

# Annual Report



Dear Friends and Supporters,

For obvious reasons, 2020 has been a challenging year for Awbury. Fortunately, the efforts of our creative staff were both rewarded and further motivated by the number of visitors who realized that the open space of the Arboretum could offer respite and relief.

Many of our programs were successfully modified for “online” or offered outdoors to socially distanced and masked visitors. With various partners we introduced and supported such new activities as Sunday Fun Days at the Farm, outdoor exercise classes and concerts. We crafted thematic scavenger hunts for visiting families and put part-time Ambassadors in place to help welcome and guide visitors.

While our most significant revenue source – social event rentals – was decimated, we moved forward on important capital projects. With more than \$300,000 in grants from the City Water Department and State Department of Community and Economic Development we have been restoring our ponds and connecting watercourse. We purchased an adjoining acre of land that includes one of the original Haines-Cope carriage houses and are in the midst of renovating the property to increase some landscape features along Cope Lane and to generate new rental income from this former carriage house.

Hopefully, 2021 will see further improvements in the containment of the pandemic and we can resume our former programs and activities. Regardless of how quickly “normalcy” returns, our staff will continue to enhance Awbury’s value as a place where neighbors of all ages can have fun as they explore and learn about the natural world. My confidence in our staff’s abilities is based on the success this team has achieved with only limited guidance from me over the past few years, and the enthusiasm with which they are beginning to plan for 2021 – even as I end my service as General Manager.

It is with considerable pleasure that I report that with the full support of the Board of Directors, Heather Zimmerman will assume the position of Executive Director on January 1, 2021. Heather joined Awbury in 2012, became Program Director in 2014, and was promoted to Deputy Executive Director in 2019. Her leadership, creativity and relationship-building talents have been responsible for Awbury’s success as a vital community asset over the past few years. As Executive Director, Heather will assume responsibility for all strategic planning, external relationships and day-to-day operations. I will continue my involvement at Awbury in a limited support role and oversee the capital projects we have underway through this transition. It has been both fun and a privilege to help Awbury become such an interesting place over the past 10 years – and so I am happy I can continue to have fun as I change my role and responsibilities.

*Chris*

Chris van de Velde, General Manager

# Landscape Highlights



The 2020 reporting for the landscape is a representation of what we can accomplish despite unforeseen challenges. While we had to pause on many plans, we had a fantastic show of support from both Awbury staff, partners, and community members.

The quietest time in the spring proved to be the best time to accomplish a large part of the Pond restoration. Now in its final phases, the water-filled ponds have already shown a change in the habitat with a large presence of dragon flies and unique bird sightings like a great blue heron.

Over the precarious spring months, the Landscape staff voluntarily took their walking opportunities to aid in picking up litter, casually moving branches to piles and sharing observations on the overall landscape condition in anticipation to start again.

The Philly Goat Project quickly saw the need for help and coordinated with their volunteers and Weavers Way members to assist in the ongoing need to clean up litter. Experienced supporters also took this opportunity to aid in weeding key gardens on their own time. Thankfully, they have all created a momentum and are continuing to assist with these efforts.

As restrictions changed everyone adjusted to accomplish work around the landscape. While we continued to focus on the general landscape items, Awbury was able to make some significant accomplishments. Over twenty hazardous and falling trees were removed with more to come this fall. On the other end, several Tribute Trees have been planted to continue enhancing the Arboretum's collection.

The focus this fall is to transform an area of the Farm side into a Landscape Facility. This will be equipped with areas for equipment maintenance and storage, as well as space for repurposing the natural materials that come from the landscape, including chipped branches, logs, or compost.

The Landscape Team will continue to build upon the momentum from our supporters to help in the landscape by reinstating volunteer opportunities. This includes the weekly Coffee Grounds volunteer gardening, monthly workdays in the permaculture Food Forest with the Stewards, and specific volunteer days like winter pruning sessions and Spotted Lanternfly egg removing. 2020 has shown us that the Awbury Landscape Team is exactly that - we are a team, and our supporters, daily visitors, and partners are all part of the effort.

# Programs - The Year in Review

*"When one door closes, another opens: but we often look so long and regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us". - Alexander Graham Bell*

2020! There is certainly much that we missed this year - community dinners, the Easter egg hunt, and the Harvest Festival, just to name a few. But many new doors opened to many new people at Awbury even as others closed.

