

2015

Garden Club of America Scholars Report



The Anne S. Chatham Fellowship in Medicinal Botany

Established in 1997 and administered by the Missouri Botanical Garden, this fellowship to protect and preserve knowledge about medicinal use of plants, provides research support in the field of ethnobotany for recent PhD's or PhD candidates.

Matthew Bond is a PhD student in the Botany Department of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. He will conduct ethno-botanical fieldwork in a less-studied region of the Solomon Islands, North Malaita, to study how the local people select, prepare, and consume plants for medicine. Mathew has made previous visits to build relationships, obtain and apply for permits, and learn local languages. He will be collecting samples and will analyze medicinal plant harvesting practices of traditional healers' to test if the local people are using the plants and plant parts that are most effective for treating disease.

Tristesse Burton is a PhD candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, which is defined as the study of medicines derived from natural sources. She will identify the active compounds of three American Indian plants that can be used to improve women's health, primarily for menopause, cancer, and

inflammation. Her research project will also verify the traditional and current usage of these plants through ethno-botanical studies. Currently, there is limited scientific information supporting the use of American Indian botanicals for women's health.

The Garden Club of America Summer Scholarship in Field Botany

Established in 2000, this offering is for students interested in furthering their studies in field botany and gaining knowledge and experience beyond the regular course of study.



Sam Wershow is a Master's degree candidate at Western Washington University in Bellingham. His research will investigate the impact of climate change on the endemic alpine wildflowers of the Olympic Peninsula and Vancouver Island. He will spend the summer mapping the distributions of these rare species and collecting ecological data on their habitat preferences. Using this data, Sam will build models that predict habitat loss for each species as climate warms.



Nora Talkington is a second year Master's student studying plant biology and conservation at the joint program between the Chicago Botanic Garden and Northwestern University. Nora's research interests are Colorado Plateau plant restoration, invasive species, local adaptation and seed sourcing. Her thesis topic investigates native plant adaptation to invasive plants in southeastern Utah, with the goal of identifying competitive seed sources for restoring native plant communities within invaded areas.

Alec Baird is an undergraduate student studying plant biology and French at the University of Washington, Seattle. By analyzing the leaf physiological responses to drought in the quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) he hopes to accurately predict how this plant species will respond to anthropogenic or human caused climate change. He believes that combining plant ecology and plant physiology (plant eco-physiology) is a necessary approach to understanding how certain traits will mediate the effects of climate change.

Mary Seward is in her first year of graduate studies at The College of William and Mary. Her Master's thesis project is a study on the ecology of the clonal plant common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*). Her research goals are to determine how common milkweed might share resources between clones and how such sharing could affect the way common milkweed grows in the wild. She hopes that this information will help the restoration projects underway that are re-establishing common milkweed patches for the monarch butterflies, which rely on this plant for much of their life cycle.

Funded by Guilford Garden Club, Baltimore, MD, Zone VI

Kevin Trostel is a Master's student in Biology at Middle Tennessee State University. He currently has a Bachelor's Degree in Plant and Soil Science. He will supervise undergraduate students in the collection of leafy prairie clover (*Dalea foliata*), a rare plant endemic to glade ecosystems. It has declined dramatically due to habitat destruction, over-grazing by deer and rabbits and loss due to fire suppression. He will develop baseline genetic data to understand population structure across three separated populations of the species in Alabama, Tennessee and Illinois.

The Zeller Summer Scholarship in Medicinal Botany

Established in 2003, the Zeller Summer Scholarship encourages under-graduate students to expand their knowledge of medicinal botany by pursuing summer study through course work or internships.

Liam Torrey is an undergraduate student at College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, ME, who is focusing on plant ecology and plant chemistry. He is especially interested in how plants express chemicals and whether this expression is impacted by the ecology of where these plants grow. His research project entitled, "Do Differences in Environment Yield Changes in Phytochemical Expression in (*Melissa officinalis*)?" will explore the variations in the plant chemistry of lemon balm when it is grown under a number of environmental variables.

Funded by Middletown Garden Club, Middletown, CT, Zone II and New Canaan Garden Club, New Canaan, CT, Zone II

The Joan K. Hunt and Rachel M. Hunt Summer Scholarship in Field Botany

Established in 2003 to encourage the study of field botany beyond the regular course of study, thus promoting the importance of botany to horticulture.

Ian D. Medeiros is a junior at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, ME, majoring in Human Ecology with a concentration in Botany. This summer he will survey the plants and lichens found on outcrops of serpentine bedrock in western Massachusetts. Serpentine is a unique rock that often produces soils, which are chemically stressful for plants. It has been studied extensively in California and moderately in Maine and Vermont however, there are no published biological studies of serpentine outcrops in Massachusetts. This research project will serve as his undergraduate senior thesis.

The Garden Club of America Awards in Tropical Botany

Established in 1983 and administered by the World Wildlife Fund's Education for Nature Division, the awards are to support the fieldwork in tropical forests of doctoral candidates in botany.

The first two awards are funded by the Arundel Scholarship; the third and fourth by the Visiting Gardens Scholarship.

Juan Ernesto Guevara is a PhD student in the Department of Integrative Biology at University of California, Berkeley. He is broadly interested in the ecological and evolutionary processes underlying the current patterns of Amazonian tree species turnover and endemism. He is particularly interested in investigating the role of climate and heterogeneity, influenced by diversity, in the species turnover along a longitudinal gradient in Amazon terra firma forests. His intensive fieldwork will take him to places in Western and Central Amazonia where others have not collected before.

Timothy L. Treuer is a PhD candidate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University. His goal is to better understand drivers (such as soil quality and landscape composition) of community structure and composition in regenerating the tropical dry forest in Área de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG), Costa Rica, one of the world's largest tropical forest restoration projects.

This research has the potential to lead to a more nuanced understanding of recovering forests and the role they can play in preserving endangered tropical dry forest species.



Melissa A. Johnson is a PhD Candidate at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (in affiliation with Claremont Graduate University). Her work will focus on resolving phylogenetic or evolutionary relationships within the Pacific lineage of (*Cyrtandra*), which is a genus of flowering plants containing 600 species. Melissa's fieldwork will be centered in Fiji and Samoa, which represent an important biogeographic interface zone for the group between Southeast-Asia and the islands of the Pacific. Her work will assist in conservation efforts for the future by clearing up distinction between species.

Aleksandar Radosavljevic is a PhD candidate at Northwestern University and a Smithsonian Institution Predoctoral Fellow. A lifetime lover of plants and maps, his research combines molecular phylogenetics and species distribution modeling to explore the biogeography and systematics of the large pantropical legume genus (*Cynometra*). He is interested in understanding the diversification of the legume family as well as applying species distribution modeling to studies of evolution and biodiversity conservation. The study funded by GCA will take place in Brazilian Amazonas – the largest state in Brazil.

The Garden Club of America Award in Coastal Wetlands Studies

Established in 1999 to promote wetland conservation through the support of young scientists in their field work and research. Administered by the Center for Coastal Resources Management, Virginia Institute of Marine Science of the College of William and Mary.

Xuan Chen, a PhD candidate at Louisiana State University, Department of Entomology, is researching floating marshes, a globally rare and unique type of wetland that serves important ecological functions such as protecting the coastline from wave action but that also suffer many types of disturbances, including multiple plant invasions. His study is the first of its kind in the state and will use ants as bio indicators to study how successive invasive woody plants affect the floating marsh ecosystem. As an ant specialist, he encourages conservation biologists to add insects to their environmental monitoring and has even discovered a new ant species to the United States.

