

Newsletter of
THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY

Preserving America's exceptional gardens

Summer 2009
Vol. 20, No. 2

Rocky Hills



**Henriette
Granville Suhr**

stands on a terrace at her Westchester, New York, home and surveys the big picture that is her garden, Rocky Hills, a Garden Conservancy preservation project since 2000. It is early May. The eight-acre garden on a 13-acre wooded site is looking particularly splendid thanks to a cool and rainy spring. Azaleas pattern an evergreen hillside in swirls of pinks, yellows, and orange; pale blue swaths of forget-me-nots

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Inside: Garden Conservancy Annual Report 2007-2008

Letter from the President

A Bountiful Season

This issue of the Newsletter is going to press in the greenest summer anyone can remember on the East Coast, where rainfall has broken records and gardeners are struggling to keep up

with their rampant plants and grumbling about the lack of sunshine and warmth. Meanwhile, Texas is suffering intense heat and prolonged drought, challenging the hardest gardeners to persevere; and the Pacific Northwest has had record high temperatures.

Yet, despite these extremes and uncertainties, gardeners are going about their business and garden lovers are flocking to visit gardens, all around the country. It has been an exuberant season of Open Days visiting, with many of us taking the opportunity to step away from our own cares and absorb the lessons and pleasures of other people's gardens.

In a similar vein, our members and supporters have responded in a variety of ways to the economic upheaval we have experienced in the past year, and resourcefulness has been the hallmark of our collective efforts to keep the Garden Conservancy on course and thriving.

Thanks to the involvement of *Garden Design* magazine, we are offering Open Days visitors a free subscription to that beautiful publication as part of their introduction to membership in the Garden Conservancy. This program is convincing visitors to join us and support the Conservancy's preservation mission, helping to balance our budget this year. Our generous members Dodo Hamilton and Pam and Dick Niner (profiled on the opposite page), have issued challenges for new gifts that are providing additional inducement for those who would like to see their own contributions doubled in impact. The bounty of new support is gratifying to all of us at the Conservancy, and we thank each one of you who has renewed your membership in the past year.

The highlights of 2008 captured in this issue's Annual Report recall a year filled with achievement and innovation, and 2009 has continued to yield progress toward our multiple goals despite the economic difficulty. Henriette Suhr's magnificent Rocky Hills, the inspirational product of nearly 50 years in the garden, is an apt symbol for the times, reminding us that a great deal can be accomplished by sticking with our plans and working hard to achieve them. All of us at the Garden Conservancy thank you for sticking with our organization and supporting it so generously. I hope your season has been bountiful.

—Antonia F. Adezio, President

Susan H. Allen



Antonia F. Adezio

On the cover:
Rocky Hills
Photo by Chelsea Stickell
Garden Design



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THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY

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Challenge Gifts to the Conservancy

A \$100,000 Challenge Gift from Dorrance Hill Hamilton



Dorrance (Dodo) Hill Hamilton of Wayne, Pennsylvania, a member and strong supporter of the Garden Conservancy since its founding in 1989, has issued a special \$100,000 challenge to Garden Conservancy members and supporters: Mrs. Hamilton will match 1:1 any new or increased gift over the next twelve months *at any level*, to a maximum total of \$100,000.

“In these demanding economic times it is doubly important for the Garden Conservancy to keep its membership strong and engaged,” says Mrs. Hamilton, who in 2005 pledged a leadership gift of \$1 million to the Conservancy’s Campaign to Save America’s Exceptional Gardens. “I invite all Garden Conservancy members to join me in demonstrating our support for its preservation mission.”

Mrs. Hamilton is an avid, award-winning gardener, cultivating gardens at her homes in Pennsylvania; Boca Grande, Florida; and Newport, Rhode Island. Her horticultural achievements have garnered many blue ribbons at the Philadelphia Flower Show and she is a co-founder of the Newport Flower Show. She also created Swiss Village Farm Foundation in Newport to preserve rare and endangered breeds of livestock. In 2008, she hosted the Fellows at her estate, Wildacre, and at the Swiss Village Farm during their Newport garden tour.