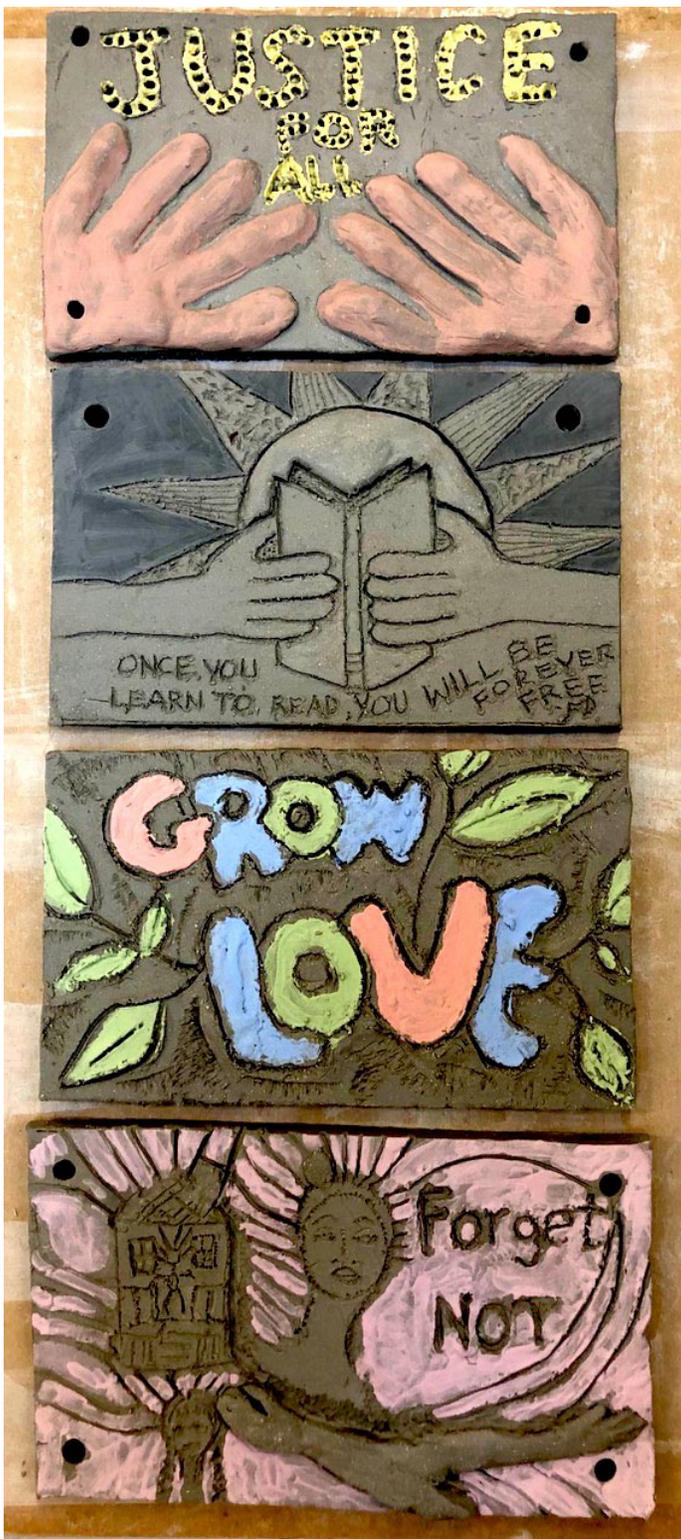
**Sunday Fun Days:** The ever popular Philly Goat Project partnered up with us to bring Sunday Fun Days to the Farm. Needing to have more things for people to do than crowd together on one goat walk, many volunteers and partner organizations pulled together to create safe and fun-filled weekend afternoons for all. Scavenger hunts with Let's Go Outdoors, tours with Nina Berryman at Weavers Way Farm, Family yoga with Sarah Charlesworth Attie, visiting the chickens with Petra Brauer and the Awbury Chick Squad - and more.

**The Awbury Wellness Team:** Spending far more time on social media while cooped up, I caught a thread of yogi and wellness teacher Megan Ambros Nascimento looking for a space to teach. Awbury? YES! Megan not only brought her own talents but reached out to her fitness community and created an entire series, helping both teachers needing to work and homebound individuals needing to flex. The Awbury Wellness Team was born.

**Community Relief Concert Series:** Musicians relegated to live streaming and those of us missing live music can thank Barry Wahrhaftig for reaching out to Awbury and creating a stellar concert series playing under the Cope House tented patio. Seven concerts - six of them sold out - happily entertained a masked crowd with the birds singing right along.

The doors to our annual favorites will eventually re-open and these new programs and the communities they have brought to this beautiful landscape will most likely continue. In the meantime I suspect more creativity and generosity will generate more new doors opening and help all of us weather the many that are now closed.





Tiles created by participants in the *Lest We Forget Tile Workshop* hosted by the Lest We Forget Slavery Museum in partnership with Karen Singer Tileworks and Awbury Arboretum.

### *Mission Statement:*

*To preserve and interpret Awbury's historic house and landscape, thereby connecting an urban community to nature and history.*

## *Introducing Portico*



Covid-19, among its many devastations, turned 2020 wedding couples' plans upside-down, limiting group sizes and obliging everyone to prioritize their family and friends' safety over dream details that were often years in the planning. While we worked with couples through the sadness of cancellations and postponements, we drew hope and excitement from one major change to our venue.