Funded by the 2014 Annual Meeting hosted by Zone IX

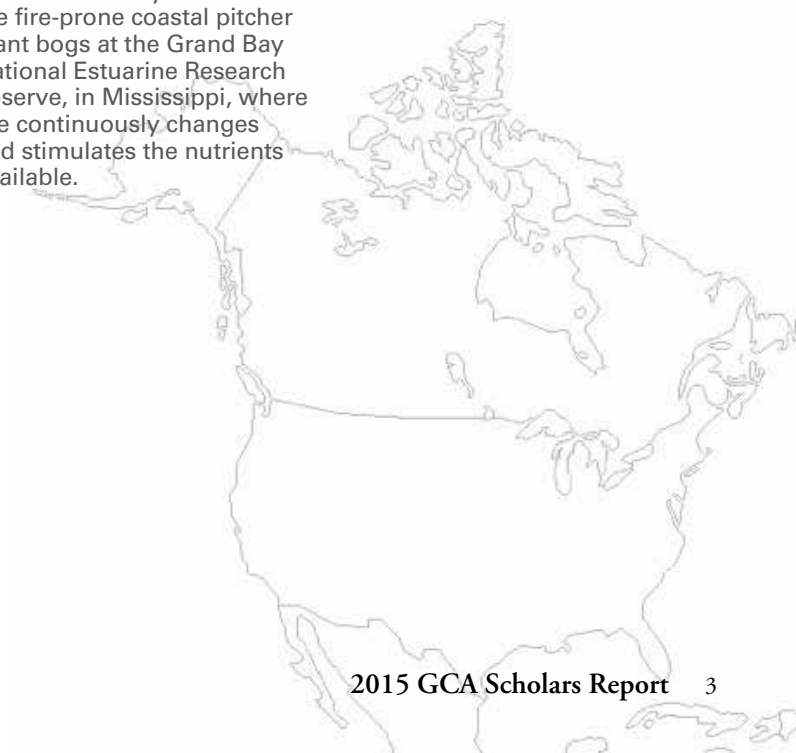
Mary Jane Carmichael, a PhD student at Wake Forest University, will research the role of standing dead vegetation in the atmospheric flux or flow rate of methane gas from wetlands in an expanded study. A previous pilot study indicated that dead woody vegetation exposed to excessive over wash by salt water mixed with high organic input from agricultural sources may be an important unrecognized source of methane which is a potent greenhouse gas. She will conduct her research at a wetland being restored in Tyrrell County, NC. The study will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the pathways of methane flow from freshwater coastal wetlands, aiding in management decisions for greenhouse gas emissions.

R. Kyle Derby is a Master's candidate in Environmental Science and Technology at the University of Maryland. His project will test a new Marsh Equilibrium model, which will estimate methane emissions from a brackish tidal wetland on the Eastern Shore of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay. Using data collected in the field and the laboratory, the validation of this model will allow for carbon creditors to accurately estimate the amount of methane gas brackish marshes emit, without costly direct monitoring. Methane, a potent greenhouse gas, may offset a significant portion of the carbon sequestration benefit of many brackish marshes.



Matthew Abbott, PhD student in the Biology Department at the University of Mississippi will test his hypothesis why some carnivorous plants also have a symbiotic or mutualistic relationship with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. AM fungi are an important component of soil life and confer a variety of benefits to the plant host in exchange for essential carbohydrates and vitamins. But why these associations exist remains unexplained since it has been assumed that most carnivorous plants get their nutrients from prey. To test his theory he will use the fire-prone coastal pitcher plant bogs at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, in Mississippi, where fire continuously changes and stimulates the nutrients available.

Vanessa Constant, a PhD student at Oregon State University in the Department of Integrative Biology, will explore the relationship between vegetative communities, environmental characteristics, and climate change. She will examine the role of vegetation in mediating sea level rise (SLR) and its ability to protect the Oregon coast and its salt marshes. The entire Pacific Northwest's coastal salt marshes are essential for coastal protection, dissipating wave energy, stabilizing sediment, and increasing inter-tidal elevation and size. She will study four sites for three complete field seasons, in both southern and northern Oregon. Integrating her study within the community, she will facilitate planting initiatives and conduct programs with a local science center to educate students on the importance and role of salt marshes.



Two Former Scholars are Leaders in the World of Botanic Gardens



Ari Novi is the Executive Director of the US Botanic Garden in Washington, DC, and a former Caroline Thorn Kissel Summer Environmental Studies Scholar in 2007. Since then, he has received his PhD from Rutgers University in Plant Biology and has served on the selection committee for our Garden Club of America Scholarship in Field Botany. At the Botanic Garden he leads the garden's efforts to demonstrate the aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic, and ecological importance of plants to the well being of humankind. He has taught undergraduate and graduate students and is still an active researcher, holding an appointment as a research collaborator at the Smithsonian Institution.



Nyree Zerega is the Director of the Graduate Program in Plant Biology and Conservation, a partnership between the Chicago Botanic Garden and Northwestern University, where she also serves as a Senior Lecturer in Biological Sciences and Director of the Nancy Poole Rich Herbarium. She was a Tropical Botany Scholar in 2000. In her current role she has developed new Master's and PhD degree programs with the goal of building capacity in botanical conservation, and she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses at Northwestern University. She also maintains an active research program with undergraduate and graduate students. Her work aims to understand evolutionary processes in plants, especially as they apply to underutilized crops and their wild relatives, with the goals of advancing crop improvement, sustainable agriculture, and food security, as well as informing the conservation of plant genetic resources and understanding human-mediated dispersal routes of crops. Most of her work takes place in Southeast Asia and focuses on the breadfruit genus, a member of the mulberry family. It is exciting to see the trajectory of our scholars in their chosen fields and their interest in furthering the education of future scholars through research and teaching.

At top: Ari Novi, at the US Botanic Garden, Washington, DC. Photo by Mation DeGross.

Below: Nyree Zerega in Sabah, Malaysia, 2013. "I was doing research. Sabah is famous for being home to the world's largest flower, in the genus *Rafflesia*. This is a mock *Rafflesia* flower — it's not quite this big in real life."

The Garden Club of America Fellowship in Ecological Restoration

Established in 2000 and administered by the University of Wisconsin, Madison Arboretum, this fellowship supports specialized graduate studies and research in ecological restoration, the active healing of land.

Mathew Reid is a PhD student in the Department of Biology at the University of Louisville. His project is entitled, "Do altered soil communities inhibit restoration following invasive species management in primary successional sand dune systems?" His research focuses on the impacts of exotic plant invasion and subsequent management on soil communities, primarily nematodes (worms) and mycorrhizal fungi, adding to the understanding of how altered soil communities could impact restoration efforts in Great Lakes sand dunes.

Crawford Drury is a PhD student at the University of Miami where he combines ecological restoration and genetic studies to examine the endangered staghorn coral, (*Acropora cervicorni*). His project, "Restoring degraded populations of the endangered staghorn coral using gardening and landscaping methods," will take place on nearby reefs of the Florida Reef Tract. Data collection will lead to a better understanding of how individual corals interact to form thickets, the historically important structures formed by staghorn coral that are rare today.

