Scott Arboretum Selections Fall Sale this September!

See back page for dates and times!
On June 28, an extensive new perennial planting appeared in front of Whittier Hall thanks to many hours donated by volunteers working along with our summer interns and gardeners. This brand new building, completed and opened in the spring, will serve as offices for those displaced when Papazian and Hicks Halls are demolished to make way for the Biology, Engineering, and Psychology (BEP) building (see page 3). Upon the completion of the BEP in 2020, Whittier Hall will house art department offices and studios, and this landscape may provide homes for student art and engineering projects designed for outdoor display.

The Whittier Hall planting, designed by Sara Pevaroff Schuh of SALT Design Studio, consists of bands of perennials with foliage interest, creating ribbons of dark green, chartreuse, and yellow foliage, with bold and fine textures. The living linear bands of color and texture seem to follow the nature of the building, which has flat façades composed of bands of glass, wooden, and white rectangular exterior panels. The low ground plane created by these perennials helps to accentuate the real stars of the show: a majestic mature white oak and sizable persimmon tree that have grown on the site for decades and in part determined the design of the building. They are now embraced by the building and prominently featured to all inside looking through a glass corridor connecting two office blocks of the building – a marriage of sorts between the indoors and the outdoors.

The new perennial plant palette includes three kinds of hellebores – ‘Yellow Lady’, ‘Black Diamond’, and HGC Cinnamon Snow®; several ferns including Athyrium niponicum var. pictum (Japanese painted fern) and Adiantum pedatum (maidenhair fern); along with grassy textures provided by Acorus gramineus ‘Ogon’ (grassy-leaved sweet flag), Hakonechloa macra ‘All Gold’, and Carex oshimensis ‘Everillo’. Bold foliage is contributed by Heuchera americana (Dale’s Strain) and several big-leaved hostas. In all, about 3,500 pots of perennials were planted. A huge thanks goes out to the team who accomplished this in the heat of early summer due to the delays to the project created by ample spring rains!

Come fall (after our September plant sale!), the west side of Whittier Hall will also be planted anew. This site looks onto the Crum Woods in the distance, and in the foreground, a field where geothermal wells were buried to heat and cool this building. Scores of native trees and shrubs will be added around the field – to be maintained as a meadow, with the hope they, in time, will bring the feeling of the Crum Woods up to embrace the building. Eventually they will also screen the parking lots and residential houses from the views looking west, and help inspire the artistic creativity of students, staff, and faculty working inside.

Claire Sawyers
Director

Arboretum Associates 2017 Executive Council

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In June 2017, the Biology, Engineering, and Psychology (BEP) building construction began on campus. This massive project will involve the demolition of Papazian Hall this summer and Hicks Hall in the summer of 2019; the new building will cover the area now occupied by these buildings as well as by the Hicks parking lot. It will become the largest building on campus. The intention is to leave most of the Nason Garden as it is, and the new building will have a commons area surrounded almost entirely by windows that look out into the garden and visually bring the garden into the space. There will also be new ecologically-based plantings around the BEP building. Designed by OLIN, an internationally known landscape architecture firm based in Philadelphia, the new plantings will serve as tools for teaching about regional landscape types (e.g. coastal plains, mixed forest, Piedmont). The completion of the BEP project is scheduled for the summer of 2020.

Below are excerpts and “Q&A” from the College’s website about the BEP Project:

In December 2012, Swarthmore College announced a gift totaling $50 million, the largest gift in its more than 150-year history, from renowned alumnus and philanthropist Eugene Lang ’38. This gift, his largest to the College, will result in new engineering and science facilities and help to extend connections between the College’s engineering program and many of the other disciplines that comprise liberal arts education, a critical aspect of the College’s strategic plan, adopted in December 2011.

In addition to providing expanded modern space for biology, engineering, and psychology, the BEP building – planned as a model for environmentally intelligent construction practices — will support the campus community by strengthening interdisciplinary connections between academic departments across the curriculum through the addition of flexible classrooms, additional indoor and outdoor common space, and enhanced pedagogical experiences linked to environmental sustainability.

How does the BEP project reflect the College’s commitment to environmental sustainability?

