

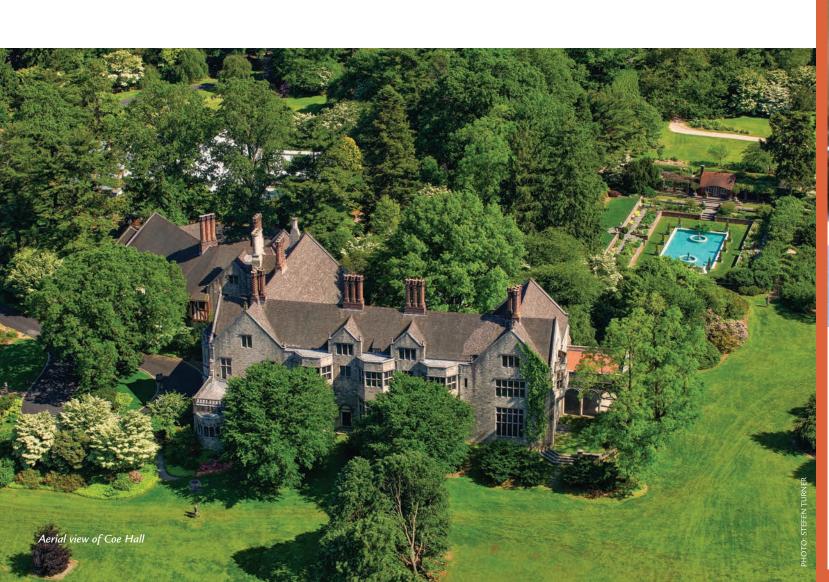
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EVERGREN

PLANTING FIELDS FOUNDATION
PLANTING FIELDS ARBORETUM, OYSTER BAY, NEW YORK

FALL/WINTER 2013-14 NEWSLETTER





Planting Fields Purchased One Hundred Years Ago by Mr. and Mrs. William R. Coe

It was one hundred years ago on December 1st, 1913 that Mr. and Mrs. William Robertson Coe bought the Planting Fields estate which they had previously been renting. To commemorate that important year in the park's history, Mai Coe's 1913 Steinway, Model B, grand piano for many years kept at the Manor House - unplayed for decades because of its cracked sound board - has just been fully restored and reconditioned to concert performance standards. The work was carried out by the Steinway Company at their Long Island City facility. In September the piano was returned to the great hall of Coe Hall where it will be used for upcoming concerts and events.

(Continued on page 4)



MISSION STATEMENT

Planting Fields Foundation collaborates with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to preserve and interpret Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park as a premier Long Island Gold Coast estate and arboretum by providing educational and enriching experiences.

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Message from the incoming Board President, Hal Davidson



I have enjoyed visiting Planting Fields for many years, and as a board member have come to know the Arboretum and Coe Hall extremely well. Every time I come here I feel enthusiastically welcomed by both staff and volunteers. It is marvelous to feel part of a place that is so beautiful and that gives pleasure to so many visitors. As a trustee I felt like an honorable contributor to Planting Fields and have learned so much about what we do here. Now as President

of the Board, I feel very honored to take on more responsibilities. I will continue to learn and invite input, suggestions and observations from my fellow board members, staff, volunteers and visitors. I will apply my skills and experience in business, and as a true lover of Planting Fields I hope to enhance the Arboretum's growing success and encourage as many new and returning visitors as possible to come and enjoy all that we have to offer.

I give heartfelt thanks to Gib Chapman, whose vigilant and wise leadership as outgoing Board President leaves me with a well-marked map for future success.

Hal Davidson









on Foley



lennifer Wiggins

We Warmly Welcome...

