

DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS

Coming into its Own

Annual Report 2022



Sussex County Councilman John Rieley summed up this milestone saying,

**“..VISION COUPLED WITH PERSISTENCE
can bring great things.”**

Season Opening Day, March 17, 2022



OUR MISSION is to create a world-class, inspirational, educational, and sustainable public botanic garden in southern Delaware for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

OUR VISION is for beautiful, engaging gardens that inspire and educate.

OUR VALUES encompass inspirational gardens, environmental stewardship, community focus, education and research, organizational transparency, financial responsibility, and civility and respect.





FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT & THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In the terminology of our Rock Star Plantsman, Piet Oudolf, the “Five Seasons of 2022” were filled with the maturing of all of DBG’s gardens. The natural beauty of DBG’s thirty-seven acres has once

again been enhanced by the magical designs of Piet Oudolf and supplemented by our creative staff and volunteers. Coming out of the 2020-2021 COVID Shadow, the gardens became a refuge for local residents and tourists to restore their connections to nature. More than 10,000 visitors enjoyed the stunning gardens and peaceful woodlands. Over 300 guests returned to the Garden for our annual dinner party. A full agenda of programs and educational events were offered throughout the year. All of this hard work and dedication was recognized by a wide array of observers:

- **The Southern Delaware Tourism Office named DBG as the **Best Attraction in Sussex County in 2022.****
- **Governor Carney recognized our Garden Stewards and Docents with his **Governor’s Award for Volunteers.****
- **The Delaware Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) presented their **Honor Award with Sustainable Citation** to SEA Studio Architects for DBG’s Public Restrooms.**
- **The American Shore & Beach Preservation Association awarded our Living Shoreline the **Best Restored Shore Project.****
- **The Association of Fundraising Professionals conferred their **Excellence Award** on our 2020 Annual Report.**

We are all gratified by these awards, but we don’t do it for the awards. What we do at DBG is for **you**—our **members**, our **guests**, our **community**. Conserving your Coastal Plain horticulture, stewarding these remarkable 37 acres, tending and expanding the cultivated gardens, becoming financially sustainable—these are our goals, these are what motivate us. If we do them well enough to earn the respect of entities which observe our progress, it is an added delight.

This annual report is a summary of DBG’s remarkable 2022. As always, we hope that you are satisfied with our progress, that you will visit our growing gardens, that you will continue your support as members and participants in our programs and events.

The DGB Team of Board, volunteers and staff are committed to continuing the record of success that we have achieved over the last 10 years. **We do it for you but we cannot do it without you.**

Raymond J. Sander
President

Sheryl J. Swed
Executive Director



DBG: COMING INTO ITS OWN



We had a dream and a place and a community. We had a renowned plantsman with a vision of a native perennial meadow positioned as the centerpiece of our coastal place. The vision was planted and it grew. Our renowned plantsman, Piet Oudolf from Hummelo, Netherlands, says that when he designs a meadow, his vision is not of just how it looks or functions upon germination, but also what it becomes as it “matures to display certain characteristics in change.”¹ His design incorporates how it looks, feels and acts at maturity, when it has COME INTO ITS OWN.

Six years have elapsed since the DBG Meadow planting. DBG was highly recognized in 2022 as a destination because of the success of this meadow

and DBG’s other featured gardens. But that success did not just happen, as Piet says the “human hand of a gardener must be there to evaluate, adjust as it evolves...If we don’t have the right people to tend to the garden... it will disappear in a few years’ time.”²

So how has DBG’s Meadow, along with its companion gardens, matured to “come into its own” from Piet’s and DBG’s original plans? What nurturing did it take to maintain integrity with the plan, as well as its fit within our local coastal ecology? This year’s Annual Report seeks to answer those questions through the perspectives of those who manage, design, plant, maintain and sponsor the Delaware Botanic Gardens.

¹ May 24, 2023. Margaret Roach. “What Makes a Garden a Work of Art? Piet Oudolf Explains.” *In the Garden*. The New York Times.

² *Ibid.*

IN THE MEADOW

Stephen Pryce Lea, DBG's Director of Horticulture and Educational Programs has been one of the "human hands" watching over Piet's Meadow the last two years and making horticultural decisions to ensure its viability and success. Many challenges have come his way such as soil pH issues, over/under abundance of certain species, and the aesthetic need for more color in the meadow in early spring before the perennial masses bloom. Here is his perspective.

Stephen Pryce Lea's Perspective

"DBG has captivated visitors with its breathtaking 'naturescapes' and world-class garden designs. Among its many gems, the Piet Oudolf Meadow stands out as a testament to the harmonious interplay between nature's perennial succession and the meticulous care provided by a dedicated team of horticulturists and volunteers. The Meadow showcases the splendor of evolving plant communities while maintaining its natural allure.

Piet's perennial garden designs are celebrated for their ability to harmonize with nature and evoke a sense of wild beauty. DBG's Meadow continues to exemplify this design philosophy, seamlessly blending artistry with ecological sensitivity. Piet's meticulous planning and extensive knowledge of plant communities have resulted in a meadow that has evolved naturally while still adhering to a carefully crafted combination of 85% native plants and 15% non-native perennials in a wildflower setting.

Since its first phase planting in 2017, the Piet Oudolf Meadow has undergone a remarkable journey of maturation. Initially, the meadow was established with carefully selected plant species that formed the foundation of Piet's vision. His signature plants, like the *Amsonia* (Threadleaf Bluestar), lead the charge in Spring and are followed by *Baptisia* (False Indigo) cultivars that dominate the lower meadow. Later, *Echinacea* (Coneflowers) are displaced by an abundance of *Platycodon* (Balloon flowers) that welcome the arrival of Summer. "



Bee-friendly *Echinacea pallida* 'Hula Dancer'

Over time, nature has worked its magic, and the meadow has matured into a vibrant ecosystem. As Piet planned, and just as in nature, successful plants have self-seeded, intermingling in a beautiful network of tapestry colors and textures, and attracted a world of environmentally-critical pollinators.

One of the hallmarks of a Piet Oudolf Meadow is the decision to embrace natural wild succession. Through careful observation and management, DBG's horticulturists and volunteers have allowed the meadow to evolve and transform organically. Instead of imposing rigid control, they permit the plants to self-seed and spread, creating a dynamic environment where biodiversity thrives. While the meadow may appear untouched by human hands, it receives meticulous care to maintain its integrity and beauty. Continuous evaluation of plant performance, regular soil testing to monitor



A garden hydrant among 5th season seed heads: nurture and nature in cooperation at the Piet Oudolf Meadow

soil conditions, along with organic nutrients and moisture, do play a critical role in the best management practices for this unique wildflower meadow. In some cases, aggressive plant and seed removal manage the spread of competitive plants. Also, reducing plant height completed in June helps keep the plants in check and in unity with the rest of the meadow perennials and grasses.

