Descriptive Summary

Repository: Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Call no.: I G-6 SE
Location: Archives
Title: Special Events collection (1962- )
Date(s): 1962-
Creator: Public Programs department and Archives of the Arnold Arboretum
Quantity: 5 linear inches; 1 box
Language: English
Abstract: This collection was compiled by Public Programs department and the Archives of the Arnold Arboretum to document Arbor Days, open houses, and other special events at the Arboretum. Materials include flyers, photographs, negatives, correspondence, articles, and newspaper clippings. The collection begins with material from 1962-
Note: Access to Finding Aid record in Hollis Classic or Hollis.
Additional Material: For related materials see Arnold Arboretum Special Events: I G-6 Lilac Sunday, Flower Show, and Plant Giveaways. Additional press releases regarding Arbor Day and other events I G-7 PR

Processing Information

Carol David, date unknown, revised October, 2011, Jennie Hudson-Bryant, 2012 Liz Francis and Sheila Connor

Acquisition Information

Provenance: This collection was transferred from Public Programs departmental holdings to the Arboretum’s Archives in 1984 when the Archive was created. All other materials collected by the Archive since 1984.

Terms of Access

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Historical Note

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University offers public events and education programs throughout the year to promote “understanding and appreciation of plant life in its full complexity.” These activities are designed for a range of audiences, from children to adults and novices to experts.

The Arboretum celebrated Arbor Day every April from 1979-1988, and occasionally since then, to highlight the importance of conservation and as an opportunity to educate the public about its mission. Arbor Day at the Arboretum emphasized protecting the environment and celebrating nature. Tree planting was often the ‘main event’ at the Arbor Day Festival which also event also featured games and other activities.

The Arnold Arboretum has hosted and continues to host a number of open houses for students, staff, faculty, and the general public. These events inform guests about the Arboretum, its mission, goals, and programs. They have been held in the Hunnewell Administration Building and the Charles Stratton Dana Greenhouses on the Arboretum grounds, the Case Estates in Weston, Massachusetts, and the Harvard University Herbaria in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Open houses showcase current projects and exhibit what goes on ‘behind-the-scenes’ at the institution. In December, 1987 the Arboretum hosted the Winter Festival of Wood, open to the public, the festival featured a variety of winter customs including the Yule Log and tree lighting. The event also included dance, story, and song as well as wassail, a drink of hot spiced cider and toasted apples. The word wassail comes from the Anglo-Saxon words “wes hal,” which means “very good health.” The festival was a way for the Arboretum to wish “all its neighbors, ‘Good Health and a Happy New Year’” (from the Records of Arnold Arboretum Special Events, 1962- )

Family activities at the Arboretum include tree planting, crafts, poetry contests, and family walking adventures to introduce the world of horticulture to young people. The Arboretum also offers nature programs with a focus on plant science to elementary and preschool children and their teachers. Together, these public programs support the institution’s mission of educating the community about the diversity and complexity of plant life.

Scope and Content
This collection contains a variety of materials including correspondence, flyers, photographs, negatives, memos, articles, and more related to special events held by the Arnold Arboretum. This includes Arbor Day events and open houses. The collection spans 1962-2008. Further accruals are expected.

Arrangement
The Arnold Arboretum Special Events collection is arranged into 3 series:

