



ADKINS ARBORETUM

2006 Year in Review



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paw paw
(*Asimina triloba*)

Dear Friends and Supporters of Adkins Arboretum:

When I joined the Board of Directors several years ago, I was told that the Adkins Arboretum was one of the Eastern Shore's best-kept secrets. While this may have been the case then, it is not true today. We have been given a precious gem, replete with many glistening facets that reflect its outstanding programs and glow with a light from within. That light was kindled by its founders, Mr. Leon Andrus and Judge William Adkins, II, but it has grown brighter and warmer thanks to the efforts of people like you. It is no secret to those who know the Arboretum that this is truly a special place.

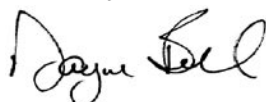
A place with more than 1,300 members, 150 volunteers, and 20 Board members, who contribute over 7,000 hours of their time each year, and 16,000 visitors and program participants each year is hardly a secret. Adkins Arboretum is deservedly recognized as a refuge, not only for native plants of the Eastern Shore, but for Eastern Shore people as well—a place to come to contemplate, to learn, or just to get away and enjoy the beauty of its forests and fields. But secrets do remain. This Annual Report documents many programs and accomplishments that are part of the inner glow that makes this gem precious to us.

As meaningful as it might be to the casual visitor, the gem analogy does not work well when one gets to know Adkins Arboretum. A gem is a static thing, and the Arboretum is anything but static: it is vital, changing, and even rough-hewn in places. The 2006 Annual Report describes it as a tree, cultivated for new growth but firmly rooted in science, with branches that spread over the general public to reach schools and other regional environmental organizations, sowing new seeds that we hope will germinate in fertile soil and grow into the Arboretum of tomorrow.

A living thing requires care and nourishment. Cultivation through expanded financial support will be essential if Adkins Arboretum is to continue to grow. And we also recognize the day-to-day care provided by a dedicated staff, trained volunteers, program participants, and visitors. They are the gardeners who keep the Arboretum vital and provide its warm inner glow.

Thank you for all you have done, and for your continued support of Adkins Arboretum.

Sincerely,



Dr. Wayne Bell
President, Board of Trustees

Jack in the Pulpit
(*Arisaema triphyllum*)



CULTIVATING NEW GROWTH

Community support for Adkins Arboretum

flourished in 2006, evidenced by its growing membership and by increased attendance for a broad range of educational and cultural programs.

The year began by drawing participants from Elkton to Cambridge, and from Dover to Columbia, for a five-part series on Eastern Shore gardening that filled beyond its capacity, and for offerings such as garden design and native pollinators that inspired participants to conserve the native landscape. Children got their hands dirty and their feet wet as they explored the Arboretum's woodlands, meadows, and wetlands for close encounters with native plants and wildlife. Added sessions for preschoolers rounded out Creative Kids Camp offerings for children of all ages, and summer campers ventured out daily with butterfly nets, sketch pads, and garden tools in hand to nurture nature and their own young spirits.

A new tool to orient visitors to the Arboretum debuted. This self-guided audio tour offers 35 memorable mini-lessons with humor and sound effects at stops along the Arboretum paths. Upgrades to the paths made them safer and more aesthetically appealing.

The fifth annual Spring Garden Symposium drew record numbers to hear keynote speakers Dr. Allan Armitage, an award-winning author, speaker, and horticulturist, and Julie Moir Messervy, an acclaimed landscape designer, author, and lecturer. The Arboretum's semiannual plant sales planted the seed of conservation in many first-time visitors, and others discovered at the first annual Arbor Day Run that the Arboretum's paths are ideal for cross country running. The annual Halloween Haunted Hayrides, Fall Family Festival, Holiday Greens Sale, and Candlelight Caroling Walk confirmed the Arboretum's role as a valued community resource for celebrating the seasons, and an Earth Day film festival encouraged attendees to do their part in conserving the natural environment.



To celebrate nature through art, six art exhibits were held during 2006, including an outdoor environmental art invitational show.

Photography by Norman and Linda Dulak



The Arboretum's self-guided audio tour offers 55 mini-lessons about the ecology of the region.