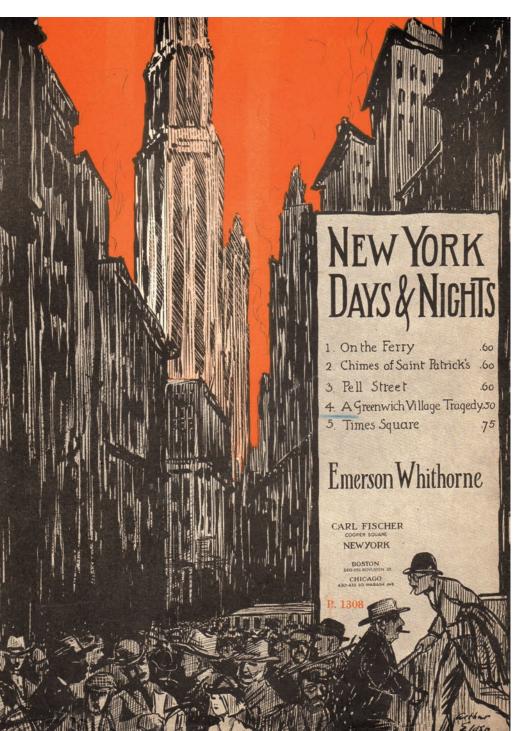
HANNAH BURNS is Chief Operating Officer of North Sea Partners, a private middle market investment banking firm. Prior to North Sea, she was a managing director and global head of public relations at Lehman Brothers. From 1986 to 2001 she was managing director of Corporate Communications at Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. where she oversaw internal and external communications, including investor relations. Ms. Burns is a trustee of The Gettysburg Foundation and Edith Wharton Restoration in Lenox, Massachusetts. She is actively involved in Old Westbury Gardens, having served as the co-chairman of the Gardeners Fair in 2010, co-chair of the Décor Committee in 2009 and will chair the Journal Committee in 2013. She is a member of St. John's of Lattingtown, where she serves on the Altar Guild, and the North Country Garden Club. She holds a BA in Government from Smith College.

RON FOLEY recently retired as Regional Director for the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation of the Long Island Region; prior to this position he served as Suffolk County's Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Throughout his extensive tenure as Regional Director, Ron presided over 25 state parks, including Iones Beach, Robert Moses, Montauk Downs, as well as state historic parks such as Planting Field Arboretum, several golf courses, including Bethpage State Park, the host of two U.S. Opens and the Barclays tournament. Ron is currently employed by Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., a multidiscipline engineering and construction firm with locations in Babylon and Buffalo, NY. In this new role Ron provides senior project management and supervision of municipal and parks-related projects.

IENNIFER WIGGINS was born in Australia and has an honors degree in Zoology from Oxford University. Long time admirers of the National Trust in England, she and husband, Colin, have been enthusiastic promoters of Planting Fields since arriving on Long Island in 1960. Jennifer, who taught Biology both in England and America, has been involved in local community organizations and, until her recent election to the Board, enjoyed 27 years as a volunteer docent and researcher at Coe Hall. This has given her a deep interest in the history of the Gold Coast and the importance of the preservation and interpretation of Planting Fields. Her interests include gardening, antiquarian book collecting, genealogy, photography and travel. She and her husband have traveled extensively, on 'back roads and byways' in North America, Europe and Australasia, with a focus on exploring and documenting historic estates, buildings and gardens.

Planting Fields Purchased One Hundred Years Ago by Mr. and Mrs. William R. Coe

(Continued from page 1)



Emerson Whithorne, "New York Days & Nights" Sheet Music

Mai Coe loved piano music as well as playing the piano. Her interest in contemporary music led her friend, Emerson Whithorne, a notable American composer, to dedicate his composition, "New York Days and Nights", to her. A copy of the sheet music, which is in the archives at Planting Fields Foundation, includes the dedication.

Piano sheet music became more readily available toward the end of the 19th century, and popular songs and rags were produced by a host of composers. Vaudeville acts also helped popularize the piano, and by the late 1920s the instrument became more broadly used in homes across America. At the same time Broadway musicals, with their rich variety of songs, were becoming ubiquitous and their music was widely published. The large collection of Mai and daughter Natalie, Coe's sheet music in the Planting Fields Foundation archives, is a testimony to Mai's commitment to the art of the piano.

