DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS AT PEPPER CREEK

March Newsletter

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Our roots are in the sands of coastal Delmarva
March 1, 2018

Behind the Scenes

News from President Ray Sander & Executive Director Sheryl Swed

Welcome to the launch of our new DBG quarterly newsletter. We hope this new communication initiative will better keep our DBG Family & Friends informed of key events happening now or in the near future. Most of us are focused on our area of garden involvement, and may not be aware of what others are doing. We see this newsletter as a way of bringing us all up-to-speed. If you have news items or ideas that you think others may be interested in please send them to Brent Baker (bakercom@verizon.net).

Sheryl, Piet and Ray

Community Garden-Family: The Delaware Botanic Gardens is by every measure a community garden. While it has attracted nationally and internationally renowned designers and highly respected engineering and construction experts, the project's workforce is drawn almost exclusively from dedicated volunteers who live here on Delmarva. While the project has been the beneficiary of several generous grants from leading regional foundations, the community here has been the source of priceless hours of in-kind donations of time and talent. However, we still depend on the financial generosity of members, partners and friends.

GoFundMe.com: You should have received an email alert about our new online fund raising initiative on GoFundme.com. Gregg Tepper, Tom Bason, Brent Baker and Ray Bojarski worked on this new effort. Ray Bojarski supplied some amazing garden videos with commentary by Gregg. Tom and Brent are coordinating this new online effort. We have received a great initial response, but for this project to be successful, we need all our members, partners and friends to donate and share the GoFundMe campaign outreach, with their Facebook and other friends. In short, we need to "drive" folks to the new DBG GoFundMe.com site to donate. We are asking you to help us buy the 30,000

www.gofundme.com/DelawareBotanicGardens
(l to r) Tom & Carol Bason, Brent Baker, Grant Watchorn, Carol McCloud & Ray Bojarski

plants for the next April–May phase of planting the Piet Oudolf Meadow Garden. The goal is $100,000. We are counting on you to support this effort to bring the Meadow Garden to life.

If you have not done so, please go to www.gofundme.com/DelawareBotanicGardens and click the "Donate Now" button. Thank you.

New Advisory Council Members

It is within this context that as DBG develops into an organization capable of successfully opening and managing a major public garden on Delmarva, that we proudly announce the build out of the DBG team with additional respected community volunteers who are joining to help us achieve the reality of a flagship public garden on Pepper Creek.

The Board of Directors and Carla Markell, Chair of the Advisory Council have appointed two new members to the DBG Advisory Council – LeDee Wakefield and David Doane.

Markell, said, "As the creation of this exceptional public garden becomes a reality, we are honored to welcome these experienced leaders from across our state to our Advisory Council. Their proven records of community service and success further enhance the entire DBG effort."

LeDee Lickle Wakefield is a native of Wilmington, and the comptroller at The Inn at Montchanin Village and Spa. She is also an event planner, who has dedicated herself to community service through her extensive experience on the Boards of Preservation Delaware, Young Friends of the Brandywine River Museum, Delaware Guidance Services (DGS), and Paws for People. LeDee remarked, "When I saw the Pepper Creek site and the vision for this remarkable public garden, I wanted to be part of the effort to create this beautiful asset which will be a destination to all who live in and visit Delaware."

David C. Doane, CPA, served on the DBG Board and now will join the Advisory Council. David is vice-president of Jefferson, Urian, Doane & Sterner, P.A., where he has specialized in family owned business enterprise matters. David has an extensive history of community service including, past president of Rehoboth/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce, and a life long association with Easter Seals, where he most recently co-chaired its capital campaign. He serves on several boards, such as the Pyle Center Trust, and the Sussex Advisory Board for the Delaware Community Foundation. David has recently joined the Board of Directors of Bank of Delmarva. David said, "I have been honored to serve on the Board with such dedicated colleagues. Joining the Advisory Council will enable me to continue with this project, which will be a major addition to Sussex County."