The diverse plant pallet of the Piet Oudolf Meadow, coupled with the ongoing care and expertise of the dedicated team of horticulturists and volunteers, has created a world-class garden, filled with emotion and promise, that evolves naturally while retaining its design integrity. DBG's living masterpiece serves as an inspiration for garden enthusiasts and nature lovers, as a reminder of the delicate balance between human intervention and the untamed beauty of the natural world.”



In late 2021, with Piet's approval, Stephen adjusted the plan in order to add early Spring color and texture across the Meadow and Rhyne Gardens prior to their massive perennial bloom.

Stephen selected tulip and other bulb species that were in scale, texture, and color with the Meadow's existing plant communities. Volunteers planted over 86,000 bulbs in 2022.

As you can see from the Spring 2022 tulip bloom, Stephen's planting plan for the bulbs filled a seasonal void and beautifully continued Piet's matrix design.



“**Dogfish Head** is proud to sponsor DBG, and honored to have the **Learning Garden** share our name. The Dogfish Head Learning Garden features re-creations of two distinct Delaware habitats—a freshwater wetland and now rare inland dunes, a habitat that once flourished along the Nanticoke River in Sussex County. The garden will teach and inspire students and gardeners to celebrate and protect the unique beauty of southern Delaware and Delmarva.” DOGFISH HEAD BEER & BENEVOLENCE

ON THE POND

The Learning Garden began as a constructed wetland pond and dock on the DBG site in 2018. The pond’s purpose was to serve as an outdoor wetland classroom where visitors could learn about the benefits of native aquatic habitats and the role that riparian buffers play in improving water quality. To give Mother Nature a jump start, the pond’s constructors, **Todd Fritchman** (DBG Board Member and President of Envirotech) and his team, planted a seed mix of Northeast native annuals and perennials specifically formulated to create a freshwater riparian pond buffer at its first stage. The pond, later known as the Dogfish Head Learning Garden, had humble beginnings, much like many gardens, and needed nurturing from both DBG and Envirotech. Early years had sparse, early-successional growth, supporting a limited population of aquatic and dune fauna. Several iterations of seeding and weeding needed to happen to guide the pond to its native state.

But by 2022, this constructed pond had truly “come into its own”, supporting a rich population of aquatic invertebrates and a dense riparian buffer of native freshwater wetland

plants. Per Todd, the increase in biodiversity seen in the pond between 2019 and 2022 (as evidenced by water samples taken by visitors at the annual DBG Bugs and Beer educational workshop) is an environmental indicator of a mature freshwater wetland ecosystem. While deeply nurtured in its early life stages, the outdoor wetland classroom has become mostly self-sustaining today.

Envirotech’s mission is to “provide environmental interpretation and education with natural ecosystems.” DBG strives to “educate by example” by building successful “hands-on” garden models that demonstrate to the public the environmental benefits of native plantings to the surrounding habitat and water quality.

In the case of this created wetland pond, both goals are accomplished as the knowledge gained by the public in seeing this freshwater wetland pond “come into its own” over the past 3–4 years provides those visitors the incentive to use similar sustainable technologies in their own back yards or communities. And in Todd’s perspective, “this natural wetland system and everything else in the Delaware Botanic Garden has global wildlife energy impacts that are important to sustain our planet.”



Carol McCloud’s Perspective: “When I first started thinking about where on the 37-acre Gardens, I would like to have a Naming Rights site, the **Folly Garden** was my first choice. There is something special about the Folly Garden that you immediately feel when you enter. The Folly Garden started out as a burned-out pile of rubble from the Original Homestead. From the beginning it was a very magical place. The vision for the Folly has grown into a beautiful place of peace, tranquility and reflection. It’s apparent we have had the right people attending to the Folly Garden for future generations. It continues to constantly evolve. I’m so grateful to be a part of its success.”

AT THE EDGES

Four gardens sit between the Meadow Garden and the Woodland Gardens: The **Folly Garden**, the **Woodland Ridge Garden**, the **East Woodland Edge Garden**, and the **West Woodland Edge Garden**. These are considered “edge” gardens as they not only give an aesthetic softening as one transitions from DBG’s multiple open habitats (meadow, pond, and grasslands) to the woodlands, but they also provide natural connections for wildlife passing to the woodlands and shore.

The **Folly Garden** represents our finest example in the nurturing of a garden to its prime by our human hands— a place where visitors can sit down and enjoy the whimsies and ornaments of nature around the old homestead’s foundation. In late autumn 2022 and throughout the winter, Jan-Marie Poli, Jeremy Cole and Sam Cashdollar collaborated on two new structures—a reflection pond and the ruins of an old fireplace where one can “reflect and dream”, as well as find new nooks and crannies to populate with Folly Garden whimsies like mosses, lichens and ferns.

On their visits to DBG, **Bonnie and Charles Zonko** were drawn to the Folly because of its beauty and uniqueness, and because it was named by their close friends, John and Carol McCloud. In 2022, Charlie wanted to name a garden in honor of his late wife Bonnie, so he selected a special space nestled on the ridge behind The Folly, naming it the **Woodland Ridge Garden**. This naming right perfectly symbolizes the close friendship of the Zonko and McCloud families and their commitments to preserving the memories of their loved ones and the beauty of Delmarva.

The East Woodland Edge Garden and the West Woodland Edge Garden have been purposely planted with native berry-bearing shrubs, ferns, *Panicum* grasses and small flowering trees such as red bud and dogwood to entice wildlife. These two edge gardens are quite different in that one represents an extension of the meadow habitat (filled with dense thicket-type flowering shrubs) and the other represents a transition into the woodland (more open with flowering subcanopy trees and low-growing grasses.) These gardens have taken several years of planting and maintenance to come into their own, and in 2022, matured to their

purpose as corridors, shelter, nursery areas, and food sources for DBG’s resident wildlife. **Helen and Steve Raleigh, sponsors of the East Woodland Edge Garden** and owners of Story Hill Farm in Frankford, are dedicated to making the world a better place for endangered pollinators. Both their sponsorship of the DBG meadow-extending edge garden and their 10 acres of wildflower meadows in Frankford demonstrate their commitment to protecting natural sustainable pollinator gardens.

To **Mary and George Hessler, sponsors of the West Woodland Edge Garden**, seeing the changes to this garden from its origin—changes in size and texture of the vegetation—has been an “absolute joy!” The Hesslers chose this “woody” edge garden because of its likeness to the forest behind a home they once had and are particularly fond of the redbuds and dogwoods blooming in the Spring.

