

Smithsonian Gardens

FY2019 Annual Report



Smithsonian Gardens

As a vital and vibrant part of the Smithsonian experience, Smithsonian Gardens engages people with plants and gardens, informs on the roles both play in our cultural and natural worlds, and inspires appreciation and stewardship.

Smithsonian Gardens extends the Smithsonian's museum experience to a public garden setting, inspiring visitors with exceptional displays and educating them about horticulture, plants, natural and built environments, and artistic design.

Collections

Mass Digitization Project

Following on the heels of a 2018 project that digitized nearly 14,000 images, The Archives of American Gardens launched into a new mass digitization project in 2019 that will result in the digitization of another 40,000 garden images. These images will be searchable online in the Smithsonian's Collections Search Center, collections.si.edu.

New Smithsonian Book

Two SG staff members, Kelly Crawford and Joyce Connolly, contributed content to a recent book, *Smithsonian American Women*. Their articles and the

images they chose highlight the work of landscape architect Annette Hoyt Flanders (1887–1946), the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women in Massachusetts, and the Women's Land Army in World Wars I and II.

Plant Explorer

Plant Explorer is Smithsonian Gardens' online guide to all the specimens in its tree and orchid collections. It enables one to search for specific plants and browse a catalog of all of SG's trees and orchids to learn more about them.

Mary Livingston Ripley Garden Fountain Restoration

The historic cast-iron fountain in the Ripley Garden was taken off display in September 2018 and shipped to a foundry in Alabama where it underwent extensive restoration treatment including having layers of paint stripped off and a fresh coat applied. This popular showpiece was reinstalled in March with a new spout in place of the original 'boy and fish' waterjet that had degraded over time.



Reinstallation of the restored Mary Livingston Ripley Garden fountain. *Photo by Smithsonian Gardens.*





Collections, Education, & Access Team

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

CEA might sound like an undercover agency, but it is actually the acronym for Smithsonian Gardens' Collections, Education and Access team. While SG's gardeners and horticulturists toil in the soil, the quiet but mighty CEA team process and maintain the collections; plan programs, exhibits and special events; manage volunteers and interns; publish newsletters; tweet about the gardens; and attend meetings — so many meetings.

Museum specialists Joyce Connolly, Kelly Crawford, Paula Healy, and Sarah Hedeane and education specialist Cindy Brown are major pan-institutional contributors. This team of five represent SG on more than 25 committees and councils.

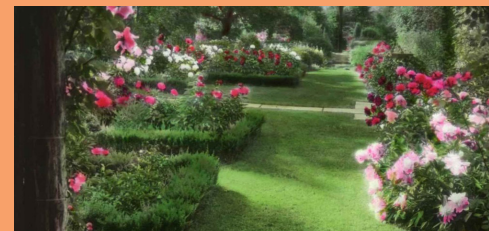
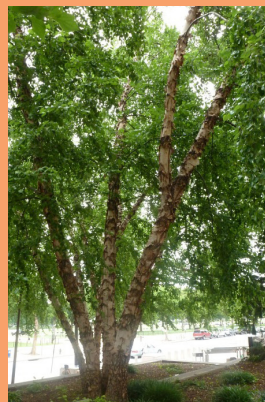
When asked what they thought was their most important job, the CEA team replied with answers as varied as their specialties. Sarah Hedeane, Living Collections Manager, believes advocating for living collections by securing SI grant funds is the most crucial component. For primary cataloguer Kelly Crawford, providing research, description, digital access, rights and reproduction to the archival collections and artifacts pertaining to horticulture and gardening in America is her ultimate duty. Paula Healy, Intern and Volunteer Coordinator, believes securing and managing oversight of contractors, volunteers and interns for collection management projects and educational programming is essential. Joyce Connolly feels her most important role is taking care of the Smithsonian collections and

making them available for research so that they can educate and inspire. And Cindy Brown, Education Specialist and Department Manager, thinks nothing is more important than providing support for the amazing CEA team.

Their hard work and dedication to SG's vision to engage, inform, and inspire is evident in everything they do.