The Board of the Delaware Botanic Gardens (DBG) also announces these new appointments.

Carol McCloud, Vice President

Ray Sander, DBG President, said, "Carol has served as a key Board Member, and has stepped up to assist the executive leadership team with daily operations."

Carol, a Wilmington, DE native, is the former president of the Barefoot Gardeners Club in Fenwick Island and a State Life Member of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs. Carol retired from W.L. Gore and Associates, Newark, DE where she specialized in Payroll & Benefits, Computer Software Implementation of both People Soft and Occupational Health Services. She is SHRM certified in Human Resources & Payroll. Her community service for the Town of Fenwick Island focuses on beach dune preservation and Earth Day activities. She is also a member of the Fenwick Island Historical Group. For several years, she has been a volunteer for Delaware Botanic Gardens and is Chair of the DBG Speakers/Tour Bureau. She lives in Fenwick Island, DE.

Grant Watchorn, Corporate Treasurer & Board Officer

Grant replaces Richard W. Weissmann, who served as Treasurer over the past year. The Board noted, "We salute and thank Rich for guiding us through the complex financial details that are part of a startup garden. We welcome Grant aboard."

Grant is a CPA, holds a BS in Accounting, an MBA, and graduate studies in both information systems and logistics management. He is a U.S. Air Force veteran, working in logistic management. He has extensive corporate experience at Western Electric Co., Westinghouse Electric Systems Group and Northrop Grumman Corp. Since his retirement at Grumman, Grant has provided pro-bono financial services to several non–profits including AARP. He lives in Ocean View. Grant said, "After settling into the Bethany Beach area, I started looking for opportunities where I could utilize my interests, skills, and experience. When I first visited the Delaware Botanic Gardens it seemed like a good fit, so now I'm on the team and look forward to my time working with them."

DBG Executive Director, Sheryl Swed said, "We are honored that this exceptional project continues to attract the interest and support of leaders offering their experience and expertise to this landmark project."

President Ray Sander and Executive Director Sheryl Swed announced new members of their executive operational team, which Sheryl refers to as our DBG "brain trust", including:

Sally Boswell, Development and Outreach Staff

Sally joins the DBG staff after serving for twelve years as Outreach and Education Coordinator for the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays. She is a seasoned communications professional with a proven track record in the non-profit and private sectors. She has spent her career in non-profit communications serving the City of Baltimore, Maryland Public Television, and John Hopkins University before launching a business in Baltimore. Sally has served on numerous boards including the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, BioTrek Naturalists, and the Rehoboth Art League. She holds a BA degree in Communications Arts from Salisbury University and Masters in Liberal Arts from John Hopkins University. She continues to serve on the DBG Advisory Council.

Patti Drago, Business Advisor

Patti has a distinguished business career, including President and CEO, Broadspire Services, Florida; President and CEO Kemper National Services, Chicago; and President Crum & Forster Insurance, Morristown, NJ. She served on various corporate Boards, and holds a JD, magna cum laude, from Brooklyn Law School. She lives in Lewes, DE.

Heidi J.A. Gilmore, Legal Advisor

Heidi is equity partner of the law firm, Baird Mandalas Brockstedt LCC, and practices real estate law as well as business development planning. A Maryland native, she attended the University of Baltimore School of Law, and is an active member of Delaware State, and Maryland State Bar Associations. She is also active with the local Sussex County Bar Association. Heidi's passion is helping people, and she serves on several charitable foundations and non-profits. Heidi also teaches at Delaware Technical and Community College. She is an active member of Lewes, Rehoboth, Bethany Beach/Fenwick and Georgetown Chambers of Commerce, as well as serving on the Boards of Bank of Delmarva and Sussex County Land Trust. She lives in Lewes, DE, with her husband, Kevin Gilmore, who is Executive Director at Sussex County Habitat for Humanity.