AMONG THE TREES

While the **Woodland Gardens** seem self-sufficient in its tending by Mother Nature, in actuality its upkeep as a botanic garden feature is a “hands on” mix of nurture and nature. The mature Woodlands, once totally overtaken by greenbrier and other invasive vines, is now a wonder of the DBG gardens, clear of invasive vines and occupied with over a mile of staff-

built, cushioned mulched trails. If left to itself, the woodlands would be overrun, so it continues to need our gardeners’ hands to keep order. As a result, the woodlands remain a constant maintenance line item on the DBG staff to-do list. In 2022, Stephen procured grants from the Delaware Forest Service and TEDI³ to help ensure the self-sustainability of the Woodlands. These grants will purchase much-needed native trees and shrubs in 2023 to enhance the mature forest’s open understory that will provide new habitat food sources and ground stability, as well as ensuring future renewable tree growth. With these actions, DBG is taking the necessary steps to allow this critical Pepper Creek coastal forest to mature into a self-sustaining carbon sequestering body and resilient shoreline protector for years to come.

High atop **The Knoll**, you’ll experience an abundance of new plants that enhance the beautiful view of winding Pepper Creek below, including azaleas, oakleaf hydrangeas, other shrubs and shade-loving perennials. **Sponsors Ron Bass and George Robbins** have been a part of the DBG plan from the start and are the critical success factor for The Knoll coming into its own, contributing human hands and love to enhance the Gardens, both financially and physically. Their perspective from their Knoll viewpoint gives them the opportunity to see a rare sight of Pepper Creek from above.



Ron Bass & George Robbins Perspective: “At DBG, the short history of the garden is rife with details of the vast soybean fields being converted to the beautiful meadow we see today. Most public gardens don’t have the ability to also feature a wooded forest and a waterfront. The transformation of the woods into a serene space with pathways provides an additional experience many do not expect to see. The Knoll has changed significantly since DBG opened. The objective for the highest spot in the garden is lush greenery of many fern varieties in addition to plants able to bloom in the shade and a view of Pepper Creek. While not yet completed, it already provides an unexpected restful spot during a visit to the garden. This area will continue to change as planting progresses. We are happy to be its sponsors.”



The Heart of the Woodlands: DBG Staff (Bridget Curran, Jeremy Cole, Sam Cashdollar and Stephen Pryce Lea) with our creature contribution to the Rehoboth Beach 2022 Sea Witch Festival. Creatures included a six-foot tall Snail by Sam and Jeremy (shown); a large Turtle by Sam, Jeremy & Bridget (shown); a Leaping Lizard by Sam, Jeremy & Bridget; a Heron by Stephen Pryce Lea; an Owl by Judy Marshall & Michelle Garret; an Eagle & Luna Moth by Margaret Kimmel; a Spider by Bridget and a Snake by Cheryl Quirk.



As you walk through the Woodlands a gnarled cherry tree catches your interest. You see a huge bird's nest —human-made, yes, but a natural ecosystem unto itself nonetheless. It's a platform where we will teach young and old about the web of life and the balance of nature.

Sally Gore and Peg Emerson have a lifelong commitment to education and children. This sister duo saw the **Learning Nest** as the embodiment of their shared commitments. They sponsored the Learning Nest because they envisioned children discovering nature's activities while surrounded in this iconic assemblage of interwoven twigs and branches deep in the Woodlands.



BOTANIC BATHROOMS

DBG’s design award-winning restroom facility opened in March of 2022. Nestled in the trees it features rain chains as downspouts, a rain-collecting 1000-gallon cistern, adjacent biofiltering rain gardens, and stormwater-directing dry creek beds to prevent slope erosion. This structure is the essence of how a contemporary commercial building can be constructed to be beautiful and functional while still conserving its surroundings.

SEA Studio Architects (SEA) along with its partners WN Builders, Pilottown Engineering, Halkin Masin Photography and DBG won the 2022 American Institute of Architects Delaware “Award with Honor and Sustainable Citation: Botanic Bathrooms” for its design and construction. The facility was also a finalist in CINTAS Corporation’s 2022 “Americas Best Restroom Contest,” who cited the building’s “gently situated” natural cedar frame, floor-to-ceiling-windows and simple green technologies as special features that “are truly a part of the unique garden experience.”

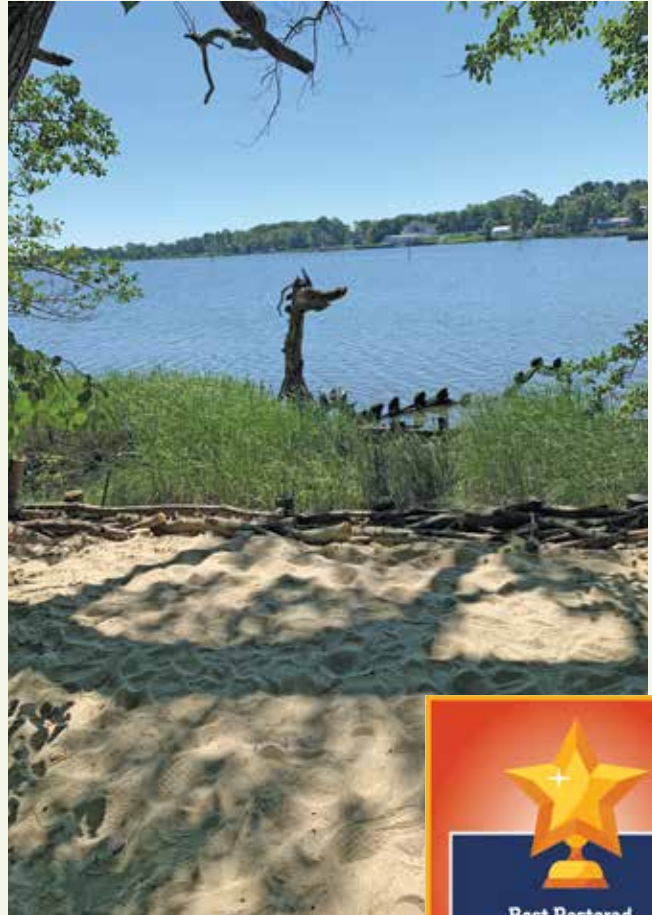
The facility design was provided pro bono by SEA; and the green technology best management practices implemented were sponsored through an EPA Nonpoint Source Program grant from Delaware’s Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

ALONG THE SHORE

In 2022, you experienced the result of nature beginning to rebuild an eroding “ghost” saltmarsh along 300’ of DBG’s Pepper Creek shoreline. In 2020, human hands set the stage for nature’s success by building a living shoreline along this portion of the Pepper Creek. This particular living shoreline was unique in that it was made of recycled woodland logs interwoven into an innovative shoreline fence-like structure that 1) protects the edge from excess wave action to stabilize the marsh, 2) allows tidal action to deposit sediment into the marsh and 3) holds those sediments for new marsh growth. Natural ecosystem processes and wildlife interactions between the water and the shore continue as if the structure isn’t there.