**Series I:** Arbor Day
**Series II:** Open Houses
**Series III:** Miscellaneous Events

Container List

Box 1

Folder

   - Memorandum about Arbor Day April 25, 1980 events and activities with organizer contact information from the Armenian Women’s Welfare Association to a group of pastors, schools, and youth groups, September 26, 1979
   - Armenian Nursing Home newsletter, including information about Arbor Day 1980, January, 1980
   - Memorandum #2 about Arbor Day 1980 thanking the schools, youth groups, organizations, and clubs for their pre-Arbor Day work, February 14, 1980
   - Armenian Nursing Home news release about Arbor Day 1980 events and activities, April 8, 1980
   - Press release from the Arnold Arboretum about information relating to the Arbor Day 1980 celebration, April 11, 1980
   - News clipping from the Armenian Mirror-Spectator newspaper about the Arbor Day 1980 event, special thanks, and images, May 10, 1980
   - Correspondence from Barbara Tellalian, chairwoman of Arbor Day 1980, about the success of Arbor Day and for Arboretum staff member Margo Reynolds’ help, June 8, 1980
- Proposed schedule for Arbor Day April 24, 1981, including activities, 1981
- Correspondence from a member of the National Arbor Day Foundation regarding information on Arbor Day, 1982
- Newsletter "Arbor Day News" from the National Arbor Day Foundation about "100 Years of Arbor Day in Our Schools" January 1982
- Press release from the Arnold Arboretum about date, time, location, and contact information for Arbor Day April 30, 1982, April 12, 1982
- Press release from the Arnold Arboretum about Arbor Day 1982 tree planting in Franklin Park, April 12, 1982
- Flyer for Arbor Day Festival, April 24, 1982
- Letter from the Arnold Arboretum about information regarding the Arbor Day Festival for April 30, 1983, February 18, 1983
- Memo from Kate Nixon of the Arboretum to other staff members suggesting a meeting to discuss details about Arbor Day 1983., March 17, 1983
- Memo from Kate Nixon to other staff members about meeting on April 5 to discuss details about Arbor Day. Handwritten note below the memo about designed brochures, and on back about budget numbers, March 25, 1983
- Press release from the Arnold Arboretum with contact information and short details about Arbor Day, April 1, 1983
- Memorandum from Kate Nixon to other staff with staff details regarding events and activities for Arbor Day, April 25, 1983
- Letter explaining the details of a successful experimental plant giveaway on Arbor Day, 1983
- Letter from the Arnold Arboretum asking supporters and members of the Arboretum to choose a free plant, with description, from the given list, 1983
- Correspondence from Associate in the Arnold Arboretum Charlotte Kaufman to Kate Nixon regarding artists and presenters for an event at Arbor Day April 28, 1984,February 7, 1984
- Contract agreement form signed by representative of the artists performing at Arbor Day, Annotated in margins, February 7, 1984
- Correspondence from the Assistant Plan Propagator Peter Del Tredici of the Arboretum to Michael Medeiros detailing his order for plants for Arbor Day, February 14, 1984
- Press release Arbor Day 1984 children’s programs, March 26, 1984
- Public service announcement regarding Arbor Day, March 27, 1984
- Flyer for Arbor Day Festival, April 28, 1984
- Facilities rental request from the America Begonia Society, Buxton Branch for Arbor Day, annotated in margin, 1984
- Newsletter "Arbor Day News" from the National Arbor Day Foundation about “Arbor Day Across America” March/April 1984
- Letter relating to the featured events, including children’s activities, of Arbor Day, 1984
- Letter detailed plants for sale on Arbor Day, 1984
- News clipping from the Jamaica Plain Citizen and Roxbury Citizen about the Arbor Day Festival April 26, 1986, April 17, 1986
• News clipping from the *Boston Ledger* regarding the Arbor Day Festival, April 19, 1986
• News clipping from *Dorchester Argus Citizen* about Arnold Arboretum celebrating 100 years of Arbor Day, schedule and program details, April 24, 1986
• News clipping from the *Jamaica Plain Citizen* and *Roxbury Citizen* about Arnold Arboretum celebrating 100 years of Arbor Day, schedule and program details, April 24, 1986
• News clipping from *Gloucester Daily Times* about Arbor day festivities, April 24, 1986
• News clipping from the *Jamaica Plain Citizen* and *Roxbury Citizen* newspaper about the Arbor Day event, April 24, 1986
• News clipping from the Boston Sunday Globe with annotated images from Arbor Day activities, April 24, 1986
• News clipping from the *Jamaica Plain Citizen* and *Roxbury Citizen* newspaper about the Arbor Day event, May 1, 1986
• News clipping from the Boston Sunday Globe about the Arbor Day Festival activities, April 26, 1987
• Press release about Spring events at the Arnold Arboretum, including Arbor Day events, activities, date, and contact information, 1987
• Invitation bulletin to the Arbor Day Celebration May 1, 1988 with information about the activities for the children’s program, 1988
• Flyer about the Arbor Day Celebration children’s program, April 29, 1990
• News clipping, with annotated image from Arbor Day 1988, about the children’s program poetry contest, concert, and tree planting. Also includes a memorandum from the commissioner of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 1990
• News clipping, with annotated image from Arbor Day 1990, about the children’s program poetry contest, 1991
• Correspondence and contract from Diane Edgecomb, a performer for Arbor Day, 1995