Brent Baker, Communications Advisor

Brent has 45-years of communication-PR experience. He is a Rear Admiral, US Navy (Ret) and served as a career public affairs officer. He is a former Navy Chief of Information, as well as Dean Emeritus, College of Communication, Boston University. Brent also has extensive experience with non-profit organizations. He lives in Millville, DE.

Carol Bason, Development Advisor

Carol worked for over 25 years in environmental consulting, land use planning, and government regulatory analysis. She holds an MS in Biology/Environmental Policy and is certified in Wetland Science & Management. From 2007-2014, she consulted to the University of Delaware's (UD) Sustainable Coastal Communities Initiative. As a community volunteer, she served in numerous organizations including the Sierra Club, Vice Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays, and Docent at the UD's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment. She lives in Frankford, DE.

Tom Bason, Online Relations Advisor

Tom has 50 years of information technology experience. He worked for over 25 years at Blue Cross/Blue Shield as a Systems Analyst and Director of Database Technology, as well as 24 years in executive management at commercial software companies and Internet technology startups. He now devotes his time providing information technology and database support to non-profit community and charity organizations. He lives with his wife Carol in Frankford, DE.

Ray Bojarski, Visual Media Advisor

Ray retired after 40 plus years as Information Systems Specialist for major corporations. He worked for 24 years at Boeing Co., as well as working at Arco Chemicals. Ray has been an amateur photographer his whole life. He is current leader of the Coastal Camera Club Macro Photography Group and former president of the Boeing (Seattle) Photographers Club. Ray is an active camera drone enthusiast and FAA Certified Remote Pilot in Command. He lives in Lewes, DE.

Important Events - Save the Dates

There are two future important garden events. **May 4**, is the visit to our area by our Meadow Garden Designer, Piet Oudolf who will join us there for our **Sip and Saunter** event. **September 6**, our annual "Farm Dinner" will be held at our garden site for the first time. Save the dates on your calendars.

Piet Oudolf and Tom Piper

2017 Farm Dinner

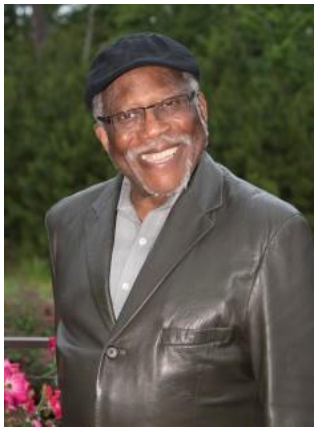
More Winter News

Transition in 2018-2019: The common perception is that gardens "sleep" in winter. Well there is no sleeping allowed at DBG. Much of the non-planting work is out of sight to many, but we are working very hard on "infrastructure," such things as running utilities, including electricity on site.

We are still building and planting and that will never stop, but we must adjust our thinking to the fact that we are transitioning from the initial startup phase to that of operating a public garden next year.

Many "housekeeping" things still need to be done in coming months. There are new financial needs and new roles for on-site "hospitality" volunteers. There will be no shortage of new "jobs" for our volunteers as we refine our needs. There will be a "balance" between full or part-time-time staff and our volunteers.

Site Electrification: Soon the drone of our portable generators will be replaced with the sounds of silence as the Delaware Electrical Cooperative (DEC) and Nickle Electric connect DBG to the grid. Thanks to the great working relationship between DBG Board Member, Peter Carter, and DEC President Bill Andrew, DEC has recognized the benefit of having a public garden on Delmarva and has worked creatively to minimize the considerable costs associated with installing our transformers on the site.



Peter Carter

Similarly, Steve Dignan President of Nickle Electric has embraced the project and has joined the list of other leading firms as a DBG Partner. Nickle will implement the electrification by wiring the site's major activity areas. DEC and Nickle's "sharp pencil" estimates and in-kind generosity are enabling DBG to have our immediate and near term electrical requirements met much sooner than we had expected and at a cost which does not stress our infrastructure budget.

