Top 10 for 2014
The Awbury Arboretum Stewardship Plan
No. 2

Awbury Arboretum Association
The Awbury Landscape Stewardship Plan, No. 2
Top 10 for 2014

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TOP 10 FOR 2012

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The Awbury Arboretum Landscape Committee and Board of Directors are pleased to present the 2014 version of the Stewardship Plan. As we explained when the first Stewardship Plan was introduced in 2012, good stewardship is an active and on-going process that requires both current action and future planning.

Good stewardship for Awbury Arboretum starts with sustainability – for the land and facilities that were gifted to the public use and enjoyment, for the programs that educate and serve the Arboretum’s neighbors, and for the financial resources essential to its survival.

In 2012 we concluded that we could not develop a single multi-year comprehensive plan that would take into account all of the different parts of the Arboretum, or their various audiences. We recognized that Awbury is too big, its needs too pressing, its audiences too diverse, and the future too uncertain to make a traditional master plan possible – or even desirable.

Accordingly, the staff, Landscape Committee and Board embarked on a more vital and innovative planning process— to create a dynamic landscape plan that would enable us to manage and synthesize historical and current information about the Arboretum grounds and facilities with our plans for the care of the Arboretum. Originally planned to be an annual effort, we have learned that our needs and resources are such that updating the Stewardship Plan every two years is sufficient.

As you review our progress in each of the 10 distinctly different areas over the past two years, you will see that we have improved our basic knowledge about the Arboretum’s landscape with such efforts as the GIS mapping of all of the trees in the Arboretum, and changed how we operate to maintain Awbury in a more efficient and environmentally friendly way – ranging from new mowing patterns to more aggressive tactics for attacking invasive plants.

This Stewardship Plan describes the progress we have made in the Top 10 projects outlined in the 2012 Plan, and the landscape improvements we hope to make throughout the Arboretum in the near future. Since the work of maintaining a landscape is never finished, future Stewardship Plans will undoubtedly detail more work that needs to be done – even as we report on the progress we have made over the next two years.

Finally - stewardship planning involves more than the already difficult problem of balancing nature and people in a dense urban area. In the case of Awbury Arboretum, it includes the perpetual need to raise revenue to pay for the care and use of the Arboretum, and unfortunately we haven’t grown a money tree. We have, however, been growing new educational programs, summer camps and field studies – programs that increase the number of users, friends and supporters of Awbury. We have also been growing revenue by renting the Cope House for weddings and other social events, and made substantial progress in our effort to turn our subsidiary landscape service into a profitable enterprise.

I hope you will join me, and the other Board Members, in the pleasure we have walking through the evolving landscape of Awbury Arboretum, and supporting our efforts to provide the quality stewardship this special urban landscape deserves.

Robert A. Petito, Chair
Awbury Arboretum Association
Landscape Plan for the Chew Avenue Gateway: Spring/summer

Arboretum staff volunteers, 2013

Gateway with new pathways, plantings and signage
above: Existing  below: Proposed

Restoration and new pathway
above: Existing  below: Proposed

Landscape Plan for the Chew Avenue Gateway: Autumn

Landscape Plan for the Chew Avenue Gateway: Spring/summer
1 The Chew Avenue Gateway

The main entrance on Chew Avenue is Awbury Arboretum’s most public face. For years the area had been under-maintained and uninviting. Recognizing the importance of projecting a welcoming and positive message to our visitors and neighbors, we have identified the improvement of our gateway as one of our highest priorities. In 2011 we initiated a process to transform it into a public expression of the Arboretum’s mission and philosophy.

We have a new landscape design that sets in place our collective vision for the gateway. The plan highlights the existing attributes of the area, provides for better connections (physical and perceptual,) and sets the groundwork for future sustainability. It takes into consideration the history of the site, the need for more effective signage, and features appropriate plants that provide interest for passing cars and pedestrians, with color in all seasons. The physical nature of this area is quite different than other parts of the arboretum, and provides the opportunity for communities of plants not found elsewhere.

Much improvement to this 2-acre area has already been accomplished through removals (of poor plant material and debris,) and regular maintenance. A small area of new planting has been installed at the entry—just a taste of more to come.