“This is yet another example of Mrs. Hamilton’s philanthropic leadership, and the Garden Conservancy thanks her for this commitment and demonstration of trust in our work,” says President Antonia Adezio. “The support of our benefactors and members builds on steps we are taking to manage efficiently so that our ongoing garden preservation work with project gardens across the country is uninterrupted.”

For Pam and Dick Niner, One Gift Was Not Enough



Pam and Dick Niner have been members and frequent travelers with the Garden Conservancy’s Society of Fellows since 2002. Their enthusiasm for gardens and the preservation of exceptional American gardens inspired them to make a gift of \$250,000 to the Conservancy endowment in 2007.

In April, the Niners again demonstrated exceptional support for the work of the Garden Conservancy with an additional gift to the endowment campaign: a challenge gift of \$50,000, which when fully matched, will bring the total for the campaign to more than \$14 million to date.

“Pam and I have long enjoyed cultivated landscapes,” says Dick. “Our trips with the Garden Conservancy have added immeasurably to our appreciation and knowledge of gardens and we have become enthusiastic about the Conservancy’s mission of preserving the best of them in our country.”

The Niners garden in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and Paso Robles, California, where they own two vineyards and produce wine under the Niner Wine Estates label.

To learn how you can help the Garden Conservancy match these special challenge grants, contact Director of Development Britt Densmore at (845) 265-2029 or bdensmore@gardenconservancy.org.



Above: Henriette Suhr welcomes visitors to Rocky Hills.

Below: The Suhr home is set amidst cultivated gardens and natural woodlands.

Continued from page 1
border paths and carpet a meadow. White flowers of dogwood illuminate dark greens and silver blues of pine and spruce plantings. Tulips of all colors accent the greens of hostas and ferns. “They came all at once,” Mrs. Suhr says of the flowers. “Overnight, it became a fantasyland.”

Overnight, plus more than 50 years of inspired garden design

by Mrs. Suhr and her late husband, William. The couple, she a designer of interiors, he an art conservator, both lovers of nature and green space, bought the property, formerly a farm, in Mount Kisco in the mid-1950s. Gardening became a weekend hobby, then a way of life. When William Suhr died 25 years ago, Henriette kept at it. “The garden has grown a lot since my husband died,” Mrs. Suhr says. In May, the Foundation for Landscape Studies, a New York-

based organization that fosters of the importance of place in human life, honored Mrs. Suhr’s ongoing artistry with its distinguished Place Maker Award.

The Suhrs shared garden design impulses that Mrs. Suhr continues to follow. “We picked plants for the flower colors, for the interest of their shapes. Then we put things together the way we thought they would look good,” she says. “We never knew the names of the plants, though now I try to pay more attention.” When it comes to plants’ horticultural needs, the Suhrs were, and Mrs. Suhr remains, somewhat *lassaiz-faire*. “I put plants where I think they will look good.” If, later, because of growth patterns or unsuitable growing conditions, a plant no longer looks good, “I just move it,” she says.

Mrs. Suhr leads a visitor up and down the hilly garden. She points to irises planted according to all the rules, yet they do not thrive; others growing from surplus tubers stuck here and there flower proudly. She shakes her head a little at the exuberance of forget-me-nots that are now everywhere on the property—“invasive,” she declares, “but everyone loves them.” She bends, keeping one hand on her walking stick, to pluck and pocket an errant dandelion from a verdant and otherwise immaculate grass path. Mrs. Suhr is precise in her preference for an immaculate

garden, “no weeds, no chewed up plants, no remnants.” Passing through the fern garden, Mrs. Suhr remarks, “We have about 80 ferns.” A pause. “So they tell me.”

An hour or so into the tour, Mrs. Suhr stops at the edge of a steep slope. She points into the native woodland below the manicured gardens and explains her solution to a puzzle of potted pieces—five yellow metasequoias—given to her by Marco Polo Stufano, co-chair of



Chelsea Stickle/Garden Design

the Garden Conservancy's screening committee and a member of Rocky Hills' advisory board.