In 2022, we began to see evidence of a long-term goal: the merging of the living shoreline structure and the saltmarsh grasses. The resilience of the new shoreline was well-tested with increased intensity of recent storms and a 2022 nor’easter. Only minimal reinforcement was required in a few places during this time period. No new erosion was seen; planted grasses spread into previously degraded areas and were actually seen growing within the structure. Over time, it is expected that the living shoreline structure and the marsh grasses will become as one at maturity.

The value of this unique living shoreline effort was recognized by the American Shoreline and Beach Restoration Association with a **“2022 Best Restored Shore Award”** to DBG and its



Living Shoreline partners (The Center for the Inland Bays, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Sovereign Consulting and Temple University.) It is with great satisfaction that we are seeing the success of this innovative nature-based living shoreline.

A visit to **The Point** along DBG’s Pepper Creek shoreline gives visitors the best place to see the Living Shoreline in action. One of DBG’s longest and most generous supporters, **Barbara Peters**, selected the Point as her naming rights contribution. For Barbara, Delmarva is all about the water—the ocean, the Inland Bays, and navigable waterways. The Point ties DBG’s 37 acres to the tidal waters by offering a stunning view of Pepper Creek at an intimate vantage spot where the woodland and the tidal waters embrace. It is here that the natural maturation of the living shoreline and saltmarsh will become apparent.



CIB & DBG Living Shoreline Team Members with Senator Tom Carper



THROUGHOUT THE GARDENS

DBG EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Under the direction of Stephen Pryce Lea, Director of Educational Programs, 2022 brought about DBG's official botanic education programs and the formation of the DBG Education Committee. Along with Stephen, the committee includes Margaret Kimmel, Ryan Revel, Michelle Garrett and Elizabeth Rives as Leads and Cheryl Quirk, Jane Carroll, Donna Bueno and Lorraine Easton as Support.

The committee's experience is multidisciplinary with expertise in floristry, horticulture, conservation, science, IT and education, providing the program with a broad spectrum of subject areas. Per Stephen, the DBG gardens serve as an educational tool, inspiring visitors and fostering an appreciation for the beauty and importance of native plant communities. Horticulturists and volunteers actively engage with the community, offering workshops, guided tours, and informative sessions on sustainable gardening practices. Through these efforts, they empower visitors to create their own thriving natural landscapes.

The 2022 educational programs included the following:

- **Piet Oudolf Meadow Tours**
- **Bugs and Beer Event**
- **Butterflies and Blooms Class**
- **Woodland Wonders Tree Identification Tours**
- **The Great Monarch Migration Class**
- **Fall Gardening for Wildlife**
- **Fall Bulb Planting Class**
- **Fall Container Class**
- **Happy Holly Days**, featuring Jim Resch of the American Holly Society and tour of the Charles Anderson Holly Collection
- **Holly Wreath Workshop**

Educating the Public

Today's definition of a botanic garden's role includes that of being a public educator about environmental sustainability brought about through the use of native plants and best practices in residential and commercial gardening. In fact, a reason frequently cited by DBG visitors as to why they are visiting DBG is to get ideas and advice for home gardens that are beautiful, yet **environmentally protective** and easy to maintain. Our commitment to this role is well-demonstrated by DBG's model native gardens such as the 85% native Piet Oudolf Meadow, the pollutant-filtering Rhyne Garden, the Woodlands green technology with rain gardens and dry creek beds, the Dogfish Head Learning Garden's biofiltering wetland buffer, and the protective Living Shoreline. As part of DBG's mission to provide programs that transfer DBG's knowledge of climate change-protecting garden practices, the gardens listed above 'educate by example.'

A wonderful example of this is DBG's Rhyne Garden. **Murray Sawyer** of the **Ellice and Rosa McDonald Foundation** was so inspired with the Rhyne's spectacular color, plant diversity, and pollinator vitality that he immediately chose this garden on behalf of the Foundation as its naming rights sponsor. It's a beautiful and colorful garden with a vibrant ecosystem, but with hidden purpose—water quality improvement. Stormwater control and street pollutant filtration are the Rhyne vegetation's specialty. Built to design from the DBG Master Plan, the Rhyne can be scaled to meet community needs in protecting against climate change effects. So the Rhyne serves as an educational model while also working, in Murray's words, "to preserve a natural place where people can enjoy the blessings and be inspired by the natural outdoor setting."

Margaret Kimmel's Perspective

"'Butterflies in Bloom' offered guests a chance to explore the Piet Oudolf Meadow in a new way—identifying the many butterfly species that take advantage of the nectar offered by blooming perennials. Monarchs, Spicebush Swallowtails, Eastern Tiger Swallowtails, American Ladies, Painted Ladies, Variegated Fritillaries and Silver



Stephen incorporated the use of social media as a part of his DBG educational program this year. Each day a post was made to **Instagram** and **Facebook** with photographs of the day’s floral blooms and an instructional message about the plants and wildlife portrayed. The use of this type of media provided botanical information to the general public, as well as onsite educational activities and marketing messages. This photo collage shows the July Instagram posts.

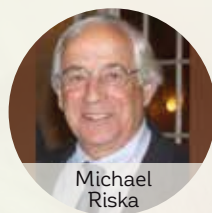


Spotted Skippers were the most frequent visitors to the Meadow. Docents helped guests identify the butterflies and their “favorite” plants. To support a diverse population of pollinators, DBG grows many of the host plants where the butterflies lay their eggs and then hungry caterpillars eat their way to their next life cycle stage. Our program includes discussion of the pollinator host plants so that gardeners can be sure they are supporting the entire lifecycle of the butterflies they love in their gardens.”

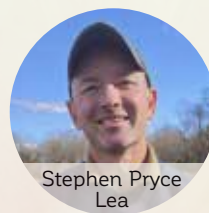
Craig Haggerty’s Perspective

“Through the lenses of community involvement, Piet’s signature meadow and the DBG garden as a whole provide an abundance of resources for educating the public to ‘best practices’ for garden maintenance. Whether large scale or residential gardens, native/perennial landscaping improves the overall health of our coastal community both locally and globally. From the beginning of DBG’s existence and true to our mission as an educational and sustainable garden, volunteers and staff have ‘put heads together’ to create opportunities that inform the public and provide easy public access to witness Piet’s creation, learning about the ‘magic’ of a native pollinator meadow. We’ve come a long way from our first offering, a summer workshop in 2021 called ‘Butterfly Thursday’s’, to now offering guided meadow tours of the season and botanical workshops, as well as activities that engage our younger garden members.”