2012-2013 Accomplishments:
» Removal of undesirable trees, including invasive species, dead and unsafe trees
» Removal of invasive vines, honeysuckle and other species
» Stepped-up litter removal
» Clearing of existing historic pathways
» Pruning of trees and shrubs as needed for plant health and aesthetic considerations
» Removal of old, decrepit landscape timbers
» Completion and adoption of the landscape design plan
» New plantings at main entrance

2014-2016 Proposed Projects:
» Grading to stabilize slopes and to expose existing rock ledge
» Completion of repairs to the retaining wall
» Fabrication and installation of new signage
» New pedestrian connections from the sidewalk on Chew Avenue
» Extensive new plantings of native and heritage species that are appropriate to the site’s steep, rocky slopes and disturbed soils
» Community engagement to encourage use of the area and to assist the Arboretum with maintenance
“...as the house is connected with the country through the medium of the park; the park should partake of the neatness of the one and the wildness of the other. As the park is a scene either planted by art, or, if naturally woody, artificially improved, we expect a beauty, and contrast in its clumps, which we do not look for in the wild scenes of nature. We expect to see its lawns, and their appendages, contrasted with each other in shape, size and disposition; from which a variety of artificial scenes will arise. We expect that when trees are left standing as individuals, they should be the most beautiful of their kind, elegant and well-balanced.”
-William Gilpin 1791
The English Landscape Park is the signature landscape of the arboretum. Lying between the main entrance on Chew Avenue and the Francis Cope House, it is a 15-acre area of rolling, open ground punctuated by groups of trees, known as copses. It is traversed by Awbury Road, the main drive and only means of approach to the Francis Cope House. Beautiful and picturesque, the English Landscape Park seems natural, but is in fact a designed landscape that was graded and originally planted in the 19th century in the tradition of the English picturesque.

The preservation of the English Landscape Park is a very high priority for Awbury. While this landscape remains quite attractive, in recent decades its intended form has become diluted and increasingly hard to appreciate. Plants have died, or been removed, and unwelcome views have opened up. The addition over time of many new trees, whether volunteer or intentionally planted, has interrupted the balance between the copses and the open ground. Surviving arrangements of mature plantings have been obscured by new patterns and lack of maintenance. The woodland borders contain many old trees and are plagued by invasive species. Going forward, we must address rapidly evolving vicissitudes of climate change, invasive plants and pests while striving to preserve this unique historic landscape.

2012-2013 Accomplishments:
- Historical analysis of the evolution of the landscape over time
- iTree study on the ecological benefits of the lower copse (contributed by the Davey Tree Institute)
- Replacement of the decrepit bollards along Awbury road with discreet, uniform, appropriately spaced new wood bollards
- Extensive work on the mature trees in the copses and woods to address safety and tree health
- Partial restoration of the Avonhoe Road boundary
- Partial restoration of the three principle copses through the removal of invasive species and selected new plantings
- Implementation of a new historically appropriate mowing pattern that reduces maintenance, increases water infiltration, and encourages species diversity and wildlife habitat
- Pilot program to transplant seedlings of heritage trees and shrubs to a nursery area for later re-planting

2014-2016 Proposed Projects:
- Bus traffic to be re-routed along Avonhoe Road to remove bus parking from the English Landscape Park
- Modest improvements to Avonhoe paving, and extension of the bollards to further protect the English Landscape Park from automobiles
- Development of a restoration plan for the copses
- Continued restoration of the copses and wooded areas
- Plant nursery program to preserve our own genetic material by transplantation of desirable volunteer plants from the copses and wooded areas
- Interpretive measures and educational programs to help our visitors understand the English Landscape Park
Goldenrod & asters in the field

above: The 1918 demolition of McNabbtown
left: 1910 Philadelphia survey showing the McNabbtown houses
3 McNabbtown Field

Along Chew Avenue, between the Central Landscape Park and the SEPTA rail easement was the 19th-century site of a block of 29 small houses known as McNabbtown. The site was deeded to the City Parks Association in 1916, and the buildings were razed by 1918.

