



# UDBG FRIENDS

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS

FALL / WINTER 2019

## Where are they now? Carrie Murphy

Extension Educator, Master Gardener Coordinator, Program Leader  
University of Delaware Cooperative Extension

*By Alexis Bacon, 2017-2018 UDBG Annual Intern*

Carrie Murphy spent her childhood surrounded by farmland, gardens, and nature. Despite her upbringing, Carrie didn't consider a career in horticulture until she began working at a flower market and in landscape maintenance during college. At the flower market, she would talk for hours with her employer who shared with her everything she knew about plants. After graduating with an undergraduate degree in Philosophy and Women Studies from Towson University, Carrie knew she wanted to pursue a career in horticulture, and began to seek opportunities to build on her knowledge.

Carrie pursued coursework at Rutgers University while continuing to work in landscape maintenance. Shortly after, Carrie began an internship at Longwood Gardens as a Greenhouse and Nursery Production intern. After her internship, she stayed at Longwood to complete the Professional Gardener Training Program. Upon graduation, Carrie accepted a position with North Creek Nurseries where she was exposed to many facets of horticulture from

plant trials and research to plug production and meadow management.

Although she already had many practical, hands-on experiences in horticulture, Carrie felt that she needed the knowledge that would only come from pursuing horticulture academically. She applied to the University of Delaware where she was accepted into the Plant and Soil Sciences department. Her research on microgreens helped her connect with growers in the area, and she loved sharing her passion for horticulture with people in the local community.

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**TOP: Magnificent fall color on *Oxydendrum arboreum* (Sourwood or Sorrel Tree), one of UDBG's tree offerings at the plant sale in April.**

Photo: Rick Darke

# DIRECTORS CORNER

*Valann Budischak*  
*Acting Director*

As you all know, the UD Botanic Gardens is home to a diverse collection of plants. Since the first plantings back in the late 50's, we've collected more than 3,000 species and cultivars of plants to support UD's undergraduate and graduate curriculum, and to educate those beyond our campus such as green industry professionals and our visitors from across the region. The collection includes unique specimens for comparative study, to inspire aesthetic design, and to illustrate ecological relationships.



UD's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) students, personnel and visitors enjoyed the display of color that lined the front of Townsend Hall thanks to the leadership efforts of Dr. Bob Lyons, Professor Emeritus, Univ. of Delaware and former Longwood Graduate Program Director and the planting efforts of fellow UDBG volunteers.

Photo: Monica Moriak

However, **YOU** are the true stars of the garden. Our many friends who have supported the garden, assisted in its maturation, and have polished it to reveal the gem that it is today.

# WHO IS



Amy Smith (far right) and her fellow Picassos - Angela Breuer, Tanja Seibt, Greta Hansen and Anita Wellner give a welcomed facelift to the UDBG houses.  
Photo: Valann Budischak

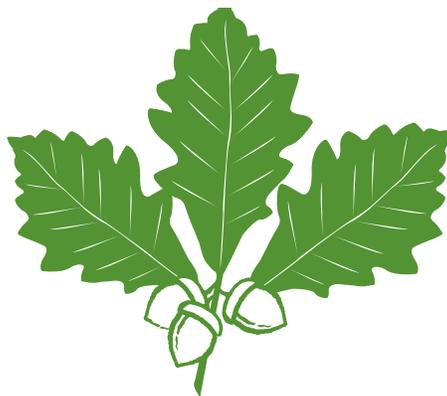
Who is **'YOU'**?

**YOU** are the UDBG Friends Group, founded more than 25 years ago by a group of enthusiastic volunteers who had planted and maintained the Herbaceous Garden. Now over 325 strong, the UDBG Friends continue to advocate, fund, and support the UDBG. You assist us in our expanded research, educational and environmental stewardship programming. If you've got an idea for a class, workshop, etc..... bring it on! We want to hear it. This is your garden.

**YOU** are the many dedicated volunteers that assist us in the garden and nursery, potting, and the preparation and running of the plant sale. Some of you also jump in to lend a hand with administrative tasks, spearhead garden projects and nursery repairs, and share your creative side via fundraising ideas and teaming for classes, workshops and garden enhancements.



# YOU?



Highlights of this summer's volunteer efforts include: the trial garden and beds in front of Townsend led by Bob Lyons with help from our top-notch garden team; a 1.5-mile fitness walk beginning at UDairy Creamery designed and launched by Jackie Perry; the renovation of the natives grove along Sincock Lane; our new gate to the nursery area courtesy of Mike Janis; and the design and painting of the murals on the perennial and woody houses led by Amy Smith and her fellow Picassos.