Geoffrey Griffiths is a PhD student in Ecology at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, New York. Geoff is actively working to restore populations of native plants and to understand plant-insect interactions in forests recovering from past agricultural land use. He is currently recruiting and training a network of volunteers to sustain longer term monitoring efforts for his research on "Engaging citizen scientists in the restoration of understory vascular plant and pollinator assemblages."

Andrew Esterson is a Master's candidate at Oregon State University in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. His research focuses on plant-soil feedback (PSF) as a mechanism of invasion. His thesis project will evaluate PSF effects by the invasive grass, false brome, (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), on the native plant community in Douglas fir forests through a series of greenhouse experiments. He will also measure changes in soil microorganism community composition once false brome is removed and observe how changes in microorganism composition effect plant growth.

The Sara Shallenberger Brown Garden Club of America National Parks Conservation Scholarship

Established in 2010 and administered by the Student Conservation Association (SCA), this scholarship encourages college

undergraduates, ages 19-20, to pursue careers in conservation by experiencing field training while protecting the treasured resources of America's national parks through the SCA's apprentice crew leader program.

Ashley Cisneros is a student at Foothill College, Los Altos, CA, where her majors are Environmental Studies and Mass Communications. Her past placements as a crew member with SCA were in Acadia National Park, ME and Seedska-dee Wildlife Refuge, WY. On these programs, Ashley helped her team do trail maintenance and repairs to out-buildings. As an Apprentice Crew Leader she will move closer to achieving her goal of becoming a Crew Leader. Her ultimate career goal is to be a Park Ranger. This summer she will work on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Bear Mountain, NY.



Samantha Doonan is a student at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA majoring in Psychology and Health: Science, Society and Policy. Previously, Samantha has had placements with SCA in White Mountain National Recreation Area, AK and Great Sand Dunes National Park, CO. She says that the Apprentice Crew Leader position excites her to her core and that SCA changed her life by allowing her to work with like-minded environmentalists. Her summer will be spent in Kenai Fjords National Park, AK.



Annelise Eagleton is a student in Environmental Studies and Biology at the University of Idaho. Annelise has been a crew member with SCA in the Great Smokey Mountain National Park, TN and Glennallen Bureau of Land Management, AK. She wants to do "everything in her power to help promote conservation to preserve our natural areas." She also hopes to be a Crew Leader one day. Her future goal is leadership or education in the field of conservation. This summer Annelise will work in the Olympic National Park, WA.

Maret "Emma" Sonder is a graduate of Evanston Township High School, Evanston, IL. Emma is currently taking a "gap" year and is not affiliated with any university. She has been on two summer programs with SCA, one in the Allegheny National Forest, PA, and the other at Wind Caves National Monument, SD. She states that her Crew Leaders have been a positive influence in her life. She enjoys working on trails and improving our national parks. Her summer placement will take her to Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historic Site in Vermont.

The Garden Club of America Award in Desert Studies

Established in 2006 and administered by the Desert Botanical Garden, this award provides for graduate or advanced undergraduate students studying horticulture, conservation, botany, environmental science and landscape design relating to the arid landscape to further their studies pertaining to the arid environment, with preference given to projects that generate scientifically sound water and plant management.

Alexandra Stoicof is a first year Master of Landscape Architecture candidate at the University of Arizona. She is interested in regional landscape architecture for the arid west, and specifically, sustainable management of water resources through creative design. Alexandra's project at the Tucson Botanical Garden will involve water harvesting interpretation and advocacy, in addition to garden mapping and directional way finding.

Molly Freund is currently a junior at Arizona State University pursuing her bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture while minoring in Sustainability and Urban Planning. Molly's interests include the unique ecology and native flora of the Sonoran Desert. While interning at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, AZ, she will gain valuable horticultural knowledge and practical experience working closely with arid landscape plants.

Funded by Nancy Swanson, Columbine Garden Club, Paradise Valley, AZ, Zone XII



Cristina Francois is working on her PhD in Entomology and Insect Sciences at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Her research consists of determining the physiological mechanisms responsible for, as well as the ecological implications of, polymorphism, in the white-lined sphinx moth (*Hyles lineate*). The white-lined sphinx moth is the most abundant and widespread sphinx moth in North America. Their habitat covers a wide range of territory and climates with little known about their color and marking variations.

The Garden Club of America Internship in Garden History and Design

Established in 2001, the internship supports independent study in the field of landscape history and design. Preference is given to students wishing to intern at the Archives of American Gardens (AAG) at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

Kathryn Schroeder is nearing completion for a Master of Library Science degree with a specialization in Digital Content Management and a Graduate Certificate in Archival Administration at Wayne State University in Detroit. Her past experience and skill set will align perfectly with the collections management duties at the Archives of American Gardens (AAG) including cataloging and digitizing images of new acquisitions to the GCA Collection.

The Douglas Dockery Thomas Fellowship in Garden History and Design

Established in 2000 to further the study of history and design in the American garden and also intended to look to the future of gardens and their place in the environment, the fellowship is administered by the Landscape Architecture Foundation.



Emily Detrick is pursuing a Master's degree in Horticulture at Cornell University. Her research will focus on the preparation of a best practices approach to gathering, documenting and curating historic garden collections. She will develop resources to guide the collection documentation process, including a video documentary. This will help institutions maximize not only internal efficacy but also their capacity to contribute to larger scale conservation efforts.

The Catherine H. Beattie Fellowship in Conservation Horticulture

Established in 1983 this fellowship promotes the conservation of rare and endangered flora in the Southeastern United States by supporting field research by graduate students and is administered by the Center for Plant Conservation, Missouri Botanical Garden.

Chelsea N. Miller is a Master's candidate in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Chelsea's research focuses on factors promoting rarity in state-endangered understory herbs of the genus (*Trillium*) in eastern Tennessee and surrounding regions. She is comparing ant-seed dispersal and germination requirements between rare and common congeners in an effort to determine if differences in these factors lead to rarity in certain species. This research will inform conservation efforts and can be placed in the context of global change.

Natali Miller is a Master's degree student at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL. She will collect and analyze data from three populations of a federally listed plant, telephus spurge (*Euphorbia telephioides*), to determine if each population is declining, increasing or stable. She will also conduct pollen supplementation

experiments in order to assess if female plants in those three populations receive insufficient quantities or quality of pollen for seed production also known as pollen limitation. Natali's main goal is to become an expert in population ecology and help quantify plant conservation goals and objectives.

The Katharine M. Grosscup Scholarships in Horticulture

Established in 1981 as a regional scholarship, it is designed to encourage undergraduate and master's level students in the study of horticulture and related fields.

Nall Inshan Moonilall is a second year Master's student at Ohio State University pursuing a degree in Environmental Science, with a focus on soil science. His research involves looking at the impact of various soil amendments on soil properties and crop yield in Guyana, South America. By using agricultural byproducts as soil amendments he hopes to boost soil carbon levels, improve soil quality, enhance soil productivity, and increase crop yields. With increased population growth and climate change projected in the future, Nall sees the importance of ensuring food security for the growing population while conserving precious natural resources.

Funded by Club of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH, Zone X

Andrew Sell is pursuing a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment, Ann Arbor. Having been raised on a small farm in southeastern Michigan, he has always been immersed in issues relating to the environment and land-use. Influenced by his past career at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, he is exploring how public gardens and arboreta promote and utilize ecological restoration to connect visitors with the natural world. He plans to pursue a doctorate degree, mentor students, and help shape the discussion about the future of public gardens and parks as a director.