Today the 1.5-acre area is a relatively clear and level grass field separated from Chew Avenue by a steep slope and dense surrounding of invasive plants and vines. Close to the SEPTA station, and a short distance from the Cope House, the area is well-located to play a role in the cultivation of Awbury’s public image. The plan for the Chew Avenue gateway proposes a winding walking path from the sidewalk up to the field.

In 2011, after several days of heavy rain, the retaining wall between this area and Chew Avenue spouted water like a leaky dike and collapsed. The debris was removed and the area was re-graded and planted to reduce erosion. The cause of the collapse was assumed to be high water pressure owing to the presence of void spaces within the area of McNabbtown fill.

The level field, approximately three-quarters of an acre, is relatively rare in Awbury’s rolling landscape. With appropriate maintenance, it would provide an attractive space for pick-up games and activities on festival days. An existing low retaining wall at the north edge of the field provides a natural seating area.

2012-2013 Accomplishments:
» Initial removal of brush and woody plants in the field
» Extensive removal of invasive vines from the trees bordering the field

2014-2016 Proposed Projects:
» Subsurface investigation by test pits or coring.
» Continued removal of invasive plants and vines
» Improvements to the turf as needed
» Establishment of an appropriate mowing regime

Community engagement for programming and to assist the Arboretum in monitoring and maintaining the field
Year-round use of the grounds is a long-standing tradition.

The Francis Cope House

left: Calla palustris, water arum
Heritage plant botanical plate on display in the Francis Cope House Parlor
4 The Francis Cope House
THE HEART OF THE ARBORETUM

“...the mansion or dwelling-house, being itself the chief or leading object in the scene, should form, as it were, the central point...” -Andrew Jackson Downing 1841

The Francis Cope House stands at the symbolic and functional center of Awbury Arboretum. It is a fine example of Victorian-era domestic architecture. Its gracious porch offers a beautiful prospect of the English Landscape Park. More than an ornament, the house serves as offices, meeting rooms, exhibition space and event venue. The 10,900 square foot building, over 150 years old, poses challenges for maintenance and restoration.

The Francis Cope House has emerged as an important revenue source for the Arboretum through rental for social events, meetings and educational services for children and adults.

2012-2013 Accomplishments:
» Restoration of the porch deck
» Exterior painting: porch columns, sunroom, roof
» Restoration and painting of the parlors
» Heritage Plants of Germantown Exhibit in parlors
» New security and fire alarm system
» IT upgrades
» Refurbishment of 3rd floor apartment for residential lease begun

2014-2016 Proposed Projects:
» Interior painting of sunroom, and two education rooms
» Complete the refurbishment of the 3rd floor apartment
» Begin exterior window and woodwork reconditioning, painting and installation of storm windows
» Re-examine one furnace to determine need for possible replacement
Rhododendron vaseyi
pinkshell azalea
 Included in the
new Heath Garden
Botanical plate on
display in the
Francis Cope House Parlor

“In all let Nature never be forgot.
But treat the goddess like a modest fair,
Nor overdress, nor leave her wholly bare;
Let not each beauty ev’rywhere be spied,
Where half the skill is decently to hide.
He gains all points, who pleasingly confounds,
Surprises, varies, and conceals the bounds.
Consult the genius of the place in all…”

- Alexander Pope, *Epistle IV*,
to Richard Boyle, Earl of Burlington
*Of the Use of Riches*, 1731
Standing on the porch of the Francis Cope House, it is easy to imagine the gracious access to both intimately scaled gardens and the expansive landscape that originally surrounded the dwellings within the Arboretum. In fact, the 19th-century gardens of the Cope House extended to the northeast, in the area that is now the cul-de-sac of Devon Place. While it is not possible to literally re-construct this experience, we seek to recover some of its salient aspects, including the pleasure and intimacy of being among botanical specimens and well-designed and maintained gardens.

