It’s hard to imagine a garden without daylilies, and for good reason. Few other perennials offer the seemingly impossible array of qualities found within a single genus (*Hemerocallis*). Single vs. double flowers, tall vs. short plant habits, fragrance vs. none whatsoever, early vs. late to flower, and flower colors across a spectrum lacking blue make daylilies uniquely capable of pleasing most any gardener, from rank amateur to seasoned professional. Whether endeared as a straight species or complex hybrids, daylilies also exhibit a proven and wide tolerance for variable soil conditions and sun exposure. Simply put, these plants perform in spite of conditions that would challenge most other perennials. Resilience is their middle name!

For the first time in UDBG plant sale history, an herbaceous plant will be featured alongside a woody (*Aesculus*, Horsechestnut) species at the 2016 Spring Plant Sale. Daylilies are deserving of that inaugural honor and at least 25 different cultivars have been carefully selected to represent what is an enormous palette of species and hybrids. Additionally, most are the recipients of prestigious awards as judged by *Hemerocallis* experts, who often focus on rewarding superior combinations of garden performance, unique flower color, flower quantity/plant, the ability to rebloom, and seasonal flowering time, among other considerations.

One of those awards, the Stout Silver Medal, is granted by the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) to a cultivar.
As cooler days and even cooler evenings affect the rich colors of fall foliage, do not underestimate the tenacity of some plants and their autumnal flowers, including False-holly (*Osmanthus × heterophyllus*), Fortune’s osmanthus (*Osmanthus × fortunei*), fall camellia (*Camellia sasanqua*) and tea (*Camellia sinensis*). A lovely tea plant is located in the new hydrangea garden completed this summer by UDBG’s summer interns and the 2013-2015 curatorial graduate student **Jason Veil** (see update on page 4 for news on Jason). Late-season color on the hydrangeas, the evergreen framework of the hollies, and a diverse selection of other plants that provide interest throughout the year are worth a visit.

In addition to the new hydrangea garden, the summer interns added **150 new woody trees and shrubs** to the plant collection and completed a **paved serpentine walkway** near UDBG’s office in the South Greenhouse that reaches from the front of the building to the side. We invite you to come walk this pathway and enjoy its plantings next time you visit.

We whole-heartedly thank the summer interns for their work. **Julia Conrad, Natalie Felice, Sarah Morales**, and **Caroline Toth** were hard-working, dedicated interns who achieved great things this summer. An effective team and a pleasure to work with, they are outstanding garden ambassadors. (UDBG even outfitted them in UDBG blue & gold t-shirts for instant recognition.) We are fortunate to have retained Carrie for this fall to continue the tradition. Also, we’d like to extend a warm welcome to **Anna Bower**, UDBG’s 2015-2017 curatorial graduate student. She worked diligently throughout the summer to accession and to map the additions to UDBG’s plant collection. A graduate of Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, Anna was a Natural Areas Intern at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania.

The generous support of Plant Sale Patrons... allows us to accomplish great things for student education experiences.
A Special Thank You

As a college professor, volunteer, staunch supporter, donor, and a good friend, Bob Lyons is a constant source of inspiration. His generosity with his time as President of the UDBG Advisory Board, his organization of the dynamic Color Trials, and his unsurpassed $25,000 gift are a measure of his belief in the UDBG. He sets an example of how actions speak louder than words, his desire to make a difference, and his gift sets a new standard for commitment and support for the UDBG. We owe him warm, heart-felt thanks.

Director’s Corner
cont’d from page 2

Prior to that, she was a Nursery Management Intern at Longwood Gardens. When not in class or teaching Botany 1 lab, Anna can be found in the UDBG office or mapping plants on the grounds.

Many of our Student Programs, including Summer Interns and the Curatorial Graduate Student, depend on the generous support of our Plant Sale Patrons, who allow us to accomplish great things for student education. I would like to thank everyone who participated 2014/2015, and, in particular, the generous individuals who sponsored an entire summer student internship with a gift of $5,000: Donna Gerst and Glenn Hardcastle, Betty and Robert Shellenbarger, Elizabeth and William Sharp, and P. Coleman and Susan Townsend.

