


THE
POLLY HILL
ARBORETUM

November 20, 2024

Dear Friends and Members of PHA,

Through our annual fall appeal, we ask for you to support the work accomplished by Polly Hill Arboretum on the grounds, in the local community and beyond. **We had a tremendous year of accomplishments in 2024, with a particular focus in the areas of public programs and collaborative plant conservation and research.** Your support makes it all possible and this annual appeal directly supports our programming for 2025.

The educational opportunities and lectures this year followed the theme of plant conservation and research. The annual Lisina and Frank Hoch summer lecture featured the dynamic speaker Dr. Jared Barnes, who engaged a full house in the Far Barn by presenting an inspirational talk on gardening with native plants. Adam Black captured audience attention while sharing stories of collecting rare plants for conservation from far-reaching areas of the globe. This year's final lecture featured a fascinating talk on the creation of Brooklyn Bridge Park, widely considered one of the crown jewels in North American ecological landscape design. The speakers featured were Rashid Poulson, Brooklyn Bridge Park Director of Horticulture, and renowned landscape architect and Island resident Michael Van Valkenburgh.

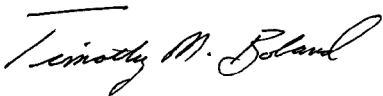


From left to right: Dr. Jared Barnes offers a compelling lecture on inspiring people to understand native plants; Renowned plant explorer and botanist Adam Black gets excited about tree identification; Rashid Poulson and Michael Van Valkenburgh discuss the creation of Brooklyn Bridge Park and the importance of ecology in an urban setting.

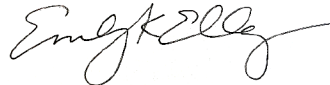
The climate emergency continues to challenge our ability to protect the Island environment. This year, we collaborated with many groups and individuals in preparation for the consequences of climate change. **PHA is proud to have been integral in the creation of Plant Local MV, a collective of conservation groups, botanists, and landscaping practitioners focused on building our resilience to climate change** by incorporating plants native to the Island into yards and commercial landscapes. In a local tree-planting effort, we planted 15 new trees in the heart of West Tisbury's historic district to honor Arbor Day. The West Tisbury Tree Advisory Committee planned this event that was supported by the town and many volunteers from various facets of the community.

While this year brought remarkable accomplishments, we are continually challenged by the high cost of living and operating on Martha's Vineyard. This appeal is our principal mechanism to fund the work illustrated here and on the following page. **We hope you take joy in our accomplishments and are proud to know they are made possible by your continued support. On behalf of PHA's staff and board, thank you very much!**

With gratitude,



Tim Boland
Executive Director



Emily Ellingson
Curator/Assistant Director



RESEARCH & CONSERVATION — CLEFT-LEAVED HAWTHORN

PHA Research Associates, staff and professional colleagues continue to learn more about the cleft-leaved hawthorn, known to grow exclusively on Martha's Vineyard. Propagation efforts have resulted in new trees for our living collection and the discovery of more specimens in the wild has increased community awareness of Island conservation issues and PHA's research accomplishments.



RESEARCH & EDUCATION — BEECH LEAF DISEASE

For the past 3 years PHA has been studying the effects of beech leaf disease and experimenting with various treatments, as beech trees are a significant foundation of PHA's living collection and an iconic tree among the Island's woodlands. Studying, experimenting and sharing are significant tenets of Polly's gardening philosophy that we continue today.



PLANT CONSERVATION VIA DISTRIBUTION

We often think of plant collection and propagation in terms of acquisition. To safeguard the integrity of our living collections or rare plants that are vulnerable to climate change, it is necessary to distribute plants to other conservation organizations. PHA distributed over 800 plants to institutions across the country, elevating our standing in the public garden and conservation world.



COLLABORATION STRENGTHENS LOCAL ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS

PHA works closely with many Island conservation organizations to promote healthy ecosystems. We sold thousands of MV Wildtype native plant plugs to local conservation organizations and homeowners to support ecosystem restoration projects and native plant landscapes. PHA also contributed to several publications as part of the Plant Local initiative. Use the QR code to the left to learn more about incorporating native plants into your home garden.