Along with the refurbishment of the Cope House porch and parlors, the grounds are now enjoying due attention. The implementation of the Arboretum’s Heritage Plants of Philadelphia program has provided programming and thematic direction to the refurbishment of the gardens surrounding the building. With the increases in visitation and event rentals, more people are seeing and using these areas. The gardens now fulfill an important role in communicating the Arboretum’s identity and mission, while also providing a memorable setting for events. Increased use of the building is putting pressure on the adjacent grounds, requiring careful study, design and adjustments to achieve a desirable balance between historical integrity and current needs.

2012-2013 Accomplishments:
» Planting of a shrub border/screen between the parking area and the garden featuring plants that provide year-round interest, with emphasis on winter-bloomers
» Installation of planters in front of the porch—as seen in historic photographs—with seasonal interest and color
» Restoration of the Cowell-era Heath Garden including plants in the Ericaceae family such as mountain laurel, evergreen and deciduous Rhododendron, Pieris, and Enkianthus, along with appropriate existing plants like Mahonia (which has historic significance,) and other shade-lovers. This project included extensive soil amendment and the installation of sub-surface drainage. Generous support from the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America made this project possible.
» Restoration of the pea-gravel walking path surfaces
» Removal of invasive plants in the adjacent woodland area
» Planting at the woodland edge, including spring bulbs, shade-loving perennials and fall-blooming woodland asters.
» Removal of maintenance operations, including equipment and materials, from the Cope House area to their new home on the northwest tract (see #6) freeing views and space for visitor-related uses.

2014-2016 Proposed Projects:
» Planting additional ground-cover plants in the Heath Garden to complete the design
» Heath Garden interpretive and educational brochure
» Rejuvenation of the planting beds between the lawn and the woodland edge to provide botanical displays, featuring Heritage Plants of Philadelphia

» A design process to study the functional needs of the area, including a possible event tent location and surface, outdoor classroom area, vehicular circulation and parking needs.
above: Rendering of the Education Center
below: A conceptual site plan of the Education Center and surrounding landscape

above: A beekeeping class for adults 2012
below: Bee and Bug Camp 2013
The Awbury Agricultural Village is a landscape that is unique in the city of Philadelphia and offers a setting for a range of educational programs. Thanks to a generous matching gift from an Awbury founding family in 2011, the Arboretum was able to accept the donation of a mobile classroom building. The building, complete with two classrooms, restrooms and kitchen, has been refurbished and placed on a permanent foundation. This greatly expands our capacity for education and relieves the pressure on the Francis Cope House. The building is ADA accessible, and is now in full use.

The completion of the Education Center will involve linking the building to the surrounding landscape of the Agricultural Village. A large awning will extend the classroom space outdoors. Raised beds will provide space for hands-on learning about horticulture and gardening. The beds will be watered with rainwater supplied from a cistern fed by the building roof. A lawn will provide space for activities and events. Access to the building will be enhanced in the spring of 2014 with a paved pathway, made possible by a generous grant from the Widener Foundation.

2012-2013 Accomplishments:
- Clearing of invasive vines and woody plants to prepare the building site
- Removal of dead, un-safe and undesirable trees
- Realignment of roadways away from the precinct of the Education Center
- Construction of the building foundation and installation of the modular classroom building
- Construction of the large wood deck with stadium seating
- Planting of evergreens and other appropriate species to screen the building for the neighbors
- Seeding of the lawn

2014-2016 Proposed Projects:
- Construction of the awning outside the Education Center Building
- Design and installation of a hard surface pathway from Ardleigh Street
- Design and installation of raised planting beds and cistern
The long-term plan for the Northwest Tract includes the expansion into signature produce and ornamental agriculture. In this conceptual plan, fields of crops alternate with orchards, meadows, and Arboretum plantings.
7 The Awbury Arboretum Agricultural Village: The Working Landscape

Located on the Arboretum’s northwest tract, the 16-acre Agricultural Village (site of the 19th-century Caroline Cope Farm) is a hubbub of activity. Here, Awbury and its tenants and partners engage in a range of educational, agricultural and horticultural activities. Organizations currently using this land include: the Awbury Garden Club, KJK Associates, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Penn State Cooperative Extension, The Philadelphia Orchard Project, Weavers Way Farm & Community Programs, and Awbury Arboretum Landscapes.