Jessie Lee Hawkins is a student in the Master of Landscape Architecture program at Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative. The program focuses on sustainable landscapes, concentrating on urban areas, along with regional ecologic, economic and social issues. As a Cleveland native, it has become Jessie's passion to see the redemption of the Rustbelt, contributing toward that goal through landscape architecture. Growing up in the family greenhouse business has provided her a unique perspective on the challenges presented by the flux of urbanization, common to many cities in the Great Lakes region.

Megan Barnes is a second year Landscape Architecture Masters student at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. She will be spending her summer at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, working closely with the director to create a new Master Plan for the Gardens that will incorporate desired growth and renovations, change visitor population and event planning. The project will look at potential future scenarios and directions for the management of the Garden's historical and varied horticultural collections.

Nathan Detwiler is studying horticulture at Ohio State University where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Sustainable Plant Systems. He is interested in finding ways to grow vegetables while improving the quality and health of the farm ecosystem. Nathan is also interested in promoting local foods and farm-to-fork food systems. This summer he is planning to improve his marketing skills by working with a farm that sells directly to the public. Nathan's career goal is to operate an organic vegetable farm helping to reconnect people with good food and sustainable farming practices.

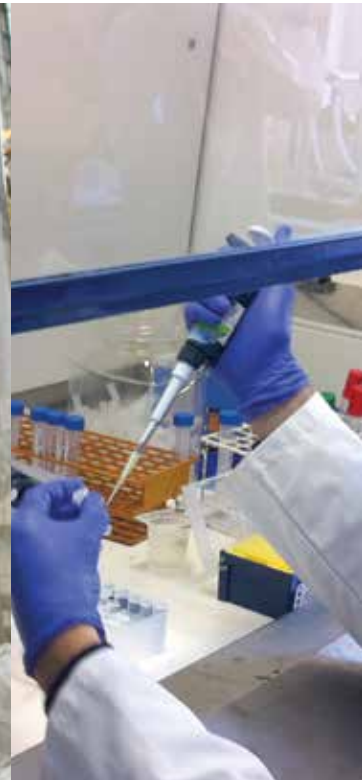
Exchanges Across the Pond

The 2014 Royal Horticultural Society Interchange Fellow is **Jon Henn**, (top row) a 2012 graduate of St. Olaf College in Minnesota, a Fulbright Scholar, and National Geographic Young Explorer's grant recipient. Jon's first stop in Britain was at RHS Garden Wisley. He then moved to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), "The Botanics." Work at RBGE is based on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, a UN program aimed at slowing the rate of plant extinction. Jon began by working to propagate and conserve rare Scottish plants, doing some work at Dawyk, one of the Botanics's satellite gardens. Jon was honored to present at a joint meeting of the British and French Ecological Societies in Lille, France. Afterwards, he hopped on a bus to Paris, strategically choosing a hostel right next to the Paris Botanic Garden. Leaving Paris and Versailles, Jon botanized with friends in Toulon and Nice, before meeting his family in Italy for the holidays.

"What I think is quite amazing is that from hundreds of years ago to today, an affinity for plants and green spaces has left us with some wonderful gardens to explore and appreciate."

His third placement was Cambridge University Plant Sciences Department, followed by Botanic Garden Conservation International, based in Kew, London. Jon's official assignments end on July 10 at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH). Shorter stints at the Eden Project, in Cornwall; the Chelsea Flower Show; and Winfield House, the US Ambassador's residence, complete his busy year abroad.

Jon has already explored the countryside on foot. "Compared to home, everything is so old, which has an interesting impact on the conception of conservation and restoration." With a visa good until mid-August, he plans on more exploration before returning home to start a PhD program at University of Wisconsin — Madison.





The 2104 Garden Club of America Interchange Fellow is **Ashley Edwards**, who came to the US having just received his diploma at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Ashley is in the international internship program at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA, living with the other interns on “The Row.” He has been exposed to all parts of the vast garden, managing different projects, and preparing Longwood’s famed exhibits. He commented that “time seems to move much faster in America.”

Ashley was charged with watering the “Chrysanthemum Chandelier,” a highlight of November’s displays. After helping to plant out 250,000 bulbs, the Christmas changeover occurred — a mad 3-day rush to install “Christmas Takes Flight.”

The New Year featured “Orchid Extravaganza,” a burst of tropical color for the cold winter months. In January Ashley worked with the integrated pest management team (IPM) to scout pests, then decide whether to spray or release biological controls such as a ladybird larvae. Production work followed in February — transplanting and safely transporting plants on the premises.

“It was a good time of year to be under glass, as temperatures outside dropped to lows I have never experienced before.”

Ashley escaped the freezing temperature of Pennsylvania in March for a horticulturally extreme trip to Florida: 6 gardens around Miami, the Everglades, Tampa, Hollis Garden, and Bok Tower in Central Florida. “I wanted to see tropical plants growing in their native climate, out of doors.”

The unique learning experiences during their time abroad reinforce the purpose of the fellowships, established in 1948 to foster British-American relations and to promote the exchange of information and knowledge in the fields of horticulture, landscape architecture, and related fields.

Jordon G. Masters is a senior horticulture major at West Virginia University. As an undergraduate, Jordan is researching seedling morphology to define the best harvest maturity stage for micro greens in commercial production. He is a fifth generation farmer on his family's farm and he and his brother started a company specializing in the sale of specialty crops including micro greens to local school systems. He plans to continue his education by pursuing a PhD at West Virginia University.

Andrea Leigh McCullough is a third year student in Landscape Architecture at Pennsylvania State University. She will be traveling to Barcelona where she will work on a design project to create urban green space in an underused post-industrial neighborhood called Poblenou. Working with local communities and special interest groups, Andrea will be imagining new adaptations for three abandoned factory sites by integrating parks, gardens, green infrastructure, and ecological restoration.

Jeffrey Holzer is a senior at Pennsylvania State University earning his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture with two minors in Geography and Environmental Inquiry with a focus in Biodiversity and Ecosystems. In addition to his studies, he is a horticulture intern at The Arboretum at Penn State and serves on the College of Arts and Architecture Student Council and University Park Undergraduate Association. While serving as facilities chair of the Undergraduate Association, he parlayed his interest in landscape architecture and horticulture into actionable recommendations for improvements to the

university's public places. He also secured funding for a green roof on the student center. *Funded by Kathy Keller, Akron Garden Club, Akron, OH, Zone X*



Rachel Grinwis is a junior at Michigan State University in Landscape Design. Rachel is a full time student as well as a full time mother. She comes from a farming background and is a natural horticulturist. Her past employers at Montague Tree Farms helped nurture her love of horticulture and trees and encouraged her to return to school to obtain a horticulture degree. She accepted a 2015 intern position where she will be helping with research in urban forestry, Christmas trees, phytoremediation, and tree diseases. After graduation, Rachel would like to stay in the fields of landscape design and urban forestry.

The Corliss Knapp Engle Scholarship in Horticulture

Established in 2010 to encourage the development of research, documentation and teaching skills in the field of horticulture, this scholarship honors the memory of the exceptional and inspiring Corliss Knapp Engle, a long-time member of the Chestnut Hill Garden Club. It is open to undergraduate and graduate students, advanced-degree

candidates, or non-degree seeking applicants above the high school level.

Kim Shearer Lattier is a Master's student studying plant breeding and genetics in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University. She is exploring traditional methods of classical plant breeding through her projects with maples, penstemon and cape hyacinth. Her focus is on the development of improved garden cultivars of native species and decreased fertility in cultivars of exotic species. She also has the privilege of mentoring undergraduate students with an interest in ornamental breeding.