The restoration of Mai's piano is just one small part of the multitiered refurnishing plan for Coe Hall as we continue to bring back the original sensibility of the rooms that were created by the interior design firm, Charles

of London. The mansion was fully furnished in 1921, three years after construction began. After Mr. Coe's death in 1955, many of the original furnishings were removed and the building became a college. About 70 of the original pieces have been returned by family members and today there are about 425 furnishing artifacts on view in

the seven ground floor rooms of the mansion.

Four additional pieces of furniture have recently been acquired by the Foundation and added to the great hall, including two baroque style armchairs that are almost identical to a pair of chairs that appear in the 1920s

photographs of the room by Mattie Hewitt. A needlepoint firescreen close in style to the original one owned in the 1920s has also been purchased. Three of the original paintings belonging to the Coe family include Marchese and Marchessa di Lomellini (school of Van Dyke), as well as the portrait of the Coe children. The

(Continued on page 6)



Two baroque style arm chairs and a needle work firescreen recently acquired for the great hall.



Suit of armor, a replica of a 16th century Spanish suit of armor. Probably about 1910s-1920s. The Coe family had a suit of armor in their front entrance hall, which designer Charles Duveen used in other house he designed to add an element of antiquity and grandness to the space.

(Continued from page 5)

only other piece of original furniture in the great hall that survives is an extremely fine tapestry upholstered settee, which is currently undergoing conservation and will be returned in the spring.

Over the last twelve months one hundred artifacts have been added to Coe Hall, notably a suit of armor on display in the front hall where one once stood. Another fine addition to the house is the reproduction gilded bed along with eight newly made French style chairs for Mai Coe's bedroom. There is also a magnificent Elizabethan style four poster bed for Mr. Coe's bedroom similar to one that appears in Mattie Hewitt's 1920s photographs of the room. Two high quality needlepoint chairs have been added to the gallery, as well as an extremely fine bishop's cope in crimson and gold brocade, probably from the 17th century. Hewitt's photographs of Coe Hall in the 1920s show a similar style cope originally in the room. These are just some of the many artifacts that have been purchased or donated as part of our centennial celebrations at Planting Fields.



17th century cope acquired for the gallery at Coe Hall



Newly acquired antique bed for Mr. Coe's bedroom



Mr. Coe's original bed, no longer at Coe Hall, photo about 1922



Alive and Well at Planting Fields

BY VINCENT A. SIMEONE

Back when Mr. Coe moved a fine collection of camellias from the Isle of Guernsey off the coast of England in 1916, the popular opinion was that camellias could only be grown in a warm greenhouse to protect them from the cold winter months in the Northeast. Back then there were no known hardy varieties or species of camellias that would withstand the wind, ice, or snow of harsh New York winters. But since the 1960s, a significant amount of research has been put into breeding and selecting hardy camellias for northern climates.

Two scientists, Dr. Clifford Parks and Dr. William Ackerman, evaluated and selected camellias that would not only be hardy but have ornamental foliage, flowers, and growth habit. During the late 60s and early 70s Dr. Parks had an evaluation site at Planting Fields just north of the Synoptic Garden. Once his research was finished, the plants were left in place. Thirty plus years later, these now mature plants were relocated to more visible areas in the arboretum such as the azalea walks, rhododendron park, and

the north border. Most of these older plants are unnamed selections but more modern name varieties have been acquired over the last ten years. A professional Long Island grower, David Alm, was the first to inspire us to try some of the new name varieties. Among some of the best varieties that can be grown in your own garden are 'April Kiss', 'April Rose' and 'April Tryst', which bloom in April and May as well as 'Winter Star', 'Winter Cupid' and 'Winter Darling', which bloom in the fall and early winter.

At the present time, Planting
Fields owns the largest
collection of hardy camellias
on Long Island, with well over
100 plants gracing the garden
beds with their bold texture
and striking flowers. In
addition, Planting Fields still
offers the largest collection of
camellias under glass in the
Northeast, which is housed in
the Camellia Greenhouse.



Many of the more modern varieties of camellias have been acquired from Martin Viette Nurseries, East Norwich, NY, Camellia Forest Nursery in North Carolina, and Atlantic Nurseries in Dix Hills, NY.