This is a major step forward. The conversion of 37 acres of beautiful woods and fertile farmland into a public garden with all amenities of water, sewer, electric, parking and storm water management is an extensive and expensive undertaking. While all these infrastructure requirements are being constructed, our DBG team and volunteers are concurrently creating and planting the Meadow, the Woodlands, the Folly Garden and the Outdoor Living Classroom. We must have the basic infrastructure and these beautiful features so that our visitors have a positive and inspiring experience when we "Open the Garden Gates". So clearly, many important things are going on this winter.

We would like all of our supporters to recognize and thank DEC President Bill Andrew and Nickle President Steve Dignan and their respective teams for embracing our project. Join us in welcoming our newest corporate partners to the DBG family!

Outreach – Speakers' Bureau

Carol McCloud

Outreach – Speakers Bureau: Under the leadership of our Vice President, Carol McCloud, we have a new Speakers/Tour bureau. If you know of any public opportunities to spread the word on DBG, please check-in with Carol (carol.mccloud@delawaregardens.org) and help contribute to its completion.

She is keeping a "master list" of past and upcoming DBG public presentations. We need to prioritize our outreach efforts to be sure we are reaching the people who want to join our garden family. While, Ray, Sheryl, Gregg, and Janet have already been our "presenters", we are working on DBG "talking points" and slides to ensure a visibly appealing and accurate story in a new updated presentation. We would like to suggest a $250 speaker fee. Be assured these funds benefit the gardens and help contribute to its completion.

On the Move in 2018

Clock is ticking: So, as we move forward to open the garden gates, we are reminded that the clock is ticking. As you read this newsletter, we have about 15 months before the opening. There is not much time left, and much work to do! We are on the last Phase I lap of a six-year race that began in 2012.

Grants: As you know, we are always looking for grant ideas and opportunities. In December, the DBG was awarded a generous multi-year grant from the Ellice & Rosa McDonald Foundation toward the creation of the Entry Garden, which includes the drive in from Piney Neck Road, the parking area, and the Rhyne Garden, which will capture and filter run-off water from the adjacent building and paved surfaces. In early February, we sent our first Federal Government grant application to the NFWF Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program 2018 to fund part of our Wetland Outdoor Classroom. We thank Sally Boswell and Carol Bason for going full speed to meet the deadline.

Financial Challenge: We appreciate the grants and people who donate their time and talent, but we also need more financial support. Building a botanic garden from scratch is costly. Gregg noted at a recent board meeting, "When you start from scratch, without having some benefactor, their estate, and their means – we have a steep financial challenge." Frankly, we still need continuing donations, to bring the gardens to life and open the gates. We are simply not there yet, in terms of funds.

We need all of our family and friends to think about our financial challenge and how to help. As you know with the generosity of our supporters, DBG exceeded the match request of the Longwood Foundation funded grant. We had a 96% fulfillment on these pledges. If you have a balance remaining on your pledge, it would be appreciated if you accelerate your payment. If you completed your pledge, please consider a new one. Please make a pledge if you haven't already. A pledge form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

DBG is addressing the challenge by looking at new initiatives in the fund raising area. One new initiative is online fund raising. Go to www.gofundme.com/DelawareBotanicGardens for details.

In the Garden

News from Gregg Tepper, Director of Horticulture.

Gregg in the Garden

As Director of Horticulture, I am very pleased to be updating you about our progress at the Gardens thus far and report on the many exciting projects we have going on. As we move forward to that time when the gardens officially open to the public, there is still much to be done and this year has many great projects in store. Let's look at what we have already accomplished and what we have planned to do!

The Meadow Garden: The Meadow Garden at DBG, designed by internationally-renown garden designer Piet Oudolf, is the crown jewel of our gardens. This 2-acre garden will feature a collection of perennials, masterfully arranged by Piet, in groups and in mixtures that celebrate beauty and provide an important habitat for our native pollinators and birds. The plant list includes a mix comprised of 85% native and 15% pollinator-compatible non-native perennials.

