



# Friends of the Hort Farm

## 2022 – The Year of ZOOM

Dorothy Lovering

Our first Zoom event was in January with Will Creed's popular talk on house plants and their care. Followed with a zoom session on raingardens and how they are used to treat stormwater runoff. By mid-May, the lilacs were beginning to show some buds for Kitty Werner's annual program on lilacs, and they were in full bloom for our May 21 Bloom Time Festival. This year we expanded this annual festival to include information on invasive garden pests to look out for, a Woodland Walk where Gracie Lawrence and her Eagle Scout group had been working hard to clear the walk, a food truck for hungry visitors, and music by the Women of UVM, Ladies of the Uke, giving us lively ukulele music throughout the day. With the support of a generous Friends member, we engaged Charlie Nardozi to speak on "Today's Garden Methods." Our other speaker, Craig Newman of Outreach for Earth Stewardship, brought two beautiful owls for a demonstration.

Many thanks to Stephanie Miner and Margaret Bartholomew, who

greeted visitors at the welcome table and answered many questions, to board member Jim Hayden for giving tractor rides, and to John and Nancy Simson for managing the membership table. We rounded out the day with face painting, plein air painters, a scavenger hunt, and FHF curators available to talk about our collections. Our thanks to all who helped put this most successful Bloom Time together.

Our summer programs explored the Rhododendrons for a walk and talk with our new curator, Paul Wieczorek, growing peonies by Sarah Salatino who brought beautiful blooms to enchant us, and An Afternoon of Field Sketching with Jane Neroni at her home, where 15 people had the opportunity to take advantage of her skills and learn about sketching plants.

A successful plant sale was held in July, The Art of Garden Photography showing us how to use the camera for taking perfect garden photographs is our October program, and Creating a Winter Centerpiece on Dec. 3 will be our last program for 2022. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Plant Sale Nursery Donors

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Full Circle Gardens, Essex  
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Marijke's Perennial Gardens Plus,  
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Red Wagon Plants  
River Walk Farm  
Rocky Dale Gardens  
Sam Mazza Farmstand & Greenhouses  
Summersweet Gardens  
The Farm Between at Sterling College  
UVM Greenhouse, Burlington

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## Autumn 2022

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# Happenings This Year



*meyeri in October*

Planning a year of programs is an enormous, and sometimes thankless, job. That our programs are as excellent as they are is the work of Dorothy Lovering a long-standing board member who also is our publicity guru. We couldn't do this without her!

One rather unexpected project was the clean-up and repair of the Woodland Walk that had been sadly ignored for years, almost lost to over- and undergrowth.

Early in the year, an email arrived from the Lawrence family who bought Stephanie Miner's home next to the Hort Farm. They have four children, all scouts; but one, Gracie, needed a project to earn her Eagle Badge. Did we have any projects that she could plan and execute?

Did we? Well, as lilac curator—would helping kill off invasives in the lilacs work? After a zoom call with Gracie and her mother, Jen, I learned what Gracie seriously wanted to work on was creating a path in the woods as that was what she was planning to do before moving to Vermont. As it happens, we do have the Woodland Walk that desperately needs help. We are fortunate indeed that the scouts took on the Woodland Walk and it is once again a path to enjoy. Thank you, Scouts! See Gracie's story on the next page.

The FHF was quite fortunate that Paul Wiczorek took on the curatorship of the Rhododendrons this summer. Seeing the mess the nearby conifer collection was—too crowded and overgrown with invasives—he arranged to have the conifers spread out and cleaned of invasives.

Volunteers help us keep our collections thriving and looking their best. We'd be lost without them. Work in

the lilacs has cleared out plenty of invasive vines, trees, and pruned out many dead canes. Anthony Hamilton, the new Hort Farm manager, can attest to the piles left around the rows.

Volunteers working in the rhododendrons spruced up the collection for their June showing. The pollinator garden workdays always brings out crowds.

The Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association held their Fall meeting at the Hort Farm! Paul Wiczorek and John Padua took a parade of visitors over to the rhododendrons and conifers to learn more about them. And the FHF made quite a few new friends.

After many years of tackling our accounting, Nancy Simson has retired. We can't thank her enough. She recommended Tanya Demers as a worthy successor. Tanya took over the bookkeeping this summer.

Hayley decided it was about time to clean up the FHF corner of the Blasburg Building. It was beyond a nightmare. She had had enough! We couldn't find anything! Simply piles of "stuff" and junk.

Now, we have a clean, useful area. We can find things we need! To top that, one of the discoveries is an old card file with all the information on the rhododendron collection as it was planted. Next time you visit, have a look.

