



CYLBURN
ARBORETUM
ASSOCIATION

Annual Report
2010

CYLBURN ARBORETUM ASSOCIATION

2010: Continuing Traditions – Celebrating New Directions

ARBORETUM RE-OPENS - VOLLMER CENTER DEDICATED

After being closed for almost two years for construction and renovations, the Arboretum re-opened on May 1, 2010! In addition to improvements to the grounds and facilities at Cylburn, the Vollmer Center was dedicated as a showpiece for the organization's mission of environmental stewardship and education. Its state of the art green technologies and eco-friendly construction features provide a unique setting as an orientation and education center for the arboretum's visitors, and it offers a dynamic entry point to the grounds.



The Association, working with the Department of Recreation and Parks Horticulture Division, the Baltimore Bird Club, Master Gardeners of Baltimore City, the Horticultural society of Maryland and the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, presented a month-long series of kickoff events, with educational programs, tours, and activities to celebrate the re-opening. Fine weather, community spirit and the participation of old and new friends and supporters made the grand opening month a memorable success.



In preparations for the grand opening, the Association's gardeners, Jennifer Forrence and Pat Sherman - with help from a dedicated crew of garden volunteers - made the grounds ready with new plants, improved ornamental display gardens, and new collections. The Maryland Arborist Association selected Cylburn for its annual "day of caring," on March 20, and fifty licensed arborists donated their time to bring large equipment, remove dead trees and storm-damaged limbs, and handle much needed pruning. The St. Georges Garden Club generously donated a new crape myrtle, which was installed in the circle garden in front of the Mansion. Thanks to all of those whose hard work and dedication to the Arboretum made the grand opening a special event!



GARDENS & HORTICULTURE

As usual, a great deal of 2010's focus and effort was devoted to maintaining and improving the gardens. Our first summer "horticulture intern," Eric Barlipp, was hired by the Association to work with our gardeners and augment our presence in the gardens. Eric was able to provide daily watering attention to new plantings, an essential contribution during the summer drought, and worked diligently to remove invasive species in the holly and magnolia collections.



The Worthley Garden, a prominent garden just outside the circle drive in front of the Mansion, was extensively renovated. Our gardeners and volunteers worked closely with the city's greenhouse supervisor, Scott Ritchie, and Jean Worthley to build up the berm (which had eroded over the years), replant it with vibrant sedums, remove invasive plants, organize the majority of the plantings to reflect the design and structure of the garden, and make it an attractive entryway to complement the Mansion. The many positive remarks from visitors recognize the success of this effort.

Summer storms took their toll: the black walnut in front of the Mansion, long the guardian of the front steps, was fatally injured in an intense wind storm in July, and another storm felled several trees at the north end of the Formal Garden. The demise of the black walnut also required transplanting of many of the new shrubs and perennial near it, since they were planted in shade and were now exposed to full sun! Our gardeners responded quickly to this challenge, and found suitable new shady "homes" for these plants. In addition, the downed black walnut has found new life in wood carvings and serving pieces crafted by an artisan working with Melissa Grim and the Department of Recreation and Parks. The items are for sale in the Vollmer Center and at special events throughout the year.



SPECIAL EVENTS

In conjunction with our grand opening, May 8 marked the return to our newly improved lawns of one of Cylburn's most anticipated and well-attended annual events, our traditional Market Day. After a one-year relocation to the parking lots resulting from the ongoing work on the Vollmer Center and the grounds, vendors with plants, crafts, and food drew enthusiastic crowds - who found the newly refurbished grounds and new Vollmer Center to be a wonderful setting for the traditional Market Day event!



