

SWEET AUBURN

Magazine of the Friends of Mount Auburn | FALL 2010



MOUNT AUBURN AS A HORTICULTURAL INNOVATOR

READING THE LANDSCAPE

SWEET AUBURN

A publication of the
Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery

580 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617-547-7105
www.mountauburn.org

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Bree D. Harvey, Editor

Vice President of External Affairs

Lauren S. Marsh, Managing Editor

Communications, Grants & Events Coordinator

Jennifer J. Johnston, Photo Editor

Media & Imaging Coordinator

David P. Barnett, Contributing Editor

President & CEO, Mount Auburn Cemetery

William G. Barry, Jr.

Vice President of Preservation & Facilities

Dennis Collins

Horticultural Curator

Candace Currie

Director of Planning & Sustainability

Tom Johnson

Family Services Coordinator

Piper P. Morris

Former Senior Vice President of Development

Sean J. O'Regan

Vice President of Cemetery Services

Brian A. Sullivan

Archivist

Natalie Wampler

Preservation & Facilities Planner

Margaret L. Winslow

Curator of Historical Collections

DESIGNER

Elizabeth A. Bonadies

PRINTER

P+R Publications

Cover Photo: Col. Henry Coffin Nevins monument (Lot 4659, Eagle Ave), created by Beaux-Arts architect, Stanford White, and preeminent "American Renaissance" sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Photo by Jennifer Johnston.

TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF MOUNT AUBURN

Mary Lee Aldrich, **Secretary**, Cambridge, MA

Clemmie L. Cash, **Chair**, Wellesley, MA

Thomas C. Cooper, Watertown, MA

Caroline Loughlin, **Treasurer**, Weston, MA

Sean McDonnell, Cambridge

Caroline Mortimer, **Vice-Chair**, Cambridge

Ann M. Roosevelt, Cambridge

HONORARY TRUSTEE OF THE FRIENDS

Susan W. Paine, Cambridge

The Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery was established in 1986 to assist in the conservation of the Cemetery's natural beauty and to promote the appreciation of its cultural, historic, and natural resources. Organized in 1990 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable trust, the Friends seeks financial support from its members, other individuals, foundations, corporations, and public agencies. It receives gifts for educational and interpretive programs and materials for the public, specific cultural projects, and operating support for horticultural rejuvenation and the preservation of the historic monuments, structures, and archival artifacts and records. The Friends has over 1,300 active members.

President's Corner

The theme of this issue of Sweet Auburn is certainly touching my own "sweet" spot. Having come to Mount Auburn 17 years ago as Director of Horticulture, I have truly enjoyed being part of a great team charged with preserving and enhancing this magnificent landscape and continuing a long tradition of horticultural innovation. In the feature article Dennis Collins does a superb job of highlighting some of the historical accomplishments and current challenges of our horticultural program. Hardly a day goes by that I am not amazed at (and grateful for) the dedication and creativity of the Horticulture Department staff as they continue to achieve high standards of landscape maintenance despite budget cutbacks.

We are all very excited about the plans for a new Horticulture Center, described on page 7, which will bring us to even greater levels of innovation. Most exciting is the fact that the Horticulture Center has been designed to achieve LEED Platinum, the highest standard of certification possible from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program of the U.S. Green Building Council. This reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of our entire staff and Board of Trustees to maximize our energy efficiency and environmental sustainability in all that we do throughout the organization.

We will only be able to realize our vision for this project with the generous support of our friends and the broader community. I have no doubt that plans for a new Horticulture Center will become a reality. Under the leadership of Senior Vice President of Development Piper Morris, the groundwork has been laid for a successful capital campaign – Mount Auburn's first ever. Having retired in June (p.14), we are sorry to see Piper go but grateful for all that she accomplished in her six years at Mount Auburn. I am very pleased to welcome Jane Carroll to the Mount Auburn team as the new Vice President of Development. As described on page 15, Jane brings a wealth of experience, and I look forward to working with her to accomplish our many goals.

Speaking of goals, we could not achieve them and could not continue to carry out the many programs and services that Mount Auburn provides to our clients and visitors without the dedicated and talented staff in all departments, including our growing group of enthusiastic volunteers like Irene Dygas (p.17).

And truly, our diverse horticultural collections are just one of the many facets that make Mount Auburn such a unique treasure. The elements of art and architecture, history, wildlife, and the lives of those interred here make up the interconnected layers that we can use to "read the landscape." These aspects have all been addressed in the supplementary articles of this issue through poetry, images, inscriptions, and stories. I hope you will plan a visit to the Cemetery sometime this fall to enjoy the spectacular foliage (make sure to bring your Fall Foliage Pull-Out Guide on p. 10) and to reflect on all of the things Mount Auburn is and very soon will be. Enjoy this issue of Sweet Auburn.



David P. Barnett, President



Dave Barnett

PHOTO BY JENNIFER JOHNSTON



pg. 1



pg. 11



pg. 14

As a correction of the feature article in the Spring 2010 issue of Sweet Auburn, on page 4., the surname Emmet is spelled as such and not as "Emmett." And in addition, the family lot in which Schlesinger is interred is the historic Cushing family lot.



A History of Horticultural Innovation

BY DENNIS COLLINS, *Horticultural Curator*

Nearly two centuries ago, Dr. Jacob Bigelow published *Florula Bostoniensis* (1814), a much needed botanical reference in its day on plants that grow in the Boston area. He is credited with introducing the world to the northernmost population of sweetbay magnolia, after which the north shore village of Magnolia, Mass., was named. However, like the other leaders of the fledgling Massachusetts Horticultural Society who became the original founders of Mount Auburn Cemetery, Dr. Bigelow was more than just an avid plant enthusiast. The core of supporters who rallied around Bigelow's novel idea for a rural cemetery and experimental garden were all people with a shared passion for science and a robust intellectual vigor. These enlightened individuals not only created this remarkable institution in 1831, but also imbued it with a culture of innovation. Perhaps it is because of this culture that Mount Auburn has endured to this day and is now recognized as a National Historic Landmark. Each of the generations of horticulturists, who have been the stewards

of this landscape for the past 179 years, has brought its own vision and innovative spirit to the task of building and improving Mount Auburn.

Today's staff recognizes the horticultural legacy it has inherited and intends to pass along this historic landscape for future generations to enjoy. In a time of great economic uncertainty, such a goal doesn't just ask for creativity and innovation, it demands them. The challenges we now face are complex: preserving an extensive collection of old plants (some of which predate the Cemetery's founding); acquiring large quantities of new plants in an economically feasible way; preparing for and responding to natural disasters and insect or disease outbreaks; preserving the various landscape styles that were embraced in Mount Auburn's history; and changing our operations to become more ecologically sustainable. Only time will tell whether we are successful, but at least we can appreciate that there has never been a time with such unique challenges in Mount Auburn's long history.

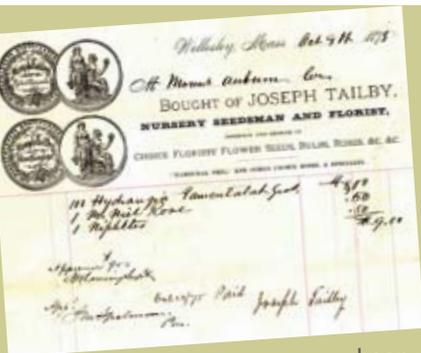
Acquiring Plants—Building the Collections

Despite a long record of plant purchases, Mount Auburn’s in-house plant production programs deserve the greater credit for giving us a world-class botanical collection. Our first consolidated facility, a complex of greenhouse-nursery space located on Brattle Street opposite the front gate, was begun in 1856 with the construction of the first glasshouse. Subsequent construction brought the overall area under glass to 5,000 square feet. This was supplemented by numerous cold frames and hot-beds with the total facility covering roughly 1.5 acres. Plant production at this facility focused on starting plants from seeds and cuttings. The technology used for heating and insulation would seem crude by today’s standards, yet they represented the best of that period. Mount Auburn enjoyed the expertise of some of the brightest growers and horticulturists in the country. Perhaps this, and the fact that the Cemetery’s horticulture staff numbered more than a hundred, explains how plant production at this time was so impressive. A typical year saw more than 250 trees and 400 shrubs planted on the grounds and in an unusual year (1882), due to reasons that remain a mystery, 645 trees and 1,892 shrubs were planted.