Thank you, Hayley!





# The Woodland Walk Scout Project



Left to right: Charlie Lawrence, William Lawrence, Henry Lawrence, Mathew Ploof, Betsua Reyes, Max Bumback, Liz Lawrence, Walker Hughes, Aiden Parascando , Liam Slattery, Linus Leavens, Nate Leavens, Trey Uttecht, and Jen Lawrence. Gracie Lawrence is in the foreground thumbs up!

Gracie Lawrence  
Eagle Scout Troop 6110

I was thrilled to complete my Eagle Scout project at the UVM Horticulture Farm, which consisted of revitalizing the Woodland Walk, which is a 1,900 foot walking path. The path was a bit overgrown and wasn't really well-marked out. Working with the Friends of the Hort Farm, I led a group of my fellow scouts to clean up and clearly mark out the path in May 2022. It took the better part of the day to finish, and I was really proud of what we did. The path is now easily accessible, and visitors to the Hort Farm can walk along the path and see all kinds of interesting plants and trees.

I am really proud of the project and grateful to The Friends of Hort Farm for giving me the opportunity to help out.

I'm planning on heading back to the Woodland Walk again before the end of the year to make sure it's still open and easily accessible.

**Right:** Liz Lawrence, Max Bunback, and Henry Lawrence clearing the path





# Pollinator Garden Update



## Debbie Page, Co-Curator

In early October, we had a lovely turn out of about ten people to help us put the Pollinator Garden to bed. We left lots of flowers, grasses and stalks for the pollinators, insects and birds. And we edged.

Karen Burke taught us that insects need a place (stalks) to lay their eggs for more than a year until hatching.

Norma Donovan demonstrated an ergonomic way to edge, but almost threw her clippers and claw rake into the compost pile.

Stacey brought pots so everyone who wanted to, could take some over-enthusiastic plants home (North-

wind Grasses and October Skies asters) as souvenirs.

Jim Hayden (as usual) was all over the place returning stray volunteer plants to their mother plant.

Hayley Hornus and Max brought cider and doughnuts. Terry Bradshaw of the Hort Farm donated delicious apples from his orchard there.

We made lots of new friends including Lynn, a behavior specialist who manages the Williston Central School garden. And we had some returnees: Ann Miloskoff, Mary Jo and Mary Gardner. A new couple showed up after having trouble finding the place. Kitty was somewhere in the lilacs. Nancy Simson raked up a storm.

## Paul Wieczoreck, our new Rhododendron curator

Paul Wieczoreck, horticulturist and owner of Champlain Valley Landscaping, joined the Friends of the Horticulture Farm as the curator of the Rhododendron Collection. He has been a rhododendron collector and grower for 35 years. The rhododendron collection at the Horticulture Farm was started in the 1960s, and Paul looks forward to the role of caring for and developing the collection further.

Paul graduated from the University of Vermont and worked at the Horticulture Farm after graduation, so he is very familiar with the environment there. He says, "The thing I'm most excited about is trying to manage what I think is one of the more impressive collections of mature rhododendrons in the state." His work will allow the rhododendron collection to thrive and continue to be available to the public. Paul is committed to instilling a greater awareness in the community of the resources that are available at the Hort Farm.







## Cary Garden Update

Jim Hayden, curator

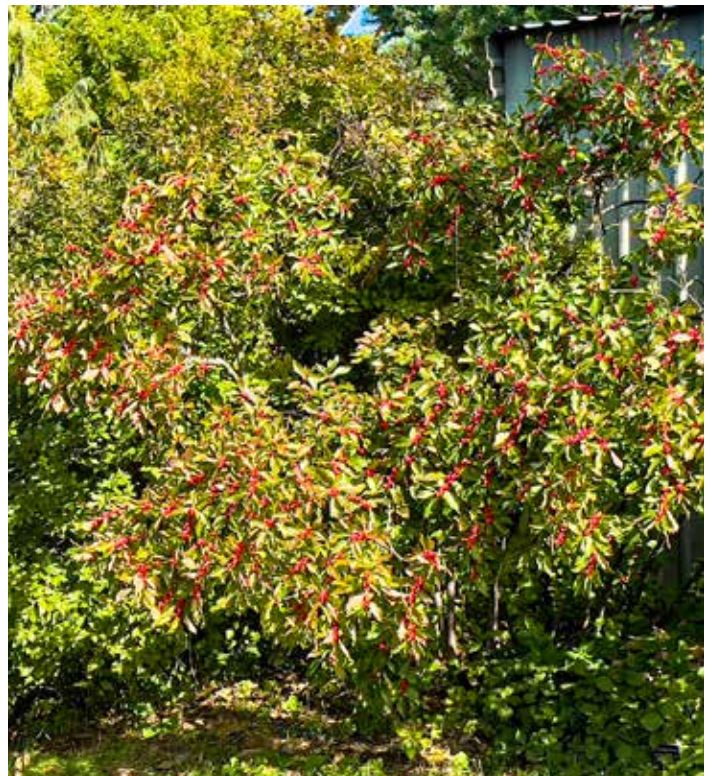
There is little new to report about the Cary Garden this fall. In the spring, a great group of volunteers mulched the collection. Earlier, as part of his yearly pruning tutorial, Tom Shea cleaned up a number of the plants. Most of the collection has been stable this summer with few invasives to attack. The only concerns are the Korean Fir which continues to drop too many needles and the Large Fothergilla which is being crowded by adjacent plants. If funds allow, maybe we could get it moved next year. In the future it would be great to add some later Cary Award winners to the collection such as a Korean Dogwood, a Weeping Katsura Tree, or a Redvein Enkianthus.