Featured image:
The Smithsonian Gardens' Collections, Education and Access team. Pictured: Paula Healy, Cindy Brown, Joyce Connolly, Sarah Hedeane, Kelly Crawford.

Images clockwise from the top:
Grassland biome featured in the exhibit Biomes: Life in the Balance. | Lantern slide from the Archives of America's Gardens. | Part of the Smithsonian Garden's living collections is this River Birch. *Photos by Smithsonian Gardens.*



Education & Outreach

Smithsonian Gardens Website

Smithsonian Gardens launched an updated website in June with a fresh look and up-to-date features. It serves as a one-stop shop for all the information needed to plan a visit and learn more about the gardens; SG's living, archival, and museum collections; educational resources; and details on current and upcoming exhibitions. New features include an interactive gardens map, an events calendar, and Plant Explorer.

APGA Conference

Smithsonian Gardens co-hosted the American Public Gardens Association's National Conference in June. The theme, Thrive Together: Diversity Grows Gardens, celebrated the impact of public gardens have and provided participants with the tools to be accessible and inclusive for all who work at and visit these spaces. Co-hosts included the U.S. National Arboretum; Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens; and the United States Botanic Garden.

Smithsonian Gardens welcomed more than 500 attendees at the opening reception in the Enid A. Haupt Garden. The conference broke records including the largest number of attendees (1,137) and participating gardens (16+) and doubled the amount of programming and tours from what was available at the previous year's conference. Its success was due in part to the contributions of SG staff and volunteers.

Hundreds of hours were spent sprucing up gardens, planning programs, organizing tours and receptions, and providing hospitality.

Leading & Professional Development

One of SG's most exciting educational initiatives in FY2019 involved a collaborative internship program with American University called Learning by Leading™ that combines leadership skills and real-world experience. It was started by the Horticulture Department at UC Davis and has spread to public gardens at universities across the country. Interns researched and created interactive, interdisciplinary learning experiences at Smithsonian Gardens and American University.

Smithsonian Gardens' long-running In-service Training program was revamped to compensate for time lost during the government shutdown in January 2019 as well as the introduction of auditorium rental fees. A new event, the Professional Development Symposium, was well received by staff and volunteers.

Exhibits

2019 Orchid Exhibit, Orchids: Amazing Adaptations

Smithsonian Gardens and Smithsonian Exhibits, along with staff from the NPG and the SAAM, collaborated to create an exhibit highlighting the orchid collections of SG and the U.S. Botanic Garden. Orchids were on display throughout the Kogod Courtyard's eight raised planter beds in a variety of settings emphasizing the theme of habitat.

Bloom: Flowers in the Archives of American Art

The Bloom exhibit (March 1–October 6, 2019), organized by the Archives of American Art (AAA) in collaboration with SG, explored how artists have drawn inspiration from flowers. The exhibit featured artwork from AAA. Its interpretive labels were written by AAA archivists and curators with supplemental information contributed by SG horticulturalists, educators, and gardeners to articulate the many facets of flora. The two perspectives — art and horticulture — highlighted the cross-pollination of ideas between American art history and the natural world, and more broadly, the creative intersection of art and science.



Images left to right:
2019 Orchid Exhibit, Orchids Amazing Adaptions. *Photo by Smithsonian Gardens.* | Bloom: Flowers in the Archives of American Art. *Photo courtesy of Archives of American Art.*



Pioneering Plants

Smithsonian Gardens, in collaboration with NMNH, installed four interpretive panels highlighting the evolution of plants to align with the opening of NMNH's Deep Time exhibit. The location of the signage at the Constitution Avenue entrance to the museum was designed to educate and entertain visitors as they wait to enter the museum. With these engaging panels, Pioneering Plants joins the Urban Bird Habitat and Pollination Investigation as permanent Smithsonian Gardens' educational exhibits in the NMNH landscape.

Gardens Across America

Smithsonian Gardens was one of 20 gardens selected to create vignettes at the U.S. Botanic Garden as part of its Gardens Across America exhibition that ran from May to October. SG horticulturists created a pollinator garden, developed interpretive signage, and installed a second hive sculpture from the Bug B&B display at NMNH to further the public's knowledge of SG and its mission, the Habitat exhibition, and the importance of pollinators to the ecosystem.