- Thirty-seven 3.5x5 black and white photographs of Peter Ashton, Deputy Mayor Katherine Kane, Mrs. G. Kinnard-Wakefield, and others planting trees during Arbor Day event. ca. 1980.
- Three 5x7 black and white photographs of Peter Ashton, Deputy Mayor Katherine Kane, and Mrs. G. Kinnard-Wakefield talking at an Arbor Day event. 1980
• One 5x7 black and white photograph of Peter Ashton, and three others planting a tree at an Arbor Day event. April 24, 1981
• Two contact and negative sheets from Arbor Day, 1983
• Two contact and negative sheets from Arbor Day, 1984
• One 3.5x5 black and white photograph of Jack Doherty of the *Jamaica Plain Citizen* newspaper, Mayor Raymond Flynn, and representative John McDonough at the Arbor Day Festival, photographer K. Nixon, 1985
• Two contact and negative sheets from Arbor Day, 1985
• Two 8x11.5 black and white photographs of the Morris Dancers dancing at the Arbor Day celebrations, photographer Laurie J. Belisle, 1986
• Three contact and negative sheets from Arbor Day, 1986

Amitai Lipton stands in front of the “Tree’ Cheers for Kids” bulletin board filled with children’s drawings and poems during the Arbor Day celebration at the Arboretum in 1988. Photograph by Laurie J. Belisle


**Note:** When contacted in 2012 by the Arboretum Archive staff to ask for permission to use his image in the finding aid, Amitai Lipton not only agreed, but generously supplied this additional information:

I was at the Arnold Arboretum as part of a poetry contest for area fourth-graders. We were asked to write Arbor Day-themed poems, and a handful of poems (eight or so), were selected as winners. My haiku was among the winners, and the eight of us recited our poems at the Arboretum. I believe the contest was sponsored by the Boston Globe, but I’m not sure.

My poem was:

Once there was a tree /
With many leaves /  
And now it is my desk

- Envelope of fifteen 5x7 black and white photographs of children and adults participating in Arbor Day activities, photographer Laurie J Belisle, 1988
- One 8x11.5 black and white photograph of three children at the "Three Cheer for Kids!" display board, photographer Laurie J. Belisle, 1988
- Three contact and negative sheets from Arbor Day, photographer Laurie J. Belisle, 1988
- Twenty-five 7x9.5 black and white photographs of children and staff during the poetry contest, concert, and tree planting for Arbor, 1990
- One 8x10 black and white photograph of child participant of the poetry contest during Arbor Day festivities, 1990
- Five 5x7 black and white photograph from “A Day to Celebrate Trees: Events to Promote the Appreciation and Enjoyment of Trees” *Arnoldia 55:1* Spring 1995
  - a man at the "Magnolia Elizabeth" during Arbor Day
  - Jim Gorman and others by a tree during Arbor Day
  - Richard Schulhof and others talking during Arbor Day
  - Jim Gorman and others during Arbor Day
  - two young visitors with plants at Arbor Day festivities

4. Slides, 1984-1989
- 103 color slides of Arbor Day activities 1984-1989

![Nan Sinton on left, with volunteers Caroline Schwartz and Sue Dwyer, Arbor Day 1986](image)

5. Undated Materials (n.d.)
- List of town locations and number of new members for Arbor day from each, n.d.
- Letter from the Arnold Arboretum about the history and importance of Arbor Day, n.d.
- Business card of Education Coordinator at the Arboretum Katherine A. Terzi, n.d.
• “Arbor Day Guide” issued by the Cooperative Extension Service, with cooperation from the United States Department of Agriculture and others. Gives the history of Arbor Day, information about trees, contact information, and more, n.d.
• List of names and addresses of people, n.d.
• Letter about Arnold Arboretum Director, Dr. Peter Ashton. Theodore Roosevelt quote at the top of the letter, n.d.
• Photocopy of dictionary entry “Arbor Day” and list of dates observed, n.d.