"I prefer blue tones," she says. "But Marco is very fond of yellow plants, and rightly so. They lighten up areas. I had to look around to see where I could put them." She decided to clear a niche at the edge of the woods and plant the five young trees into it. Their yellow hue will brighten the generally dark woodland of their setting. "I think it's going to be very good looking, and I think Marco is pleased too." This, she adds as she turns back on the path, "is a little bit the way the garden has grown."

A small rock garden is a recent addition, planted with an eye to the garden's future as a horticultural education center (see sidebar). The



Chelsea Strickel/Garden Design

Above: The fern garden contains 80 different kinds of fern.

by appointment, and for education programs. The nature of the garden and its location in a residential neighborhood with narrow, dirt roads preclude an open door policy.

Mrs. Suhr, meanwhile, is pleased to know that her 13 acres in Westchester will be preserved as green space in perpetuity. "Who knows if in 50 years there will be a garden here," she says practically. "I know the garden is going to change. Plants die. People will garden differently—I think it's practically impossible to pass on a style. But it will be green. The sense that this was a garden worth preserving had not ever occurred to me. I just knew that I didn't want anything else built here."

She surveys the garden again. "It's been a happy place."

Left: Spring is peak season at Rocky Hills, where the azaleas bloom in a tapestry of colors.

idea is to demonstrate that it's possible to garden in small places and with little water.

Despite the admiration and accolades heaped on Rocky Hills by knowledgeable gardeners and designers, Mrs. Suhr professes that her main objective for the site is to preserve it as green space. In 2000, the Garden Conservancy agreed to hold a conservation easement on the property. Subsequently, the Conservancy designated Rocky Hills a preservation project and began working with Westchester County Parks, which will ultimately own and manage the site, and a Friends group to develop programs and ongoing support. The Conservancy has hired a full-time horticulturist, Timothy Tilghman, to assist Mrs. Suhr, document the garden and her gardening practices, and to provide horticultural education to others. A dedicated group of Master Gardeners comes regularly to weed and help with other garden chores. The Friends group plans events, including lectures, that are open to the public.

Public access in the future will be limited much as it is now: to designated open days, visits



Chelsea Strickel/Garden Design

Rocky Hills Offers Horticultural Education

This spring, Rocky Hills and the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation inaugurated a School of Horticulture at the garden. In this first year, the school serves employees of the county's park system, offering hands-on sessions in the spring and fall at Rocky Hills under the guidance of horticulturist Timothy Tilghman. The goal is to provide department employees with the basic techniques and fundamental principles required to sustain, maintain, and develop a highly ornamental garden. John Baker, director of conservation with Westchester County Parks, notes the school "is a very nice, symbiotic relationship that benefits both Rocky Hills and the parks system." Employees apply their new skills throughout the county's diverse park system, which will in time include Rocky Hills.

Open Days

Nationwide, We Bring People into Gardens



Above: A colorful Open Day scene at Heronswood in Kingston, WA.

Participation in our 2009 Open Days Program has been gratifying, particularly in this time when Americans are making studied choices about allocating their time and resources. This enthusiasm is one measure of the too often unsung important place gardens have in our personal and cultural life.

Since the start of the 2009 season April 4 in Vero Beach, Florida, thousands of returning visitors and new audiences in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Erie, Pennsylvania, have embraced the opportunities offered by Open Days to explore garden treasures close to home, meet talented

Right: Visitors enjoy Maywood Gardens in Bridgewater, CT.

sponsors helps to make Open Days a successful national program that in turn provides revenue and public awareness crucial for our preservation work.

This year, the Garden Conservancy collaborated with the **Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)**, which promotes drought-tolerant gardens in its region, to produce our first-ever Open Day in Las Vegas, Nevada. Hundreds of visitors, including Garden Conservancy president Antonia Adezio, toured a selection of the best water-conserving gardens recognized by SNWA and saw first-hand the success that determined gardeners can have in such a challenging region.