Raymond Odeh is a third year undergraduate student at the University of Florida pursuing a BS in Plant Science, specializing in Landscape and Nursery Horticulture. Ray is working to improve the existing gardens and establish a broader plant palette around the horticulture building at UF, Fifield Hall. Through an Environmental Horticulture Plant Identification Internship he will increase his proficiency with plant propagation and establishment, as well as identification.

Stephanie Fong is a first year PhD student at Rutgers University studying Plant Biology with a concentration on Plant Breeding and Genomics. She will continue her study of fruit rot disease resistance in cranberries while working to identify molecular markers to aid in breeding methods. She hopes her research will aid and apply to other fruit crops as well.

Perth Silvers is a junior at the University of California, Berkeley, studying Environmental Sciences and Molecular Biology and is an Integrated Pest Management Intern at the U of C Berkeley Botanical Gardens. Perth is currently researching ecosystem-regionalized compost tea to help augment nutrient uptake by plants and prevent bacterial and fungal disease in botanical gardens. He is also researching the use of ferns with soil amendments to uptake arsenic from contaminated soils.

Justin Schulze is pursuing his Master's degree in Horticulture at Oregon State University. His thesis focuses on breeding new cultivars of cherry laurels and assessing ecosystem services of new genotypes. Justin and his colleagues are attempting to hybridize Portuguese and common cherry laurel to develop a disease resistant and sterile cultivar. They are also investigating the potential differences in carbon sequestration between genotypes of common cherry laurel.

George LoCascio III is a nontraditional student who has returned to school after several environmental and conservation work experiences, including five years with the US Forest Service as a wild land firefighter in the western US. Currently a student at Bunker Hill Community College, he plans to use his award to further his education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and pursue a degree in Plant, Soil, and Insect science.

The Garden Club of America Hope Goddard Iselin Fellowship in Public Horticulture

Established in 2013 and administered by the American Public Gardens Association, the fellowship furthers the study of public horticulture through experiential learning that takes place at a recognized public garden, botanic garden or arboretum within the United States.

Allyson Ayalon is a Master's student in Horticulture and Agronomy at the University of California, Davis. Her interests in public horticulture include plant records, collections management, curatorial projects, education and outreach. Her research and curation project will be in the Mary Watis Brown Garden of California Plants at UC Davis. She will audit the collection, which has not been done since 1977, and will develop a plan of improvements to the native plants garden and will help to align them to the California Floristics course at UC Davis.

The Loy McCandless Marks Scholarship in Tropical Horticulture

Established in 1999, this scholarship fosters the study of tropical ornamental horticulture at institutions abroad that specialize in the study of tropical plants. This scholarship is awarded in even years only.

The Garden Club of America Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture

Established in 1928, it provides American landscape architects special opportunity for advanced study at the American Academy in Rome.



Thaisa Way is an Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington, Seattle. Her project is entitled, "Drawing Histories of Landscape Architecture." As a landscape historian, she will explore how the distinct practices of scholars, relying on words to articulate their research, and of landscape architects, who rely on drawing, intersect to frame narratives of the history of landscape architecture. She will use her research and the experience of immersion in other Fellows' drawings, as well as her own drawings, to draft a manuscript on the role of drawing as a challenge to contemporary narratives of landscape architectural history. Professor Way is the 61st Garden Club of America Rome.

The Garden Club of America and the Royal Horticultural Society Interchange Fellowships

Established in 1948, the fellowships provide for a reciprocal exchange of British and American students interested in horticulture, landscape architecture and related fields to study and intern in each other's country for one year.

The Royal Horticultural Society Interchange Fellow



William "Will" Hembree majored in Horticulture and is a 2015 graduate of the University of Georgia. Will is interested in a career in public horticulture and, in addition to being an Eagle Scout, has received numerous awards including the University of Georgia Presidential Scholarship, the UGA Department of Horticulture Award for an outstanding junior and multiple UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Travel and Research scholarships. He will travel to London late this summer to begin his fellowship. Throughout the year he will work and study at many RHS Garden properties and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and Edinburgh.

The Garden Club of America Interchange Fellow



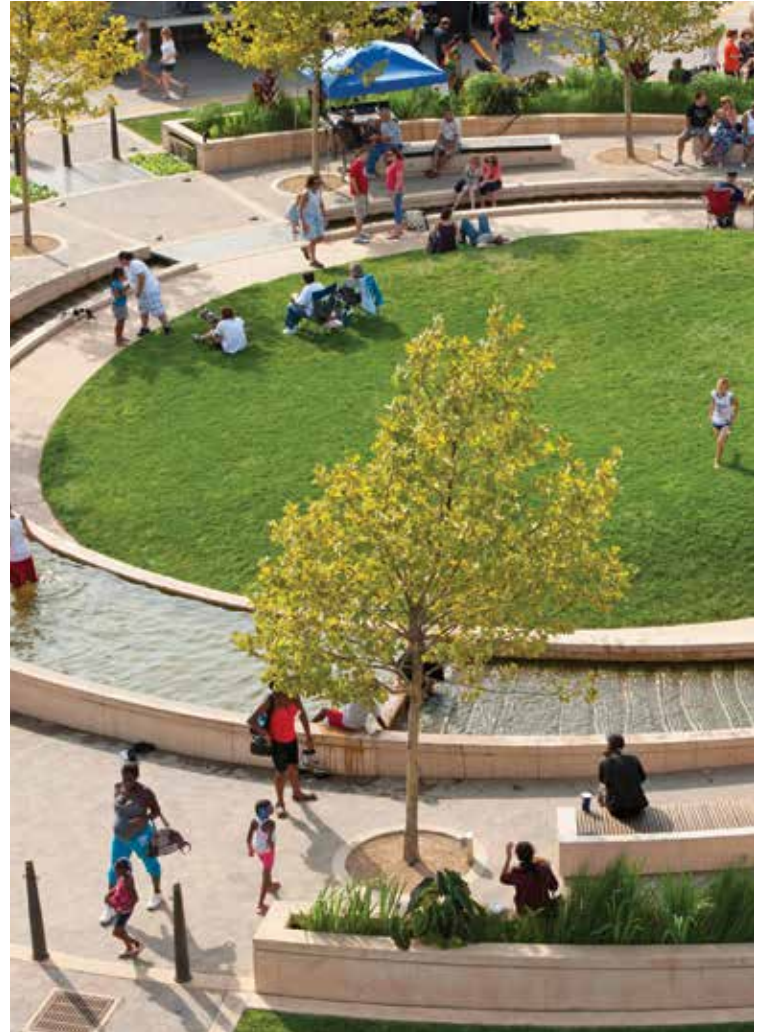
Charles "Charlie" Ive has worked and studied horticulture in many varied gardens, from New Zealand to the Isles of Scilly, located off the southwestern tip of the Cornish peninsula of Great Britain. Currently, he is working at the RHS Garden, Rosemoor. He will arrive in the United States in early autumn to begin a year-long work and study program at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. Charlie is a keen sportsman and likes to travel. He has visited gardens in South Africa, Singapore and Australia and will travel to gardens in our country during his fellowship.