AS THE GARDENS MATURE AND EVOLVE, SO TOO DOES THE ORGANIZATION THAT TENDS TO IT



Michael Riska



Stephen Pryce Lea



Alison Willocks



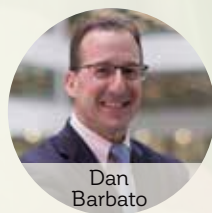
David Small

New DBG Board of Directors Members

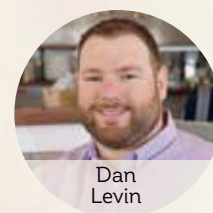
- **Michael Riska:** Former Executive Director of the Delaware Nature Society; former DBG Advisory Council
- **David Small:** Former Secretary, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

New DBG Advisory Council Members

- **Dan Barbato:** Vice President, Pennoni Associates
- **Carol Bason:** Environmental & Wetland Scientist, EPA Contractor, UD Consultant (Retired)
- **Jeremy Hager:** President and Founder, The Land Care Advisory Group and Coastal Plant Care; former DBG Board Member
- **Dan Levin:** Director of Operations, SoDel Concepts
- **Elizabeth Rives:** Environmental Educator & Communications Specialist, National Park Service (Retired)



Dan Barbato



Dan Levin

New DBG Staff Members

- **Bridget Curran:** Assistant Horticulturist

New DBG Positions in 2022

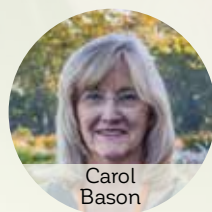
- **Stephen Pryce Lea:** Director of Horticulture and Director of Educational Programs
- **David Small:** Chair, DBG Advisory Council
- **Alison Willocks:** Treasurer, DBG Board



Jeremy Hager



Elizabeth Rives



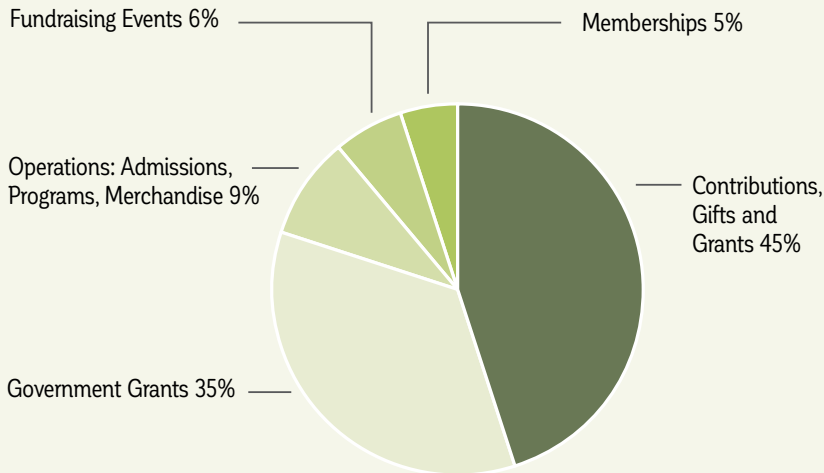
Carol Bason



Bridget Curran

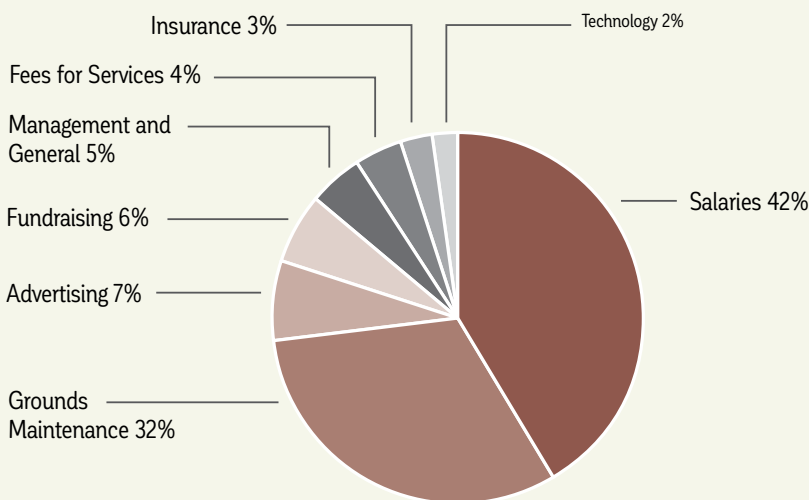
FINANCIALS

2022 TOTAL REVENUE \$1,534,757



Source: IRS form 990 Part VIII Statement of Revenue

2022 TOTAL EXPENSES \$677,315



Source: IRS form 990 Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses, net of Depreciation and Occupancy (non-cash expenses).

OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY

When you are creating a new public garden attraction, the importance of an active public outreach program cannot be underestimated. Media relationships cultivated by members of the DBG Board resulted in 88 media stories in 2022. Our new ads about DBG activities and classes were published in two weekly newspapers all season—the Coastal Point and the Cape Gazette, as well as in the Delaware Beach Book, Delaware Today, and Delaware Beach Life.

Also added this year was a major new partnership with nine Sussex County Public

Financial accomplishments in 2022

- Income from Operations at \$139k has doubled compared to 2021
- Income from DBG Memberships is 38% higher compared to 2021.
- Total Guest Admissions to the Gardens in 2022 were 63% higher than in 2021
- DBG successfully completed its first full audit of financial statements in 2022

Projects Completed: Award winning Public Restrooms—Thanks to the generous funding from the Ellice & Rosa McDonald Foundation, State of DE Bond Bill, the Crystal Trust, the Marmot Foundation, DNREC Green Technologies, Also, thanks to the great work by SEA Architects, Pilottown Engineering and WN Builders.

Projects Underway: Staff & Volunteer Building—Thanks to State of DE Bond Bill funding. Contractors being selected and construction to be completed in October 2023.

The Annette Pennoni Meadow Pavilion—has been delayed due to increased costs associated with COVID. Designs will be reassessed to reduce projected costs with Groundbreaking rescheduled for Winter 2023/2024.



Libraries. DBG provided the libraries with “free” DBG admission passes available to be “checked-out” by any Delaware Library card holder.

This program has expanded the opportunity to visit DBG to those in our community who might not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the gardens.