Finally, I would like to thank Dean Mark Reiger for his tremendous support for the UDBG. Through his generosity, he funded the purchase of a new utility vehicle for the interns and garden maintenance. The old “hummer” served us well for more than 20 years but was in dire need of repairs, impeded by the fact parts were no longer available. If it were not for the Dean’s generosity, we would be pushing wheelbarrows and pulling trailers by hand. I greatly appreciate his continuing support of the UDBG.

Aronia arbutifolia (red chokeberry) Image: Rick Darke
The UDBG was dealt a one-two punch this summer with the passing of two of our loyal volunteers. Delia “Dilly” Schwartz passed away on August 9th, and Cecily Cooper the following day, on August 10th. Both Dilly & Cecily assisted in the Tuesday morning potting group and at our plant sales. Dilly was also a fixture in our garden sessions. Their kindness, spirit of adventure, and willingness to share of their time and talents are sorely missed.

Dilly Schwartz
Cecily Cooper
Former UDBG Curatorial Graduate Student Jason Veil (‘15), was recently awarded the Holly Society of America’s Shiu-Ying Hu Award for “outstanding contribution to the knowledge of the genus Ilex.” Last August, Jason was hired as Director of Horticulture for The Trustees of Reservations, a nonprofit conservation organization in Massachusetts that preserves more than a hundred properties of scenic, historic, and ecological value. Jason's curatorial expertise and leadership skills will be put to work overseeing twelve public gardens across the state. As the institution’s inaugural director, he is responsible for day-to-day management of horticultural, curatorial, and research activities as well as long-range organizational planning. We wish him the best of luck in his new endeavor!

Past UDBG summer interns Sarah Morales (2015) and Emma Brown (2014) were selected to be the first participants in UD Blossoms, a 6-month interdisciplinary learning experience that provides flower arrangements for special events on campus. Through a partnership between boutique event company THERESA Floral Design and the UD College of Agricultural and Natural Resources, Sarah and Emma are getting plenty of hands-on experience in all aspects of the floral design business, from purchasing and design to marketing and selling.

Matt Lobdell (‘13), past UDBG Curatorial Graduate Student, now serves as Curator and Head of Collections at The Morton Arboretum, in Lisle, Illinois, an internationally recognized outdoor tree museum on 1,700 acres. Since his appointment in January 2015, he has been responsible for managing the Arboretum's living collections, one of the most comprehensive collections of woody plant in North America. His work includes overseeing tree collections that have earned special recognition from the North American Plant Collections Consortium, a network of gardens dedicated to conserving plants and setting standards for collections management.

Former summer intern Cat Meholic reports that a recent visit to the UDBG “brought back my fond memories of my internship back in 2008, and made me appreciate the start that UDBG gave me to my current path.” As the Plant Recorder at Mt. Cuba Center in Greenville, DE, she is tasked with keeping track of the garden’s extensive collection of plants native to the Appalachian Piedmont Region. Working with a team of interns and volunteers, Cat uses a digital inventory and mapping database to record plant locations, manage labels, and keep everything (and everyone!) up-to-date on plant name changes.

Volunteer Spotlight is Dimmer

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UDBG Gardens Featured in National Publication

Last September, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) released *The Campus Wild: How College and University Green Landscapes Provide Havens for Wildlife “Lands-on” Experiences for Students*. UDBG was featured in the publication, which highlights 85 higher education institutions, representing all 50 states including the District of Columbia, and showcases a variety of habitat-related projects from diverse regions across the U.S.

The richly detailed guide highlights how colleges and universities are playing a dynamic role protecting wildlife and restoring habitats in campus green spaces—including on-campus landscapes and natural areas, as well as distant campus-owned lands. It explores how such green places—dedicated to “The Wild”—also can benefit students, faculty, and staff with leadership opportunities, hands-on learning, energy savings, water conservation, and much more.