W. Atlee Burpee and Company returned as presenting sponsor of the Open Days Program, hosting four events at the company's historic home, Fordhook Farm, in Doylestown,



Pennsylvania, and offering three opportunities to visit its Heronswood Nursery in Kingston, Washington.

Garden Design magazine signed on as our national media sponsor and featured a four-page Open Days season preview in their April issue. They have also given us valuable photographic support by providing images of some of our preservation project gardens (see Rocky Hills photos this issue).

This season's Open Days Program concludes November 1 in Westchester County, New York. Check the Open Days Program calendar on our website to find upcoming events.

Did You Know...

- ☀ The highest visitation at one garden in Open Days history was at the Hicks Garden in Austin, TX, in 2006: 2,452.
- ☀ That 25% of this year's Open Days gardens include edibles as part of their landscape.
- ☀ That nearly half of the gardens that participate in Open Days each year are new to the program.
- ☀ That 2010 will be the 15th anniversary of the Open Days Program.

and knowledgeable gardeners, and learn about the Garden Conservancy and our work.

The support we receive from partners and

Garden Conservancy Annual Report

October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008

Each year, we pause to take stock of the Garden Conservancy's activities over the year just past. It is a useful opportunity to review our preservation and educational successes, remind ourselves of the challenges that we have met, and find inspiration in those successes to take on the challenges that lie ahead. It is also our chance to publicly acknowledge and thank the many donors and friends who support our work.

We are especially fortunate, looking from our current context of challenging economic times, to find inspiration in abundance in the year covered by this report, from Ruth Bancroft's centennial celebration in California,

to Pearl Fryar's exuberance in South Carolina (captured by film-makers), to major preservation achievements by project volunteers and staff working steadfastly across the country.

These and other successes, summarized here, remind us that it is a rare preservation goal that is easily achieved; that time, energy, knowledge, persistence, organization, and, yes, money, are required ingredients for success.

We celebrate the occasions when all those ingredients come together, and thank our members and the donors and friends listed in this report for helping us to make them possible.

Preservation Highlights

In the summer of 2008, we celebrated the 100th birthday of Ruth Bancroft, creator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, California, the garden that inspired the founding of the Garden Conservancy by Frank Cabot in 1989. A program entitled "An Age of Gardeners: Mrs. Bancroft and her Horticultural Contemporaries" focused on the constellation of noted gardeners at work in northern California during the second half of the 20th century, among whom Mrs. Bancroft was a leading light.

The Bancroft celebration continued in September with the announcement of the inaugural award from the Anne & Frank Cabot Fund for Project Gardens to the Ruth Bancroft Garden Centennial Fund, which will provide for the continuing care of the garden.

The Fells successfully completed its acquisition of 84 acres of historic gardens, structures, and woodland that in the 19th century served as the summer retreat of American statesman and author John Hay. Long protected as open space under the ownership of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the historic core of the estate on Lake Sunapee in Newbury, New Hampshire,

has been managed by the nonprofit group, working with the Garden Conservancy, since the early 1990s.

An award-winning documentary film, *A Man Named Pearl*, introduced a national audience to the inspiring Pearl Fryar and his exuberant topiary garden in Bishopville, South Carolina. The Friends of Pearl Fryar's Topiary Garden produced a stunning 2009 calendar, featuring photos of the garden, as a fundraiser, and members of the Garden Conservancy's Board of Directors purchased a cherry picker, which Mr. Fryar now uses instead of a ladder to reach the ever higher peaks of his topiary sculptures.



Pearl Fryar, second from left, discusses a new garden sculpture with Conservancy board members.

Greenwood Gardens in Short Hills, New Jersey, completed a plan for a three-phase restoration

of the garden and its structures. A \$750,000 grant from New Jersey Historic Trust helped the garden meet its \$5.5 million goal for the first phase of the project. (Construction began in June 2009.)