An on-going project this large does not happen quickly. It takes time and immense effort and financial resources to complete. The first phase of planting occurred in September of 2017, when 17,000 perennials were installed, and that effort was made possible by the very generous donation of time and resources from over 120 volunteers who traveled from as far as Tennessee, Virginia, New York and Massachusetts. The next planting, in late April and early May of this year, will add over 30,000 more herbaceous plants and grasses to the Meadow. The final planting will occur in late June with the last of the grasses being installed and, once again, that magic will happen because of generous donations of time and resources.

Once completed the Meadow Garden and its periphery will contain over 70,000 plants. That means food for our native insects and birds and beauty for us!

To view an informational video about the Meadow and learn more about the fundraising campaign for the April/May perennial planting follow this link: www.gofundme.com/DelawareBotanicGardens.

The Woodland Garden: The 12-acre woodland at DBG, with 1,000 feet of waterfront on Pepper Creek, is the perfect place for native plants of the Coastal Plain both north and south! Did you know that Delaware is in a unique place in that some plants, like bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) found typically in the north coastal plain, range as far SOUTH as Delaware and that some plants, like the baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) found typically in the south coastal plain, range as far NORTH as Delaware. We are in an "overlap area" and that's really cool! Our woodland has the PERFECT soils and conditions to grow so many awesome plants, trees and shrubs. The Woodland Garden, when completed, will feature a vast collection of native azaleas and their hybrids. Our native azaleas have quite the bloom range, with some species as early as mid-April and others blooming as late as July! How about mountain laurels (*Kalmia latifolia*)? Though the common name is "mountain laurel", they are native to and grow beautifully in the Delmarva Peninsula. Of course, the other shrub that thrives in our acid, sandy loam soils are the native blueberries (*Vaccinium*). These plants fill a three-fold mission, they provide nectar to our native bees when they bloom in April, then in July they provide berries for our native birds, and us, if we are lucky, and finally they produce a gorgeous fall leaf display. Though just in the early stages, planting has been on-going in the Woodland and, once completed it will provide the visitors with an outstanding display of wildflowers, blooming from early and late spring,

then transition to summer and end in early fall. There will always be something to see in the Woodland, and all in a naturalistic setting that invites one to stroll, relax and ENJOY!

The Folly Garden: This area of the garden that borders the Woodland to the north and is to the east of the Meadow Garden was created literally from ruins. It represents a true focus on "sense of place" and use of what is present and adding to it. When we first saw this part of the property, it had only foundation remnants of a small early-20th century farmhouse that had burned down and been bulldozed long before us. After we removed the remaining charred debris that we found on the surface, we dug out the soil roughly 15" below the surface and created a "sunken garden space" within the brick foundation. The soil had to be carefully sieved to remove glass shards and nails and, once sieved, it was then bermed around the periphery to create an intimate space for the future visitors to see plants up close. The idea of the plant collection here is to represent what may have once grown in a garden around the house but is now naturalized and "gone wild." It will be a collection of spring and summer-flowering bulbs, perennials, shrubs and trees many of a smaller-scale. The pathways feature the bricks that were unearthed at the site and now have a reuse as an edging to the stone pathways within this unique garden. Once again, this garden came about because of our dedicated volunteer staff and their enthusiasm to make it happen! Once completed, the plans are that this space will contain a small rockery, a water feature, and several seating areas to allow visitors to sit, relax and take in the beauty of both this space and the nearby Meadow Garden located to the west.

DBG Volunteers, with the help of board member Ruth Clausen (right), sieve the soil in the newly-created Folly Garden

This garden area has a naming opportunity available. Please contact Sheryl Swed, Executive Director for more details at sherylswed@delawaregardens.org.