Awbury Arboretum Landscapes (AAL) is a wholly owned for-profit subsidiary of the Arboretum. In conjunction with our Landscape Manager and staff, AAL provides most of the maintenance of the Awbury grounds. It is also a commercial landscape business, offering a full range of skilled and affordable landscape services to local institutions and homeowners, thereby contributing to the Arboretum’s financial security. In 2013 AAL was completely overhauled to be more competitive in the local market and to better respond to the maintenance needs of the Arboretum. The Philadelphia Foundation supported the business plan for AAL.

With a stronger presence on the site of the Northwest Tract, the Arboretum is taking a more active role in the day-to-day management and cultivation of the working landscape. Centralized facilities help to prevent the inadvertent misuse of the landscape and insure synergistic co-existence of agricultural and arboretum functions.

2012-2013 Accomplishments:
» Construction of a secure maintenance compound with covered equipment and materials storage
» Planting of evergreens and other appropriate species to screen the compound for the neighbors
» Creation of a new centralized and efficient storage area for landscape materials (mulch, compost, woodchips, firewood, stone and masonry materials)
» Improvements to roadways
» Increase of areas under cultivation
» Installation of a perma-culture orchard (in conjunction with The Philadelphia Orchard Project)
» Revitalization and expansion of the pollinator garden
» Installation of the Awbury Community Apiary
» Establishment of the Awbury Arboretum Nursery to supply heritage plants to the arboretum and for sale to the community
» Extensive removals of tree hazards and invasive plants

2014-2016 Proposed Projects:
» GPS/GIS site survey and demarcation of boundaries for each tenant/user
» Design and installation of unified signage
» Continued up-grades to roadways
» Design and installation of a walking circuit path
» Expansion of the Awbury Arboretum Nursery
» Continued removal of hazard trees and invasive plants allowing expansion of the agricultural area
The walk through Haines Field from Ardleigh Street, before the construction of the wall at the Henry Cope Garden.

Margaret Cope in her garden, 1903 (now known as the Secret Garden)

Garden Club volunteers in the Secret Garden

A plate from the 1895 Philadelphia City Atlas showing the relationship between the properties of Thomas P. and Francis R. Cope and John S. Haines. The current Haine’s Field is in the upper right corner.

Robinia hispida or rose locust growing in Haines Field along the Secret Garden Wall
John Smith and Mary Cope Haines owned land along both sides of what is now Haines Street, and were the first to build in what is now the main portion of the Arboretum. Their house, finished in 1850, is sometimes credited with being the origin of the Awbury Landscape.

In 1853, Henry Cope bought 40 adjacent acres and built what was originally a summer house. The construction of the wall around the Henry Cope Garden in the 1930’s and the subsequent development of the houses on Devon Place isolated the original Haines holding—now known as Haines Field—from the main grounds of the Arboretum. The Arboretum acquired the land around 1950. Today it remains connected by means of Cope Lane. The 5-acre field has its own distinct attributes, including a gently sloping lawn and many specimen trees. Although Cope Lane is a short and pleasant walk from the Cope House, Haines Field remains under-utilized for much of the year.

The 4-acre area known today as the “Secret Garden” was originally a portion of the Henry Cope House grounds and contained a flower garden, border woodland both planted and established by nature, a formal boxwood garden (four original boxwood plants remain today,) a thatched-roof cottage and the “cottage lawn”– a grassy woodland ride on a long north-south axis. There were plans in the early days of the Arboretum to restore this area into a 19th-century Garden, and protect it by a wall. The garden was partly enclosed in the 1930's by a tall WPA-constructed stonewall. The name “Secret Garden” dates from 2001, when the area was the recipient of the Founders Fund Award from the Garden Club of America.

Today, there is a smaller grass lawn and a larger woodland comprised mostly of native trees. It contains notable honey locusts, beeches, oaks, maples, hollies, styrex, a large elm and large persimmons. Native spicebush, witch hazels, dogwoods, shadbush and deciduous hollies form the understory.