Golden Triangle

Smithsonian Gardens worked with the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (BID) in support of BID's annual Golden Streets competition to promote pollinator health by creating some of the more than 260 pollinator-friendly tree boxes in the heart of the city. SG horticulturists also installed two pollinator gardens in two urban parks managed by the National Park Service and hosted multiple educational programs including hands-on activities.



Images clockwise from the top: SG horticulturist works in one of two urban pollinator gardens. | SG employee installing interpretive panels outside of NMNH. | Hive sculpture in Gardens Across America exhibition. All photos by Smithsonian Gardens.



Habitat

EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT

For the first time in its nearly fifty-year history, Smithsonian Gardens installed a single-theme campus-wide exhibition which ties together exhibits in all Smithsonian's properties. Habitat, which premiered in May 2019 and will be on display through December 2020, features fourteen exhibits in both exterior and interior garden spaces.

The development of a campus-wide exhibition is the latest step in a long journey for Smithsonian Gardens. Over the last decade, the organization has changed its name from the Office of Horticulture to the current Smithsonian Gardens, refined their mission, achieved accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums, and developed a second five-year strategic plan. Another step on this journey involved developing an Interpretive Master Plan in 2017 in collaboration with Smithsonian Exhibits to provide a road map for launching a recurring campus-wide exhibition series. Habitat is the first.

While the Habitat exhibits tell diverse stories about habitats and the plants, animals, and humans that call them home, they all share one big idea: protecting habitats protects life. This theme was selected for its relevance to the Smithsonian's Grand Challenge of "understanding and sustaining a biodiverse planet" and to Smithsonian Gardens' mission to "inform on the roles people and plants play in our cultural and natural worlds." Three key messages woven into all the exhibits reinforce the exhibition's theme: habitats are homes; habitats

are interconnected and fragile; and habitats need to be protected.

Each exhibit is also tailored to its respective museum site. Habitat of Flight on the National Air and Space Museum campus, for example, explores how people have been inspired by their habitats to innovate, including the innovation of flight. The Nests exhibit on the National Museum of Natural History campus references the 5,000 bird nests in NMNH's Division of Birds' collection.

In addition to collaborating with several museum partners, SG also partnered with Smithsonian scientists and researchers at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and Smithsonian Environmental Research Center to explore some of the challenges facing habitats and how Smithsonian scientists are creating hope for their future.

During the exhibition's two-year run, Smithsonian Gardens will host a variety of habitat-related events and educational programs. These events and programs offer a deeper dive into some of the themes explored throughout the exhibition. More information can be found at gardens.si.edu.

Featured image:
Arches of Life sculpture by artist Foon Sham, featured in the Habitat exhibit, Deadwood is Life. Photo by Mackenzie Risher.

Donations, Endowments, Grants, & Royalties

Smithsonian Gardens' fundraising activities in FY2019 continued to grow with the notable addition of 34 individual donations totaling \$64,855.

SG's endowment funds generated payouts amounting to \$324,166. These funds provided vital support for the maintenance of the Enid A. Haupt Garden and the Mary Livingston Ripley Garden.

SG collections management staff secured Smithsonian grants for collections management initiatives in the amount of \$122,900. Awards included:

\$113,700 from the CIS-IRM Pool Fund for the project Data Enhancement of Digital Records for Smithsonian Gardens Orchid Collection. The funding enabled SG to hire contract support to enhance existing descriptive records by improving content standards and validating information.

\$9,200 from the National Collections Program to support cataloging of SG's Garden Furnishings and Horticultural Artifacts Collection.

To support Smithsonian Gardens' Habitat exhibition series, \$23,573 was awarded in grant funds from the Smithsonian Women's Committee for the design and fabrication of interpretive signage.

Royalties from collaborations with Smithsonian Enterprises resulted in revenues of \$5,462. Revenue was derived from projects as varied as books, drinkware, and fine garden accent reproductions.