A Visionary Landscape Architect

Meet **Peter Lindsay Schaudt**, a 1991 GCA Rome Prize Scholar who is among the most honored landscape architects of his generation. Schaudt credits his scholarship experience with evoking a deep appreciation for the history of architecture and landscape that is resonant throughout his work today. Trained first as an architect, Peter revels in exploring the relationships between the built form, the landscape, and the human condition. This approach makes him one of the most sought-after collaborative team partners in his field and has brought him, among many acknowledgements, the AIA Collaborative Achievement award and a Fellowship with the American Society of Landscape Architects. Schaudt's recent collaborations, such as the Shanghai Natural History Museum in China with Perkins + Will and the SandRidge Commons open space in Oklahoma City with Rogers Partners, exemplify his seamless integration of landscape and architecture. In Normal, Illinois, Uptown Normal Circle, a civic space where naturally-cleansed storm water, a place for play, and transportation work in unison, has been commended with awards by the US EPA and Federal Transit Administration for its resilient and sustainable design. The Garden Club of America is very proud of this former GCA Rome Prize Scholar who has become an influential and passionate advocate of his profession.



Peter Lindsay Schaudt



At top: A bird's eye view of Peter Schaudt's project; the Uptown Normal Circle, Normal, IL.

The Frances M. Peacock Scholarship for Native Bird Habitat

Established in 1994 and administered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, the scholarship is awarded to college seniors and graduate students for the study of habitat-related issues that will benefit threatened or endangered bird species and inform land management decisions.

Bik D. R. Wheeler is a Master's candidate at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, ME. His thesis project is entitled "Spruce wood-warbler use of forest structure: Revisiting Robert MacArthur's study of niche partitioning." In the mid 1950's Robert MacArthur conducted the seminal research on warbler niche partitioning, similar species of warblers coexisting through specialization in their foraging areas. Bik is repeating this ecological study at the original location, Acadia National Park, to reexamine the theory, with modern research methods, after 60 years of environmental change.

Nathaniel J. Behl is currently a first-year graduate student at the University of Wyoming, Laramie. His project is entitled "The effect of habitat and landscape on the density and distribution of South Hills crossbills." It is aimed at identifying how landscape patterns and habitat structure influence the density and distribution of this unique crossbill whose habitat stretches across a large portion of the Rocky Mountain lodgepole pine forest in southern Idaho. Since the pines are endangered, so are the crossbills. His study will be conducted over two summers and will inform future conservation efforts.

Auriel Fournier is a PhD Candidate in the Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Arkansas. Her research project studies the migration ecology of rails, a secretive marsh bird. She will use stable isotopes from their feathers to assess their migratory connectivity between their breeding grounds in the northern United States and Canada and their migratory habitat in Missouri using both stable isotopes and eBird data.

The Garden Club of America Board of Associates Centennial Pollinator Fellowship

Established in the spring of 2013 and administered by the Pollinator Partnership, this fellowship supports one or more graduate students to advance the knowledge of pollinator science. The fellowship was made possible by generous gifts given in honor of the GCA Centennial by members of the Board of Associates.



Ania Majewska is a PhD student at the University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology. Her strong interests in pollinator conservation and disease ecology led her to develop a project examining how a non-native milkweed, namely tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*), can impact monarch butterflies, which have drastically declined in the past two decades. This non-native milkweed is commonly found in the butterfly gardens of the southeastern US and may have negative consequences for monarch population health and their spectacular long-distance migration.

Gabriella Pardee is a PhD student in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Program at Dartmouth College. Her research examines the effects of climate change on plant-pollinator interactions. She will use a series of field experiments in which she manipulates snowmelt timing and frost exposure to examine how plants, pollinators, and their interactions respond to earlier snowmelt and increasing temperatures. Her study will take place in montane regions near the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Gothic, CO. *Funded by North Suffolk Garden Club, Setauket, NY, Zone III*

Anthony Slominski is a PhD candidate in the Department of Ecology and Environmental Science at Montana State University. The consequences of climate warming for plants and pollinators are affecting plant and pollinator traits and interactions, such as the seasonal timing of flowering periods and pollinator activity, pollinator body size and life span. Anthony is investigating these climate driven shifts including visitation patterns and reproductive success.

Meghan M. Bennett is a Zoology PhD student at North Dakota State University, who is interested in the environmental impacts on pollinators in the midst of a changing climate. Her research is focused on understanding how environmental light and temperature patterns affect pupa development and adult emergence using the alfalfa leaf cutting bee, (*Megachile rotundata*), a very important commercial pollinator.



Grace Savoy-Burke is a graduate student in the Department of Entomology at the University of Delaware. She is interested in pollinator distributions across regional landscapes and understanding how bees utilize and move through patchy habitat matrices. Grace's master's project aims to engage and educate the local community by relying on citizen scientists to survey pollinators utilizing forest habitats in the mid-Atlantic region. She is developing a reference database of bee species in Maryland and Delaware.



Brittany Harris is a Master's student in Environmental Science, Agroecology Department, at Florida International University. Her research, titled "Insecticides and pollination of imperiled plants of the Lower Florida Keys," will investigate indirect effects of mosquito insecticide drift on rare plant reproduction resulting from non-target pollinator loss. Education is also an important component and she is developing a STEM curriculum to educate teachers and 4-H students about the importance of beneficial insects and pollinator habitat.

The Clara Carter Higgins Summer Environmental Studies Scholarship

Established in 1964 to encourage college students to further their studies and careers in the field of ecology, it offers opportunities to gain knowledge and experience beyond the regular course of study.

Rachel Cook is a junior at The College of William and Mary with an academic concentration in Biology. She will be doing an internship to discern the trophic relationships among insects, historical and contemporary, associated with the American chestnut. She will be supervised by a professor in the biology department at William and Mary and Dr. Robert Kula at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History in DC. *Funded by Amateur Gardeners Club, Baltimore, MD, Zone VI*

Lorenzo Gibson is a third year undergraduate at Columbia University. His ecological fieldwork and research will be conducted in India's Western Ghats through Columbia University's Summer Ecosystem Experience (SEE-U) Program. He is interested in sustainable urban agriculture, natural waste management and nutrient recycling processes.

The Garden Club of America Awards for Summer Environmental Studies Scholarships

Established in 1993, this scholarship encourages undergraduate summer studies doing fieldwork, research or classroom work in the environmental field beyond the regular course of study.

Ella Samuel is a junior at the College of the Atlantic with an academic concentration in Conservation Biology. She will conduct research using oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) to modify the contaminated soil at the Callahan Mine in Maine. Her study will explore safe and efficient options for cleaning and replacing the soil to aid in ecosystem recovery. *Funded by Piscataqua Garden Club, York Harbor, ME, Zone I*

Aurora Lela Bayless has completed a Russian Language BA from the University of Montana, and is now finishing a Biology degree with a Natural History focus. This summer she will be studying non-structural carbohydrates in Ponderosa pine trees. She will be working in conjunction with Anna Sala, director of the Physiological Plant Ecology Lab in Missoula, MT, to determine how non-structural carbohydrates affect drought related tree mortality.

Eleanor Debreu is a junior at Barnard College majoring in Urban Studies, with a concentration in Architecture and Music. In partnership with the Riverside Park Conservancy, she will

work to restore and transform focus NYC's Riverside Park "Forever Wild" landscape into a butterfly meadow. Her research will examine sustainable and productive methods for maintaining and preserving wild landscapes within larger urban settings. With a focus on biodiversity, habitat restoration, site dynamics, and permaculture, Eleanor plans to reintroduce pollinator plants, including native milkweed for monarch butterflies, and to recreate a pollinator haven that also increases public awareness.