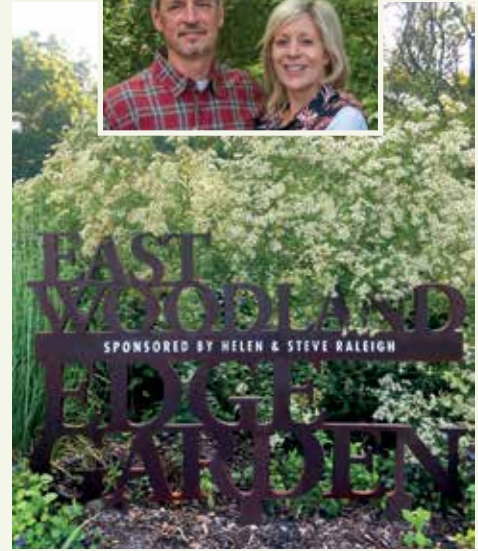
Once again in 2022, DBG was awarded a FACE Award for their 2020 Annual Report. This year, for the first time, DBG had a truly wide-ranging integrated Marketing-Communications program that resulted in greatly increased admissions and memberships.

NAMING RIGHTS SPONSORS

Sally Gore and Peg Emerson



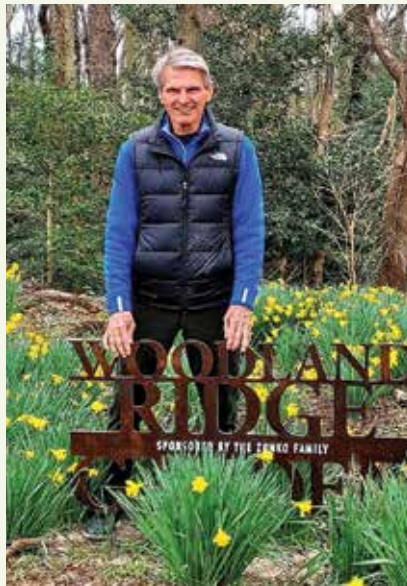
Steve and Helen Raleigh



Ron Bass and George Robbins



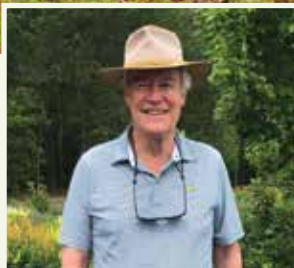
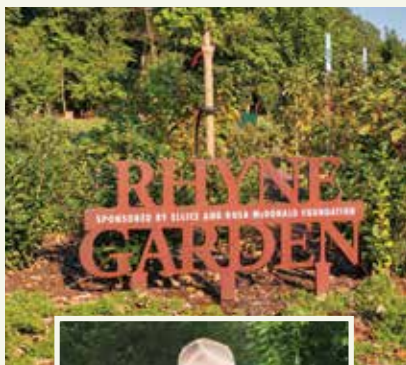
Barbara Peters



Charles Zonko



Carol McCloud



Murray Sawyer



Mary & George Hessler



VALUED VOLUNTEERS



DBG VOLUNTEER TRENDS

128,964
TOTAL HOURS
2014-2022

\$3.445
million
VALUE

18,513
TOTAL HOURS
2022

\$547,244
VALUE

GARDEN STEWARDS & DOCENTS VOLUNTEER STATISTICS FOR 2022

85
VOLUNTEERS

7,806
VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$230,745
VALUE

GARDEN STEWARDS

Akhter, Jeanette
Baker, Phoebe
Bason, Carol
Broomfield, Tony
Brouillard, Damien
Buono, Donna
Caro, Lauren
Carroll, Jane
Cowan, Jeannette
Dennis, Peggy
Dorrett, Louise
Ferguson, Les
Gilbert, Barry
Haggerty, Craig
Hall, Mary
Hammond, George
Harvey, Corlean
Healey, Jamie
Hopmans, Nancy
Hoyt, Donna
Hoyt, John
Jaques, David
Johnson, Jeff
Kelly, Therese
Kimmel, Margaret
Klima, Don
Lesperance, Kathy
Maggio, Paul
Marshall, Judith
McNamee, Bonnie
Millet, Cheryl
Morano, Maureen
Moses, Julie
Newberry, Carol
Osterdale, Ann
Peters, Jane

Phinney, Angela
Poli, Jan
Precht, Tricia
Pryce Lea, Stephen
Ravida, Peggie
Rives, Elizabeth
Rondeau, Tom
Saville, Garland
Scarangella, Sally
Segreve, Tom
Sharp, Brenda
Shuck, Carl
Stokes, Jane
Willocks, Alison
Wisniewski, Rob
Witting, Olga

DOCENTS

Amaimo, Marcia
Buono, Donna
Caro, Lauren
Carroll, Jane
Colombo, Diane
Cowan, Jeannette
Dennis, Peggy
Dorrett, Louise
Easton, Lorraine
Garrett, Michelle
Haggerty, Craig
Hall, Mary
Hopmans, Nancy
Johnson, Jeff
Johnson, Kathy
Kimmel, Margaret
Lesperance, Kathy
Long, Pat
McCloud, Carol
Marshall, Jim
Marshall, Judith
Martin, Judy

Millet, Cheryl
Phinney, Angela
Poli, Jan
Precht, Tricia
Quirk, Cheryl
Ravida, Peggie
Revel, Ryan
Rives, Elizabeth
Romans, Joyce
Scarangella, Sally
Schaab, Angela
Schaab, Kurt
Sherwin, Diann
Simeral, Jill
Somers, Carole
Stokes, Gary
Stokes, Jane
Viener, Gary
Weissman, Barry
Willocks, Alison

TOUR GUIDES

Kimmel, Margaret
McCloud, Carol
Rives, Elizabeth
Stokes, Gary

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Buono, Donna
Carroll, Jane
Cowan, Jeannette
Garrett, Michelle
Hall, Mary
Kimmel, Margaret
Precht, Tricia
Quirk, Cheryl
Rives, Elizabeth
Simeral, Jill



AWARDS

- 2022 “Award with Honor and Sustainable Citation: Botanic Bathrooms”, Delaware American Institute of Architects (AIA) 1/10/23
- “2022 Best Attraction” Award by Southern Delaware Tourism Office 12/14/22
- Governor’s 2021 Outstanding Volunteer Service Award 2/24/22
- 2022 “Best Restored Shores” Award by American Shore & Beach Preservation Association to DBG, CIB, DNREC, Sovereign Consulting and Temple University 9/16/22
- FACE Award, Association of Fundraisers and Communicators Excellence Award for Annual Report 2020, Brandywine Chapter 11/15/22
- Schell Brother’s Project Kudos Campaign Award \$10,000, 7/4/22
- 2022 Finalist, “Americas Best Restroom Contest”, CINTAS Corporation 8/1/22