FY2019 Donations, Endowments, Grants & Royalties

Donations and honorariums	\$64,855.00
Funding from The Garden Club of America to host one AAG intern	\$4,000.00
Endowment payout for programs and operations	\$324,166.88
CIS IRM Pool Grant	\$113,700.00
National Collections Program Grant	\$9,200.00
Smithsonian Women's Committee Grant	\$23,573.00
Receipts from license royalties	\$5,462.71
TOTAL	\$544,957.59

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thank you to the many volunteers who aided Smithsonian Gardens in 2019. 86 volunteers donated 5,755 hours of their time, the equivalent of three full-time employees. They supported SG staff in the gardens, greenhouses, archives, and exhibits, and shared their special talents in photography, research, writing, customer service, plant production, and conducting garden tours. In addition, they helped out at a number of special events including the American Public Gardens Association's Annual Conference (co-hosted by SG) and the Amazing Adaptations Orchid Exhibit.

Smithsonian Gardens staff showed their appreciation to the volunteers by planning special Continuing Education programs and tours, hosting a special volunteer luncheon at SG's Greenhouse facility and facilitating a chance to meet fellow garden volunteers at the 25th Horticultural Consortium Volunteer Appreciation Day at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Hats off to our dedicated volunteers!



FY2019 Smithsonian Gardens Volunteers

Haripriya Aluru
Terry A. Anderson
Ann Balch
Claire Block
Paulina Donna Brandes
Emma Brennan
Lauren M. Bridenbaugh
Deborah S. Brown
Margaret Brown
Susan R. Bruns
Shahla Butler
Rebecca Lara Callaghan
Cristin Castro
Sandra J. Chacko
Toby Christensen
Eric B. Cohen
Sheryl L. Cooper
Eugene E. Cross
Eric Dircksen
Deborah D. Dixon
Karen H. Ewalt
Denise S. Fayne
Jeffrey D. Feltman
Fitzgerald, Nicole
Christine K. Forst
Sharon C. Gee
Robert Charles Gottel
Eva L. Griffeth
Shyama Haniffa
Margaret J. Hardy
Heather Hare

Kathy L. Hennes
Shohreh Hoffmann
Suzanne G. Huff
Charlene Tate Huggins
Maureen A. Jais-Mick
Joan Keenan
Carolyn M. Casey Kneipp,
Donna Kolis
Alison Kootstra
Becky Lavash
Judith Lesser
Steven Lonker
Barbara Anne Marin
Ian Anthony Mcgowan
Elizabeth R. Miller
Patricia A. Mink
Yumiko Miura
Audrey Morris
Melanie Neuman
Viveka Neveln
Yvonne Marie Orkin
Tonda Phalen
Nina A. Pitkin
Jeff Pixley
Janessa Pricce
Annette B. Ramirez de Arellano
Christine Rose
Linda Rosenfeld
Renee S. Ross
Nicole Rousmaniere
Holly M. Rowe

Nancy Sahli
Christina M. Schreiner
Sheryl L. Silfen
Jane M. Simpson
Martha Smith
Karen E. Sondak
Daniya M. Tamendarova
Rosemary Tiernan
Marcy Wasilewski
Laurel A. Wessman
Marca Woodhams