The Brattle Street facility lasted about 80 years until it was abandoned in 1935. It served the Cemetery during several significant periods. One of these was the Victorian period, during which the demand for plants by lot-owners was unusually high and tastes were exuberant. Rarities and bold combinations of plants were celebrated. At this time, tropical plants were commonplace on the grounds and required careful overwintering inside of glasshouses.

Historical Documentation

It is fascinating to see accounts of the initial efforts to establish the experimental garden and cemetery. By 1833-34, a total of 450 different varieties of seeds had



been received from around the world. The most exotic source might have been the Botanical Society of the Kingdom of Naples, and perhaps one of the more recognizable exotic plants was the *Gaul ibrischim* or “silk tassel rose” sent from Turkey. Today we know it as “mimosa” (*Albizia julibrissin*), and although the Turkish form proved not hardy in this climate, eventually a hardier form was discovered in Korea. Some intriguing correspondence is preserved in Mount Auburn’s historical archives, which documents an 1896 effort to acquire more than 1,600 plants (67 different species and varieties) from a nursery in Tokyo. This somewhat daring transaction was financed through the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, and resulted in some of the earliest introductions of Japanese plant species to America.

In addition, elaborate flower beds were planted in complex mosaic layouts. Even the gravel borders around fountains and gardens were constructed in geometric patterns using different colored stone. In the late 1800s, Mount Auburn produced more than 70,000 annuals per year that were needed for flower beds. Today, we produce only 50,000 despite the Cemetery expanding its acreage by almost 12 percent.



An aerial view of Story Chapel, the Administration Building, and the Brattle Street greenhouses from 1937 (by Fairchild Aerial Surveys)

A redefinition of the Cemetery’s horticultural mission by Oakes Ames in the 1930’s, which essentially called for an arboretum-like approach to plant acquisitions and a shift towards using more naturalistic plantings instead of flower beds, coincided with the establishment of a new greenhouse-nursery complex in 1936. This second six-house facility (23,000 sq. ft. under glass), built on the present-day “Meadow” and adjacent to more than ten acres of nursery space, was supplemented by the addition of an eleven-acre off-site nursery in Lincoln, Mass. (in operation between 1936 and 1951). As with the Brattle Street facility, the capacity for in-house propagation of woody and herbaceous plants was deemed essential. The biggest difference was the substantial increase in size under glass and in outdoor nursery space (to 21 acres). Such a facility was capable of yielding many thousands of plants annually as well as an acre of sod per year for replacing turf on the grounds. Its production accounts for much of the significant planting work done at Mount Auburn in the 20th century.

A comparison with our present greenhouse and nursery facility, built in 1971, and with the proposed new facility being planned, seems startling at first glance. In both of these, the production space under glass is less than half of the 1936 complex. There was a scaling back of the space allocated for field grown woody plants in the 1970s. This arose for two reasons. First, an ambitious initiative to replace turf growing on slopes with herbaceous groundcovers was a high priority in the 70’s and 80’s. There was no need for outside space to accomplish this, but it required the majority of available propagation bench space inside the greenhouses. Our plant propagation efforts from that point in time until a few years ago were almost entirely devoid of woody plants. A second reason that allowed this shift away from outdoor nursery space was that the Arnold Arboretum, in its decision to consolidate nursery operations at the Jamaica Plain site,

began winding down its operations at the Case Estates in Weston, Mass. The Cemetery was invited to take a large quantity of plant material (mature sized trees and shrubs) over a period of many years. Much of this material was used to complete the latest large-scale development project on the grounds: the landscape planting of the Meadow area.

Flexibility, Adaptability, and Changing Tastes

Mount Auburn's ability to produce certain quantities and types of plants throughout its history shows a flexibility that was necessary to match the dynamic changes that occurred. The sod production needs of the 1930s mentioned above coincided with the rise in popularity of the landscape lawn style. In recent decades, the extent of that popularity became evident as our turf maintenance operations faced the daunting task of caring for vast lawn areas with fewer resources. Grass was found throughout the grounds despite sometimes difficult terrain and the more than 40,000 monuments and other structures that presented obstacles. The effort to replace turf on difficult slopes with alternative groundcovers (primarily for safety reasons) was begun in the 1970s and continues today. The initiative taught us how to annually produce thousands of plants of ivy (*Hedera helix*), creeping euonymus

(*Euonymus fortunei*), pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*), and myrtle (*Vinca minor*). When experience showed the first two of these

somewhat problematic, we transitioned to new crops of barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia ternata*) and yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*). These groundcovers now growing on the many slopes that line roadways and paths not only satisfy some of the safety concerns for mowing equipment, but also serendipitously evoke past horticultural periods when diverse plantings were used to highlight topography and create textured layers in the landscape.

Adaptability can be considered in the context of how well specific plants grow on any given site. It could also be considered in terms of the people charged with establishing and caring for the plants on a site. For Mount Auburn's horticulture staff, we can note a long series of challenges caused by catastrophes and near disasters. In the 20th century, the disease that eliminated the Lombardy poplar appeared in 1915. The American Chestnut Blight hit during the 1930s. The Hurricane of 1938 destroyed 811 of our trees (16% of the collections) and many other plantings. Dutch Elm Disease appeared in the 1950s. The Gypsy Moth Epidemic reached its peak in the 1970s. In recent years, starting in the 1980s, we've seen the rise of Beech Tree Decline, Dogwood Anthracnose, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, three hurricanes

and several ice-storms, all of which took a major toll on Mount Auburn's landscape. As each of these unanticipated challenges was met with efforts to restore the landscape, the lesson of diversification was amplified. A simplified take-home lesson would be, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." Adaptability then, can be seen as both a landscape with inherent strength from diversity in plant species, and a horticulture program that can ramp up and customize production for protection from disasters and as responses to them.

In 2007, Mount Auburn's horticulture staff and Trustees hosted a day-long conference with a panel of some of the leading experts and administrators from the larger botanic gardens and arboreta in the country. The purpose of the event was to consider, on the 175th anniversary of the Cemetery's founding, how we should strategically plan for managing this landscape, both in the short-term and beyond. Among the many useful recommendations agreed to on that day was a clear consensus that Mount Auburn should continue



Examples of successful ornamental grass and groundcovers include (l-r) fountain grass (*Tennisetum alopecaroides*, 'moudry'), Canadian ginger (*Asarum canadense*), and myrtle (*Vinca minor*) and Siberian cypress (*Microbiota decussata*).

to diversify its plant collections. This was welcome news, and not entirely unexpected. Attempts had already been underway to broaden the range of species growing here. When the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid problem initially hit, the Cemetery had nearly 400 hemlock trees in the collections. It was by far the most represented conifer on the site. After determining the limits of how many hemlock trees we could manage in a sustainable way, roughly a third were removed and we began adding many new conifers to the collections, a practice which has continued to today.

Diversification and Landscape Character

An assessment of the grounds in 1993 revealed remnants of many different landscape character styles from the Cemetery's long history. Elements could be found that evoked the early rural cemetery period, the rustic country burial grounds style, the Victorian period style, the 20th century lawn landscape, ornamental parkland, and others. Even though these elements were sometimes only subtle traces in the landscape, an attempt was made to draw a map demarcating a series of Landscape Character Zones.

izers. This was partly due to recognition that we were one of the last wildlife habitat refuges in metropolitan Boston, concerns about health risks to humans, budget reductions, and growing awareness that alternative approaches showed promise. As a leader in the horticultural world, it seemed appropriate to at least explore some of these alternatives.



A naturalistic turf treatment shows great potential in some of the more historic sections where a naturalistic landscape character zone is targeted. This photo, taken in June 2010, shows an area off Walnut Ave in front of Consecration Dell.

somewhat regular events during the past 20 years. While new plantings at the Cemetery are irrigated during their first year and flower beds receive regular watering during the summer, the plants in Mount Auburn's landscape are, for the most part, expected to survive a drought without irrigation. Our efforts to deal with drought have focused on helping existing plants cope with it by mulching and improving the soil conditions. For new plantings, we are trying to preemptively select species and varieties with inherent drought resistance. Fortunately, two initiatives within the horticulture department are helping with overall water conservation. First, a somewhat rustic collection of rain-barrels has been assembled along two walls of our present greenhouse building. Although they only collect water diverted from one of the three glasshouses, they have allowed us to harvest 10-12,000 gallons of rainwater per year. This water is then used to water the flower beds throughout the grounds.

