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As our second century begins...

A letter from the General Manager:

Dear Friends and Supporters:

As we finish the Arboretum's centennial year, I am pleased to tell you it has been one of the best in Awbury's 100 year history.

We celebrated Awbury's centennial with two signature events, beginning with a Centennial Gala held in the spring on the lawn of the Francis Cope House. Over 200 Awbury supporters attended the gala, and it was a magical moment - sharing memories and hopes for the future with friends of the Arboretum old and new.

We then invited our entire community to celebrate with us at our second annual Heartwood Music Festival. Musical performances by high-profile and up-and-coming musical artists and an outdoor exhibition by the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts formed the core of the event, which also featured a 4-H petting zoo, games, crafts, and the burial of a time capsule.

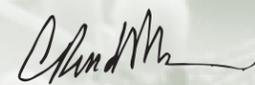
Throughout 2016 we saw a steady increase in the number of people – young and old – who participate in our many workshops, field trips, camps, and educational programs, and to date this year we have recorded over 27,000 visits.

Major renovations to the Cope House have progressed and are nearly complete. You may remember that we received grants from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and McLean Contributionship to install a new heating and air conditioning system and to restore the building's deteriorating windows. The windows and HVAC system were installed this spring and summer, and have already had an incredible impact on the building's climate control and energy efficiency.

Some of the most visible physical improvements planned for this year are slated to begin over the next few months. We have completed the planning necessary for roadway repaving, an extension of the accessible pathway through the Agricultural Village, new sheds, an open air pavilion, and revamped signage – including new entrance signs and wayfinding and interpretative signs. Paving improvements and new signage will make Awbury more accessible, and more attractive to visitors. The pavilion will provide us with an additional venue for programs, public events and rental income. I would be remiss if I neglected to thank the William Penn Foundation, and East Mt Airy Neighbors for their grants that have made these exciting improvements possible.

With all of our progress in 2016, we are confident the next 100 years will see Awbury Arboretum continue to be a crucial community asset in Germantown.

Sincerely,



- Chris



NATURE · COMMUNITY · HISTORY

1916 - 2016

Annual Report 2016



Dear Member, Please Join us:

Annual Meeting & Celebration



SUNDAY
NOV.
13th
3:00PM

Dr. Casey Sclar, Executive Director of the American Public Gardens Association, will offer a special presentation in honor of Awbury's centennial year. Dr. Sclar's presentation "Why Public Gardens are Indispensable" will look at the future of public gardens in America, focusing on growing trends and why places like Awbury are more important today than ever.

Financial Data

By the Numbers

Programs - The Year in Review



FINANCIAL DATA

for Fiscal Year 2016

Assets

Cope Trust Balance	\$	510,000
Endowment Balance	\$	1,046,000
Cash Reserves	\$	375,000
	\$	1,931,000

Income

Trust & Endowment	\$	29,140
Grants	\$	199,950
Membership & Gifts	\$	84,377
Program Fees	\$	49,155
Property Rent	\$	23,000
Event Rental Fees	\$	78,157
Special Events & Sponsorships	\$	11,600
Sales & Other	\$	8,145
	\$	483,524

Expenses

Staff Salaries	\$	247,791
Consultants & Professional Fees	\$	78,820
Stipends	\$	8,983
Public Events	\$	4,620
Landscape Maintenance	\$	38,644
Building Maintenance	\$	12,435
Custodial & Security	\$	6,543
Equipment Lease/Repair	\$	11,453
Insurance	\$	48,019
Utilities & Phone/Internet	\$	19,023
Dues/Subscriptions	\$	3,463
Office Supplies & Postage	\$	5,264
Printing & Marketing	\$	5,622
Supplies - Programs & Repairs	\$	28,180
Taxes & Finance Charges	\$	1,942
Website Maint. & IT Support	\$	2,105
Miscellaneous	\$	144
	\$	523,051

Net Operating Income \$ (39,527)

- ❖ 27,000 + visits
- ❖ 12,000 + children and youth served
- ❖ 2,745 volunteer hours given
- ❖ \$62,119 = value of volunteer hours
- ❖ 38 acres preserved in perpetuity
- ❖ 3 pieces of historic Cope furniture donated to archives
- ❖ 45 couples joined in marriage
- ❖ 3 new picnic areas added
- ❖ 1 new natural materials playground installed
- ❖ 2 floors of the Cope House now air conditioned
- ❖ 14 witch hazels installed in new collection garden



I am headed into my fifth year as program director at Awbury and am so very grateful to work with talented staff in this beautiful landscape. Classes, lectures, festivals, dinners, camps, field trips, homeschool classes, an innovative teen program, and volunteer opportunities continue to serve thousands of visitors at the Arboretum. Our small but mighty staff work very hard to keep programming fresh and relevant to our constituency, but we do not go it alone. Awbury thrives by partnering to provide entertaining and educational experiences. Some of the organizations that have brought their resources and expertise to Awbury this year include: The Philadelphia Folksong Society, The Philadelphia Orchard Project, The Philadelphia Bee Guild, PHS Tree Tenders, Longwood Gardens, The Eastern Pennsylvania Permaculture Guild, The Philadelphia Wild Foodies, The Philadelphia School of Circus Arts, The Penn State Master Gardeners - Philadelphia Chapter, Historic Germantown, The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, The Wissahickon Charter School, The Philadelphia School, Food Moxie, Filmsprout, and Philadelphia Office of Penn State Extension 4H. A huge thank you to all of the fabulous people who support our programs and events.