The fall Invasives Workday on October 1st was a great success in spite of limited attendance. The focus was primarily on row 5 in the lilac collection, removing sumac and bittersweet.

Also, the area around the Golden Rain Tree was further cleaned-up. (See above.) This remains a great success story where a couple of years ago it was completely covered by bittersweet, grape, and wild rose. The last two summers we've seen a good show of bright yellow flowers and good growth.

Another success story are the winterberry bushes at

the corner of the Blasberg. Two years ago, they were so overwhelmed by bittersweet, wild grape, and raspberries it was difficult to recognize what they were. This fall, the females are displaying a good crop of fruit, as seen in the picture below.







# Lilac Collection Update

Kitty Werner, curator

Thanks to volunteers who came to clean up invasives in April, the lilacs were at their best in May. Unfortunately, we found our Dr. Masters lilac (above) had finally died. Tad Dippel and I had done monumental work cleaning out invasive bittersweet two years ago, and the battle was continued thereafter. To no avail. RIP Dr. Masters.

For our annual Lilac Walk and Talk, we invited Charlie Proutt of Hosford Garden & Nursery to share his knowledge. Before he started, as we walked through the rows, he turned to me and said that this collection was in horrible shape. Compared to the shape the collection was in when I took over, plus all the work volunteers have done in the last 3 years, the lilacs look infinitely better.

The invasive issue is a constant threat, the collection needs compost and mulch—which is in short supply. And it certainly needs more aggressive invasive removal.



In June, volunteers worked to clean up the lilacs and uncovered little lilacs hidden by grasses and, naturally, invasive junk. They did a remarkable job!

In October, I spent 3 afternoons cutting down a tree that had almost completely taken over the 4-lilac row that contains Belle de Nancy, Wolffi Pink, Jean Macè and *meyeri* PI23032. The tree completely overwhelmed Wolffi Pink and Jean Macè. While it is gone for now—it will be back next year as it is every year.



There are still two Paul Thirion lilacs, if you count the tiny sprout we are trying to save from the original dead lilac. That poor sprout (the arrow) has been mowed, and hidden by grass and bittersweet for years.







October 1st, row 5 lilacs were cleaned out by volunteers, and now cardboard and woodchips are trying to make that a permanent end to the sumac. **If you have any large pieces of cardboard—we could use them!** We have a huge area to cover between the lilacs and the Golden Rain Tree.



One surprise, the remaining Josee Reblooming lilac (of two) planted in 2019 bloomed again this year. The second lilac was mowed over too many times to survive in spite of efforts to prevent that. With tall posts around the 3 remaining 2019 lilacs, there's hope they won't be mowed again.



We are working on new programs for 2023, along with several favorites. Charlotte Albers will present a program on Two English Gardens. Nancy Simson's Leaf Garden Workshop will teach us how to make garden sculptures with leaves. There will be programs on soil, bees, conifers, lilacs, rhododendrons, pruning and more.

### The Flower Show is Returning!

The Vermont Flower Show is returning on March 3-5, 2023, at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds, and

the Friends of the Hort Farm will have a booth there. The theme for the show is Out of Hibernation! Spring Comes to the 100-Acre Wood, bringing the world of Winnie-the-Pooh to life! Along with the Grand Garden Display of flowers, bulbs, trees and shrubs, there will be seminars, workshops and many vendors.

Joanna Cummings, FHF Plant Sale volunteer, with a background in horticulture, communications, and exhibit design, has stepped forward to help us put our exhibit together. She will head up and manage a sub-committee to design and create our booth. We are very happy to have her help!