Folder
   • Public service release concerning the Annual Spring Open House, what will be on view, location, and contact information, May 6, 1973
   • Public service release concerning the Annual Spring Open House, what will be on view, location, and contact information, May 14, 1978

2. Harvard University Herbaria Open House (1986)
   • Agenda for meeting about the Herbaria Open House, topics for discussion, March 10, 1986
   • List of names of suggested invites to the Open House, 1986
   • Flyer for the Herbaria Open House containing information on the event and contact information, May 8, 1986
   • Series of 17 correspondences from Nan Sinton, of the Arboretum, to others about the Herbaria Open House, March 19, 1986
   • Memo from Nan Sinton in reference to the Herbaria Open House and help needed, March 26, 1986
   • Article “Exploration in the west and the founding of the Gray Herbarium” by Elizabeth A. Shaw, 1986
   • Article “Charles Sprague Sargent and the Establishment of the Arnold Arboretum Herbarium” by Stephan A. Spongberg, April 1986
   • Article “Botanical gold: exploring the treasures of the Harvard University Herbaria” by Caroline J. Swartz, 1986

3. Arnold Arboretum “Winter Festival of Wood” Open House (December 6, 1987)
   • Information sheet with program and schedule details, as well as historical commentary on the festival, December 6, 1987

   • Supply list and pre-event tasks for October 14 Maple Family Adventure including information about setup, signs, and what is at each table, 1995
   • Public service release advertising the fall open house with schedule and contact information, October 3, 1995
• Flyer invitation to the Maple Tree Family Adventure on October 14 with general information and directions, 1995
• Information for staff about what happened at the Maple Family Adventure event on October 19, 1996

• August 1, 1996. Correspondence from Chris Strand to Phyllis Andersen and Lisa Hastings. Notes on Open House/Exhibit Opening.
• August 30, 1996. Correspondence from Christ Strand to Sheila Connor. October 7, 1996. Correspondence from Chris Strand to Bob Spurling. Inviting Rangers to Open House.
• Correspondence from Diane Syverson to Kristin McDonald about creating maple leaf activity cards for the Community Science Connection family event on October 19, 1996, October 16, 1996
• Correspondence from Chris Strand to staff at the Arnold Arboretum with updates about the Fall Open House including schedule, activity, refreshments, exhibits, etc. Annotated by Chris Strand to Diane Syverson between the lines, October 3, 1996
• Note from Chris Strand stating, “Copies of the open house flyer are available for staff to distribute in my office,” October, 1996
• Flyer for the Open House event, October 19, 1996
• Evaluation form for the Maple Tree Adventure family activity with questions for participants of the event, Fall 1996
• “Family Maple Adventure Begins Here!” pamphlet with information, questions to consider, and room for field notes, 1995, 1996
• Arboretum Maple Tree Adventure sheet with small map, questions, and room for field notes on the back, 1995, 1996
• “Reading Maples” information about maple trees, questions to pursue, chart for recording data, and supply and staff needs, annotated, 1995, 1996
• Correspondence to “Kirsten” about what needs to be done before the Saturday Maple Family event, 1995, 1996
• Notes about the family event including components, questions, and games. Annotated on front and back with correspondence and list of materials/supplies, 1995, 1996
• Three pages of handwritten notes on lined paper about the maple tree event, one with back and front covered, 1995, 1996
• Evaluation of the Maple Tree Adventure family activity with questions for participants of the event, 1995, 1996

5. “5 Millionth Specimen” Harvard University Herbaria Open House (October 23, 1996)