In April 2008, two milestones on the road to preserving the Elizabeth Lawrence Garden in Charlotte, North Carolina were achieved. The Wing Haven Foundation assumed ownership of its near neighbor and the Garden Conservancy accepted the donation of a conservation easement for the site from its departing owner, Lindie Wilson. The easement will protect the garden, house exterior, and interior study overlooking the garden, where Lawrence did her writing.

In September 2008, Hollister House Garden in Washington, Connecticut, hosted a Garden Study Weekend organized by Bob Hyland. The event featured a seminar, “Transatlantic Connections: Creating a Personal Garden Style,” with speakers from England and the United States; a plant sale; and Open Days tour of six private gardens in Litchfield County. The program was a success and will be followed by another such weekend in September 2010.

Open Days Events Highlight and Support Our Preservation Work

The 2008 Open Days season kicked off the first week of April with an exciting group of tropical Florida gardens in Vero Beach and a boost for preservation work at the

McKee Botanical Garden, a local public garden listed on the National Register of Historic Places. More than 500 visitors toured four gardens in the area—three of them open for the first time. Admissions from that day helped support the ongoing preservation work at the McKee Botanical Garden, which co-hosted the Open Day. McKee has received assistance from the Garden Conservancy, including support after being devastated by hurricanes.

In early May, Open Days returned to Knoxville, Tennessee, where garden enthusiasts enjoyed three private gardens and an introduction to the Garden Conservancy’s preservation work at the Knoxville Botanical Garden.

On Memorial Day weekend on Long Island, the staff of the John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden in Mill Neck, another Conservancy preservation project, joined two of Long Island’s best private gardens for an Open Day. Nearly 300 visitors toured the Mary and Howard Phipps, Jr. estate in Old Westbury; the estate’s incomparable collection of



Open Days visitors at Burpee’s Fordhook Farm enjoyed a plant sale.

rhododendrons and mix of formal and natural landscapes is rarely seen by the public. Visitors to Carol and Jim Large’s garden in Locust Valley enjoyed ten acres of mature woodlands, streams, ponds, and fields. Those who visited the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden had the bonus opportunity to shop for native and Asian plants propagated from the garden’s extensive collection.

In June, an all-new Open Day debuted in Louisville, Kentucky, featuring four private gardens, a Hardy Fern Foundation Display garden at the Ralph Archer Woodland Garden in Whitehall, and Yew Dell, our preservation project in Crestwood.

When the gates closed on the season’s last Open Day—on November 2 at the garden of Judy and Michael Steinhardt in Westchester County, New York—the program had welcomed nearly 75,000 visitors to 323 private gardens, raising public awareness and dollars for the Garden Conservancy’s preservation work from coast to coast.



The McKenna Garden in Evanston, IL, welcomed Open Days guests.

Report of Gifts

We are grateful to the many generous donors who made gifts and pledges between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008

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Ruth Bancroft, sitting at center in green, celebrated her 100th birthday in her garden with a few friends.

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Garden-Study Tours from Coast to Coast

2008 was a banner year for travel with the Society of Fellows. The Fellows visited San Antonio in April, (above) Newport in July, the Hamptons in September, and were also treated to two day trips—in New Jersey and in California's Napa Valley. The Society of Fellows is a group of garden enthusiasts whose annual leadership support is critical to sustaining the operations, programs, and preservation efforts of the Conservancy. A benefit of membership in the Fellows is the opportunity to participate in annual garden-study tours offered by the Conservancy. These tours were the highlight of our gardening year.

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Open Days hosts in Austin, TX, in October 2007.