Moving forward, we will continue to cultivate hardy camellias and their tender greenhouse counterparts. Amazingly, camellias are extremely tolerant of a variety of growing conditions including, shade, sun, drought, heat, and cold. It is best to plant camellias in the spring, keeping them away from a southern exposure, which can damage them during the winter months. There is no doubt that camellias offer gardeners endless possibilities in the landscape.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COE HALL OPEN FOR THE SEASON - MARCH 30TH - SEPTEMBER 30TH, 11:30AM - 3:30PM SELF GUIDED VISITS - \$3.50 FOR NON-MEMBER/FREE FOR MEMBERS · PARK OPEN EVERY DAY 9:00AM - 5:00PM

DECEMBER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2013 Planting Fields Foundation's Centennial Celebration, **DECK THE HALLS**

6:30pm - 9:30pm at Coe Hall

Cocktail buffet, live music by Bob Merrill's Band, silent auction and onsite ice sculpture carving will be part of this special evening to celebrate the centennial of Planting Fields (1913-2013). For details, reservations, or sponsorship opportunities, contact Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678 or jlavella@plantingfields.org.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 2013 Connoisseurs Day

12:00pm - 4:00pm at Coe Hall Free for Members \$3.50 Non-Members

Come see and hear about new acquisitions at Coe Hall. Tours led by Henry B. Joyce, Executive Director, and Gwendolyn L. Smith, Curator, on the half hour. Last tour will be given at 3:30pm. Piano music played continuously on the restored 1913 Steinway by Jack Kohl. No reservation required, for more information please contact: Gwendolyn L. Smith at (516)-922-8680 or email: gsmith@plantingfields.org.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 2013 9th Annual Tree Lighting and Visit from Santa

Free Admission! Free Activities! No Parking Fee! 6:00pm - 8:00pm Tree will be lit at 6:00pm sharp!

Delight in all kinds of holiday excitement at Planting Fields including caroling by the Barber Shop Quartet, Hot Cocoa and refreshments at the Hay Barn/Visitor Center, Coe Hall Mansion decorated for the season will be open for selfguided visits. Visit with Santa until 7:30pm in Main Greenhouse Classroom. For more information please contact Jennifer Lavella (516)922-8678 or email: ilavella@plantingfields.org





Experience Coe Hall Mansion decorated in holiday style. See Santa, the Madrigal Singers, and watch Scrooge (Saturday) or Jack Frost (Sunday) by Plaza Theatrical Productions in the great hall. Show times for Scrooge and Jack Frost are 2:30pm both days. For more information please contact Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678 or email: ilavella@plantingfields.org



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND, 2013

Holiday Sing-A-Long and Sing-In, An Afternoon of Holiday Music

2:00pm and 4:00pm / Coe Hall \$10 Non-Members / Free for Members

The QUARTET that everyone loves returns to Planting Fields-featuring the FAMOUS "12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" audience participation blockbuster! Your favorite holiday songs, beautifully performed by Frances C. Roberts and Company. For tickets contact Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678 or email: jlavella@plantingfields.org.

ONGOING

Poinsettia & Cyclamen Greenhouse Display

10:00am - 4:00pm Daily Main Greenhouse



Save the Date

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2014 Paradise at Planting Fields Weekend

10:00am - 4:00pm / Rain or Shine

Come and enjoy a touch of paradise at Planting Fields in our Main Greenhouse, featuring live steel drum music, and other programs and events throughout the weekend. Call Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email: jlavella@plantingfields.org for more information.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 2014 Camellia House Weekend

10:00am - 4:00pm / Rain or Shine

Come and enjoy our Annual Camellia House Weekend featuring live music, walking tours of the Camellia House, activities for children. Coe Hall open for self-guided visits. Call Jennifer Lavella at (516) 922-8678 or email: ilavella@plantingfields.org for more information.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Music at the Mansion Lanew concert series 2013-14

Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine at every concert

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. FOR TICKETS CALL OR EMAIL: Antigone Zaharakis (516) 922-8668, education@plantingfields.org or Jennifer Lavella (516) 922-8678, jlavella@plantingfields.org Admission: \$20 Non-Member / Free for Members



Friday, October 11, 2013 6:00 pm at Coe Hall

Matt Marshak & Band

Contemporary jazz guitarist Matt Marshak taps into the wonderful diversity of music in *Colors of Me* (Nuance Music Group), shading his classic and fluid style with jazz, blues, rock, pop and even down-home boogie. Marshak's seventh major release follows 2011's highly received *Urban Folktales*, which captured a sophisticated late-night vibe and boasted a No. 1 song on the 2011 indie jazz chart, "Silent Knowing."