In June, the Association hosted a special forum at the Vollmer Center sponsored by the Parks & People Foundation and the Meyerhoff Foundation. Entitled "Great Parks Make Great Cities: The Power of Parks", the event featured guest speaker Lynden Miller, public garden designer in New York City and designer/director of The Conservatory Garden in Manhattan's Central Park and author of *Parks, Plants and People*. The forum drew Baltimore's civic and business leaders to discuss how and why public parks are of economic value to the city. This highly successful forum raised awareness of the need for broad governmental, corporate, and private support for the parks and the valuable role that they play as a public resource.



Lynden Miller, center

Summer brought the sounds of jazz to the Cylburn grounds, as a series of outdoor evening concerts throughout the summer months drew an appreciative audience to enjoy the perfect fusion of music and nature. Crowds grew each week as word spread about the concerts, which were offered free of charge, and our profile was raised in the surrounding community and beyond as a new audience enjoyed the Cylburn experience.



The October foliage was a perfect backdrop for ‘An Afternoon of Music and Nature’, featuring a performance by the Handel Choir of Baltimore. Over 250 visitors enjoyed a free concert followed by a guided tour of the grounds led by CAA volunteers.

The Bulb Bazaar and sale in October brought bulb enthusiasts to the Vollmer Center for a ticketed preview reception honoring Pauline Vollmer, the Center’s principal donor. The weekend sale, and subsequent sales staffed by volunteers and Bazaar committee member at other events held at Cylburn throughout the remainder of the year, sold thousands of bulbs!

December was marked by the return of the Holiday Tea—always a sold out event that showcases the beauty of the mansion with its entrance and first floor rooms decorated in individual holiday themes. A hard-working committee of volunteers handled the decorating, luncheon service, a holiday raffle, and sales from the Cylburn gift shop kiosk for a wonderful kickoff to the season.



In addition, Cylburn provided amaryllis and paperwhite blooms grown by volunteer gardener Pat Sherman and volunteer sales support for the annual Holiday Greens Sale sponsored by the City Recreation and Parks Department’s Horticulture Division.

STAFF CHANGES

The year was marked by significant personnel changes. Natalie Lopes, the Executive Director since the summer of 2007, left in early June, and Volunteer Maryland Coordinator, Megan Stransky, completed her service year in early August. We thank them both for their contributions and service. Karen Goldstein joined the staff as the new Volunteer Maryland Coordinator (to serve until August 2011) at the end of September.

EDUCATION

Under the dynamic leadership of Nancy Hill, Education Director, a wide range of programs for children and adults were developed and introduced in the second half of 2010. During the early part of the year, a very successful Learn and Serve program was coordinated with Head Gardener, Jennifer Forrence. Participants volunteered to help with work on the grounds and in turn, were taught how to prune effectively. The Nature Story Hour, located off site during construction, returned in June with a growing audience for weekly programs in the Mansion and the Nature Museum. A highly popular Soup 'n Walk series, initiated in September, paired garden and grounds tours led by volunteer naturalists with a delicious soup and salad meal prepared by Atwaters and served by teams of volunteers. Photography workshops, bird walks, nature crafts workshops for children, a gardening skills workshop, a Cactus Garden workshop for children, Wednesday weeding days, Cylburn History Day, a lecture on honeybees, and a series of holiday workshops all attracted enthusiastic participants. Other on-site organizations held programs under the guidance of Hill including the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Maryland Rose Society, the Freestate Daylily Society, the Baltimore Bird Club, the Cactus and Succulent Society, the African Violet Society, and the Baltimore Bonsai Club.



VOLUNTEERS

With normal operations on the grounds and events suspended or disrupted by the construction, the focus for the volunteer program during the first three quarters of 2010 was on establishing relationships with area schools to provide student volunteers.



Beginning in October, new standards and policies for volunteer recruitment and management were put into place, a new application process (which added a required liability waiver), and expanded volunteer recruitment and management efforts began to draw more volunteers to the program. The ability for volunteers to complete and submit an application online at Cylburn's website was added, and listings for Cylburn's volunteer opportunities appeared on outside websites offering access to the greater Baltimore volunteer community. As a result, an increase in new volunteers (and expanded listings of volunteer opportunities at upcoming programs and events available for current volunteers on the website) made sure that every program and event and all garden operations throughout the remainder of 2010 and into 2011 was fully staffed with volunteers.



