 7,017,252	\$ 6,769,347
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 25,468	\$ 254,426
Line of credit	239,000	245,500
Note payable	257,756	257,756
Deferred revenue	382,215	396,603
Total liabilities	904,439	1,154,285
COMMITMENTS AND SUBSEQUENT EVENT		
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	5,901,765	5,454,014
Temporarily restricted	124,515	124,515
Permanently restricted	86,533	36,533
Total net assets	6,112,813	5,615,062
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 7,017,252	\$ 6,769,347



ADKINS ARBORETUM

*The mission of Adkins
Arboretum is to promote
the appreciation and
conservation of the
native plants of the
Delmarva Peninsula.*



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