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 Barbara David
 Brian & Sharon Davies
 Suzanne & Edward Davies
 John Davis
 Fraser Gibson Davis
 Ms. Katharine A. Davison
 John & Judith Day
 Mr. James Day
 Ms. Maureen Decombe
 Harriet Delihias
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 Beirne Donaldson
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 Ms. Joan Drerup
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Pam Pooley
Powellwood Garden
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Elizabeth Pringle
Eve Propp
Ms. Elise Pustilnik
Mrs. John Puth
Lynn Quintrell
Mr. John W. Rae Jr.
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Sandra Ramet
Mrs. Sylvia Redwine
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Terrie Reid
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Heather Spencer

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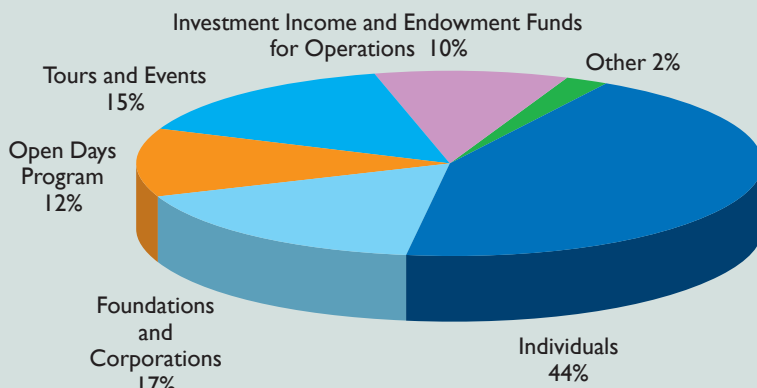
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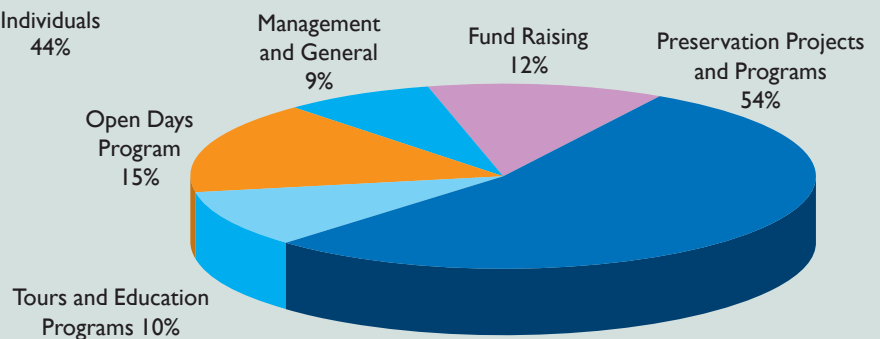
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Public Support				
Contributions	\$ 911,833	\$193,247	\$ 2,157,924	\$ 3,263,004
Foundations, corporate and other grants	319,953	170,076	—	490,029
Membership	149,692	5,430	—	155,122
Unrealized loss	—	—	(815,073)	(815,073)
Donated services	12,800	—	—	12,800
Total Public Support	\$1,394,278	\$368,753	\$ 1,342,851	\$ 3,105,882
Revenues				
Open Days Program, sales and admissions	\$ 343,956	—	—	\$ 343,956
Admissions and special events	386,608	\$ 48,346	—	434,954
Interest, dividends and realized gains (net)	25,241	—	(1,013,052)	(987,811)
Other	57,473	—	—	57,473
Total Revenues	\$ 813,278	\$ 48,346	(\$1,013,052)	(\$151,428)
Net assets released from restrictions	502,951	(502,951)	—	—
Transfer of unrestricted endowment earnings for operations	262,503	—	(262,503)	—
Total Public Support and Revenues	\$2,973,010	(\$85,852)	\$ 67,296	\$ 2,954,454
Expenses				
Program services	\$2,349,011	—	—	\$ 2,349,011
Supporting services				
Management and general	261,529	—	4,151	265,680
Fundraising	366,583	—	—	366,583
Total Expenses	\$2,977,123	\$ —	\$ 4,151	\$ 2,981,274
Changes in Net Assets (Deficit)	(4,113)	(85,852)	63,145	(26,820)
Net Assets – beginning	672,577	557,847	10,050,534	11,280,958
Net Assets – ending	\$ 688,464	\$471,995	\$10,113,679	\$11,254,138

Complete audited financial statements are available upon request from The Garden Conservancy.