In addition to all of the groups above, over the past year, Awbury received essential grant support from: The Christian and Mary Lindback Foundation, the Christopher Ludwick Foundation, the Claneil Foundation, Inc., the Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial, Historic Germantown Saving our Sites Fund, Impact 100 Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Philadelphia Youth Network, the Rosenlund Family Foundation, the EMAN Community Fund, the Leo and Peggy Pierce Family Foundation, the McLean Contributionship, the Seybert Foundation, the William Penn Foundation, the Tides Foundation, and

the Walter J. Miller Trust. Thank you funders!

I hope to see you here enjoying the Arboretum and all it has to offer. I am always happy to hear from members; ideas, concerns, hopes and wishes - please let me know what you would like to see at your arboretum.

Heather Zimmerman
hzimmerman@awbury.org

Landscape Highlights



Viewing a garden's blooming season for the first time unveils the history of the landscape. Things pop up in unexpected places, and one learns where to look - day to day, week to week. My seasons are now overlapping at Awbury, and while there is no other year quite like the first, as my experiences build, I remember to look for known friends throughout the landscape, as I continue to find surprises at every corner.

As a case in point - this spring, as we were enjoying the masses of spring beauties (Claytonia virginica), buttercups (Ranunculus repens), and violets (Viola sororia) throughout the open English Landscape, I discovered a patch of trillium (Trillium grandiflorum) tucked into the dense copse in front of the Cope House.

In order to keep track of the seasonal changes in each area of the Arboretum, and compare year to year, Awbury is tracking plants through a photo catalogue and chart. This coincides with Awbury's re-posting of Edwin Jellett's 1903 articles; "A Flora of Germantown." We now have a record of occurrences like the very late second bloom on our bottlebrush buckeye this year.

Several larger projects have taken shape this past year on Awbury's grounds. Over the summer, Awbury transformed a former wood lot in the back corner of the Secret Garden into a natural playground. The playground is the first phase of a three-part children's play area being installed. The natural playground provides children with materials both loose and fixed to climb on, hop over, crawl into, construct with, and explore as they engage in creative, unstructured play. The construction of two additional children's areas in the Secret Garden focused on environmental education and imaginative play over the coming year will complete the play area. This project and many others have been undertaken with great effort from volunteers, neighbors, Awbury staff, and the Awbury Arboretum Landscape crew.

This season visitors can enjoy clusters of picnic tables in five key areas of the landscape; the wetlands, beneath the Heritage Linden tree, behind the Cope House, in the natural playground and in front of the Education Center. Efforts have also been focused on regaining control of areas overwhelmed by vines - specifically porcelain berry, a noxious invasive devastating the Northeast. One area previously consumed by this vine has been recovered, redesigned, and planted as the Scattergood Memorial Witch Hazel Garden. In this area, historic native witch hazels (Hamamelis virginiana), estimated at over 60 years old, are being unveiled while a new grove of various witch hazels has been installed overlooking the meadow.

At the Agricultural Village, the farms were bustling this summer as the Teen Leadership Corps expanded their cultivated land to include an area adjacent to the Education Center. At the center of the Agricultural Village, volunteers worked to expand Awbury Pollinator Garden, which provides beneficial plants for a wide array of pollinators.

The many positive changes implemented across the Arboretum's landscape in 2016 will benefit Awbury for years to come. After being a part of the landscape and watching its history unfold through each season, I am reminded of the crucial role all of us who are part of Awbury's community play in ongoing transformation and improvement of the land for future Awbury community members to discover.

Karen Flick
kflick@awbury.org

Awbury Centennial Blog Series

The Country in the City:

Natural History in Northwest Philadelphia

In 1903, regular newspaper readers in Germantown enjoyed a weekly series of articles titled, "A Flora of Germantown." Written by Edwin Jellett, they ran every Friday for almost 40 weeks. Jellett, who lived from 1874 to 1931, wandered throughout Northwest Philadelphia, recording plants in bloom, noting changes in the flora from previous decades and referencing local history. This year, Awbury Arboretum is republishing Jellett's articles in sequence, re-creating for the 21st century electronic reader what the newspaper consumer of 1903 enjoyed - a vicarious Friday jaunt through Germantown.

Visit the scrolling images at the bottom of www.awbury.org to visit the blog, and subscribe today!

