In our Collection

Meadow Road Shrubs

Enkianthus campanulatus ‘Showy Lantern’ (left) is among the many outstanding specimens that grow in the sequence of shrub beds that line the Arboretum’s Meadow Road. Particularly rich in members of the Ericaceae, or heath family, this area includes plantings of enkianthus, blueberry (Vaccinium sp.), and dusty zenobia (Zenobia pulverulenta) but is most notable for its azaleas. Designed for a long season of bloom, the Meadow Road display begins with the Dahurian rhododendron (Rhododendron dauricum) in late March and early April, reaches its peak with pinkshell azalea (R. vaseyi, lower left), in May, and finishes in July and early August with the plumleaf azalea (R. prunifolium).

Look for new plantings along Meadow Road in the coming years. Selected shrub beds along the road’s eastern edge, originally conceived by Beatrix Farrand and known collectively as Azalea Border, will undergo renovation and replanting to establish native species that will better tolerate the wet conditions of the site while also providing the outstanding spring display that has long distinguished Meadow Road.

Linden Path Brightens Travel to Leventritt Garden

An improved pedestrian path between Meadow Road and the Leventritt Garden of Shrubs and Vines was completed this past fall. Known as the Linden Path, it replaces the decommissioned equestrian trail installed along the property edge in the 1930s. The new path offers a gentler grade and enhanced views of landscape and collections in keeping with the design principles of Arboretum designer Frederick Law Olmsted. Construction began in July and was finished in time for the Arboretum’s fall plant sale in September.
Michael Anthony Canoso
1920–2005

When Michael Anthony Canoso died last summer, the horticultural library lost one of its treasured volunteers and the Harvard University Herbaria lost a beloved staff member. In a career spanning four decades at Harvard, Mike oversaw the integration of the world-class specimen collections of the Gray Herbarium and the Arnold Arboretum. During his tenure as manager of the systematics collections, beginning in 1968, the herbarium collections grew to total almost five million specimens. Following his official retirement in 1991, Mike volunteered at the herbaria in Cambridge and at the library in Jamaica Plain.

Mike may have been universally known for his service to the botanical community, but we at the Arboretum also knew him as a book lover and a bookbinder. He not only repaired, rebound, and boxed many of our titles that were far too fragile or valuable to entrust to a commercial bindery, but he also—with humor, patience, and kindness—taught us how to do the same. He made our collections, both dried and bound, so much better through his skill and caring. We will miss him.

Grounds Maintenance Focus on Peters Hill

Last fall, Arboretum grounds staff concentrated their energies on the collections and landscape of Peters Hill. They were stationed there for an entire month of mowing, pruning, and removing compromised accessions. In tandem with this coordinated maintenance effort—the largest on the hill since its restoration in 1998—members of the plant records department evaluated the condition of the plants. Information logged into individual plant records in the collections databases will guide future maintenance projects.
New Arboretum Apprentice on the Grounds

Kevin Stevens began work in October 2005 as an apprentice in the Arboretum’s Living Collections department. A graduate of Tulane University and recipient of dual graduate degrees from Columbia University, Kevin has held several posts in landscape design and horticulture, including internships at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England, and the Holden Arboretum in Kirtland Hills, Ohio.

During his apprenticeship Kevin will focus on restoring the azalea border on the eastern edge of Meadow Road. It was created in 1948 by Beatrix Farrand, best known for her design for the gardens at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC. Kevin will research Farrand’s design intent in the Arboretum’s archives, then work with horticultural staff to select future plantings for the site.

The Intern Debates: A Day of Presentations and Discussions

2006 Isabella Welles Hunnewell Interns and Stephen Schneider, Assistant Superintendent of Grounds, Arnold Arboretum

Thursday, July 20, 9:00am–3:30pm
Lecture Hall, Hunnewell Building

Come for one or attend all of these short discussions about real landscape challenges presented by the Arnold Arboretum’s 2006 summer interns. Pairs of interns will face off throughout the day to present their findings and promote solutions for urban landscapes on topics of maintenance techniques, plant selection and care, design for public access, and many other issues.