The second initiative is the Experimental Garden, which was recently constructed on some undeveloped land near the greenhouse. While not even close to the scale envisioned at the founding of the Cemetery, this new enterprise is proving to be a very useful tool. Located adjacent to our small nursery, the E-Garden (as it is known) contains plants that we want to test for future use on the grounds. Some of the unusual things we've grown there include the shrubs Chinese prickly-ash

Our greenhouse was among the first in the industry to attempt extensive use of beneficial insects for pest control. Although our landscape maintenance program is just in the early stages of a similar transition, there is already much that has been accomplished.

Droughts have become

(*Zanthoxylum simulans*) and dead man's fingers (*Decaisnea insignis*) from Nepal. Some hardy bamboos were given to us for trials by the NE Bamboo Company in Rockport, Mass. These are being watched for aggressiveness as well as hardiness. We've also tried some of the flowering perennials that seemed appropriate for Victorian gardens. The successes, which are already being planted on the grounds, include lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*), Russian stonecrop (*Sedum kamtschaticum*) and horse heal (*Inula helenium*), each of which possesses extreme drought tolerance.

The E-Garden has also been used to test new products and techniques. By far, the most interesting development in recent horticultural and agricultural science is what high quality compost and compost teas can do for promoting plant health. Not willing to wait for these products to become commercially available, we began to experiment with producing them on-site. This was another serendipitous moment at Mount Auburn. Not only did we learn to produce some very high quality products, but the process fit perfectly with the Cemetery's ecological and organic materials recycling goals. The chopping of leaves in the fall by mowers, which was mentioned earlier, takes care of 99% of the conservatively estimated 70,000 cubic yards generated each year. We pick up about 600 cubic yards where chopping isn't possible and, from this material, produce approximately 100 yards of compost. Using side-by-side comparisons in the E-Garden and testing with a number of different crops in the greenhouse and nursery, we are convinced of the effectiveness and look forward to refining our ability to use different composts and tea blends.

Innovation Finds a Home

Mount Auburn has been planning to replace its greenhouse facility for more than ten years. The Lord and Burnham style glasshouses built in 1971 are extremely inefficient for heating and cooling, and two of the three houses are shut down through parts of the winter to save on heating costs. The facility offers less than optimal conditions for both the plants and the staff who tend them. Fortunately, there is hope for change in the near future. In 2009, the Cemetery

hired one of the nation's premier architectural firms, William Rawn Associates, to design a new Horticulture Center. The recently completed plans have been designed to achieve the highest certification standard of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program from the U.S. Green Building Council.



A series of different yarrow (*Achillea*) species were tried in the Experimental Garden. These colorful perennials are extremely drought tolerant once established.

a history of horticultural innovation

Photovoltaic solar panels, green roofs, and a 30,000 gallon underground cistern for capturing rainwater are just some of the features that are anticipated. In addition to housing horticulture staff, conference rooms, and public classrooms, the Center will contain a state-of-the-art growing facility.

What this means for Mount Auburn's horticulture program is essentially a transformation. Having sophisticated plant production capabilities, especially for woody plants (trees and shrubs), is necessary if we are to preserve and enhance this landscape. The proposed facility will offer both economic and ecological sustainability in our efforts to diversify the plant collections, respond to natural disasters, bring out certain styles in our Landscape Character Zones, find alternatives for grass, and pass along this historic landscape to the generations that will follow. Those who came before us might recognize some of these efforts, such as the production and application of compost. They might also recognize the spirit of innovation that seems integral to Mount Auburn's history. Perhaps they would struggle with some of the technological advances being contemplated today. On the other hand, it was Dr. Jacob Bigelow himself who brought the term "technology" into common use with his 1840 publication *The Useful Arts Considered in Connection with the Applications of Science*. Somehow I think he would approve!



*Above: Note the line of blue rain barrels along the greenhouse wall. Left: A bold red hollyhocks (*Alcea rosea*) growing next to a speedwell (*Veronica spicata*, 'blue bouquet') in the E-Garden.*

Dennis Collins has worked at Mount Auburn for over two decades and is currently Horticultural Curator. He recently stepped down as Board President of the Ecological Landscaping Association after a four-year term.



Maintaining Wildlife at Mount Auburn

Horticultural efforts to enhance wildlife habitat have been greater in recent years than any other time in Mount Auburn's history. The most recent projects, and perhaps the most visible, are the Wildflower Meadow installed at Washington Tower (*left*) and the Butterfly Garden along the south shore of Willow Pond. One of the largest, which may not be as noticeable since it only progresses incrementally with each year, is the woodland restoration at Consecration Dell. Here, we attempted to reverse the impact of an invasive tree species; built a system to control stormwater and stop soil erosion on the steep, forested slopes; planted thousands of native plants with wildlife food and habitat value; restored the paths that crisscross the slopes; and rebuilt a proper amphibian habitat in the area surrounding the vernal pool. One of the biggest breakthroughs in this project was the novel system of using the paths to divert stormwater and prevent erosion. Long burlap tubes, pinned to the slope and filled with compost, create a temporary planting medium. Plants are installed directly into the tubes, which begin to degrade after a year. Ultimately, the plant roots become the means by which the slopes are held in place.





Photo by Lou Goodman Photography

Continuing Mount Auburn's Horticultural Legacy

FEATURES AND BENEFITS OF THE HORTICULTURE CENTER INCLUDE:

Maximizing Environmental Efficiency

- Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification
- Renewable, recycled, and local materials used in construction
- 50% reduction in heating costs
- Rainwater collection system
- Ground source geothermal energy system
- Green roof
- Solar electric power
- State-of-the-art materials recycling and composting operations

Enhancing a Community Resource

- New “public face” of Mount Auburn to the Watertown community
- A base for volunteer corps
- Space for local garden clubs, schools, and other community groups for meetings, workshops, tours, or field trips
- Indoor classes and workshops for the public on topics such as propagation, green roofs, rainwater harvesting, geothermal systems, and composting



*“Here are the lofty oak, the beech,
that ‘wreaths its old, fantastic roots so
high,’ the rustling pine, and the drooping
willow; – the tree, that sheds its pale leaves
with every autumn, a fit emblem of our
own transitory bloom...”*

*– Joseph Story
(Lot 313, Narcissus Path),
from the Cemetery’s Consecration Address, 1831*

Fall

AT MOUNT AUBURN

A photo essay by Jennifer J. Johnston



Mount Auburn in Autumn

by Eliza Lee Cabot Follen (1787-1860)
(Lot 526, Rose Path)

*I love to mark the falling leaf,
To watch the waning moon;
I love to cherish the belief
That all will change so soon.*

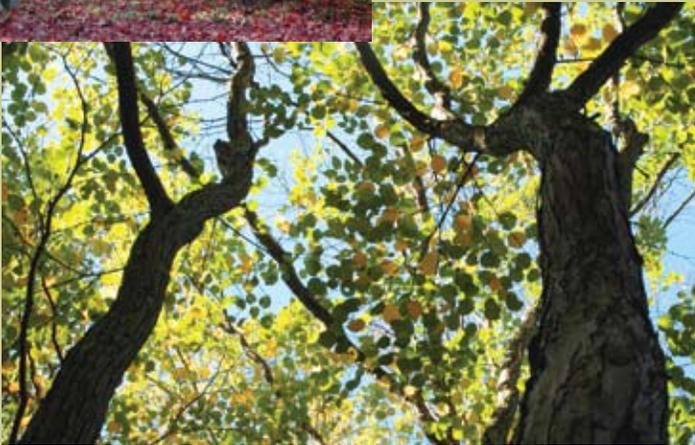
*I love to see the beautiful flowers
In bright succession pass,
As they would deck life's fleeting hours,
And hide his ebbing glass.*

*I love the rushing wind to hear
Through the dismantled trees,
And shed the sadly soothing tear
O'er joys that fled like these.*

*I love to think this glorious earth
Is but a splendid tomb,
Whence man to an immortal birth
Shall rise in deathless bloom; -*

*That nothing on its bosom dies,
But all in endless change
Shall in some brighter form arise,
Some purer region range.*

*On this fair couch then rest thy head
In peace thou child of sorrow;
For know the God of truth has said
Thou shalt be changed to-morrow; -
Changed as the saints and angels are
To glories ever new;
Corrupt shall incorruption wear,
And death shall life renew.*



Fall Foliage Pull-Out Guide

BY CURTIS ADAMS, Curatorial Associate

As fall is getting underway here are some of the plants that should not be missed. Some of these you can't miss, others you will need to look at more closely to appreciate.



