



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM



FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

Since the very beginning, the U.S. National Arboretum has been shaped by the hands of those who love it. From the volunteers who tend the collections to the philanthropists who fund our biggest ideas, this 451-acre sanctuary has always been a shared endeavor.

Building on that storied foundation, Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) is proud to serve as the National Arboretum's nonprofit partner. Together, we work in lockstep to bring the resources, people, and passion necessary to celebrate and support the entirety of this national treasure.

Because of you, the Arboretum felt more welcoming and vibrant in 2025. When federal budget uncertainties loomed, your support kept critical services running. You funded the interns who provide world-class care for the Arboretum's collections, and you kept the gates open for those magical, firefly-lit summer evenings. You are the reason this impact is possible.

We are now entering a historic new chapter as FONA assumes responsibility for celebrating and supporting the National Arboretum's bonsai initiatives. We are honored to carry this global legacy forward and hope you will join us for the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum's 50th Anniversary celebration this November. It is the perfect milestone to build momentum as we approach the Arboretum's Centennial in 2027.

As we enter the next 100 years of the National Arboretum, we look forward to continued partnership with you to ensure it continues to lead on cutting-edge research, increasing access to nature, and showcasing the stunning collections for all to enjoy.

In partnership,



Jeanne Braha
Executive Director
Friends of the National Arboretum



Dr. Richard T. Olsen
Director
U.S. National Arboretum

MISSION

FONA supports and celebrates the science, beauty, and community impact of the U.S. National Arboretum through education, engagement, and access to nature.

VISION

Our vision is to create an extraordinary local and global public experience through the U.S. National Arboretum, where people of all ages can learn, connect, and find joy in nature, supported by world-class research, expanded education, enhanced facilities, and greater community access.

VALUES

Connection to the Land

We recognize the land as the foundation of our work and commit to its responsible stewardship.

Collaboration

We achieve more together by working across teams and with external partners, building relationships grounded in respect and integrity.

Community Engagement

We foster transparent and constructive relationships with communities, advancing shared priorities with a spirit of joy.

Learning & Innovation

We embrace curiosity and creative problem-solving, fostering a culture of continuous improvement that values transparency and diverse perspectives.

Stewardship

We manage financial, human, and natural resources responsibly, ensuring long-term sustainability and accountability.

Front Page Photo Credits: Lissa Ryan Photography (bonsai); Zak Khaliqi (meadow)

Facing Page Photo Credits: U.S. National Arboretum (Arboretum intern); Zak Khaliqi (evening hours)

2025 IN REVIEW



3 NATIONAL ARBORETUM INTERNS
FUNDED FOR A YEAR OF PROFESSIONAL
TRAINING IN HORTICULTURE AND RESEARCH



11 GREEN AMBASSADOR SUMMER INTERNS
DEVELOPED AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY,
CARPENTRY, AND CAREER READINESS SKILLS



40,000+ EXTRA VISITORS
ENJOYED EXPANDED ACCESS DURING SUMMER EVENING HOURS



1,480+ STUDENTS
LEARNED GARDEN SCIENCE ON FIELD
TRIPS TO THE WASHINGTON YOUTH GARDEN



1,350 VOLUNTEER HOURS
DONATED TO SUPPORT THE
GARDEN FAIR & PLANT SALE



84 TEACHERS FROM 14 D.C. SCHOOLS
ENGAGED WITH THE SCHOOL GARDEN SUPPORT PROGRAM

WAYS TO SUPPORT FONA



MEMBERSHIP

Belong to a community of supporters dedicated to the U.S. National Arboretum's growth. Become a member today to champion nature, science, and education.

DAVID FAIRCHILD SOCIETY

Join our premier giving circle to provide the vital resources needed to sustain world-class gardens, pioneering research, and transformative community programs.

HERITAGE SOCIETY

Ensure the Arboretum's future by including FONA in your estate plans. Legacy gifts through wills, trusts, retirement accounts, and more create a lasting impact for generations.

TRIBUTE BENCHES

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion with an engraved teak bench. Your tax-deductible gift provides a beautiful place for visitors to connect with nature for 15 years.

SPONSORSHIP

Partner with us to reach thousands of program and event attendees, 17,500+ newsletter subscribers, and 17,000+ social media followers. Corporate sponsors gain high-profile visibility while also supporting community events, major fundraisers, and visitor programs.

VOLUNTEER

Donate your time and expertise to support the Washington Youth Garden, 5K races, Garden Fair & Plant Sale, and more! Find an opportunity that fits your interests.



Josh Peterson Photography



JOIN US TODAY!

Scan the QR code or visit fona.org/support.

Questions? Contact donations@fona.org or (202) 544-8733.

FONA Tax ID: 52-1257712

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Martha Van Dale, *Board Chair*

Virginia Kromm, *Vice Chair*

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Nzinga Tull

Tuckie Westfall

* *Joined board in 2026*

** *Retired from board in 2026*

Jeanne Braha, *Executive Director*