Friday, November 22, 2013 6:00 pm at Coe Hall

Brasil Guitar Duo

Brasil Guitar Duo, a 2006 winner of the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, and hailed by *Classical Guitar* magazine for its "maturity of musicianship and technical virtuosity," is equally at home on a classical or a world-music series. Its innovative programming features a seamless blend of traditional and Brazilian works, resulting in a full global touring schedule and a growing catalogue of critically acclaimed recordings.



Friday, December 13, 2013 6:00 pm at Coe Hall

Vis-à-Vis

Vis-à-vis Project is a duo made up of Eurasian Musicians, Nadia Khoda (Ukraine) and Nurmira Greenberg (Kyrgyzstan), classically trained and award-winning musicians whose backgrounds extend to rich folk traditions of The Silk Road, popular music and beyond. Their vibrant performances mix East with West, classical with rock, acoustic with electronic, and familiar with groundbreaking.



Friday, January 17, 2014 6:00 pm at Coe Hall

The Dolce Ensemble

The Dolce Ensemble has the most diverse repertoire of any string ensemble in the metropolitan area. They are all classically trained musicians and graduates of major conservatories. Their amazing repertoire ranges from the classics to rock. In addition to delighting audiences with Beethoven, Borodin and Ravel—their arrangements of Queen, Led Zeppelin and The Rolling Stones absolutely sparkle!



La Vie En Rose

La Vie En Rose is a marriage of French Chanson and Golden Age swing, with a repertoire of timeless American standards and French jazz songs: old classics with a hot twist celebrating France, love and music. They create a bridge between the old world and the new, between French charm, American glam and contemporary pop. With the melodious voice of French native singersongwriter Violette and her musicians from around the world, all the ingredients are gathered to make it hot and keep you swinging all night.

Friday, March 14, 2014 6:00 pm at Coe Hall

Oh la la!

Since its formation in 2009, Oh La La! has earned rave reviews throughout the USA and France and have quickly become one of the top classic jazz bands on the east coast. Led by French Chanteuse, Marie Michèle, Oh La La! was formed while its members were all studying at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. The band prides itself on performing an eclectic mix of classic jazz, chanson française and Brazilian music, all with painstaking attention to authenticity.

The New Sensory Garden and Entrance Pavilion at Planting Fields

The Sensory Garden is currently under construction atop of the old root cellar. The new garden is designed in accordance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) guidelines and allows visitors of all abilities to enjoy their experience. The concept for the Sensory Garden was initiated by Planting Fields Foundation trustees Peter Tilles and Richard W. Gibney, RLA and is a joint venture with the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation. New York State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey has been instrumental in helping the Sensory Garden become a reality and we are grateful for all of her support.

If you would like to help support the new Sensory Garden or would like additional information please contact: Henry Joyce, Executive Director Henry.Joyce@plantingfields.org Lilly McGurk, Development Officer Emcgurk@plantingfields.org



The Tilles Family: From left to right: Jason Wilensky, Brenda (Tilles) Wilensky, Dori Tilles, Peter Tilles, Diana (Tilles) Plotnitzky, Randy Plotnitzky



(Left to right): Vincent Simeone, Dave Gugerty, Rose Harvey, Peter Tilles, Senator Carl Marcellino, Hal Davidson, Richard W. Gibney, RLA, Henry B. Joyce, Hannah Burns, Jennifer Wiggins, Constance Haydock, George Gorman