• Invitation to the “5 Millionth Specimen” Open House and reception at the Harvard University Herbaria, October 23, 1996

6. “Celebrating 125 Years of Discovery” Harvard University Herbaria Open House (May, 1997)

• Invitation postcard to the “Celebrating 125 Years of Discovery” Open House, which includes information about all the special events at the Arboretum for this event, 1997
• List of open house participants, their presentations, and locations for the event, guest register of attendees, April 29, 1997
• Floor map as a guide to the exhibits, May 8, 1997
Draft of the agenda for the open house event. Annotated. May 8, 1997

Correspondence from Emily Wood to Harvard University Herbaria staff about the Herbaria Open House giving general information about the event February 21, 1997

Correspondence from Phyllis to Kara regarding details of the open house event, including invitation lists, invitations, caterer information, brochures, and name tags, March 24, 1997

List of participants and their presenting topics for the Herbaria Open House, May, 8 1997

List of Herbaria faculty, staff, and students and their field work localities, 1997

Three sign-in sheets for Herbaria Open House, May 8, 1997

Information sheet about rainforest researchers and a new CD-ROM curriculum for middle school classrooms, May 8, 1997


Information sheet about the Flora of North America Project at Harvard and biodiversity database publishing, 1997

Information sheet about the Flora of North America, North of Mexico printed volumes, 1997

7. “Celebrating 125 Years of Discovery” Harvard University Herbaria Open House (May, 1997)


- Article “Exploration in the west and the founding of the Gray Herbarium” by Elizabeth A. Shaw for May 8, 1997 open house, 1986

- Article “Charles Sprague Sargent and the Establishment of the Arnold Arboretum Herbarium” by Stephan A. Spongberg for May 8, 1997 open house, April 1986

8. “Celebrating 125 Years of Discovery” Hunnewell Building Open House (October, 1997)

- Invitation to the Open House and Lecture for the Arnold Arboretum at the Hunnewell Building and at the Massachusetts State Laboratory, giving location, date, time, and general information about the event, October 17, 1997

- Article from Arnold Arboretum News with an image from the October 17, 1997 open house event, 1997

- Correspondence from Kara Stepanian to Open House and Lecture staff about their appointments for the evening of October 17, 1997. Carol David’s name highlighted, with annotation in the margin, October 15, 1997

- Correspondence from Kara Stepanian to Open House and Lecture staff about their appointments for the evening of October 17, 1997, October 15, 1997
• Invitation to the Open House and Lecture for the Arnold Arboretum at the Hunnewell Building and at the Massachusetts State Laboratory, October 17, 1997
• Seven sign-in sheets for Open House and Lecture event, October 17, 1997
• Flyer for an Open House event, October 18, 1997

9. “Celebrating 125 Years of Discovery” Hunnewell Building Open House, Exhibit labels (October 17, 1997)
• Guide to Open House exhibits, tours and lectures
• Labels and exhibit information relating to the featured “Celebrating 125 Years of Discovery” Fall Open House exhibit, October, 17, 1997

"Celebrating 125 Years of Discovery” Foreground: Charles Sprague memorabilia and artifacts, Arnold Arboretum Library, October 17, 1997

Box 2

10. Arnold Arboretum Members’ Tour Day Open House (May 1, 2004)
• Correspondence from Jon Hetman of the Arnold Arboretum to other staff members regarding morning touring events for the Members’ Tour Day Open House, February 17, 2004

11. Hunnewell Building Gala Open House/Donor Event (June 24, 1999)
• Information sheet regarding plant collecting, curation, and propagation for the Gala Open House event, June 1999
• Topic discussion points on agenda for the Gala Open House Donor Event, Spring 2004
• Proposed schedules, exhibits, and other information for the Gala Open House Donor Event, June 2004
• Notes for Building Tour, June 2004.
• Pamphlet about Gala Open House Donor Event, including schedule, exhibits, and other program details, June 24, 2004
• Pamphlet about Gala Open House Donor Event, including program schedule, exhibit information, and map. Image of *Camellia sasanqua* on the front, June 24, 2004
• Invitation, with reply card and envelope, to the Gala Open House Donor Event, June 2004
• Invitation, with reply card and 37 cent stamped envelope, to the Gala Open House Donor Event, June 2004
• Invitation, with envelope, to the Gala Open House Donor Event, June 2004
• List of attendees to the Gala Open House Donor Event, June 24, 2004