**YOU** are the many supporters of our summer internship program. Your Patron contributions enabled five students to receive an enriching educational experience in 2019. It was a privilege to watch them grow in their horticultural knowledge, skills, and self-confidence, while learning to work effectively as a team. These are lifelong skills they will draw upon and continue to hone throughout their careers. Those of you who attended our Open Garden event in August saw, firsthand, their efforts as the "Fabulous Five" offered garden tours as a culmination of their summer at UDBG.

Thanks to YOU, the gardens look fantastic and have been enjoyed and utilized by many. As a matter of fact, UD's Employee Health and Wellness held yoga classes in the garden this fall and met with rave reviews. We also opened five areas of the garden for reservations-required premier tailgating for UD Football Games. The gardens are truly a gem. Our UDBG team feels honored to be stewards of that treasure as WE join forces to make it shine even brighter. WE are all partners in the future of the UDBG.



UDBG Summer Interns learn horticultural management strategies of Nemours Mansion & Gardens from Manager of Gardens and Grounds, Ken Darsney  
Photo: Valann Budischak



Lafferty Endowment Intern Mary McCausland (middle) and Parvis Family Endowment Intern Christian Stoltz were toured around the United States Botanic Garden in Washington D.C. as part of their endowed intern experience by USBG Volunteer Coordinator in Public Programs and UD CANR Alum Elizabeth Barton (right).  
Photo: Andrew Adams



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# Where are they now?

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Carrie Murphey at a Food Bank Delaware conference explains the mechanics of composting. Photo: Courtesy Cooperative Extension

After her graduation, Dr. Frett encouraged Carrie to apply to the UDBG summer internship because it built upon Carrie's passion for gardening and engaging with the public. During her internship at UDBG, Carrie and the other interns attempted to keep up with Dr. Frett as he led them around the gardens, sharing his great wealth of knowledge about any and every plant. Carrie relished the field trips during the internship which introduced her to new gardens and additional contacts in the field of public horticulture. She also enjoyed learning how to operate the various equipment at the garden.

After her internship at the botanic gardens, Carrie was hired to work at University of Delaware's Cooperative Extension. In this position, she combines her love of horticulture and people in an exciting, multifaceted, ever-changing job. She works as an educator, coordinating master gardeners and organizing home and commercial horticulture educational events. In her other role as a Program Leader, she coordinates the Ornamental Horticulture Program and collaborates with other program leaders to provide leadership to the Cooperative Extension team. The Cooperative Extension staff designs their programming in part from the information the public requests. Carrie loves that her job is continuously evolving with changing times and remains relevant to best assist the New Castle community



## AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY RECIPROCAL ADMISSIONS PROGRAM UPDATE

As part of your UDBG Friends Membership, you receive reciprocal admission to over 320 gardens throughout North America, one of our greatest benefits. Recently five new gardens joined the program: Ventura Botanical Gardens in Ventura, CA; Louisiana State University Hilltop Arboretum in Baton Rouge, LA (top); the Community Arboretum at Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke, VA (bottom); Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston, SC; and the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, DC. Please go to AHS's website to see a complete list of gardens:

[www.ahsgardening.org/rap](http://www.ahsgardening.org/rap)



# Phytophthora Resistant Plants

Nancy Gregory,  
UD Plant Diagnostician

*Phytophthora* root rot, a soil borne disease caused by a fungus-like organism, is a widespread problem which can affect many woody and herbaceous landscape plants. Azalea, holly, rhododendron, and juniper are the most frequently affected plant groups in the eastern landscape. An infected site should not be replanted with susceptible hosts. Increase the drainage and plant a more resistant shrub or tree. The best control for *Phytophthora* is to avoid getting it started in the first place. *Phytophthora* is favored by planting susceptible species and cultivars in poorly drained soils, or by overwatering even though drainage may be adequate. Once a *Phytophthora* problem is established in a landscape site, the best option is to remove the affected plants and replace with resistant species. Some

good choices include *Ilex glabra* (inkberry holly), *Clethra alnifolia* (summersweet), *Itea* sp (sweetspire), *Physocarpus opulifolius* (Eastern ninebark), and *Leucothoe fontanesiana* (drooping laurel). Examples suggested by extension agents in North Carolina include *Nandina*, Chinese holly (cultivars including 'Rotunda', 'Dwarf Burford' and 'Carissa'), liriope, Indian hawthorn, and *Camellia sasanqua* cultivars (*Camellia japonica* is highly susceptible). The rhododendron hybrids: 'Caroline', 'Martha Isaacson', 'Professor Hugo de Vries' and 'Red Head' are considered resistant. In addition, the azalea cultivars 'Formosa', 'Fred Cochran', 'Fakir' and 'Corrine Murrah' are considered highly resistant. Other **resistant** azalea cultivars include *Rhododendron poukhanese*, 'Formosa', 'Fakir', 'Corrine Murrah', 'Merlin', 'Hampton Beauty', 'Higasa', 'Pink Gumpo' and 'Delaware Valley'. **Susceptible** cultivars include 'White Gumpo', 'Hinodegiri', 'Hershey Red', 'Coral Bells', 'Pink Pearl' and 'Hino Crimson'. Susceptible cultivars are the most widely planted, due to desirable horticultural characteristics. Resistant hybrids are not immune to disease, but more tolerant. Chemical control is generally not practical for the homeowner, and involves a drench or injection by a certified applicator.