In 2014, the Board of Managers committed up to $12 million to make BEP a model for environmentally intelligent construction practices. The project incorporates high-performance systems for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, including chilled beams for ventilation in lab spaces and radiant flooring in the Commons. Stormwater management features include a cistern to collect rainwater from the roof, below-grade infiltration and retention beds, and a landscape design which emphasizes native species and regional plant typologies. The building’s exterior is designed to reduce heat from the sun on the south façade and to take advantage of natural light on the west, north, and east façades, maximizing the amount of light brought into the building.

Environmentally-responsible material selections for the building and its interior include natural, minimally-processed, recycled, and recyclable materials. A construction waste management program will maximize diversion of construction materials from the waste material generated by the project.

How will the building and the landscape support the College’s pedagogical goals?

Metering of the building’s energy and water systems will allow real-time monitoring and data visualization as a tool for learning. Groundwater probe locations will allow periodic assessment of the aquifer to support understanding of the impact of stormwater management systems.

Informational signs in the gardens around the building will provide information about the four regional typologies represented in the landscape design. A landscape feature utilizing stumps and root systems from trees removed from the site will provide a hands-on educational experience about the structure of trees.

What’s involved in demolishing Papazian and Hicks Halls?

The sequence for demolition includes architectural salvage, removal of any hazardous materials, deconstruction of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, and finally deconstruction of the building structure. The buildings will be demolished using mechanical equipment, not a wrecking ball or wrecking crane. Debris from the demolition will be piled inside the building footprint and then removed from the site.

Some of the stone from Papazian Hall will be salvaged and repurposed for site features in the Nason Garden. The exterior stone from Hicks Hall will be saved and stockpiled for future reuse.

Who can I contact with questions or concerns about the BEP project?

Please direct any questions or concerns to bep@swarthmore.edu. All messages received will be answered in a timely manner by a member of the project team. Questions and concerns may also be addressed to Jan Semler, director of capital planning and project management, at (610) 328-8660.

To learn more about this project, visit http://www.swarthmore.edu/facilities-management/biology-engineering-and-psychology-project.
Robert Fortune, a Scottish botanist and plant hunter, is best known for introducing tea plants, *Camellia sinensis*, from China to India on behalf of the British East India Company in the late 1840s, but tea was not the only green commodity Fortune transported. Employing the use of Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward’s glass wardian cases to sustain the plants, Fortune is credited with transporting to Europe hundreds of introductions, a dozen of which bear Fortune’s name. *Actinidia chinensis* (Chinese kiwi vine), *Callicarpa dichotoma* (beautyberry), *Chionanthus retusus* (Chinese fringe tree), and *Sciadopitys verticillata* (umbrella pine) are but a few plants credited to Fortune’s travels.

*Pseudolarix amabilis*, the golden larch, is another of Fortune’s introductions to the Western world. Little is known of its exact native range. Determining natural distribution ranges is problematic with Chinese species as mature native forests were often only preserved around Buddhist temples. Fortune encountered towering trees, some over 125 feet tall, near the monastery of Can-cin in Zhejiang in 1853. Golden larch is one of the “fifty fundamental herbs” of traditional Chinese medicine. Benefits are reputed to include a dermatologic antifungal remedy against ringworms.

Young trees are pyramidal in shape, maturing to a more open and loose habit with horizontal branching at maturity. Clusters of soft needles are held on short spurs along younger branches. Flowers are monoecious (i.e. individual flowers are either male or female, but both sexes can be found on the same plant) and are pollinated by wind. Lime green cones, fascinating in both their beauty and geometry, age to golden brown and shatter at maturity. Hardy in Zones 4 to 7, this deciduous conifer is at its best in fall when the needles turn a bright golden yellow. *Pseudolarix* has proven adaptable to a wide range of soils, excluding heavy, waterlogged conditions. While it is slow growing, provide ample space as *Pseudolarix* become dramatic specimen trees with time. The JC Raulston Arboretum features a 30-foot tall specimen while the Arnold Arboretum boasts a tree over 60 feet tall. The Scott Arboretum counts five accessions of *Pseudolarix amabilis* in the collection, but the oldest golden larch can be found between Sharples Dining Hall and the Sproul Observatory.