There are over 400 sugar maples, *Acer saccharum*, on the grounds of Mount Auburn Cemetery. These are the quintessential fall foliage trees in New England, their color developing throughout the season from green into shades of orange and red.



Two deciduous trees that show off their bark in the fall and winter are the Japanese Stewartia, *Stewartia pseudocamellia* (shown), and the paperbark maple, *Acer griseum*. One of the finest Stewartias can be found in the Dell area along Iris Path. There are a number of paperbark maples on the grounds. The one at Story Road and Redbud Path is a particularly large specimen.



The Katsura tree, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, has beautiful gold and green fall foliage, but the real fall highlight is the cotton candy scent produced by this tree. It can be subtle, but once you detect it, it's hard to forget. There is an excellent example of this tree along the southwest bank of Auburn Lake and several more along Lime Ave.



The Dawn Redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, is a deciduous conifer from China. Its needles turn golden yellow before dropping off from late October into December. There are a number of these trees scattered around the grounds, but those along the northern bank of Auburn Lake and around Willow Pond are particularly striking when reflected in the water.



Korean Mountain Ash, *Sorbus alnifolia*, has bright red berries at the beginning of fall and then, halfway through the season, the foliage turns an intense orangey-yellow almost overnight. One example of this tree can be found on the east side of Willow Court Crypts.



Fothergilla, *Fothergilla gardenii* and *F. major*, has intense orange fall foliage, with some leaves turning deeper shades of red and purple. These plants are scattered around the Cemetery grounds; there are a number of these to be found in Asa Gray Garden and along the east side of Central Ave, near Indian Ridge Path.



Another tree that features intense reds and oranges is the Sourwood, *Oxydendrum arboreum*. Here the feathery clusters of cream-colored flowers first turn a golden brown and then the leaves begin changing, first to orange and finally ending up as a deep plum-red. An excellent example of this tree can be found behind the Shaw memorial near Bigelow Chapel.



The latest blooming shrub at Mount Auburn is the common witchhazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, whose yellow, spidery flowers are opening while its leaves are beginning to fall in late October to mid-November. These flowers have the faint scent of witch hazel extract, which is distilled from its bark and twigs. This plant can be found along the hill between Oak and Rosebay Avenues at the south end of Auburn Lake.



Beautyberry, *Callicarpa dichotoma*, has clusters of shiny purple berries that really stand out after the leaves drop in mid-November. One easily accessible shrub is on the slope to the east of Halcyon Ave.



Sassafras, *Sassafras albidum*, is a medium-sized tree native to eastern North America. Its roots and root bark have been used in perfumes and to flavor root beer. The tree grows mostly upright with leaves in cloud-like layers. In mid-fall the foliage takes on a range of rich shades from yellow to mauve. Two mature specimens can be found at the south end of Auburn lake, near Larch Ave.



STORIES BEHIND THE STONES: *Stones of Sentiment in a Cherished Landscape*

BY BRIAN A. SULLIVAN, *Archivist*

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE LANDSCAPE OF MOUNT AUBURN can yield evidence of profoundly personal examples of monumental commemoration. On Bellwort Path (Lot 2640), the resting place of scientist Louis Agassiz (1807–1883) is marked by a boulder from his native Switzerland. His wife, Elizabeth Cary Agassiz (1822–1907), co-founder and first president of Radcliffe College, wrote of the monument, “the land of his birth and the land of his adoption are united in his grave.”

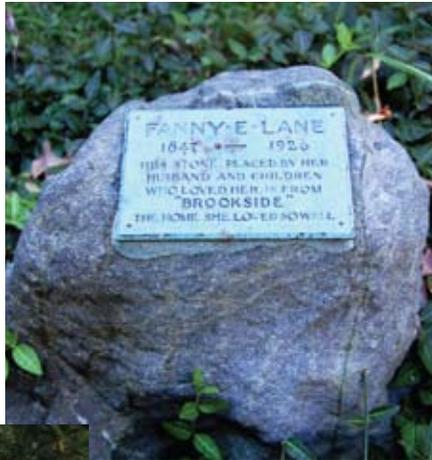


The grave of Irish poet and patriot Fanny Parnell (1848–1882) buried in the family lot (Lot 167, Violet Path) of the Tudors—her grandmother’s family—is also graced by a boulder, dedicated in 2001, from her birthplace at Avondale House, County Wicklow, Ireland.



Enduring artifacts from other treasured landscapes include the diminutive boulder (Lot 387, Alder Path) dedicated to Fanny E. Lane (1847–1926), which originates from “Brookside” in Weston, Mass., “the home she loved so well.”

The grave of Thomas Johnston Homer (1813–1880) is marked by a puddingstone boulder (Lot 4666, Hazel Path) with a plaque inscribed “this stone taken from his



home in Roxbury is placed here by his wife and children as a memory of him whom they love and honor.” His granddaughter, Rose Standish Nichols (1872–1960), one of America’s first female landscape architects (Lot 4561, Clethra Path), recalled that her “...active interest in garden making began when as a child, under

the guidance of my grandfather, Thomas Johnston Homer, I cultivated a tiny posy bed on his Roxbury estate.” Although the garden of her grandfather was irrevocably changed over time, Ms. Nichols may have found solace that a fragment of that place she once knew and loved endures at Mount Auburn Cemetery.



Song Sparrow by Valerie Gillies

*Little streaked ground
feeder loves to hop around
these grassy mounds
low brushy leas
then suddenly
flies up into the tree
puts back his head and bursts
out into song – bosky husky
the short notes first
with one long trill to
zieeeeee he’s telling you
something tipo zeet zeet new*



PHOTO BY GEORGE MCLEAN

About the Author

Valerie Gillies is one of Scotland’s best-loved poets. She was the Edinburgh Makar (poet laureate to the city) from 2005 to 2008. She has returned to Edinburgh to take up a post as a Royal Literary Fellow after spending 2009–2010 on sabbatical, researching at Harvard. She is currently completing a volume of selected poems, including new work written in America. “Song Sparrow” was written after a visit to Mount Auburn.

This monument is erected by the Massachusetts Society for promoting agriculture by the Horticultural Society of Massachusetts and Individuals as a testimony of respect for the literary talents and acquisitions of the deceased

labor - in pro

of the above

*Dust to its narrow home
Soul to its place on
They that have seen
No more may for*

“SLEEP SOLDIER STILL IN HONORED REST
YOUR TRUTH AND VALOR WEARING
THE BRAVEST ARE THE TENDEREST
THE LOVING ARE THE DARING”

— from the monument of William Bradford Homer,
(Lot 1321, Yarrow Path)



“HER PATH WAS SURROUNDED
BY RADIANCE AND FRAGRANCE
AND SHE WAS AN INSPIRATION
AND A JOY TO ALL HER FRIENDS”

— from the monument of Susanne Wheeler
Bennett, (Lot 2178, Greenbrier Path)



“SAY NOT GOODNIGHT BUT
IN SOME BRIGHTER CLIME
BID ME GOOD MORNING”

— from the monument of Charlotte E. Greene,
(Lot 1256, Geranium Path)



THE *Written* LANDSCAPE

PARTICIPANTS IN THE MONUMENT INSCRIPTION WORKSHOP literally read the landscape as an effort to record inscriptions that are disappearing as marble wears away and brownstone disintegrates. Through this program inscriptions are transcribed by volunteers and become part of Mount Auburn’s Historical Collections. The knowledge gained from the monument will therefore be preserved in our archives even after the carvings vanish.

Volunteers are working in the historic core of Mount Auburn and discovering valuable information about many of our residents. These monuments are archives in the landscape that commemorate individuals who frequently do not have heartfelt biographical information elsewhere. Often we find cenotaphs, which are monuments commemorating someone whose remains are located elsewhere. Locating a cenotaph is particularly exciting since this is typically someone not otherwise known by Mount Auburn. Currently, the Cemetery tracks residents by their remains, so when a person is not interred here, there is not typically institutional knowledge of a monument in their honor. This exciting project that captures unique and threatened inscriptions would not be successful without our dedicated group of volunteers.

We will resume our Monument Inscription Workshop in spring of 2011. Please check our website at www.mountauburn.org for a list of dates.