Sources of Revenue



Distribution of Expenses



Preservation News & Updates

Intern to Document Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden

Lindsey Kerr of Athens, Georgia, has a newly minted (July 2009) master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Georgia, a self-described "passion for plants," and membership in the Southern Garden History Society. That combination made her an ideal candidate for a 12-week research assignment as an intern at the Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden in Bishopville, South Carolina. The project is supported by the Garden Conservancy and the Friends of Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden.

The goal: to document maintenance practices in the garden and collect and organize archival material relevant to its history. Ms. Kerr will conduct taped interviews with Mr. Fryar and work with him to gather and organize relevant archival material.

Learn more about the Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden at www.pearlfryar.com.

Alcatraz Gardens Is Now Online

Alcatraz Gardens now has its own dedicated website. Take a virtual tour of the gardens, find out what's blooming, read about the island's history and plants, check the event calendar, find out when and how you can visit. And more.

Visit www.alcatrazgardens.org.

The Fells Honored with Preservation Award

The Fells, in Newbury, New Hampshire, received the 2009 Preservation Award from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. The Fells was an early preservation project for the Garden Conservancy. The nonprofit group that manages the property successfully accomplished ownership of 84 acres of gardens, structures, and woodlands in 2008. The Fells was once the summer retreat for American statesman and author John Hay.

Visit www.thefells.org.

Ninth Stufano Fellow to Assist Lawrence Garden

Kathleen (Katie) Mullen has a head start on her upcoming stint as the ninth annual Marco Polo Stufano Garden Conservancy Fellow, this year designated to serve the Elizabeth Lawrence Garden in Charlotte, North Carolina. Ms.

Mullen has been at work there part time since February of this year, labeling plants and creating a database of all plant material; assisting in the development of weekly flower charts; hosting guided tours; and doing general garden maintenance. When the nine-month fellow-

ship term commences in September, Ms. Mullen will be able to work at the garden, a Conservancy preservation project, full time.

Though Ms. Mullen brings extensive garden-related experience to her fellowship year, for the first time she will have the opportunity to learn and develop skills needed to operate and manage a public garden. She earned her bachelor of science in horticulture from the North Carolina State University in 1994, was a field manager for Carolina Nurseries, has run her own gardening and landscape design businesses in the Charleston and Charlotte areas, and has worked in landscape sales and project management.

During her fellowship year, Ms. Mullen will work exclusively at the Lawrence Garden, alongside staff from nearby Wing Haven Garden and Bird Sanctuary, which owns the Lawrence property. Her tasks will be to care for the garden, revitalize portions of it, document the plant material, and help develop the garden as a horticultural study center.

The Garden Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the Lawrence Garden and collaborated with Wing Haven to develop a management plan, which was adopted this year.

Learn more about the Elizabeth Lawrence Garden at www.elizabethlawrence.org.



Katie Mullen was named the Garden Conservancy's ninth Stufano Fellow.

Preservation News & Updates

Becki Gervin



A view down the allée in the Italianate garden at the Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, CA.

Featured Garden

Montalvo Arts Center

At the Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, California, the Italianate garden built in the early 20th century is getting a facelift. Built by James Duval Phelan (1861-1930), a California politician, Montalvo has been a public place since 1939, when, in accord with Phelan's wishes, it opened as an arts center. The 175-acre estate in Silicon Valley includes Phelan's Mediterranean style villa, three performing arts venues, artists' studios, 2.5 miles of hiking trails, and the two-acre Italianate garden. The site welcomes 200,000 visitors each year.

Susan Finocchio is a member of the Montalvo board and garden committee. "We had broken sprinklers, dying boxwood, lots of filler plants that had been added over the years..." she says, noting the challenges they seek to overcome.

Research into historic documents and photos of the garden in its glory days—the early 1920s—revealed that despite decades of unmanaged growth and change, "a lot of the structure was still in the garden." Volunteers stepped up to help rehabilitate the garden.