AN UNEXPECTED GIFT

Late in the year, the Association learned of a bequest by a long time volunteer and supporter, Edith Barker, whose generosity to the Association provided much needed financial support for CAA's operations. Her entirely unrestricted gift – the largest single gift the Association has ever received – will fund salaries for professional level staff to expand CAA's programs and operations in addition to other longer-range objectives. Our thanks to her are on-going and her role in the future of Cylburn cannot be understated.

2010 Donors List

| | First Name | Last Name |
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| More than \$10,000 | Robert | Dwight |
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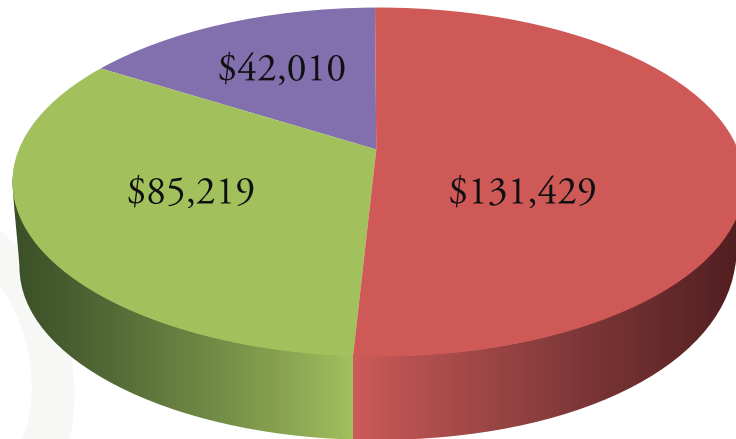
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| | | | |
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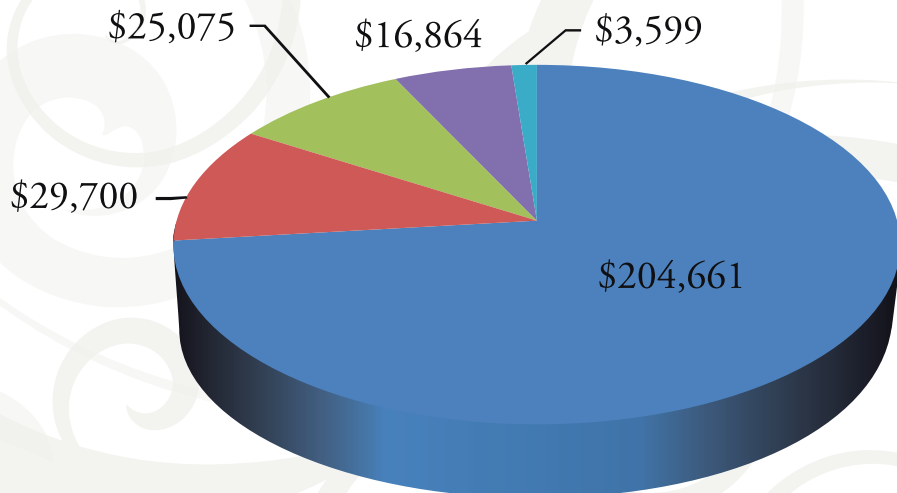
Expenses


■ Program ■ Administrative ■ Fundraising



Support and Revenue

■ Donations & Grants ■ Other Events ■ Market Day
■ Membership Income ■ Investment Income





The mission of the Cylburn Arboretum Association is to protect Cylburn Arboretum as a place of open space, beauty, and learning, and to ensure the preservation, enhancement, and interpretation of the site's gardens, woodlands, historic buildings and collections as educational, environmental, and recreational assets for the benefit of the City and citizens of Baltimore and surrounding regions.

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