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**Nature’s Narratives Book Discussion Group**

5:30 – 6:30 pm, Scott Horticultural Library

Join Elizabeth Haegele and avid readers for lively, in-depth discussions of the following books! The Scott Arboretum Book Discussion Group meets once a month in the fall and winter. Our book club is free, but we do appreciate registration at www.scottarboretum.org. The discussions are limited to 12.

- September 13: *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben
- October 11: *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald
- November 8: *Landmarks* by Robert Macfarlane
- December 13: *Cutting Back: My Apprenticeship in the Gardens of Kyoto* by Leslie Buck
- January 10: *Mountains of the Heart* by Scott Weidensaul
- February 14: *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery
- March 14: *Green Thoughts: A Writer in the Garden* by Eleanor Perényi

Scott Weidensaul will be our Winter Celebration speaker on January 14, 2018.
Muhlenbergia capillaris, pink muhly grass, is a native North American grass. It is named in honor of Gotthilf Henry Ernest Muhlenberg, who was a Lutheran clergyman and amateur botanist from Pennsylvania around the time of the American Revolution. This clumping, wispy perennial (growing 2 to 3 feet high and wide) can be found performing well in many home gardens throughout the Delaware Valley. Tending to prefer dry conditions and full sun, it has been known to thrive in wet, partial shade conditions as well – making it an easy addition to any garden. The long, narrow leaves emerge early in the season to create a light, airy, clump of dark green foliage, nice as a textural accent. In late summer and into fall, the flowers steal the show and grant the plant its exceptional ornamental value.

The flowering stalks open above the foliage creating a pink, hairy, cloud-like effect, a feature likely to be the source of the specific epithet capillaris, which comes from the Latin meaning “of hair” or “pertaining to hair.” This effect is created from an elongation and coloration of the awns, or shield-like formations, of the grass flower spikes.

Muhlenbergia capillaris was first described by French naturalist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck in the mid-1700s, who originally placed it in the feather grass genus Stipa. There it stayed until a contemporary of Muhlenberg, German botanist Carl Bernhard von Trinius, placed it in a new genus Muhlenbergia ten years after Muhlenberg’s death in 1824. It is hardy in Zones 5 to 10.

Perennial Plant Conference
Friday, October 20
www.perennialplantconference.org
Visit the Perennial Plant Conference website to learn more; register before September 19 and save!

Don’t miss this outstanding day of top notch speakers! First we will hear from Derry Watkins, owner of Special Plants, a nursery in England. Derry will discuss some of her favorite new perennials with us (and some old favorites too). Next up will be Steve Foltz who has worked at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden for 29 years. Perennials must perform at the Zoo and Steve will share with us those that have. Before a break for lunch, John Lonsdale, Research Specialist at Longwood Gardens, will highlight unusual woodland plants such as Cyclamen and Trillium. After lunch we will hear from Jonathan Alderson, a local landscape architect, who will focus on ecological design in practice. Following Jonathan will be Annie White, an ecological landscape designer and the principal of Nectar Landscape Design Studio & Consulting in Burlington, Vermont. Annie will discuss the benefits and shortcomings of native cultivars in the context of pollinator habitat restoration. The day will conclude with garden designer, Arne Maynard, who will reveal his private, inspiring, and ever evolving garden Allt-y-bela to us.

In addition to our speakers, attendees include avid home gardeners and professionals in the realms of public gardens, landscape design, and landscape architecture – it’s a perfect day to network. The conference is held at Swarthmore College and is a collaboration between the Scott Arboretum, Chanticleer, Longwood Gardens, The Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Group, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.
strawberry pink centers. ‘Chicago Hardy’ can be grown in a container if moved into a garage or building where temperatures stay above freezing. If planting outside, siting is important. A south facing wall where it can receive 8 to 10 hours of good light is best. Figs tend to like rocky, poor soils – the key is good drainage. Scott Arboretum Gardener, Lars Rasmussen, uses leaf mulch around his fig, has never fertilized it, and it produces a delicious crop for him every year! ‘Chicago Hardy’ is an excellent selection for flavor, hardiness, and form. Hardy in Zones 5 to 10.