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- Season Opening Day/Ribbon Cutting 3/16/22
- Frolic in the Folly 4/8/22
- Bugs & Beer 5/18/22
- Sip & Saunter 6/15/22
- Tree ID Tours and Volunteer Training 6, 7, 10, 11/22
- Piet Oudolf Meadow Seasonal Tours 5, 6, 7, 8/22
- Meadow Garden Summer Volunteer Training 7/22
- Butterflies & Blooms Classes 7/21–8/25/22
- Container Classes in Folly 9/15/22
- The Great Monarch Migration Class 9/22/22
- “Back to the Gardens” Dinner Party 9/29/22
- Fall Bulb Planting Class 11/5/22
- Sea Witch Fall Harvest & Woodland Discovery Trail 10/28–11/20/22
- Season Closing Day 11/20/22
- DBG Virtual Annual Public Meeting 12/6/22



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Today’s Horticultural Symposium, Longwood Gardens—two DBG staff attendees 2/3/22
- Faculty & Students from Delaware Sea Grant Green Infrastructure Internship Program/Delaware Technical Community College 3/10/2022
- Food Bank of Delaware Donations—Free Admission. Earth Day (368 guests donated 880 pounds of food) 4/22/22
- DBG Green Technology Projects, Millville Town Hall, Stephen Pryce Lea, Presenter 4/26/22
- Governor’s 2021 Volunteer Outstanding Service Award Presentation to 85 volunteers 5/14/22
- Native Plant/Water Fest at James Farm Ecological Preserve 5/14/22
- Food Bank of Delaware—Free Admission. Mother’s Day (409 guests donating 1,038 pounds of food) 5/15/22
- DBG—Sussex County Public Library Partnership, with Free DBG Admission Passes 6/20/22
- American Public Gardens Association (APGA) Conference, Portland, OR 6/22/22
- Bay Front Environmental Club 6/30/22
- Cancer Coalition Group Tour 8/16/22
- Women’s Journal Group 8/16/22
- University of Delaware Group 8/27/22
- Bethany Beach Boardwalk Arts Festival Outreach 9/10/22
- Delaware Center for Horticulture 9/14/22
- Lewes Blooms, Lewes Library, Stephen Pryce Lea, Presenter 9/20/22
- Dagsboro Night Out Presenting Sponsor & Outreach 10/11/22
- Trap Pond State Park Nature Fest Outreach 10/11/22
- Delaware Tourism Office 10/14/22
- Dagsboro Free Admission Day 10/22/22
- Students of Somerset County Technical High School’s Horticulture Program 11/2/22



- **Delco Master Gardeners** 3/20/22
- **Branches to Chances** 3/23/22
- **Millsboro Garden Club** 4/8/22
- **Chimes for Disabled Adults** 4/2/22
- **Unitarian Universalist Church** 4/22/22
- **Delmarva Birding Group** 4/24/22
- **Brandywine Garden Club** 4/27/22
- **Delaware Representative Ron Gray and Victoria Brennan, DE Chief of Physical Policy** 4/27/22
- **DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy, Climate & Sustainability Section, Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative (TEDI)**
- **Plantation Lakes Garden Club** 5/5/22
- **Heidi Gilmore, Chair, Sussex County Land Trust**
- **Garden Club of Eastern Shore** 5/12/22
- **M.O.O.D. Miata Club** 5/21/22
- **Bayville Shores of Fenwick Island** 5/27/22
- **Lewes In Bloom** 6/2/22
- **Red Mill Pond Garden Club** 6/3/22
- **Seaford Spade & Trowel** 6/9/22
- **Lewes Community Garden** 6/11/22
- **Worcester County Garden Club** 6/13/22
- **The Estuary Group** 6/16/22
- **Inland Bays Garden Center** 6/21/22
- **Cape Henlopen Senior Center** 6/23/22
- **Bay Front Environmental Club** 6/30/22
- **Westside Garden Club** 7/14/22
- **DNREC Environmental** 7/22/22
- **EPA National Estuaries Program and Delaware Center for the Inland Bays** 7/25/22
- **Barefoot Gardeners Garden Club** 8/8/22
- **Nurture with Nature** 8/11/22
- **Gardeners By The Seas Garden Club** 8/25/22
- **EPA Region III and DNREC Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program Review** 9/7/22
- **Phi Beta Kappa Society Lewes** 9/16/22
- **LeJardinet** 9/22/22
- **4 Seasons Garden Club** 9/23/22
- **Cape Shores Community** 10/1/22
- **Himmel's Garden Center** 10/6/22
- **Garden Gate Garden Club** 10/12/22
- **Garden Club of Wilmington** 10-13/22
- **Wicomico County Garden Club** 10/14/22
- **Paint Branch Garden Club** 10/22/22
- **Branches to Chances, DE River Climate Corps**
- **Somerset County Tech High School** 11/2/22



During 2022, DBG set new record with 88 media stories, averaging 7 media stories a month. Below is a sample of 2022 media stories.

- Cape Gazette & Coastal Point, "DBG Volunteers to receive Governor's Award," 1/12-13/22
- Coastal Point & Cape Gazette, "DBG New Advisory Council Chair, David Small." 2/15/22
- Coastal Point, "Bulbs, and restrooms, set to bloom at DBG," Susan Canfora. 3/4/22
- WGMD-FM Radio, "Talk of Delmarva" Jake Smith's interview of Ray Sander, DBG President. 3/9/22
- The Washington Post, Travel Section 3/13/22
- WRDE-TV, "DBG Opening Day Coverage," David Bowen on Evening News. 3/17/22
- Bay-to-Bay News, Delaware State News, "Botanic Gardens Grow" 3/20/22
- Delaware Wave, Delaware Online/Delmarva Now & AP 3/26/22
- WPVI-TV, 6/ABC-TV, Philadelphia, "Inside Look at Delaware Botanic Gardens," Jacki Bacher. 4/29/22
- Cape Gazette, "DBG offers free Mother's Day admission with food donation." 5/3/22
- Cape Gazette & Coastal Point, Kudos for a Cause to benefit Delaware Botanic Gardens" 6/6-10/22
- Cape Gazette, Sip & Saunter," Chris Flood. 6/21/22
- Delaware Today, "DBG Best New Garden," 7/4/22
- Arlington [VA] Magazine, "Stroll with the Pollinators," Christine Koubek Flynn. 7/8/22
- Market Screener, "CINTAS selects the 2022 America's best restroom contest finalists-DBG." 7/28/22
- Cape Gazette, "Delaware Botanic Gardens offers free admission passes at Sussex Libraries." 8/12/22
- Delaware Business Times, "People on the Move – New DBG Advisory Council." 8/29/22
- Cape Gazette, "Botanic Gardens to host Great Monarch Migration class." 9/22/22
- AARP Online, "Go for the natural look – DBG, interview with Stephen Pryce Lea 10/5/22
- Cape Gazette & Coastal Point, "Botanic gardens Sea Witch with sculptures and scarecrow." 10/18-20/22
- WBOC-TV, "Outdoors Delmarva," with Jason Lee, a fifth season at DBG. 11/12-13/22
- Cape Gazette & Coastal Point, "DBG-CIB wins Best Restored Shores Award for project." 11/28 & 12/8/22
- Bay-to Bay News, Cape Gazette & Coastal Point, "Best Attraction." 12/17-21/22

The following donors made gifts from January 1 through December 31, 2022, through Annual Giving, Capital Campaign, In Kind Giving, and Matching Gifts/Sponsorships from Special Events. The Delaware Botanic Gardens strives to insure all names and giving levels are correct. If you believe there is an error, please contact DBG at your convenience.