While nature fed the soul, the Arboretum's thriving arts program nourished the senses. The annual art competition garnered entries from artists through the mid-Atlantic, and bimonthly exhibits and the annual summer outdoor environmental sculpture show provided a venue for appreciating the native landscape through artists' eyes, as well as a unique site for artists to exhibit. Showcasing how nature inspires art makes a strong case for conservation, a shining example of how the Arboretum's diverse programming advances its mission.

The Arboretum's docent naturalists demonstrated a commitment to serving the Arboretum through participation in advanced monthly training sessions and through numerous initiatives to teach visitors about the link between land stewardship and the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Each month the docents created nature guide sheets for visitors to use in identifying plants with seasonal interest, birds, and butterflies. In its second year, the popular Soup 'n Walks continued to offer nature, nurture, and nutrition—a woodland walk followed by a healthy lunch and a nutrition lesson. Themed guided walks offered April through November acquainted visitors with the Arboretum's conservation mission under the majestic forest canopy, in the meadows' drifts of grasses and wildflowers, and amidst the chorus of spring peepers in the wetland. The Arboretum's docent program continues to stand as a model for the region's museums and public gardens.



CONSERVATION ROOTED IN SCIENCE

The Arboretum's first annual Arbor Day Run drew runners of all ages (and speeds).

The native butterfly weed (Asclepius tuberosa) attracts a diversity of pollinators, bees and butterflies.

With funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services,

the Arboretum instituted its plant data management program of mapping individual plants and plant communities and censusing permanent plots to monitor long-term ecological changes.

In addition, summer interns mapped populations of invasive plants within the Arboretum's plant communities. Incorporated into the plant database, this



*A hummingbird is attracted to the bright red tubular flowers of the columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), a favorite source of nectar.*

information was made available to the visiting public via a computer station in the Visitor's Center, and to the general public via the Arboretum's Web site, to make the Delmarva's native flora and fauna accessible to visitors both on site and beyond.

The Arboretum partnered with Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage to develop a restoration plan for the North Meadow and to maintain the South Meadow's healthy stand of grasses, and a program was offered to teach homeowners about creating and maintaining native meadows. A partnership with Maryland Department of Natural Resources taught volunteers to identify invasive wetland plants. Staff and volunteers continued to remove invasive species from the Arboretum grounds and from neighboring Tuckahoe State Park.

Arboretum staff played a critical role in convening the first conference for the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, a coalition of businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies. The conference attracted professionals from the fields of landscape architecture, horticulture, and community planning to learn about conservation landscaping principles and sustainable development.

The Arboretum's native meadows are managed by mowing and controlled burns. They provide habitat for the Eastern Meadowlark, Bobwhite, Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Bobalink, Redwing Blackbird and Dickcissel.



BRANCHING OUT

Throughout the year,

garden clubs, community and school groups, and civic organizations attended programs and guided walks in the Arboretum's woodland, wetland, and native gardens.

Through the Adkins Arboretum on the Road outreach initiative, volunteers further promoted the Arboretum's conservation mission by speaking to groups across the region about native plants, wildlife habitat, and the link between land stewardship and a healthy Chesapeake Bay.

The Arboretum continued its participation in the Legacy Leadership Institute for the Environment, a collaboration between the Arboretum, Pickering Creek

Audubon Center, and Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center. Visits by docents to Mt. Cuba Center for Piedmont Flora in Delaware and Green Spring Gardens in Virginia created a dialogue about effective docent programs within public gardens and other cultural institutions. Through these partnerships, Arboretum volunteers reached out to a larger volunteer community and, in doing so, shared experience, expertise, and the importance of the Arboretum's mission.

A focus on school-aged programs in Caroline and Queen Anne's counties' schools further established the Arboretum as a valued resource for the education community. Arboretum educators facilitated field trips to the Arboretum and programs within schools—for teachers as well as students—to bring to light the importance of land stewardship and ecological awareness.

As the spearheading organization of the Eastern Shoreway Alliance, the Arboretum continued to advocate for the designation of U.S. 301 from Queenstown to the Delaware state line as a protected scenic byway. The Arboretum also assumed a leadership role in the Maryland Public Garden Consortium, an organization that develops marketing strategies for public gardens across the state.



SOWING THE SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

The Arboretum's programs are expanding in response to the public's interest in and demand for quality programs about ecology and native plants.