2012-2013 Accomplishments:
» Maintenance stabilized through the removal of hazardous trees and clearing of brush and invasive vines
» Survey of important plant specimens
» Opening up paths within the walled garden
» Removal of the firewood yard from within the walled garden to the northwest tract

2014-2016 Proposed Projects:
» Continued stabilization through regular maintenance
» Improvements to signage and lighting
» Systematic culling of undesirable species and dead or damaged trees
» Pruning of specimen trees
» Recovery of seedlings to the Awbury Arboretum Nursery
» A planning study to evaluate the existing resources and possible best uses for these areas
above: Paramore Farm
left: 1898 survey. From left to right: Washington Lane, the stream, the farm.

right: Field studies class in the meadow
below: Autumn view across the meadow toward the watercourse
The Meadows

This area of approximately 3.5 acres was the 19th century site of the Paramore family farm that provided produce to families living at Awbury and nearby. After lying fallow for many years, in the early 2000’s a portion of the European cool season pasture grass was replaced with warm-season native grasses and prairie wildflowers – habitat for many insect and bird species unusual in urban settings.

The now decade-old natural meadow has proved successful and is managed through thoughtful mowing schedules. It is now a unique and valuable ecosystem given its size and viability in this urban setting. The adjacency of open fields, forest edge and wetlands is prime for teaching ecological subjects, and should be fully exploited for this purpose. The meadow paths provide ideal short walks with a variety of view experiences.

Climate change in recent years has increased the rate of growth of certain invasive species, heightening our need for ongoing vigilance. The original expanse of the meadow has been reduced somewhat by invasive species and, in some case, experimental plantings. Some of these plantings obscure views to the watercourse and ponds.

The edges of the meadow are also important. The view to the northeast is dominated by the presence of a building from the 1960’s, now a personal care facility. Screen plantings in this area are needed. Signature oaks along the southeast ridge top should be carefully maintained and supplemented.

2012-2013 Accomplishments:
» Implementation of a successful mowing schedule promoting meadow grasses and flowers
» Stepped up removal of invasive species within the meadows
» Mechanical removal of invasive shrubs and trees along the ridgeline, re-opening views to the west
» Removal of porcelain berry vines from a portion of the European grass meadow using a least-harmful herbicide
» Clearing of over-planted and/or weed trees from juncture of the meadow and wetlands, enhancing views
» Recovery of seedlings from native and heritage species for the Awbury Arboretum Nursery
» Coordination with SEPTA to enhance the edge between the station parking area and the meadow edge

2014-2016 Proposed Projects:
» Commitment to vigilance and early action to prevent the spread of invasive plants in the native grassland meadow
» Expansion of the native grassland meadow
» Cultivation of attractive and appropriate screen plantings
» Completion of SEPTA edge maintenance guidelines for meadow plants and for control of invasive species
» Interpretive signage and programs to educate the public about the alternative a meadow provides to high-maintenance, energy-intensive lawn
» Programs to more fully market the meadow to birders
“The next development…will be that of the aquatic section where the large willows are now seen. A splendid stream of spring water is to supply a goodly sized pond and a series of lagoons which we hope may display some water lilies, etc. and the moist ground nearby may contain the beautiful family of ferns, the swamp orchids, the sedges, cardinal flower, and a whole multitude of bog plants.” - Arthur Cowell, address to the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, 1919

“The stone embankments under construction.

“Near the open fields of East Washington lane flickers and red-winged wood-peckers dart about at home, and from the safe cover of Paramore’s ‘duck pond’ the ‘song’ of the swamp black-bird may be heard. From the bill bordering on Miles’ meadow the sweet music of the meadow lark lifts one to an ecstasy of delight, making the little world about more bright. Flocks of black-birds, keen, quick and noisy, and three or four silent crows, in ‘no hurry, with no worry and plenty of time to spare,’ flop leisurely over ‘Awbury.’”

- Edwin C. Jellett, March 27, 1903
10 The Watercourse & Ponds
URBAN HYDROLOGY MEETS THE PICTURESQUE

A survey from 1898 shows the still-extant Paramore farm complex in the area of the Arboretum now occupied by the meadow. Between the farm and Washington Lane is a stream bed that flows roughly south. Its course is straight and parallel to Washington Lane near its source and becomes meandering just before it disappears beneath the rail easement. This stream was connected to the Wingohocking Creek, a very important water source in the early development of Germantown, and of which the only remaining above-ground section is now within the Arboretum grounds.