FY2019 Smithsonian Gardens Staff

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Deputy Director

Jeffrey Schneider

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Michael Allen

Debra Austin

Joseph Brice

Cynthia Brown

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Erin Clark

Joyce Connolly

Francis Cooper

Kelly Crawford

Joseph Curley

Alexander Dencker

Victoria Marie Dibella

Sarah Dickert

Allison Dineen

Kurt Donaldson

William Donnelly

Janet Draper

Randy Dudley

Kevin Duncan

Matthew Fleming

James Gagliardi

Vanessa Garner

Shelley Gaskins

Jill Gonzalez

Michael Guetig

Thomas Hattaway

Paula Healy

Sarah Hedeane

Jacob Hendee

Kevin Hill

Shannon Hill

Heath Holmes

Matthew Huber

Shaun Kelsey

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Sherri Manning

Matthew Millage

Jonathan Miranda

Melanie Pyle

Michael Riordan

Marisa Scalera

Sylvia Schmeichel

Ava Schwarz

Elias Shilling

Virginia Thaxton

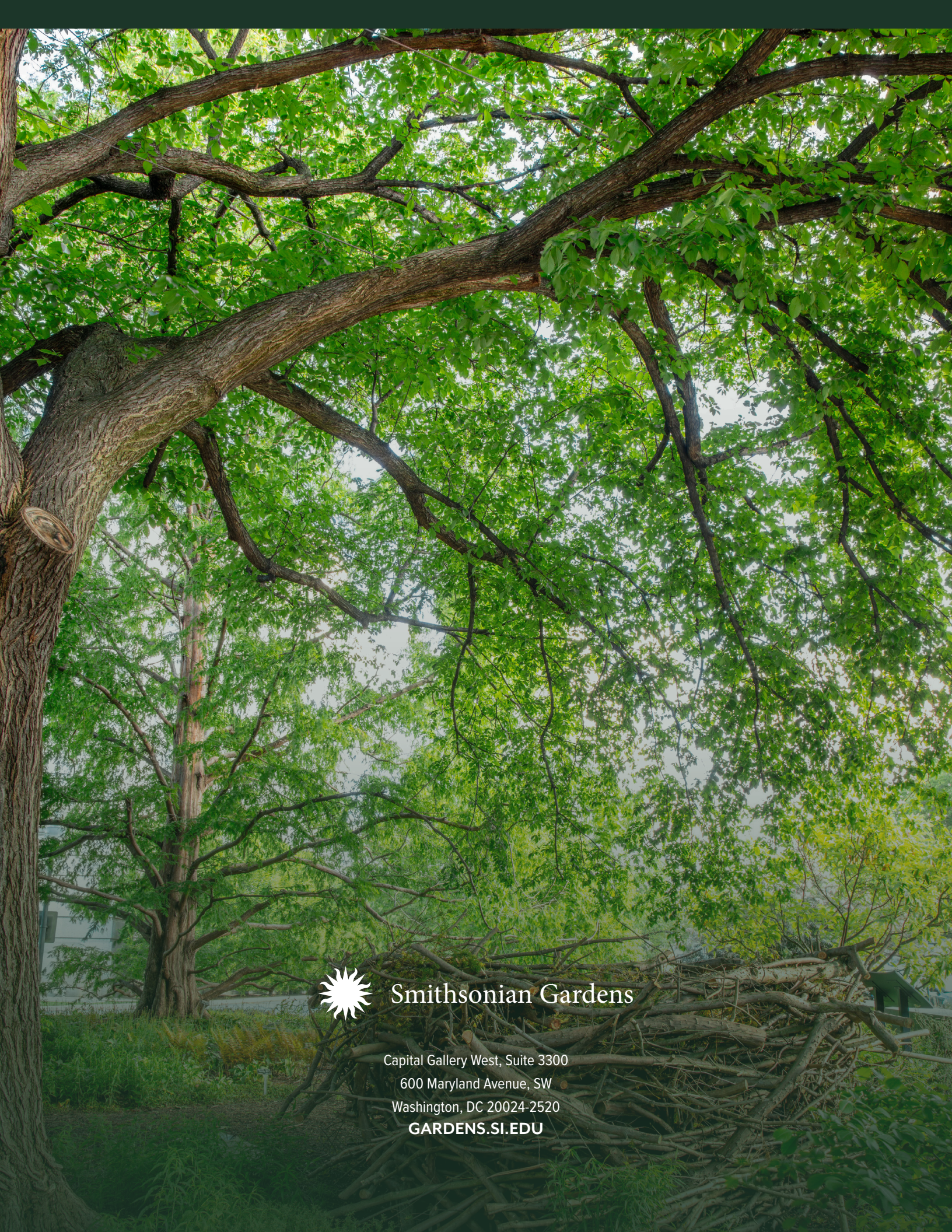
Alexandra Thompson

William Thompson

Sarah Tietbohl

Holly Walker





Smithsonian Gardens

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