Chiara Forrester is studying Plant Ecology and Biodiversity at Hampshire College in Massachusetts. As a junior she will conduct research at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Gothic, CO, a renowned high-altitude ecological field and research station. Her focus will be symbiotic relationships between plants and fungi. She will test whether a beneficial symbiont alters the outcome of competition, potentially facilitating the coexistence of a host species and its competitor.



Landon Edwards is a junior pursuing degrees in Biology and Sustainable Agriculture at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina. This summer she will be traveling to Missoula, MT, to conduct research on invasive weed species control methods. In conjunction with Morgan Valliant of Missoula Parks and Recreation, she will be examining the relationship between native and invasive plant species phenology and sheep grazing preference as part of a continuing effort to use sheep as weed control.

Margaret Craig Cobb is a junior at the University of Arkansas with an academic concentration in Dietetics and Spanish. Her study abroad in Mozambique is designed to be an interdisciplinary service project in horticulture, sustainability and farming. She will work in a poultry business that was designed to be a model for sustainable economic business development.

The Caroline Thorn Kissel Summer Environmental Studies Scholarship

Established in 2004, the scholarship promotes environmental studies for residents of New Jersey or persons studying in the state.

Natalie Howe is a PhD candidate in the Graduate Program in Ecology and Evolution at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers University, NJ, where she is studying how lichens change soil chemistry and biology in the New Jersey Pinelands. She is investigating whether soil lichens can help prevent establishment of (*Teesdalia nudicaulis*), an invasive mustard plant that can weaken other plants' associations with mycorrhizal fungi (root-associated fungi that help plants get water and nutrients).

Nicholas Henshue is a third-year doctoral candidate at Rutgers University, NJ. His field is Ecology and Evolution and he will be studying how different earthworm species can possibly be used to clean up polluted industrial sites. He theorizes that five of the most common types of worms to the northern United States have the ability to change soil composition enough for plants to grow. Preliminary research suggests that while the pollution will still be in the soil, it could become modified chemically to pose less harm to the animals and plants in the ecosystem after being consumed by either the earthworms or the literally thousands of microorganisms they bring along with them.

Colleen Smith is a PhD candidate in Ecology and Evolution at Rutgers University. She will study the effects of deer herbivory of flowering plants on pollinator communities in a deciduous forest in New Jersey. Populations of white-tailed deer in the eastern United States have drastically increased in size over the last century, devastating forest understories, including the flowering plants that pollinators rely on for food. Colleen will sample plant-pollinator communities along a deer density gradient to better understand which pollinator species are most at risk.

The Mary T. Carothers Summer Environmental Studies Scholarship

Established in 2005, this scholarship is for undergraduate students who are doing summer fieldwork, research or classroom work in the field beyond their regular course of study.

Amanda Chang is a junior at Princeton University in New Jersey, with an academic concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Her research will integrate the knowledge of terrestrial fire ecology at the Archbold Biological Station in Venus, FL, with existing theory of what controls the composition of aquatic communities and whether recent fires increase the amount of nutrients released by terrestrial plants and soils into ponds, and finally how this resource affects amphibian and invertebrate biomass.

The Elizabeth Gardner Norweb Summer Environmental Studies Scholarship

Established in 2005, this scholarship encourages undergraduate summer studies doing fieldwork, research or classroom work in the environmental field beyond the regular course of study.

Lauren Gamblin is a sophomore at Mississippi State University studying Horticulture where she is an Undergraduate Research Scholar. Her research objective is to understand how activity and diversity of soil organisms impact plant growth and their ability to overcome pathogens. Her particular interest is to determine if beneficial soil invertebrates can assist loblolly pine in overcoming an attack of blue stain fungus. Loblolly pines are a significant and abundant tree species in the southeastern United States. *Funded by Garden Club of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH, Zone X, and The Norweb Foundation*

Kathryn Cooney is a junior studying Environmental Science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. This summer she will participate in a research program at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. She will study how predators affect snails on tropical shorelines of Pacific Panama. Kathryn will be responsible for conducting field and laboratory experiments to manipulate encounters between predators and potential prey. This is the second time Kathryn has received a Summer Environmental Studies Award.

Jessica Munyan is a junior at Rider University in New Jersey. Her academic concentration is in Environmental Science. She will use dendrochronology, which is the study of annual growth rings in trees, to explore and develop an environmental history of the ornamental grounds and surrounding forest at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest in Bedford County, VA.



Olivia Trani is junior with an emphasis in Biology and Environmental Science at the College of William and Mary. She will do an independent research project on how American chestnut seedlings are influenced by adopted mycorrhizal fungi — observing how the seedlings performances change when faced with this fungi abundance from neighboring mature tree communities. She hopes to gain insight into how this might affect restoration efforts of the American chestnut.

Funded by Green Spring Valley Garden Club, Owings Mills, MD, Zone VI

The Garden Club of America Zone VI Fellowship in Urban Forestry

Established in 2005 for advanced undergraduate or graduate students to study urban forestry and related subjects it is administered by the Department of Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech).

Christopher Nytech, PhD candidate in Environmental Science, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, wins the Fellowship for a second year for his research in an understudied area—tropical urban forests. He is researching the potential for storm water mitigation by urban forests in tropical urban watersheds. In 2014 he collected original data on the partitioning of rainfall by tree structure in the Rio Piedras watershed. In 2015, he will look at the collective role of urban forests and the amount of territory they cover from several geographic positions in San Juan. An immediate goal is to incorporate forest and other green infrastructures into urban landscape design to control flooding.

Jessica Debats is a doctoral candidate in Urban Studies and Planning at MIT. Her dissertation, "Seeing the City for the Trees: Public Space, Climate Adaptation, and Environmental Justice," examines how New York and Los Angeles used public-private partnerships to mitigate the urban heat island through urban forestry, particularly in low-income, low-canopy neighborhoods. Using remote sensing, planting records, tax records, census

data, and historical aerial photography, Jessica will analyze how the evolution of each city's built environment shaped the plantings in public vs. private space and low vs. high income neighborhoods. *Funded by Casey Trees, Washington, DC*

Joanna Solins is a PhD student at the University of California, Davis. She is studying the effects of urbanization on riparian woody plant communities and nitrogen cycling along streams in the metropolitan region of Sacramento, CA. She aims to inform conservation, restoration, and water quality mitigation efforts in Mediterranean and other semi-arid urban environments by identifying riparian conditions conducive to nitrogen retention and the success of different tree species.

Ryan Klein MS candidate in Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, is pursuing a study of urban tree risk assessment. There has been little new science in this area in the last decade despite recognition that current risk management strategies result in inconsistent outcomes. Tree care professionals using visual indicators to gauge structural soundness of a tree often deliberately remove a tree while it is alive—to be on the safe side. New training protocol, TRAQ, developed by the International Society of Arboriculture can enhance consistency in risk assessment. Ryan plans to test the three main risk assessment methods to see if the outcome from each method impacts actual mitigation recommendations. *Funded by the Nottingham Family Fund*

The Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Awards

In addition to announcing its scholarships, The Garden Club of America, through its Hull Award, "recognizes an individual who, through working with children under 16 years of age in horticulture and the environment, has inspired their appreciation of the beauty and fragility of our planet."

Proposed by a GCA club or member

Gordon Black, Birmingham, AL

Proposed by Carey Hinds, Little Garden Club of Birmingham, Birmingham, AL, Zone VIII

Gordon's CLEAN (Children Linking with the Environment Across the Nation) program successfully fosters environmental education by introducing thousands of Birmingham area youth to the Cahaba River. He has taken about 14,000 children and their teachers into the Cahaba River for hands-on environmental science stream walks, canoe trips, and educational service-learning projects, such as river clean-ups and forest restoration.