The Wetland Outdoor Classroom and Inland Dune Gardens: DBG is very pleased to have the support of Dogfish Head Brewery in underwriting the Dogfish Head Wetland Outdoor Classroom and the design and construction will be done by Envirotech Environmental Consulting Inc. Construction is due to begin on March 5. The newest addition to this space is the Inland Dune Gardens. Delaware has many rare and unusual habitats in our state and one of them is called an Inland Sand Dune. These ancient dunes were created inland by winds roughly 30,000 years ago when Delaware was drier and colder. Over thousands of years, plants and insects that utilize them, co-evolved in these habitats and are today quite rare. One such plant that inhabits these Inland Dunes is the blue lupine (*Lupinus perennis*). The blue lupine, in turn, attracts the globally rare frosted elfin butterfly (*Callophrys irus*). Our goal at DBG is to recreate this rare habitat and celebrate the sense of place that this defines for southern Delaware and the Delmarva Peninsula. These gardens will feature these unique native plants and those plants will in turn provide habitat for native insects and birds. As the Wetland Classroom is created, the soil removed to make the wetland depression will create the Inland Sand Dune Gardens. These created Gardens will be places of beauty and at the same time a habitat. So, beauty as its defined at DBG is not only aesthetics but also the ability to support life.

The Inland Dune gardens has a naming opportunity. Please contact Sheryl Swed, Executive Director for more details at sherylswed@delawaregardens.org.

Hoop Houses come to DBG: As we move forward, we are finding the need to, not only store the plants we purchase until they are planted but also, propagate and grow our own plants. We are most

fortunate to have the support of Rick and Valarie Cordrey of East Coast Garden Center. They donated hoop house structures and plastic covering to us so we can build our own version of a hoop house, which is used as a greenhouse to store, protect and grow our plants. This allows us to move farther along and be able to bring even more plant material to the site. A huge thank you to Rick, Valarie and the people at East Coast Garden Center for their generous support!