By 1919 this area had been cleared of buildings, the fields converted to meadow and its border planted with specimen trees. Arthur Cowell, the landscape architect leading the transformation of the Cope landscape into a public arboretum, recognized the potential of the stream without, it seems, completely envisioning the form it would take.

The final project, designed by Cowell and substantially realized by 1926, was significantly more complex than his early concept. It included two ponds and a “bog garden” plus the small but dramatic transitions between these elements. The spring source was configured into a fountain, and the streambed set within masonry embankments bridged by massive stone elements. Planting plans as well as photographs of the completed project show it to be both an ambitious horticultural statement and a compelling romantic landscape.

In the century between Cowell’s conception and today the watercourse has been challenged to maintain its water source, hold onto its fragile selection of species, and hold-off the inevitability of sedimentation. Still, the old bones remain, waiting for the attention and care needed to return it to its rightful place as one of the most valued and visited sites within our 55 acres.

Water is perhaps our most valuable and scarcest resource and is becoming more obviously valuable in this century. This part of the Arboretum illustrates the uses and misuses of the Wingohocking Creek for two centuries. It is also the richest area in plant and animal species for environmental education purposes. With relocation of the Wissahickon Charter School nearby, students will be on the doorstep of this learning laboratory. Located just steps from the SEPTA station, this historic watercourse offers compelling and powerful views to those arriving at the arboretum by train.

A key decision for restoration hinges on the relative merits of completely restoring the 1926 stream and watercourse/pond sequence or permitting an evolution into wetland with intermittent streams but limited open water. This decision will require the advice of hydrology and ecology specialists and rigorous financial analysis.

2012-2013 Accomplishments:
» Aggressive clearing of undesirable woody plants and invasive species from the springhouse and Wingohocking Creek areas
» Two years of poison ivy treatment
» Culling of undesirable woody plants from the meadow edge through the watercourse to the Washington Lane wall

2014-2016 Proposed Projects:
» A thorough planning process including a professional hydrological analysis of water sources, volume and quality and a landscape restoration design plan
» Continued selective culling of plants within the area of the watercourse and removal of debris from the watercourse and ponds
» Removal or relocation of trees on the east side of the watercourse to open views between the meadow and the ponds
» Stabilization of structures as needed for safety
Acknowledgements

Awbury Arboretum is a continuum of efforts by many people; efforts that have included both physical work and planning. Starting with the 1916 vision of the Cope family members who established the Arboretum, countless neighbors, friends, Boards of Directors and staff members have contributed to this lovely public garden.

So many individuals and organizations have contributed their time, skills and resources to Awbury that it is impossible to mention everyone, but thanking long-term supporters like the Garden Club of America, the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America, the Garden Club of Philadelphia and The Weeders Garden Club, and recent supporters like students from Crefeld School, Temple University and Florida International University, is perhaps an appropriate way to say “thank you” to all who have helped over the years.

Developed by LDCP under the guidance of the Awbury Arboretum Landscape Committee, this Stewardship Plan builds on the work of those who have gone before, and seeks to acknowledge their contributions by ensuring that the Awbury landscape endures.
Awbury Arboretum is a 55-acre public landscape and historic house located in the historic Germantown neighborhood of northwest Philadelphia. The mission of the Awbury Arboretum is to preserve and interpret Awbury's historic house and landscape, thereby connecting an urban community with nature and history.

Awbury also works to carry out the Mission of Historic Germantown:
To foster an appreciation of the diverse character and meaning of our cultural heritage in order to preserve and revitalize our community. To this end, we cooperate in providing knowledge and resources to help preserve Germantown's historic sites, interpret them to the public, and incorporate them into the life of the local community.

Levy DiCarlo Partners is an architecture and landscape architecture practice located in Philadelphia. Areas of specialization include design and preservation for historic properties and gardens.