Elisabeth Cary, Stockbridge, MA

Proposed by Martha Piper, The Lenox Garden Club and Diana French Berkshire Garden Club, Pittsfield, MA, Zone I

Elisabeth, a much-loved Berkshire Botanical Garden director, has promoted environmentalism through creative education and hands-on experiences for children of all ages. Her creation of a "Farm in the Garden Summer Camp" and enthusiastic teaching style has

given children the knowledge of caring for animals, planting gardens and making food from what they grow.

Funded by Sasqua Garden Club, Fairfield, CT, Zone III

Maria Conroy, Dallas, TX
Proposed by Catherine Corrigan, Founders Garden Club of Dallas, Dallas, TX, Zone IX



Maria has been the visionary and the driving volunteer force behind the over 125,000 annual visiting school age children to the Children's Adventure Garden in the Dallas Arboretum. Her leadership has built a garden like no other. The garden has seventeen unique learning galleries, each one devoted to a specific life, earth or environmental science concept. Maria has brought urbanized children back to nature through interactive education, creative play and outdoor exploration.

Mark Fallon, Philadelphia, PA
Proposed by Alice Turman and Nancy Deibert, Huntingdon Valley Garden Club, Huntingdon Valley, PA, Zone V

As the senior naturalist at Briar Bush Nature Center in Abington, PA, Mark helped launch the ACORN (Abington Children Observing Real Nature) to the public and private schools in the area. He was involved in the installation of a butterfly house at Briar Bush, oversaw the planting of

many native plants and most recently designed, installed and landscaped an outdoor Playscape at Briar Bush. This was the first "natural" outdoor play area in Pennsylvania. This trailblazer has truly had an emotional and intellectual impact on his community and its children.

Stella Kennedy, Piedmont, CA
Proposed by Patricia Reed, Piedmont Garden Club, Piedmont, CA, Zone XII

As an educator and an inspiration for over forty-seven years, Stella has given children an opportunity to learn about nature and to explore an outdoor world unknown to them through her "Green Team" curriculum in the Piedmont School District. Growing native plants and providing an outdoor teaching and learning space to support curriculum have been accomplished in this year's opening of the "Learn Scape Lunch Park."

John Markelon, Goshen, CT
Proposed by Catherine Oneglia, Litchfield Garden Club, Litchfield, CT, Zone II

For nearly thirty years John has promoted environmental education in the Litchfield Schools through the Litchfield High School Envirothon team, The Meadow Restoration project and Operation Wallacea. Native plants continue to be planted on the school grounds where middle school children help to eradicate invasive shrubs and plants from the campus. Most of the plants have been propagated in the school's greenhouse under Mark's direction.

Funded by Ridgefield Garden Club, Ridgefield, CT, Zone II.

Kathleen McLynn, Washington, DC
Proposed by Penny Morrill and Brooke Morton, Perennial Garden Club, Washington, DC, Zone VI

A teacher of three to five year olds at the St. Columba's Nursery School, Kathleen has encouraged children's love of nature for more than twenty-five years. Each year her young children learn how the water cycle and the life cycles of plants and animals make and utilize compost for growing flowers, herbs and vegetables. The school's gardens are the basis on which St. Columba's has become a registered National Backyard Wildlife Habitat and Monarch Butterfly Way Station.
Funded by Jane Chapman, Rochester Garden Club, Rochester, NY, Zone III.

Sheryl Pedrick, Bel Air, MD
Proposed by Wendy Griswold, Garden Club of Twenty, Glyndon, MD, Zone VI

With boundless enthusiasm Sheryl has provided outstanding contributions to early childhood environmental education at the Ladew Topiary Gardens. She oversees "Storytime," has started a Butterfly House and a Monarch butterfly workshop. Her Summer Nature Camp for children four to nine years old has an environmental thrust as children hike, play games, perform experiments and create art projects. She has given children an opportunity to learn about nature and to explore an outdoor world unknown to them.

Anita Sanchez, Amsterdam, NY
Proposed by Carol Fitzgerald, Fort Orange Garden Club, Loudonville, NY, Zone III

For thirty-five years at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center and the Pine Hollow Arboretum, Anita has promoted environmental education especially for the young. She is the author of children's books, which are used in classrooms for developing reading skills, imparting information, and instilling enthusiasm and respect for the natural world. Her programs at Pine Hollow Arboretum have successfully reached both suburban and inner city elementary school children.
Funded by Millbrook Garden Club, Millbrook, NY, Zone III

Dorothy Tompkins, North Garden, VA
Proposed by Constance Palmer and Candace Crosby, Albemarle Garden Club, Charlottesville, VA, Zone VII

As a volunteer for many years, Dorothy has donated 3,000 hours of community service to the Albemarle and Charlottesville schools through her work in their programs with young children. From after school programs at the Greenbrier Elementary School, close alignment with the city Schoolyard garden projects and the 4-H Club Junior Naturalists, this remarkable woman is leaving a lasting legacy in each young life that she touches.

The Garden Club of America Rome Prize Fellows in Landscape Architecture

Annually the American Academy in Rome hosts 30 “Rome Fellows” — up and coming professionals in the arts and humanities, making names for themselves in their fields. Living and working together at the Academy, located on Janiculum Hill in ancient Rome, offers them the opportunity to rub shoulders with other very bright people, exchanging ideas and learning from one another. The Garden Club of America is proud to have supported the following Rome Prize Fellows in Landscape Architecture:

Richard K. Webel '28
Charles R. Sutton '32
Henry Chabanne '34
Alden Hopkins '36
Robert S. Kitchen '38
Stuart M. Mertz '40
Charles A. Currier '48
Vincent C. Cerasi '49
George E. Patton '50
Dale H. Hawkins '52
E. Bruce Baetjer '54
Stephen F. Bochkor '57
Robert T. Buchanan '59
Eric Armstrong '61
Don H. Olson '62
Roger B. Martin '64
Dean A. Johnson '66
Frank D. James '68
Paul R. V. Pawlowksi '69
Albert R. Lamb III '70

Peter M. Pollack '71
Charles A. Rapp '72
Laurie D. Olin '74
Leonard Azeo Torre '76
Stephen C. Haus '79
E. Michael Vergason '80
John L. Wong '81
Richard Burck '82
Jack Sullivan '83
Stacy Moriarty '84
Chip Sullivan '85
Joanna Dougherty '86
Elizabeth Hermann '87
Daniel Tuttle '88
Linda Cook '89
Julie Bargmann '90
Peter Lindsay Schaudt '91
Thomas R. Oslund '92
Gary R. Hilderbrand '94
Leslie A. Ryan '95

Peter O'Shea '96
James L. Wescoat, Jr. '97
Elise Brewster '98
Tom Leader '99
Laurel McSherry '00
David Meyer '01
Peter Osler '02
Joel Katz '03
Joseph Ragsdale '04
Sarah Kuehl '05
Richard Barnes '06
Willet Moss '07
Lisa Tziona Switkin '08
Hope H. Hasbrouck '09
Robert Hammond '10
Fritz Haeg '11
David Rubin '12
Karen M'Closky '13
Bradley Cantrell '14
Adam Kuby '15
Thaisa Way '16



The gates of the American Academy in Rome



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