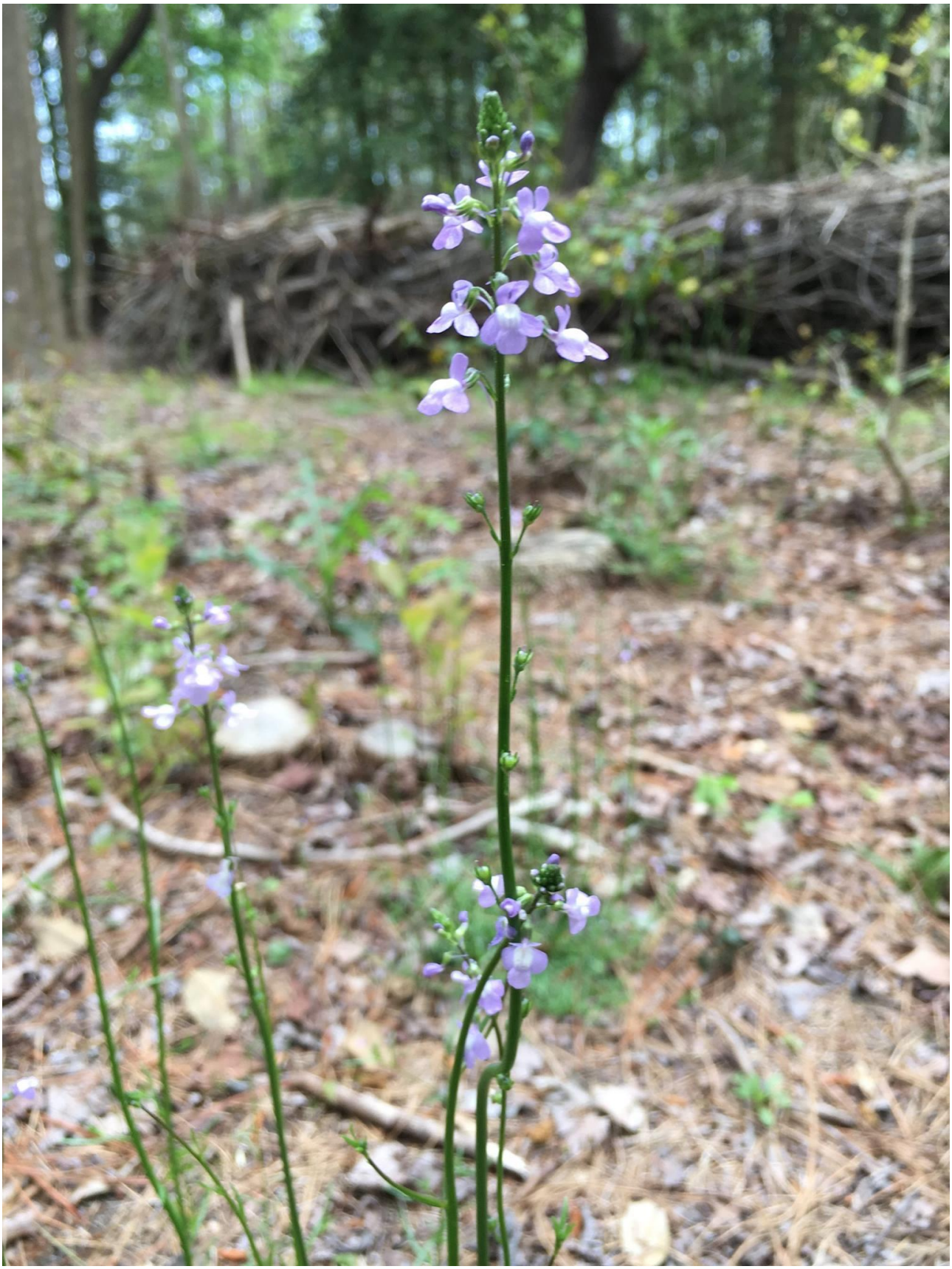
The volunteers, under the supervision of Sam Cashdollar, DBG Grounds and Facilities Manager, have lent a helping hand to construct the hoops, get them up and in place and add crushed stone at the base as a future foundation for the plant benches that will eventually be installed. Sam is an integral part of the implementation of our garden and infrastructure projects and we are very fortunate to have his knowledge, vast skills, patience and hard work to see things come to fruition.

Much has been happening and this year will bring further success to the garden. I look forward to telling you more in our next edition. We highly value our volunteers and welcome their enthusiasm and input. If you would you like to be a part of the team bringing this public garden to our area and are interested in learning more about how you can help, visit our web page at www.DelawareGardens.org under the heading **Join Us**.

We give special thanks to the creators of the new quarterly newsletter, Brent, Tom, and Ray Bojarski.

Let's work together to Open the Garden Gates

Some of our hard working Volunteers
Photograph by Ray Bojarski



Canada Toadflax in the Woodland Garden
Photograph by Gregg Tepper

www.delawaregardens.org

Capital Campaign Gift/Pledge Form
Donor Information

Please print name(s) to be used in all acknowledgements: _____

Email 1:_____Email 2:_____

Home Phone _____Cell Phone:_____

Company/Foundation (If applicable)_____

Home Address: _____

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☐ My employer will match this gift/pledge ☐ My employer's matching gift form is enclosed ☐ Please keep this gift/pledge anonymous

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I/we pledge a total of $ _____ to be applied in its entirety to Delaware Botanic Gardens. I/we understand that Delaware Botanic Gardens is relying on the timely receipt of all pledge payments.

☐ A single gift. Payment information is below

☐ Equal annual payments of $ _____ over ☐ 2 ☐ 3 years; Start date_____

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Enclosed is my check for a gift of $_____ made payable to Delaware Botanic Gardens

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Please charge my gift to my credit card. ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

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Cardholder's Name: _____

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Cardholder's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please contact me regarding: ☐ Gifts of Appreciated Stock ☐ Naming opportunities
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DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS

AT PEPPER CREEK

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P.O. Box 1390 | Ocean View, DE 19970

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