## SPRING PLANT SALE *SNEAK PREVIEW*

*Con't on back pg.*



North American native perennial and outstanding pollinator plant *Pycnanthemum muticum* (Short-toothed Mountain Mint) in Rick Darke and Melinda Zoehrer's home garden.  
Photo: Rick Darke



Velvety, hooded, deep red-purple flowers on *Salvia* 'Nachtvlinder' (Night Moth Sage) at Gravetye Manor in England.  
Photo: Melinda Zoehrer



# The Subtle Beauty of Winter in the Garden

Alexis Bacon, Past UDBG Annual Intern

To the casual observer, winter may seem like the most uninspiring season in the garden. Plants are in a state of slumber, storing resources in anticipation of spring. Flowers are extremely rare and the landscape is composed of primarily shades of green and brown. Beauty in the winter garden is subtle, yet its understated nature can make it more rewarding to seek out. The absence of leaves and flowers can reveal interesting bark, buds, fruit, texture, and form that are not ordinarily visible. As deciduous trees lose their leaves, evergreens hold up the display of green and provide color and interest in the landscape. The Clark Garden is one of the best places in UDBG to visit in winter, especially when it is cloaked in snow.

Ornamental bark is especially obvious in winter. On the corner of College Avenue and the entrance drive is a *Parrotia persica*, a graceful tree with massive, low-hanging branches, and interesting, mottled bark with

gray, tan, and orangish spots. Further along the path in the Clark Garden is a beautiful *Acer griseum*, which has shiny, exfoliating bark that catches the sunlight, causing the tree to glow vibrantly. Near it is a *Pinus bungeana*, new to UDBG's collection this spring, has mottled green, orange, brown, and cream bark and chartreuse needles.

After leaf drop in the autumn, the form of a tree or

shrub also becomes more apparent. Towards the center of the Clark Garden is a magnificent *Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum*. Its dramatically twisting branches end in delicate, fine stems, making it one of the favorite plants in the garden. Another plant which looks fabulous in



*Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum* Photo: Alexis Bacon

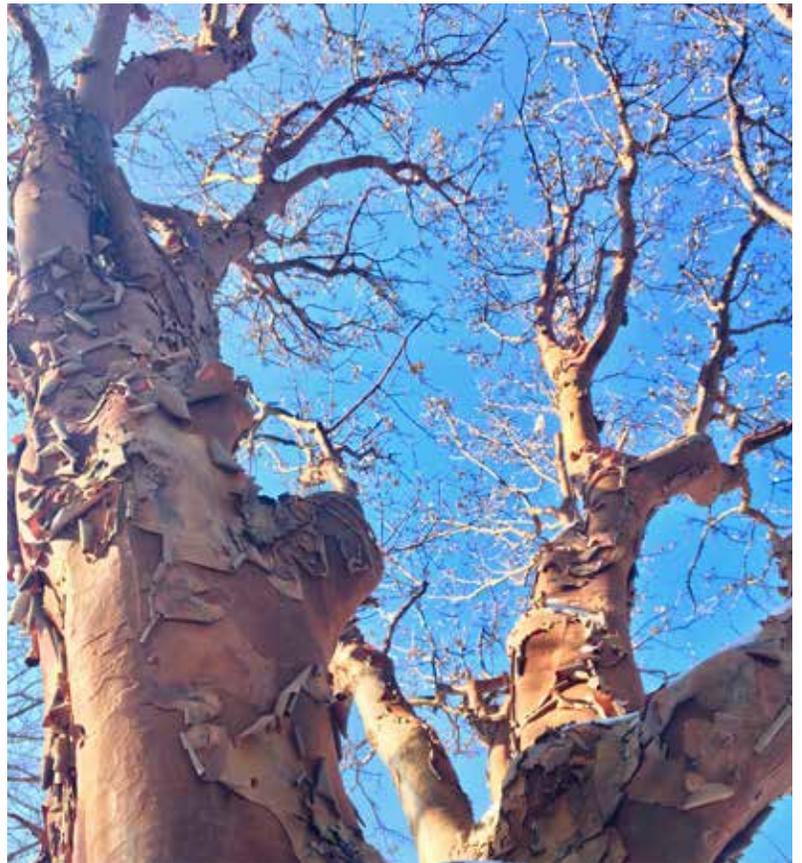
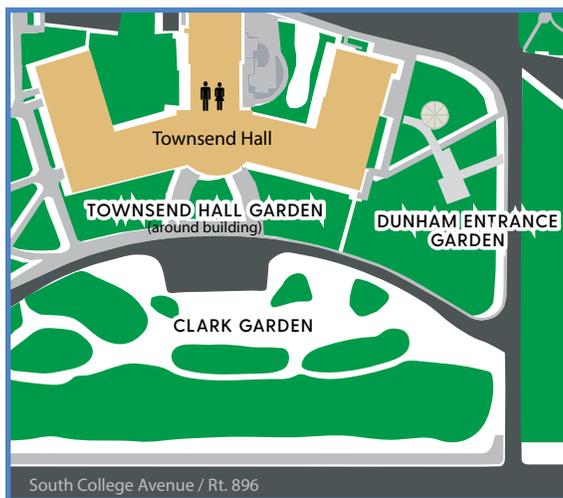
winter is *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta', or Harry Lauder's walkingstick. Its dense mass of corkscrew stems give it a whimsical, unique form, in stark contrast to the stately evergreens surrounding it. *Picea abies* 'Inversa', a weeping cultivar of Norway spruce that bends mournfully over the path, looks especially stunning cloaked in snow.