*During our Monument
Inscription Workshop,
volunteers decipher
fading words by using
flashlights, mirrors, and
just their eyes.*



Personalized Cremation Services at Mount Auburn

BY TOM JOHNSON, *Family Services Coordinator*

FOR OVER 110 YEARS, MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY has provided cremation as an alternative to casket burials. The first cremation took place at Mount Auburn on April 18, 1900. During the first year of operation the crematory completed 50 cremations. President Israel M. Spelman, reported in the 1900 Annual Report, "That cremation is growing in favor seems clearly evident. It is undoubtedly not only the most speedy method of resolving the body into its elements, one hour doing the work of years, but also the safest in a sanitary point of view."

Spelman's thoughts were partially correct; cremation did eventually begin "growing in favor" in parts of the United States, but it was not until recent years in Massachusetts that cremation has been embraced by the public as an alternative to casket burials. Today with changing attitudes and most religions permitting cremation, the percentage of cremations has risen significantly.

Along with changing attitudes regarding cremation there has been considerable change with family participation and presence at the crematory. Mount Auburn offers many options to families with services for cremation. Some families might simply choose to escort their loved one in procession to the crematory. Another option would be a witnessing at the crematory, which allows the family a fifteen minute period of time to be present as the cremation process begins. During this time some families may choose to have a brief prayer service or a quiet time of reflection. Families and friends sometimes write messages or place personal items on the casket and assist the crematory operator or simply observe as their loved one is placed into what is called a retort (cremation chamber).

Services at Mount Auburn can be as unique and distinctive as a family chooses. Cremation gives families the flexibility to decide when a service can take place. A memorial service before the cremation takes place allows the casket to be present at the service, though some families might opt to

have a service while the cremation is in progress. Others prefer to wait until a date after the cremation has taken place, giving themselves additional time to plan and personalize a memorial service that will celebrate a life well lived, reflect on the impact their loved one made, and the legacy he or she leaves behind.

I often think of the very moving service of a young man from Nepal, who was working as a store clerk in Jamaica Plain.

I was amazed how his service brought together the Nepalese community of Greater Boston along with business people and friends who supported his family in their grief. His cremated remains were brought back to his beloved home in Nepal.

Another service brought the first New Orleans Second Line Brass Band in the history of Mount Auburn to lead the congregation from Story Chapel to the memorial luncheon at Bigelow Chapel Lawn.

Just as the landscape of the Cemetery is constantly changing and being reshaped, so is the level of service offered by Mount Auburn's Cemetery Services Team. Soon cremations with a memorial service and burial will exceed the number of traditional casket burials. Mount Auburn is well positioned to meet the increasing demand for cremation services while fulfilling the needs of each family with the high standards and excellence in service that was Mount Auburn yesterday, is Mount Auburn today, and will be Mount Auburn tomorrow.



These urns by the Judith Motzkin Studio (www.spiritkeeper-urns.com) are just one style of urn available for purchase at Mount Auburn.

FAREWELL TO MOUNT AUBURN'S FIRST LADY OF FUNDRAISING



Piper Morris (third from left) with Mount Auburn staff members (l-r) Melissa Wilson, Lauren Marsh, and Samantha Furbush, and left with Dave Barnett at her retirement party.

PRISCILLA P. MORRIS, OR “PIPER,” as she is known, retired as Senior Vice President of Development in June. Piper came to Mount Auburn six years ago in

2004 as the first development officer at the Cemetery. Working in development offices from Bates College in Maine to New England independent schools (Westover School in Middlebury, Conn. and Noble & Greenough in Dedham, Mass.) to renowned medical institutions like the Lahey Clinic and Tufts University School of Medicine, she had already enjoyed a long and fruitful career in her field. Earlier in her work life, she ran her own successful health care marketing firm with a business partner in Detroit, Mich.

Under her guidance, Mount Auburn’s fundraising efforts have flourished; total giving has risen 328% since her arrival in FY2005. In this past year, her department was responsible for raising nearly \$1.4 million, a 52% increase above FY2009 (which saw a 57.5% increase in contributions over FY2008). The Annual Fund, foundation grants, and planned giving have all seen significant growth in the past six years.

Clemmie Cash (Wellesley, Mass.), Chair of the Friends of Mount Auburn Trustees, has known Piper since she was Dean of Institutional Advancement at Noble & Greenough School during the years when Cash’s daughter attended. “What impressed me about Piper is her deep commitment to the cause for which she’s working. I saw that passion at both Nobles and Mount Auburn. I can’t imagine her not being totally committed.”



Piper (center) with (l-r) her son, Edward, daughter-in-law, Susannah, son-in-law, Jeff, granddaughter, Lilly, daughter, Sarah, and granddaughter, Cecelia (born 9/22/09) taken in Westport, MA, in July of 2009.

In addition to her fundraising responsibilities, Piper, under the leadership of former president Bill Clendaniel, was tasked with the rebranding of Mount Auburn as a cultural institution worthy of philanthropic support, which included the complete redesign of the look and format of the Cemetery’s publications, among them *Sweet Auburn*, our biannual magazine. During her tenure here, she also spearheaded the planning and implementation for the successful two-year long 175th Anniversary Celebration, including the memorable gala in 2007, which over 300 people attended.

“Piper was a terrific teacher to all of us on the Development Committee and for The Friends of Mount Auburn,” says Mount Auburn Trustee Widgie Aldrich (Cambridge, Mass.). “She instilled confidence in us to enable us to start our first capital campaign. She was our cheerleader.”

“I have always loved Mount Auburn,” says Piper, “from my undergrad days at Harvard when I rode my bike over to study here until now when I have been lucky enough to work at this very special place. I will miss being here every day, but I know I’ll be a frequent visitor.”

Piper lives in Cambridge, about five minutes from Mount Auburn. She has a grown son (Edward) and daughter (Sarah), both married, and two small granddaughters (Lilly and Cecelia) whom she sees frequently and looks forward to spending more time with. She expects her retirement to include travel (especially road trips in the U.S.) and genealogical study of her family (both sides) dating back to the 17th century in the U.S.

With her straight shooting, no-nonsense business savvy, her engaging personality, and her warmth as a co-worker and manager, she is a truly great lady who will be missed by all those who have had the pleasure of working with her. We are certainly grateful that she decided to cap her career with us.

[Piper’s mother’s family, the Sortwells, have had a lot in Mount Auburn Cemetery since the 19th century at Crystal and Pearl Avenues.]



Piper during the events of the 175th Anniversary Celebration, including a lecture with Dr. Henry Louis Gates.

WELCOME!

Jane Carroll has been appointed Mount Auburn's Vice President of Development. Jane has over 20 years of fundraising experience, involving wide-ranging initiatives in a variety of organizations, including experience in four capital campaigns. She began her development career at Governor Dummer Academy as the Campaign Director. At Boston College as Director of Major Gifts, she participated in BC's first major capital campaign. Following her experience at BC, she was appointed Vice President of Development at the YMCA of Greater Boston where she had responsibility for capital, annual, and corporate and foundation giving. At the YMCA, she launched and completed a \$13 million capital campaign to build and renovate Y's in greater Boston including the Wang YMCA in Chinatown and the Allston Brighton YMCA. As part of this campaign she secured a \$700,000 Kresge challenge grant.



After many years in Boston, Jane moved to Vermont and joined the Vermont Humanities Council, where she planned and implemented a successful capital campaign to purchase and renovate a building to establish a permanent home for the Council. As part of this campaign, VHC received a \$200,000 Challenge Grant. Most recently she was with Lesley University as a major gifts officer after returning to the Boston area.

Jane has a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.B.A. from Simmons School of Management. Jane and her husband, Ernie, recently moved to the Navy Yard in Charlestown. She has two grown sons and a granddaughter. About joining the Mount Auburn staff, Jane says, "I have enjoyed Mount Auburn for many years as a wonderful place to walk, bird, and be immersed in history and nature. I am very enthused and proud to have the opportunity to join Mount Auburn to lead the effort for a new Horticulture Center and future improvements to enhance this valuable community resource."

TURN, TURN, TURN...
STAFF CHANGES AT MOUNT AUBURN

With the retirement of Piper Morris, Mount Auburn has seen some restructuring of the Development and the Education & Visitor Services departments over the last few months. **Bree D. Harvey**, former Director of Education & Visitor Services has been promoted to the new position of Vice President of External Affairs after eight years of working at Mount Auburn. **Lauren Marsh**, who was hired last August as the Development Associate & Communications Coordinator is now the Communications, Grants & Events

MOUNT AUBURN'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPOINTS NEW MEMBERS

Caroline Loughlin (*right*) of Weston, Mass., and Caroline Mortimer of Cambridge, Mass., who have served as Friends of Mount Auburn Trustees since 2006, have now both been elected as Trustees of the Cemetery.