The gardens feature many native tree species including pawpaw, persimmon, American yellowwood, blackgum, American hickory, white ash, sweet birch, river birch, and pitch pine. A wide variety of birds and “herps” have been sighted there: woodcocks, Virginia rails, northern waterthrush, green frogs, bullfrogs, garter snakes, black snakes, and Eastern painted turtles. Numerous butterflies and moths also have been between habitat size and change in songbird populations over time. A recent graduate student project looked at nesting parasitism of wood thrush nests in Ecology Woods (with 20 birds) and elsewhere in Newark, finding that wood thrush nest success was heavily affected by cowbirds, which lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. Other research efforts include determining if insects are more attracted to native plant...
that has previously received the Award of Merit from AHS, so it’s an award for an already-awarded cultivar—very selective, indeed! Six of the cultivars in this year’s sale are Stout Award winners, one of which being ‘Ruffled Apricot’; a stunning, fragrant, oversized (7 inches) flower in rich apricot and one of the most popular daylilies of all time. All told, our sale inventory has 10 award-winning cultivars, represented by the Stout and AHS Award of Merit, including ‘Buttered Popcorn’, ‘Fairy Tale Pink’, ‘Strawberry Candy’, and ‘Frankly Scarlet’. Yet tucked within the array of prestigious award winners in the sale, but not to be overshadowed, is ‘Hyperion’. Though winner of no awards, it has indeed won the hearts and attention ever since being introduced commercially in the 1920’s. To say that this daylily is the “queen of the tried-and-true” would be an understatement. Each ‘Hyperion’ flower is 5 inches across, lemon yellow, fragrant, and perched atop 3-foot scapes. Hands down, it is one of the most requested cultivars by the landscape trade due to its certifiably bold display and bullet-proof, reliable performance.

It would be unfair not to mention that daylilies are favorite deer food. Everyone seems to have their favorite remedy to deter deer, so talk to fellow gardeners and pick your option. Effective choices include most of the commercially available repellents that are diluted and sprayed on the plants and flowers, deer netting, pet dogs, and homemade concoctions containing chili peppers, garlic, rotten eggs, and/or ground pepper, among many other assorted ingredients. Bottom line, don’t be deterred from including daylilies in your own garden this year!

Native beauties like *Ostrya virginana* (American hop hornbeam) (left) and *Viburnum acerifolium* (mapleleaf viburnum) will be highlighted in the upcoming lecture/lab series by UDBG Director John Frett. Images: Rick Darke

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**Lecture and Lab Series Begins January 2016**

“Regional Native Trees & Shrubs”

*Mini-Series Lectures & Lab by Dr. John Frett*

Classes/labs: 6:30-8:30 p.m., 132 Townsend Hall
- Canopy Trees – Wednesday, January 13
- Understory trees – Wednesday, January 20
- Shrubs – Wednesday, January 27

White Clay Creek walk*: 9-11 a.m., Saturday, January 23

UDBG Friends: $25/session;
Nonmembers: $35/session
*Walk free with 3 paid classes, or else same cost as above

Become familiar with the beauty we often take for granted on our daily commutes and our weekend strolls. Join UDBG Director **John Frett** as we discuss the cultural (light and soil requirements, ease of growth) of these native beauties and how they may fit into your home landscape. The walk will provide an opportunity to view many of the plants in person and discuss their identification more fully.

Registration and prepayment required: botanicgardens@udel.edu or 302-831-2531

Inclement weather dates: Thursdays 1/14, 1/21, 1/28. Payment will be refunded for cancellations made 10 business days prior.

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**Reciprocal Admissions Program Expands**

**New Gardens for 2016**

- Mt. Cuba Center – Hockessin, DE
- Miami Beach Botanical Garden – Miami Beach, FL
- Ormond Beach Memorial Art Museum & Gardens – Ormond Beach, FL
- The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park – Traverse City, MI
- Binghamton Zoo at Ross Park – Binghamton, NY
- Mercer Botanic Gardens – Humble, TX
- The East Texas Arboretum & Botanical Society – Athens, TX
- Thanksgiving Point Gardens – Lehi, UT
- PowellsWood Garden – Federal Way, WA
- W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory – Tacoma, WA

Visit the American Horticultural Society website for the full list of **special admissions privileges and discounts for UDBG members**:

http://www.ahs.org/gardening-programs/rap/find
Mudpies? Nope, It’s Hypertufa

It may have looked like they were just getting messy to enjoy a youthful blast from the past, but the 20 mudpie-makers that donned rubber gloves and masks in August were making hypertufa leaves and mushrooms for display in their gardens. What fun! A special thanks to UDBG members Catherine Buckminster, Amy Smith and Donna Gerst for leading the effort.

Images: Valann Budischak