FOUNDATION/STATE GIVING

\$100,000 and Above

Ellice & Rosa McDonald Foundation, Inc.
State of Delaware

\$99,999 and Below

Benevity Fund
Community Foundation for Northern Virginia Inc.
Crystal Trust
Degives.org
Delaware Community Foundation
DNREC, Division of Watershed Stewardship
Fair Play Foundation
Murray & Randy Sawyer Foundation
Nor Easter Foundation
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Sage Foundation
Simple Generosity
Sussex County Council
The Nyssa Foundation
The Patocs Foundation
Thrivent
Wakefield Family Fund

CORPORATE GIVING

\$10,000 and Above

Pennoni Associates Inc.
Schell Brothers LLC

\$1,000 to \$9,999

Coventry
Delaware Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Gateway Garden Center
Good Earth Market, LLC
Joanne Shipley Graphic Design
Nickle Electrical Companies, Inc.
Raymond F. Book & Associates, P.A.
SEA Studio Architects
The Bank of Delmarva

\$999 and below

Aunt Annie's
Bancroft Construction Company
Cape Gazette, Ltd.
Coastal Gardeners
Coastal Point
Get Smashed LLC
J & B Grilling
Kimberly Clark
Kuhn's Jewelers Inc.
Parsons and Robinson, PA
Print Coast 2 Coast
Revelation Craft Brewing Company
Roots Landscaping
Salon on Central
Sussex Shaved Ice, LLC
Swinging Delicious
The Southern Printing and Publishing, Co. Inc

COMMUNITY/NON-PROFIT GIVING

\$5000 and Above

Barefoot Gardeners Club

\$1000 and Below

Amazon Smile
Atlantic Community Thrift Shop
Brandywine Garden Club
Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs
Garden Gate Garden Club
Gardeners by the Sea
Silver Pine Garden Club
Spade & Trowel Garden Club
Sprig and Twig Garden Club

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

\$50,000 and Above

Celestino Pennoni
Barbara Peters
Charles Zonko
\$10,000-\$49,999
Brent & Malinda Baker
Ronald Bass & George Robbins
Margaret Emerson
Heidi & Kevin Gilmore
Carol McCloud
Sheryl Swed & Ray Sander

\$1,000-\$9,999

Chris & Carole Baker
Dan Barbato
Tom & Carol Bason
Elise & Timothy Burns
Peter Carter
Robert Chambers
Lisa & Greg Clow
Phoebe Craven & Larry Green
Mark & Kathleen Davidson

Patricia Drago & Rich Weissmann
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Jamie & David Doane
Holly Fluty Dempsey
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Frances & Richard Grote
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Lisa Hastings
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Kathleen & Thomas Lewis
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Amy Sabrin & Evans Witt
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Abby & Doug Spooner
Don Stanley & Susan Pourian
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Kathy & Cam Yorkston

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Larry & Janice Bortner
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Ernest & Elizabeth Brown
William & Catherine Brown
Ellis Brown
Mark Brown
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Anna Mae Buhl
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Donna Buono
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Jeffrey Clark
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Sarah DiPasquale
Dean & Terssa Disharoon
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Donna & Dennis Dow
Michael Dudich
Karen Dudley
Robin & Michael Duer
Yvette Dueser
Daniel & Joanne Duffey
John Eckenrode

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Marjorie Egger
Peggy & Joseph Ehrhardt
Elizabeth Ellers & Gene Gulland
Denise Emery
Elizabeth Emge & John Lanouette
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Jane Evans
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 Jenny Steen-Baker
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 Devon Stein
 Paul & Carolyn Steiner
 Christine & Lester Stillson
 Gary & Jane Stokes
 George & Holly Stone
 Linda & Mark Strauss
 David Streit & Scott Button
 Chris Sturm
 Holly Sugrue
 Jaye Sutton & David Witmer
 Peggy Swain
 Karen Swartout
 Robin Talley & Rich Svitich
 Gary & Linda Taylor
 Mark & Alice Tennefoss
 Danielle & Leland Thomas
 Scott Thomas
 Jean Thompson
 Trudie Thompson & Rosemarie Sarra
 Stephen & Mary Jo Timmons
 Mary & Bill Toohy
 Jeff Topley & Julie Buric
 Dennis & Susan Trencher
 Rich & Paula Truskolawski
 Bernard Tucker & Marcy Lesny
 Peter Turner & Chris Condeelis
 Elizabeth Tuskeweth
 Thomas & Jan Tydings
 Kathleen Uhl & William Gilliland
 Margaret & Ron VanLent
 Wayne & Donna VanWie
 Vincent & Paula Varrassi
 Daniel & Lora Vimont
 Michael & Elaine Vincent
 Anne Voegele & Dieter Blume
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 Stuart & Janice Weiner
 Jackie Wenher & Bill Perez
 James West III
 Diane Whitfield & Rony Banks
 Tanya Whorton
 Kristian & Sara Wiggert
 Terry Wildermuth & Lynn Taylor
 Ann & Darrell Wiles
 Wendy & Stephen Williamson
 Janice & Christopher Willis
 Colleen Wilson
 Darlene Winnington
 David & Carmen Wirta
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 Rosemary & Tom Wolfe
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 Matthew Wood
 Dennis & Kathleen Wright
 Marjorie Wuestner & Catherine Balsley
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The gardening principles set by Piet Oudolf are carried throughout all of DBG's gardens and well-demonstrated by their 2022 maturation stages. Our gardens are tended as a fine balance of nature and nurture, with the tip of the scale towards nature. DBG strives to use native plantings and green technology techniques to make its gardens as self-sustaining and environmentally protective as possible. But without the hands and hearts of our volunteers, staff, partners and sponsors, "it would disappear." We thank them all for helping DBG "come into its own".

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YOUR HELP IS NEEDED as DBG grows and evolves...

- Join over 600 others as a member of the gardens
- Give a DBG gift membership or schedule a tour for your organization
- Volunteer as a Garden Steward or train to be a Docent
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to join this unique Delmarva journey
- Sponsor a garden entity and receive naming rights for that feature



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