"I'm delighted to be working with Mount Auburn in this new way and honored to join the distinguished Trustees who have guided this organization so well for more than 175 years," says Loughlin. Loughlin has been volunteering in Historical Collections for the last decade and co-chaired the 175th Anniversary Celebration with Ms. Mortimer, who expressed a similar sentiment about her new appointment. "I'm honored to serve as a Mount Auburn Cemetery Trustee. I look forward to being a member of this energetic group that has helped to nurture and support the Cemetery's mission so thoughtfully and purposefully."

Coordinator, a position which, along with **Jennifer Johnston's** position of Media and Imaging Coordinator, bridges both External Affairs and Development Departments. Lauren and Jennifer both now report to Bree. **Jessica Bussmann**, previously our part-time Education & Visitor Services Assistant, is now full-time as our Education & Volunteer Coordinator. The newly dubbed External Affairs also bid farewell to **Dawnielle Peck**, Visitor Services Coordinator, in May. Dawnielle is pursuing a new career as a pastry chef, and her position has been turned into two part-time Visitor Services Assistant positions, filled by **Jim Gorman**, long-time Mount Auburn volunteer and **Katie Robinson**, a recent Preservation Intern. The

Development Department welcomes **Samantha Furbush** as a full-time Development Assistant & Gifts Coordinator. Sam started as a temp at the Cemetery last July, and she quickly made herself indispensable. She graduated last May from Simmons College with a B.A. in Arts Administration/Finance. An active volunteer, she works with Girls LEAP, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and the Boston



Bree D. Harvey, Mount Auburn's Vice President of External Affairs

Red Sox in addition to holding two part-time jobs at the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra and the Calderwood Pavilion (part of the Huntington Theatre).

Mount Auburn also welcomes new staff to two other departments. Since April, **Melinda Moulton** is our new Accounting Manager. She brings to our staff a solid skill set and extensive experience as a Staff Accountant, self-employed CPA, and business manager. Her most recent position was Assistant Controller at CAST Inc., a non-profit research and development company in Wakefield, Mass., that provides learning opportunities for all individuals, especially those with disabilities, through UDL (Universal Design for Learning). Cemetery Services also has a new Representative, **Edie Shapiro**. Edie's background includes editorial and fundraising work. Outside of Mount Auburn, she writes poetry and is a member of The Boston Minstrels, a group that sings at homeless shelters.

HELLO GOOD-BYE:

Employment at Mount Auburn Comes Full Circle

Preservation & Facilities Planner Natalie Wampler said good-bye to her Mount Auburn family this August. Her husband, Keith, accepted a post-doctoral position at the University of Illinois and the couple has relocated there. Natalie graduated in 2005 from Maryville University in St. Louis, Mo., and in 2008 from Boston University with a M.A. in Preservation Studies. She was hired in May 2006 as a Preservation Intern, and was later brought on full-time in her current position.

We have been able to discover much about our landscape through Natalie's diligent and meticulous work. During the Preservation Initiative in 2007, she was able to determine that we have approximately 45,000 monuments on the Cemetery grounds; she created a full inventory of all our path and avenue signs as well as our veteran markers; and she resurrected our Monument Inscription Workshop, teaching volunteers how we decode deteriorated inscriptions so that they can help to record and preserve this valuable information before it is lost to the elements.

"In her relatively short time here, Natalie's contributions to our success as a department, and to Mount Auburn as a whole have been tremendous," says **Vice President of Preservation & Facilities Bill Barry**. "Her rigorous analysis, disciplined organization, and collaborative manner made

her a valuable colleague. She has also been engaged in the larger community outside our gates, both personally and professionally, proving to be a valuable ambassador for the Cemetery."

Natalie is proud of her accomplishments at Mount Auburn, mostly in the number of volunteers that have been recruited who can do the work in documenting our structures through the Monument Inscription Workshop. When she first recommenced the program, there was no one helping to decode and transcribe fading inscriptions, and now there are approximately 15 volunteers who are capable of endeavoring in that work.

"I will miss the beauty of the landscape and the passion of the people who work and volunteer here," Natalie said weeks before she departed. "Because there are so many facets of Mount Auburn, there's always something new to learn."

Natalie's departure is a bittersweet one, and while she will be missed by all who have had the pleasure of collaborating with her, we welcome back **Gus Fraser**, former Director of Preservation & Facilities Maintenance. Gus had been here for just under seven years, and he hired Natalie right before he left to relocate to North Carolina in 2006 so that his wife could take a research position at Research Triangle Institute. While in North Carolina he ran his own company

doing hands-on restoration and preservation work. The work ranged from monument repair in historic cemeteries to carpentry and wood-working in old houses. He utilized experience gained at Mount Auburn working with historic cast and wrought iron fences during a project preserving two mid-19th century fences at the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery in Chapel Hill, N.C. Much of his preservation work was for historic house museums

or other non-profit organizations charged with the care of historic structures.

"Although I grew up in North Carolina and have strong ties to the area, we missed New England and looked forward to one day returning," he remarked during his first week back at Mount Auburn. "I feel very fortunate to have been chosen to fill the Director of Facilities position, and I am excited for the opportunity to return to an organization full of dedicated and creative people committed to the preservation and enhancement of this vital and unique historic landscape."



Gus Fraser and Natalie Wampler contemplate the preservation of a monument.

Volunteer Profile: Irene Dygas

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

BY LAUREN S. MARSH, *Communications, Grants & Events Coordinator*

SPENDING TIME AT MOUNT AUBURN'S GREENHOUSES with volunteer Irene Dygas is as refreshing as taking in a deep breath of the scented air in the Experimental Garden. Irene is one of those people you feel lucky to have met. She's spunky, upbeat, and a treasure trove of horticultural information. Just after spending under half an hour with her, in fact, I found myself able to inform someone how snapdragons (*Antirrhinum majus*) acquired their name.

"I'll show you how," Irene had said, gently pulling back two of the delicate petals and letting them snap back into place.

Irene has been a volunteer at the Cemetery for several years, and she has always felt close to this place. She's been walking along these lovely paths, dells, and hills since the mid-1980s, and when she moved back to Cambridge in 2001, she decided to volunteer. At first she was helping out in the Administration Office, but when she learned that they were building an Experimental Garden and there was an opportunity to lend her support to the Greenhouse staff, she jumped at the chance. "It was like I had found my calling," she says.

"They call this the obedience plant," she ushers me over to the stalks of *Physostegia* (below) with pale lavender blooms. "And this is why: because on any other plant if you want it to grow a certain way and you move a flower, it will pop right back into place. But if you move a flower on this plant," she demonstrates, "it will stay that way." It's no coincidence that Irene is a natural teacher. She taught sixth grade for years, first in Connecticut, then in Germany and England for the Department of Defense, and in Fall River, Mass., where she grew up. She ended her career in education in Belmont, Mass., retiring in 1998.



Her work in our greenhouses is more like relaxation. She has always loved horticulture and the diversity of flowers, how each one is made so differently, and how even weeds can be beautiful. She maintains that her favorite flower is still the rose. I watch as she shows me how to stick a wire

through one of the decorative straw-flowers (*Helictheysum*). She then pulls out a long box filled with these beauties that she finished yesterday. In addition to wiring flowers, she also assists with transplanting, dead-heading, and the creation of floral arrangements.

"You can see why I love it here," she says as we stroll through the back garden by the deep purple asters and the vibrant red, magenta, and yellow zinnias. "Everybody who works in the greenhouse is a totally different character. Take Tuti, Danny, and Francisco – they're teaching me Spanish. They've taught me more than the class I was taking at a senior center. And Maurene is always a treat to see. Aside from the fact that I love the plants and



Irene Dygas



what I'm doing, I love the people here. They are just wonderful, and they take such good care of me."

We are thrilled that Irene chooses to spend her time helping our Greenhouse staff and rejuvenating all of us with her exuberance. As of July 2010, Mount Auburn has nearly 50 active volunteers generously giving of their time.