Schools also look to the Arboretum for curriculum supplements and class trips. The growth in membership and visitorship has created the need to expand the Arboretum Visitor's Center. Additional classrooms and exhibit areas will enable the Arboretum to reach a broader audience—children, families, amateur and professional horticulturists, national resource managers, land planners, the nursery industry, and land developers—and provide appropriate space for the diverse programs it offers.



*Young adults explore all of the nooks and crannies of the Arboretum and discover a large multi-trunk tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulifera*) grows from a stump.*



*In May the Butterfly Garden garners attention with its display of false indigo (*Baptisia australis*) and columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).*

In mid-September, the Arboretum announced The Campaign to Build a Green Legacy. Originally conceived in the Arboretum's 1999 Master Plan, the campaign will culminate in a new "green" Arboretum center, an environmentally sustainable building that will meet the criteria for a Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. Innovations in the new Arboretum Center will include nontoxic, recycled, and local materials, an innovative heating and cooling system, a new pervious parking lot and low-impact stormwater management system, and use of other sustainable building practices.

At its completion in 2009, the Arboretum will be positioned to broaden its educational offerings and research initiatives to serve the region as

- An education center where thousands of children experience the natural world every year;
- A place for all ages to learn about land stewardship, gardening with native plants, and promoting ecological restoration in our backyards, neighborhoods, and communities;
- A community center where residents and visitors can celebrate the seasons, events, holidays, and the arts in the midst of native meadows, wetlands, and woodlands;
- A destination for the touring public to discover what makes this region's natural heritage unique;
- A place to enjoy lady slippers in the late spring, ancient colonies of mountain laurel in early summer, fragrant native azaleas, spring beauties carpeting the forest floor, the tulip poplar's bloom, a pawpaw patch, and the natural succession from old field to mature hardwood forest;
- A quiet sanctuary for observing and communing with nature in all seasons; and
- An arboretum for our region and of our region that celebrates and protects our natural heritage.



Summer campers are joined by a father to search for creatures in the Blockston Branch.

A tiny tot finds a plant to admire at the annual native plant sales.



Statement of Activities**Year Ended December 31, 2006**

	Operations	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Support and Revenues				
Dividends	\$41,056	-	-	\$41,056
Interest	54,824	-	-	54,824
Merchandise sales	181,495	-	-	181,495
Donations and fees	144,547	230,698	-	375,245
Grant income	225,173	-	-	225,173
In-kind	4,905	-	-	4,905
Capital bond bill	304,327	-	-	304,327
Miscellaneous income	5,417	-	-	5,417
Net assets released from restrictions	229,833	(229,833)	-	-
Total support and revenues	1,191,577	865	-	1,192,442
Expenses				
Program services	457,234	-	-	457,234
Supporting services	354,302	-	-	354,302
Fundraising expenses	189,128	-	-	189,128
Total expenses	1,000,664	-	-	1,000,664
Other Income				
Gains on investments	480,316	-	-	480,316
Change in net assets	671,229	865	-	672,094
Net assets, beginning	4,732,785	133,785	32,644	4,898,528
Net assets, ending	\$5,454,014	\$124,515	\$36,533	\$5,615,062

Statements of Financial Position**December 31, 2006 and 2005**

	2006	2005
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 255,011	\$ 194,355
Investments in marketable securities	4,558,506	4,327,928
Unconditional promises to give, less discount of 2006 \$4,693; 2005 \$1,311 and allowance for uncollectible promises to give 2006 \$5,000; 2005 \$5,000	157,949	116,874
Dividends and interest receivable	14,368	14,853
Capital bond receivable	550,000	-
Grants receivable	106,244	12,889
Other receivables	195	472
Inventory	47,927	50,084
Prepaid expenses	1,610	4,110
Property and equipment, less accumulated depreciation 2006 \$262,038; 2005 \$214,323	475,234	344,264
Total assets	\$ 6,769,347	\$ 5,196,799

Liabilities and Net Assets**Liabilities**

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 254,426	\$ 24,206
Line of credit	245,500	168,508
Note payable	257,756	-
Deferred revenue	396,603	61,117
Total liabilities	1,154,285	253,831

Commitments and Subsequent Event**Net assets**

Unrestricted	5,454,014	4,782,785
Temporarily restricted	124,515	123,650
Permanently restricted	36,533	37,677
Total net assets	5,615,062	4,942,968
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 6,769,347	\$ 5,196,799

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