Awbury is pleased to announce that we have recently entered an exclusive long-term catering partnership with Peachtree Catering and Events. We know that their years of experience and terrific customer service will bring new verve and luster to our event program, and that their focus on sustainability and commitment to supporting local purveyors and farmers are principles that marry well with Awbury's mission. Portico, the name Peachtree has chosen for this venture, will focus on weddings and larger social events.

Clients selecting Portico for their wedding or special event will enjoy the spacious elegance of our Victorian mansion, the enchantment of Awbury's gardens and meadows, and Peachtree's expert planning services. Guests will love Peachtree's boutique food options, which feature seasonal menus ranging from classic to on-trend. In addition, their full-service planning includes the time and attention to support your particular vision: "It's likely you're doing this for the first time. Let us help you. Know that everyone's planning journey is a little different!"

While they are busy booking events in 2021 and 2022, Peachtree has also created a fantastic lineup of micro-weddings and small dinner party options that offer safety and joyful celebration during this pandemic. Couples and their guests have been able to gather with social distance, thanks to Portico's vast outdoor options and tented patio, alongside Peachtree's individually boxed meal options, which are delightfully beautiful and delicious.

We are grateful to be part of the intimate weddings and social events that seem more precious than ever in this moment, and we look forward to the days of grand festivities to come!

## Board

Brad Boone

Robert Butera  
*Emeritus*

Peter Commons  
*Vice Chairman of the Board*

William Ellerbe

Graham Finney  
*Emeritus*

Kate Flynn  
*Treasurer*

Mike Gillum

Shanna Halpern  
*Secretary*

Bryan Hanes

Adam Hill  
*Chair, Landscape Committee*

Nicole Juday Rhoads

Tim Linehan

Eldredge Ragsdale

Sara Robbins

Mark Sellers  
*Chairman; Chair, Facilities Committee*

Amanda Staples

Kristin Winch  
*Chair, Development Committee*

Sheryl Wright

Sydelle Zove

## Staff

Darryl Collins  
*Custodial Services*

Karen Flick  
*Landscape Manager*

Terence Jones  
*Landscape Crew Member*

Sergio Marin  
*Landscape Crew Member*

Branda O'Neil  
*Director of Workplace Strategies & Facilities*

Steve Pascavitch  
*Arborist*

Nancy Pasquier  
*Field Studies Director*

Hideko Secrest  
*Grants Manager & Editor*

Chris van de Velde  
*General Manager*

Hector Vega  
*Landscape Crew Foreman*

Heather Zimmerman  
*Deputy Executive Director*

Awbury Arboretum  
One Awbury Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19138



[www.awbury.org](http://www.awbury.org)

# Financial Report

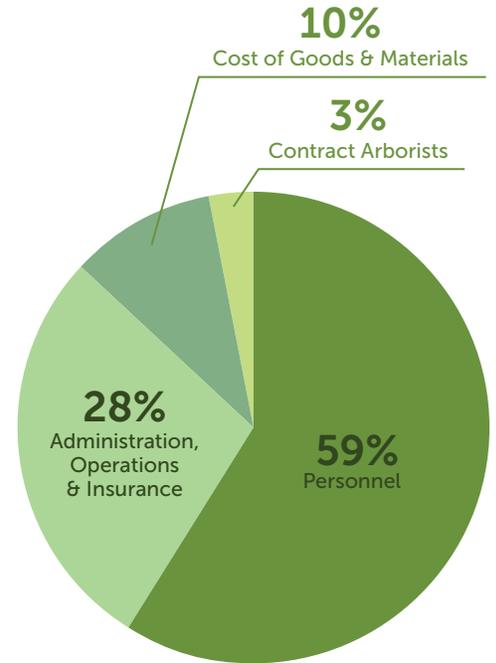
## Sources and Uses of Funds July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020

### Sources of Funds

Grants	\$141,500
Sales & Service	\$130,500
Individual Support	\$106,500
COVID Cares Loan/Grant	\$85,200
Endowment Income	\$68,900
Program Fees	\$67,900
Rental Events & Catering	\$47,400
Apartment Rents	\$9,400
Class & Meeting Room Rents	\$8,000
Land Rents	\$3,100
Sponsorship	\$2,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$670,400</b>

### Use of Funds

Personnel	\$316,700
Administration/Operations	\$126,000
Insurance	\$50,000
Consultant Services	\$48,800
Landscape Costs for Clients	\$48,500
Arborist Contractors @ Awbury	\$18,500
Program Materials/Supplies	\$10,400
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$618,900</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$51,500</b>



## Thank You

### To Our Generous Grantors:

The Claneil Foundation, Inc.  
PECO  
PECO Green Region Open Space Program  
The Allen Hilles Fund  
Historic Germantown Sustaining Our Sites Fund  
The Huston Foundation  
The Christian R. & Mary F. Lindback Foundation  
The Christopher Ludwick Foundation  
The William Penn Foundation  
The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
The Philadelphia Cultural Fund  
Raynier Institute & Foundation  
The Rosenlund Family Foundation  
The Elizabeth B. and Arthur E. Roswell Foundation