MOUNT AUBURN UNVEILS ITS INTERACTIVE KIOSK

The next time you happen to visit Mount Auburn, please make sure to stop at the Egyptian Revival Gatehouse and explore our newly unveiled interactive kiosk. The kiosk, housed inside the eastern alcove of the Gatehouse, is designed to introduce visitors to Mount Auburn's many interesting facets. Through text, images, sound clips, and even video, the kiosk speaks about the Cemetery's horticultural collections, its art and architectural collections, the wildlife that calls Mount Auburn home, and it also shares the stories of those buried and commemorated here. A feature that we predict will be extremely useful is the ability for visitors to look up the locations of those buried here and then print out a map highlighting the exact location within the Cemetery. In addition to the permanent kiosk exhibit, regularly updated information within the interactive tool will be of particular interest to our regular visitors, who will be able to use the kiosk to quickly get a sense of current horticultural highlights, learn about upcoming events, and read about a current person of interest – an interesting, digital reprisal of our "Person of the Week" program. With generous support from the Anthony J. and Mildred D. Ruggiero Memorial Trust and an amazing design team headed by the Small Design Firm (of Cambridge) we are now able to share an amazing wealth of information with the public in ways never before possible. Please stop by and try the kiosk for yourself.

THE LYNCH FOUNDATION MATCHES GIFT FOR STORY CHAPEL ENTRANCE

The Lynch Foundation has joined Cambridge Savings Bank in helping to match the gift of \$132,000 awarded to Mount Auburn in 2009 by MassDevelopment through their Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund (MCFF), donating \$30,000 for a proposed new entry into Story Chapel. The new entry is designed for increased energy efficiency and visitor accessibility.

"We are so pleased to be able to help in Mount Auburn's effort to reconstruct the historic porte-cochere as a new entry into Story Chapel. The Lynch Foundation is extremely interested in both culture and historic preservation, and Mount Auburn Cemetery has a foundation in both of these areas in addition to its community outreach and enriching public programs," said Katie Everett, the Foundation's Executive Director. "We are excited that the new entry will not only resonate with historic integrity, but that it will be more energy efficient and accommodate visitors of varying levels of mobility. This project very much so resonates of Mount Auburn's enduring message of inclusivity in welcoming everyone."

Mount Auburn has until May 2011 to match the original MCFF grant of \$132,000 or else we will miss out on this wonderful opportunity.

PRESERVATION HOSTS COMMUNITY GROUPS

Preservation and Facilities Planner Natalie Wampler led a tour for Red Fire Farm CSA members on July 11 in addition to giving a tour to a Big Sister and Little Sister match on July 17. She also co-led a tour on July 24 with **Docents Helen Abrams** and **Ginny Brady** for 16 Little Sisters, 16 Big Sisters, and two social workers. The tour focused on some of the many inspirational women interred here from the socialite and philanthropist, Isabella Stewart Gardner to the freedom-seeker, Harriet Jacobs.



Growing Collections, Planting Ideas

Mount Auburn, along with the Cambridge Historical Society and the Longfellow National Historic Site, hosted the Second Annual Cambridge Archives Tour on July 14 as part of a joint program. The public program, entitled "Growing Collections, Planting Ideas," focused on the changing landscapes and horticultural diversity of our sites and the many connections between our institutions.

Mount Auburn's **Curator of Historical Collections**

Meg L. Winslow, Archivist Brian A. Sullivan and Cemetery Trustee and Volunteer Caroline Loughlin gave presentations and showed examples of original materials from the Cemetery's collection



of horticultural records. Highlights included 19th-century photographs, a collection of gold medals from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and original hand-drawn planting plans for the Cemetery and individual family lots. Over 40 people in four separate groups attended this special opportunity to see our collections. We look forward to next year's program!



Access to Mount Auburn's Historical Collections is by appointment only. For further information please contact **Curator of Historical Collections Meg L. Winslow** at mwinslow@mountauburn.org or by phone at 617-607-1942.





A BOTANIST'S BICENTENNIAL: *The 200th Anniversary of Asa Gray's Birth*

ASA GRAY (*Lot 3904, Holly Path*), THE LEADER OF AMERICAN botanists during the 19th century, was born on November 18, 1810, in Sauquoit, N.Y. During his long career, he was a pioneer of the study of plant geography, and he held firm against fellow Harvard professors in his belief of Darwin's theories concerning the origin of species. In honor of the 200th anniversary of his birth, the Friends celebrates his life and accomplishments.

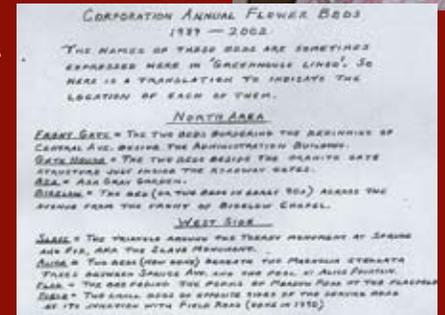
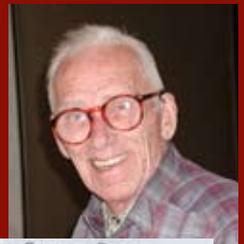
Gray built the Harvard department of botany and trained many of the leading botanists of the next generation. His home at 88 Garden Street, part of the seven-acre Harvard Botanical Garden, was visited by scientists from all over the world. It is reported in Ernest Wilson's *Aristocrats of Trees* published in 1930, that female ginkgo trees growing at the Harvard Botanical Garden were pollinated by Mount Auburn's male ginkgo tree that Jacob Bigelow had planted during his tenure. Gray, who was then director of the garden, noticed the unlikely pollination. That male ginkgo, described as an aristocrat in Wilson's book, was struck by lightning in 1942 and was subsequently replaced with the ginkgo now growing there.

Our Asa Gray Garden, the ornamental showpiece of the Cemetery, was named in honor of Gray in 1942, and has undergone many landscape changes through the years to

reflect evolving styles. And in 1997, Mount Auburn saved four Japanese maples from the Boston Public Library's renovations and they were planted in the Garden on Gray's birthday, which also happens to be the birthday of current Mount Auburn President and horticulturist, Dave Barnett.

REMEMBERING ONE OF OUR OWN

Retired Cemetery employee, **Joseph Killilea**, passed away on July 28, 2010. He continued to remain part of the Mount Auburn community even after he retired, volunteering with our Historical Collections department where he carried out extensive research to identify the history of plantings in Asa Gray Garden, and catalogued the historic periodical collection. His meticulous writings will be forever in our archives.



INTERMENTS & MEMORIAL SERVICES OF NOTE IN 2010

- **June Beisch** (1940-2010), of Cambridge, Mass., age 70, poet, writer, teacher, interviewer for WGBH's *Penttechnicon*
- **Judith T. Bonham** (1926-2010), of Ft. Myers, Fla., age 83, celebrated artist whose work was represented in numerous collections, including the Johnson & Johnson permanent collection
- **Mary Daly, Ph.D.** (1928-2010), of Gardner, Mass., age 81, a theologian, philosopher, poet, and professor at Boston College for over 30 years
- **Bill C. Geissen, Ph.D.** (1933-2010), of Arlington, Mass., age 77, beloved professor of chemistry and mechanical engineering at Northeastern University for over 40 years
- **Martin B. Green, Ph.D.** (1927-2010), of Cambridge, Mass., age 82, former professor of English at Tufts University for 31 years, author of 42 books

- **David R. Johnson** (1919-2010), of Belmont, Mass., age 91, WWII Army-Air Force Veteran, walked in Mount Auburn nearly every day
- **William J. Mitchell, Ph.D.** (1944-2010), of Cambridge, Mass., age 65, noted architect, urban theorist, and former Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at MIT
- **Ronald G. Newburgh, Ph.D.** (1926-2010), of Belmont, Mass., age 84, noted physicist, teacher, and scholar
- **Marco Ramoni, Ph.D.** (1963-2010), of Boston, Mass., age 47, accomplished scientist, educator, author, entrepreneur, and faculty member of Harvard Medical School
- **Ain A. Sonin, Ph.D.** (1937-2010), of Lexington, Mass., age 72, Professor Emeritus of mechanical engineering at MIT
- **Susan E. Tift** (1951-2010), of Cambridge, Mass., age 59, writer, editor, and journalist
- **Gertrude N. Waldron** (1920-2010), of Wynnwood, Pa., age 89, journalist and writer



DID **you** KNOW...?

Did you know...?

...Mount Auburn has

- many specimens of plants that were novel introductions in their day, like H.H. Hunnewell's (*Lot 3799, Iris Path*) hybrid yews, which were first bred at his family's estate in Wellesley, Mass., in 1929. These are now common in the nursery trade;
- three dozen oaks that predate the Cemetery's founding in 1831;
- 80 varieties of conifers to increase winter interest;
- more than 40 different varieties of native grasses and wildflowers in the Wildflower Meadow at Washington Tower; and
- a pre-1831 oak tree that has a trunk more than 3 ½ feet in diameter on Indian Ridge Path.