"We're not restoring the garden," Ms. Finocchio emphasizes. "It's a rehabilitation. We want to respect its historic values while bringing it to life for today's purposes." The garden, a popular setting for weddings, will become a stage for sculpture exhibits as well as a place for the public enjoyment. "It's a work in progress," says Ms. Finocchio. "Right now, it's showing off its bones and we're very hopeful."

Learn more at www.montalvoarts.org.



Trustees of Greenwood Gardens break ground on the first phase of restoration.

Greenwood Gardens Begins Major Restoration

On June 6, Greenwood Gardens in Short Hills, New Jersey, broke ground for the \$5 million Phase One Restoration that will revive elements of the century-old gardens to their 1920s splendor. The project will complete Greenwood's transformation from a private retreat to a public garden, providing necessary visitor amenities including safe walking paths for visitors, handicapped accessibility, and public restrooms and parking. The project received a generous \$750,000 grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust.

Greenwood will remain open for guided tours and educational programs during the two-year restoration.

Visit www.greenwoodgardens.org.

Upcoming Events from the Garden Conservancy

For additional details on these and other programs presented by the Garden Conservancy, visit www.gardenconservancy.org.

September 11, 2009
Denver, Colorado

FALL IN THE GARDEN The unsung season

On the eve of the Garden Conservancy's September 12 Open Day in Denver, join Colorado's foremost gardeners for a look at *Fall in the Garden*. Speakers: Lauren Springer Ogden and Scott Ogden, Marcia Tatroe, Dan Johnson, Tom Peace and others. Denver Botanic Gardens' Panayoti Kelaidis will be master of ceremonies for an evening that is sure to be filled with stunning images, insightful perspectives, and remarkable experiences.

Co-sponsored with Denver Botanic Gardens.

September 18-20, 2009
Sonoma, California

THE LATE SHOW GARDENS Where brilliant design meets sustainable practice

A three-day garden show, featuring exhibit gardens and lecture series at Cornerstone Gardens. The event will focus on the issues of climate change, drought, sustainable practices and renewable resources as they relate to gardens.



Marion Brenner

Co-sponsored with Cornerstone Gardens.

October 31, 2009
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Austin, Texas

LIMESTONE & WATER Plants, design and inspiration for the Texas garden

Four garden design experts—Stephen Orr, Lauren Springer Ogden, Scott Ogden, and Dylan Crain Robertson—share their experience with innovative design in a hot climate. Program followed by special tour of the Wildflower Garden Center gardens for seminar registrants only.

Co-sponsored with Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, University of Texas at Austin.



Dan Johnson

Dan Johnson's garden in Englewood, Colorado



Lauren Springer Ogden



Dylan Robertson

Inspiration for Texas Gardens. Left: Aloe and mixed plantings in a garden by Lauren Springer Ogden and Scott Ogden. Right: A garden designed by D-Crain.



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Featured Program

Landscapes for Living Post World War Years in Northern California

October 24, Symposium
October 25, Field Study

This symposium, organized to celebrate the publication of *Shaping the American Landscape: New Profiles from the Pioneers of American Landscape Design Project* (University of Virginia Press, 2009), will focus on the unique Post War legacy of public and private landscapes in Northern California through actual participants who played an active role during what is now thought to be an unprecedented, optimistic time of innovation and experimentation.

Co-sponsors

Cultural Landscape Foundation
The Garden Conservancy
The California Garden and Landscape History Society
University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design
National Trust for Historic Preservation

Speakers

Cheryl Barton	Walter Hood	JC Miller
Elizabeth Byers	Linda Jewell	Tito Patri
Charles A. Birnbaum	Ken Kay	Andrew Sullivan
Marta Fry	Steven Koch	Marc Treib
Asa Hanamoto	Owen Lang	



Betsy Flack

Levi Strauss Plaza, San Francisco, designed by landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, late 1970s.

Where:

Wurster Auditorium, College of Environmental Design
University of California, Berkeley

Links for additional information and registration can be found at www.tclf.org/events/pioneers or www.gardenconservancy.org.

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