Thuja koraiensis ‘GlaucProstrata’

If the image of a tall, green, pyramidal conifer comes to mind when thinking of arborvitae, you will be surprised when you see Thuja koraiensis ‘GlaucProstrata’ (prostrate Korean arborvitae). Wild stands of the straight species, found growing in its native mountainous regions of Korea and northeast China, grow in the typical upright fashion to 30 feet tall; while the prostrate form (originally found sprawling on mountain ridges) typically grows to 2 feet tall and 3 to 6 feet wide. The flattened sprays of
ferm-like foliage are a soft, bluish green on the top; stomatal bands create a striking bluish white hue on the leaf undersides. The combination of fern-like foliage and tolerance of partly shaded growing conditions make this conifer an excellent substitute for Russian arborvitae (*Microbiota decussata*). This species is intolerant of dry conditions; it is best grown in neutral to alkaline soils with adequate moisture, and is reportedly black walnut and deer resistant. Hardy in Zones 6 to 9.

**Perennial Highlights**

**Anemone × hybrida ‘Honorine Jobert’**

‘Honorine Jobert’ is an old garden variety anemone that was found in Verdun, France in 1858; in modern times it received the 2016 Perennial Plant of the Year! An herbaceous perennial, it blooms in late summer to early fall with pure white, single flowers with a cluster of bright yellow stamens in the center. The flowers stand above a clump of dark green, deeply cut leaves on tall, wiry stems. The blooms can last up to five weeks or longer and are best against a dark background. ‘Honorine Jobert’ grows to 2 feet tall with a spread of 2 feet. This anemone is best in full sun or part shade in evenly moist, but well-drained soil. It doesn’t tolerate dry soils or soils that are too wet. It can be used as a specimen or massed in a woodland setting, cottage garden, or rock garden. Bees and butterflies are attracted to the flowers, and it is deer resistant. zones 4 to 8 are best for optimal growth.

**Stachys officinalis ‘Hummelo’**

Displaying dense spikes of tiny, light magenta flowers in late summer to fall, *Stachys officinalis* ‘Hummelo’ is an herbaceous perennial that does well as a groundcover or edging plant, particularly in cottage-style gardens. Commonly known as betony, this species is a member of the mint family and is native to Europe and Asia. Initially forming clumps, *Stachys officinalis* ‘Hummelo’ then spreads by stolons to form a lovely, dense, groundcover, with flowering spikes reaching 1.5 to 2 feet in height. The glossy, dark green leaves have scalloped edges, and can stay evergreen through warmer winters, though they do not hold up well through cold winters. In spring, the plant can be propagated by divisions, or allowed to spread on its own. ‘Hummelo’ is a low-maintenance plant that prefers full sun and well-drained soils with medium levels of moisture. In particularly hot, humid climates, a site with some shade in the afternoon is preferable. Established plants are somewhat drought-tolerant. Hardy in Zones 4 to 8.

**Symphytum × uplandicum ‘Axminster Gold’**

This variegated comfrey cultivar has striking gray-green leaves with broad yellow leaf margins. A vigorous grower, it reaches 18 inches tall and about 28 inches wide in a rosette form. In June through July showy clusters of mauve pink, bell-shaped flowers rise 4 to 5 feet above the foliage. *Symphytum* is in the borage family (*Boraginaceae*) and it is related to popular garden plants such as *Brunnera* and *Pulmonaria*. Comfrey is happiest in full sun to part shade in moist, rich soils, but the variegation on ‘Axminster Gold’ is best when it can have some afternoon shade in hot summer climates. If you are growing this comfrey for the foliage, remove flowers as they appear or cut back after flowering to encourage a fresh flush of new foliage. A note of caution: this plant may irritate skin and if ingested may cause serious discomfort. Hardy in Zones 4 to 7.
Scott Arboretum Selections: Fall Sale!
Cunningham Field
http://www.scottarboretum.org/calendar/2017-09.html#sale

Friday, September 15
Special Friends Preview Party (tickets required)

Saturday, September 16
Member Shopping, 10 am – noon
Public Shopping, noon – 3 pm

Sunday, September 17
Public Shopping, 11 am – 2 pm