...our Horticulture Staff

- plants for all four seasons so that there is always an example of horticultural interest to be seen;
- produced 300 cubic yards of mulch from fallen leaves in the last year, all of which will be used in the coming year as part of our sustainable practices; and
- offered 20 horticultural programs and 32 group tours with a horticulture focus to educate and enrich the public in FY2010.

...in Historical Collections

- our staff assists researchers from institutions throughout the country including: the Boston Athenaeum, Cornell University, Gettysburg National Military Park, Harvard University, Massachusetts Historical Society, and the University of Chicago.

...our Preservation/Conservation staff

- washes monuments under perpetual care on a three to five year cycle; and
- marks monuments that need preservation work with a green flag.

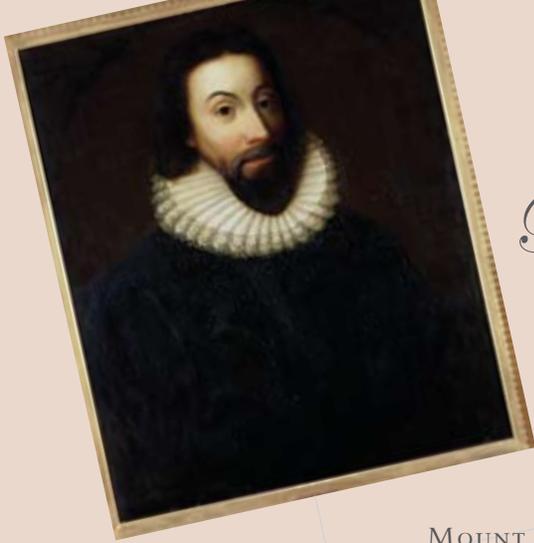
...and that

- our magazine is named *Sweet Auburn* because prior to the founding of the Cemetery, this tract of land was much beloved by Harvard students and was coined such after a line from the 18th-century poem "The Deserted Village" by Oliver Goldsmith (1728-1774).

Sweet Auburn! loveliest village of the plain...

...and there is

- **still interment space available** for purchase at Mount Auburn. For more information call 617-607-7105 or email sales@mountauburn.org.



Beautifying Mount Auburn:

JOHN WINTHROP'S PHILANTHROPIC COMMITMENT

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY REMAINS a treasured cultural icon that seamlessly interweaves the facets of history, horticulture, preservation, and service. Innovative sustainable practices and an ecological awareness seal its relevance and resonance within today's world. There are a variety of ways to support this beloved place and ensure that its wonderful legacies remain intact for future generations: by becoming a member of the Friends of Mount Auburn, by volunteering here, or by giving to the Annual Fund—and by including this unique institution in your gift planning through a *bequest, charitable gift annuity, or charitable remainder unitrust.*

A *Charitable Remainder Unitrust* is a trust, which is set up to pay a return or fixed annual percentage of 5 percent (or more) of the net fair market value of the assets placed in the trust. The trust assets are revalued annually.

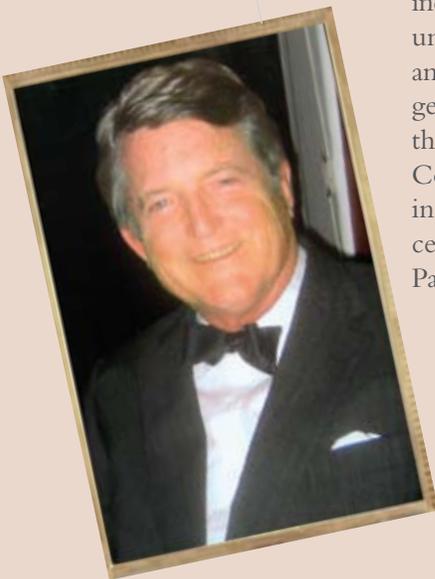
John Winthrop of Charleston, S.C., decided to include Mount Auburn in a charitable remainder unitrust. He has several ties to our landscape and the Boston area; most notably, he is the 11th generation direct descendant of John Winthrop, the first Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 17th century. And many people in his mother's family dating back to the 19th century are buried in the Bartlett lots on Raven Path at Mount Auburn.

Although he and his wife, Libby, currently reside in South Carolina, he makes frequent trips to Boston, and Mount Auburn is a special place for him for a few reasons. "First, it's beautiful," he says. "Second, there's a lot of history there, and I managed to go through four years at Harvard (Class of '58) without taking a single history class so I am trying to make up for my sin." John also referred to the death of his uncle, Arthur Lincoln Bartlett, in 2004. "When I buried my uncle, a light bulb just went off, and I thought 'This is where I want to be.'"

John also extols the virtues of growing trees, and an additional part of his philanthropy has been through generous donations earmarked to "beautify Mount Auburn." He has also helped us tremendously with research on the Winthrop and Bartlett families, referring us to his published book, *Family Tree* (2007), as a resource.

A self-proclaimed "working stiff at age 74," John runs a money management firm in addition to being a trustee, timber farmer, and part-time journalist. He has four sons, two grandsons, and a third grandchild on the way.

To learn how including Mount Auburn in your gift planning can help you meet your philanthropic goals, please contact the Development Office, at 617-607-1946 or support@mountauburn.org.



Top: John Winthrop (1588-1649) 1834 (oil on canvas) by Charles Osgood (1809-90) © Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA, USA/ The Bridgeman Art Library
Above: John Winthrop
Right: The Bartlett family lot. (Lot 4495, Raven Path)

Upcoming Events

Here is just a sampling from the exciting schedule of upcoming programs. Visit us online today to register for any of these programs or to get a complete list of other events on our calendar.

* **Fall Bulb Planting Event**

Thursday, October 21, 9:30 AM

Get your hands in the soil alongside our gardening staff during our annual fall bulb planting. Bulbs planted in the Cemetery each fall add blooms to Mount Auburn's early spring season. Bring your work gloves and trowels along with lots of energy and enthusiasm. Dress for garden work.

Rain date: October 22nd. Free.

* **Monarchs of Mount Auburn**

Sunday, November 14, 1 PM

Deeply rooted in our cultural history, the oak tree is often equated with strength and permanency. Join Visitor Services Assistant Jim Gorman for this walk to survey some of these aged monarchs (some that even pre-date Mount Auburn) and recount oak facts and lore. \$5 members, \$10 non-members.

* **A Curious and Ingenious Art: Reflections on Daguerreotypes at Harvard**

Thursday, December 2, 5:30 PM

The daguerreotype, the first publicly announced photographic process, provided a new vehicle for capturing signature moments and creating exquisite portraits in the mid-19th century. Today these images are viewed as a window into the past and treasured as rare works of art. Join us in Story Chapel for this talk and reception with Melissa Banta, who will look at the stories behind the daguerreotypes held by Harvard University. The University's collections include portraits of some of Mount Auburn's well-known figures as well as intriguing uses of the medium to document scientific discoveries. \$5 members; \$10 non-members.

Melissa Banta is a Program Officer for Photographs at Harvard University Library Weissman Preservation Center and a consultant for the Historical Collections at Mount Auburn.



* **Perpetual Care: Records of Enduring Value**

Tuesday, January 18, 12 noon

Bring your lunch and join us in Story Chapel for this introduction to Mount Auburn's Historical Collections. What are they? Where are they? Who has access to them? This special presentation with our Historical Collections staff is an opportunity to learn about our archival collections including founding documents, architectural and horticultural records, photographs, guidebooks, and ephemera. Coffee and tea will be served. Free.

* **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Birthday Celebration**

Saturday, February 26, 10 AM

Join us in Story Chapel as the Friends and the Longfellow National Historic Site gather for this annual event. This year, we will pay tribute to one of Longfellow's closest friends and fellow Mount Auburn resident, Charles Sumner. Born 200 years ago this year, Sumner left a lasting impact on Massachusetts and the country through his actions as a lawyer, abolitionist, and U.S. Senator. Free.

* **A Passion for Birds**

Thursday, March 24, 6 PM

As we bid farewell to winter and welcome the early days of spring, anticipation of the spring migration begins. Join us in Story Chapel for this presentation by Shawn Carey, who will share his own passion for birding through his stunning wildlife photography. A great teaser of what is to come for our seasoned birders, this is also the perfect opportunity for the non-birder to find out what the fuss is all about!

\$5 members, \$10 non-members.