### 12. Harvard University Herbaria Gala Open House (June 12, 2008)
- Invitation with reply card and envelope to the Harvard University Herbaria Gala Open House, June 2008
- Pamphlet for the Gala Open House including information on the schedule, exhibit guide, and general information about the event, June 12, 2008

- Two 5X7 black and white photographs of people and plants at the Arnold Arboretum Open House for “Friends.” Photo credit to the Arnold Arboretum of Jamaica Plain, MA., May 16, 1962
- One 8X11.5 black and white photograph of people and construction vehicles from a Fall Open House event, photographer Amy L.C. Wilson, October 16, 1994
- Two 8x11.5 black and white photographs of people and plants in the parking lot of the Hunnewell House for a 1995 open house event at the Arnold Arboretum, photographer Amy L.C. Wilson, 1995
• One 8X11.5 black and white photograph from *Arnoldia 56:3* of a man and child sitting and drawing outside, photographer Amy L.C. Wilson, October 19, 1996
• One 8X11.5 black and white photograph from *Arnoldia 56:3* of a man and girl kneeling and looking at a tree, photographer Amy L.C. Wilson, October 19, 1996
• Three contact sheets from an Arnold Arboretum Fall Open House photographer Amy L.C. Wilson, October 19, 1996
• Six 4X6 color photographs of the “Celebrating 125 Years of Discovery” Arnold Arboretum Fall Open House library exhibit, October 17, 1997
• Two 5X7 black and white photographs of Alice Ingerson, Pam Thompson, Kristen Thornton, and Andrew Hubble at the “Celebrating 125 Years of Discovery” Fall Open House library exhibit, October 17, 1997
• One 5X7 black and white photograph of visitors to the “Celebrating 125 Years of Discovery” Fall Open House library exhibit, October 17, 1997

**Series III: Miscellaneous Events**

   - Camellia Exhibition poster, 1988
   - Newspaper article mentioning the 160th *Camellia Exhibition*, 1989
   - Camellia Exhibition posters, 1989
   - February 8, 1999. Notes from Julie Warsowe.
   - February 25, 1999. Memo from Ellen Bennett to Kenny on lecture hall set up for show.
   - February 27, 1999. Email from Joseph Melanson to Ellen Bennett. Parking.
   - Camellia Exhibition posters, 1999
   - February 24, 2000. Email from Ellen Bennett. Weekend hours and show updates.
   - Camellia Exhibition posters, 2001
   - February 2, 2004. Email from Caroline Richardson to Camilla Society.
   - Notes. Julie Warsowe.
   - Camellia Show invitation, 2004 (2)
   - Camellia Exhibition schedule for society members.
   - February 27, 2004. Invoice from Linens by Alice.
   - February 27, 2004. Receipts for wine, food and goods for Camellia Reception.
- Notes from Julie Warsowe. Camellia show 2005.

2: Camellia Exhibitions at the Arnold Arboretum: 2004-2008
- January 7, 2005. Email from Pam Thompson to Bob Cook. Update on 2005 show
- Camellia Show Announcement, 2005
- February 25, 2005. Invoice from Linens by Alice.
- February 27, 2008. Email from Jennifer Leigh to staff. Updates for show.
- March 1 and 2, 2008. Camilla Show Poster
- Brochure to “An Afternoon of Song” at 2008 show.
- Texts and Translations of songs sung at “An Afternoon of Song.”
- Table lay out and plan for 2008 show.
- Website Announcement for 2008 show


5: Tot Trot: 1996-1997. PR.


7: MIT “Engineering of Trees” class visit, Lorna Gibbs: 2003

8: Chestnut Hill Garden Club Meeting: 2003-2005


10: Miscellaneous Group Visits/Requests: 2003-2005