The Foundation thanks all contributors

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The Sustainability Farm Celebrates its Third Season at Planting Fields

BY LILLY MCGURK



The Sustainability Farm Team

The Sustainability Farm, founded by Wendy and Gary Kaplan, is celebrating its third season at Planting Fields. The garden's main focus is to provide a place for adults with cognitive and behavioral issues to acquire occupational skills while working in an authentic environment that generates revenue within the local community. This Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm produces high quality vegetables that are shared by its members. There is a much greater degree of consumer involvement since the members fund the entire season, allowing the staff to focus on quality, not quantity. This simple and orderly garden is

designed with a wide variety of



structured rows that run side by side with each other, surrounded by a natural wildflower border that

helps attract beneficial insects as well as providing a calming backdrop for this very creative and innovative farm. Throughout the season participants of this program improve their social, motor and workplace skills as well as their sense of accomplishment and well-being. The staff helps foster acceptance and patience while making sure that every CSA member is getting their fair share of the fruits of their labor. If you are interested in becoming a CSA member please contact Wendy Kaplan at 516-674-9069. Please sign up as early as March 2014 since there are a limited number of shares available for the season. The 2014 season runs June through October.

Camellia House Restoration After Sandy

BY LILLY MCGURK



The north side of the Camellia Greenhouse suffered extensive damage from a fallen pine tree cast upon the roof by the fierce winds of Superstorm Sandy. The metal and brick supports were rendered unstable, and much of the aluminum framing was damaged extensively by the impact. Crucial repairs were in order and a temporary roof was installed to seal off the structure until repairs could begin. Thankfully, none of the camellias were damaged.

Richard Kuhns and his crew from Buckeye Construction Company arrived immediately to remove the debris. They sealed off the structure with an interim plastic roof covering. The temporary structure was devised by utilizing two sheets of heavy commercial grade plastic and incorporating air between the two layers, creating a bubble effect so that water would not pool up and add any weight to the temporary roof.



After stabilizing the greenhouse, plans were assembled to restore and reinforce the structure and return the Camellia House back to its original brilliance.

Materials were ordered from Rough Brothers, Inc., a company based in Cincinnati, Ohio. They designed and manufactured all the gutters, frames, glazing bars, and glass that needed to be replaced, as well as customizing specific pieces to ensure the integrity of the greenhouse's original historical structure. Shipments of crates arrived that housed the materials and the crew began reconstructing the greenhouse piece by piece. The main structure of the greenhouse was reinforced with concrete to stabilize the adjoining frame and brick foundation. Tempered glass was used primarily throughout the greenhouse; in a few areas that needed a custom fit, annealed glass was used instead since it could be cut to fit on site.

Within weeks the restoration was completed and the Camellia House was re-opened for visitors to experience all the splendor of the historic camellia collection.

Recent Events

Arbor Day Family Festival









Tango Performance



Bluegrass Party



Champagne Party





Fall Festival



Plein Air Landscape Painting with Annie Shaver-Crandell



Dining By Rail



"All Aboard" Preview Party



Summer Concert Series



The 2013 Crop of Interns was a Good One!

BY VINCENT A. SIMEONE

Since 1987, Planting Fields has hosted both domestic and international students as part of a comprehensive internship program.

Since then, the internship program has grown and now accepts 7-8 students per year. This program offers practical, hands on experience in the field, allowing students to apply the knowledge they learned in the classroom. The program is designed to accommodate students enrolled in university programs with disciplines in horticulture, landscape design, environmental science, ecology, botany and other related fields.

This year the program was highlighted by seven dedicated students from a wide variety of backgrounds. Ashley Baker is enrolled in SUNY Delhi majoring in horticulture and landscape design. Emily Benazzi is enrolled in SUNY ESF studying forest technology. Taylor Fehmel is attending the University of Delaware and majoring in landscape horticulture and design. Rachel Hillegas is also at SUNY ESF and is attending the Ranger School. Amelia Neal is attending Alfred State, majoring in horticulture. Ellie Taylor is enrolled in the plant sciences department at Cornell University. All of these students have worked very hard to prune, weed, mulch, water, and maintain the vast plant collections on the grounds. In addition, Jeff Siegler just graduated from the University of Arkansas, receiving his Bachelors of Science in horticulture. He will be staying for close to six months helping to maintain the valuable greenhouse collections.