As autumn fades and the last leaves drop, evergreens continue to carry color throughout the winter. The Clark Garden in winter is an exquisite tapestry of nearly every shade of green imaginable. In the garden bed that sits below the stone wall, *Taxus ×media* ‘Thomsen’ creates a dense screen with its vertical branching habit and medium green leaves. Towards the heart of the Clark Garden is a wonderful *Chamaecyparis pisifera* ‘Filifera Aurea’ that adds a bright gold-green to the area. *Pinus koraiensis* ‘Morris Blue’, has long needles that are arranged like pom-poms on the ends of the branches, which with a whitish blue stripe, lends a frosted look. Be sure not to miss the variegated cream and green needles of *Pinus densiflora* ‘Oculus Draconis’.

Winter gardens have a quiet, modest beauty composed of variations in texture, form, bark, shades of green, and more rarely, fruit and flowers. A winter walk through the landscape can be very rewarding, especially after a freshly fallen snow.

Below: The Clark Garden is located in front of Townsend Hall, and is accessible from the walking path.



One of the oldest plant specimens at UDBG, *Acer griseum* (Paperbark Maple), with rich, cinnamon-colored bark.  
Photo: Alexis Bacon



*Pinus bungeana* (Lacebark Pine) exfoliating bark at UDBG  
Photo: Alexis Bacon





*Stachys* 'Hummelo', 2019 Perennial Plant of the Year, in Piet Oudolf's garden in the Netherlands. Photo: Melinda Zoehrer



Purple flower spikes on native North American shrub *Amorphia canescens* (Lead Plant) in Piet Oudolf's garden in Holland. Photo: Melinda Zoehrer



Electric blue globes of *Echinops bannaticus* 'Taplow Blue'. Photo: Melinda Zoehrer



Native North American vine *Aristolochia macrophylla* (Pipevine) in the garden of Rick Darke and Melinda Zoehrer. Photo: Rick Darke



We have some dynamite class offerings: Rick Darke's offering new 5-session course on *Native Plants of Eastern North America*, a Pollinator Series called *Let's Talk About the Birds & Bees* by Doug Tallamy & Debbie Delaney, and Paul Meyer is giving an incredible lecture on *Plant Exploration for Trees: Why it is Critical in the 21st Century*. Visit [canr.udel.edu/udbg](http://canr.udel.edu/udbg) for more details.

## SUPPORT UD BOTANIC GARDENS

*Your support helps the advancement, improvement, and success of the UD Botanic Gardens. Your gift enables the gardens to expand as an outdoor classroom, an experiential laboratory, and a research center.*



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
**AGRICULTURE &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

### Contact Information

<http://canr.udel.edu/udbg>  
Newsletter editor: Susan Baldwin

### Visit the UD Botanic Garden

UDBG is open to visitors everyday from sunrise to sunset; admission is free  
Please obtain a visitor parking pass (\$3.00) online at  
<https://udel.t2hosted.com/cmnl/index.aspx>  
or use the metered parking near the UDairy Creamery

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to read our anti-discrimination policy in its entirety.