Not only did the interns receive useful information while working in the gardens and in the greenhouses, but they also experienced weekly field trips to other local public and private gardens, nurseries, and growers while interacting with many horticultural professionals. This year the interns visited Hofstra Arboretum, Old Westbury Gardens, North Fork Nurseries, Landcraft Environmentals, the Sunken Forest at Fire Island, the New York Botanical Garden and more. These networking opportunities will be invaluable to the interns as they navigate along their career path.

We are so thankful to the Planting Fields Foundation and the Board of Trustees for continually supporting this program. The interns have become an important part of the arboretum staff working side by side with permanent employees on many worthy projects. This program is such a vital part of the care and maintenance of the 409 acres that Planting Fields has to offer. We are thankful to have them!



A group of summer interns at Planting Fields

PHOTO: BILL BARASH

New Intern at Coe Hall



Andrea Crivello is a recent graduate of Long Island University C.W. Post with a bachelor's degree Magna Cum Laude of Fine Arts in Art History. She started as a volunteer docent in Coe Hall giving tours to visitors and gaining knowledge of the Coe family history and Gold Coast life on Long Island. After a year and half she was chosen as a Curatorial Intern this past summer, since then, she has been working on various collections and exhibition related projects.

Previously, Andrea was a Page at Island Trees Public Library where she was involved with creating

displays and programs for children's crafts and summer reading programs. Her first introduction working with exhibitions was in a museum studies class in Hillwood Art Museum and a volunteer for the Nassau County Museum of Art and the Long Island Museum Association.

Andrea is currently involved in community organizations and donates her time and talents to help raise awareness for the March of Dimes, Light the Night walks, and the Ronald McDonald House. She is also on the C.W. Post Equestrian Team, C.W. Post Pioneerettes Kick Line Team and speaks Italian and French. A modern day Renaissance woman, Andrea always has had an appreciation for history, and a passion for both creating and studying art. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to be working at Planting Fields.

Something for Everyone

The gift shop is fully stocked and ready for the fall season. We have acquired some very beautiful and unique items that will be great holiday presents for your loved ones. From walking sticks to wind chimes, there is a wonderful selection for the gardener, hiker, decorator and toy lover. A beautiful assortment of stationary, vases, trays, books and toys will please everyone on your gift list. All purchases help support Planting Fields programs. The Gift Shop is open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Visitor's Center. Don't forget to mention your membership status for a 10% discount on your entire purchase. We hope to see you soon.



PLANTING FIELDS FOUNDATION STAFF

Henry B. Joyce

Executive Director
Tel: 516-922-0479
Henry.Joyce@plantingfields.org

Michelle Benes

Membership Coordinator Tel: 516-922-8682 Mbenes@plantingfields.org

Andrea Crivello

Curatorial Intern
Acrivello@plantingfields.org

Elsa Eisenberg

Group Tours and Volunteer Coordinator
Tel: 516-922-8670
Eeisenberg@plantingfields.org

Laraine Giardina

Finance Manager
Tel: 516-922-8672
finance@plantingfields.org

Jennifer Lavella

Director of Marketing and Special Events Tel: 516-922-8678 jlavella@plantingfields.org

Lilly McGurk

Development Officer
Tel: 516-922-8676
emcgurk@plantingfields.org

Rosemarie Papayanopulous

*Librarian*Tel: 516-922-8631

Frank Smith

Curatorial Assistant fsmith@plantingfields.org

Gwendolyn L. Smith

Tel: 516-922-8680 Gsmith@plantingfields.org

Antigone Zaharakis

Education Coordinator
Tel: 516-922-8668
education@plantingfields.org

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Planting Fields Foundation 1395 Planting Fields Road P.O. Box 660 Oyster Bay, NY 11771 www.plantingfields.org Tel: 516-922-9210

Fax: 516-922-9226