

Beyond the Gardens



Sharing Longwood's Impact on
a Regional, National, and Global Scale



Dear Friends,

At Longwood Gardens, every moment of beauty, discovery, and inspiration can only be realized by the collective vision and dedication of many, including you. Your current and future support fuels the heart of our mission and allows us to share the wonder of horticulture, the arts, and the natural world with millions of guests each year.

This report tells the story of Longwood's impact, locally and globally, which would not be possible without the contributions of all sizes that ensure the ongoing conservation of our collections, the stewardship of our cultural landscapes, the advancement of global plant conservation, and the continuation of training programs that have nurtured generations of green collar professionals.

In late 2024, we proudly unveiled the most transformational project in Longwood's history with the acclaimed new West Conservatory, Bonsai Courtyard, and preservation of the Cascade Garden designed by Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle-Marx. These achievements honor our legacy of innovation, continue our journey of what it means to be a great garden of the world, and advance our mission to ensure all understand that beauty is essential to the human spirit.

Our vision is big, and our work may never be finished, but we remain committed to sharing beauty and demonstrating the impact of all that we set forth to do. As we look ahead to future strategic priorities, we know that they can only be realized with the support of our community and individuals like you.

With deepest gratitude,

Paul B. Redman
President and Chief Executive Officer
Longwood Gardens

Conserving Cultural Landscapes

Our conservation story began long before Longwood Gardens became a public garden. In fact, the legacy of land preservation on this property began in 1700, when the Peirce family acquired several hundred acres from William Penn, and over several generations, planted one of the oldest and most exotic arboreta in the country. In 1906, Pierre S. du Pont learned that this property had been contracted for purchase by a lumber mill. With hopes of saving the arboretum, Pierre acted quickly to take ownership of the property, then comprising just over 202 acres, and in doing so, restored the promise of Longwood's future.

While Longwood is perhaps best known for our formal gardens, which comprise hundreds of acres, we actively steward an additional 750 acres of surrounding natural lands in Kennett Square, comprised of meadows, forests, wetlands, and streams. This is a consistent effort led by our Land Stewardship & Ecology team, which is dedicated to conserving the long-term biodiversity and vitality of our landscapes through restoration, stewardship, and research. As part of this conservation work, Longwood restores native plant communities, reconnects fragmented forests, and manages wildlife habitats to support resilient ecosystems.

In 2024, our vision for preservation expanded beyond Pennsylvania with the acquisition of the Granogue property now known as Longwood at Granogue. With leadership support from The Longwood Foundation, Mt. Cuba Center, The Conservation Fund, and two individual donors, Longwood is now the steward of 505 acres of rolling farmland, forest, and meadow in Wilmington, Delaware. Much like Pierre S. du Pont's 1906 purchase of the original Longwood property, this moment marked a bold act of conservation: a promise to protect one of the Brandywine Valley's last great open spaces and to ensure that its natural beauty and ecological richness endure. The ultimate goal is that 100 years from now, the landscape looks to the average person the same as it does today—but better, healthier, and more resilient, particularly given the realities of our changing climate.

By the Numbers

Across our natural lands at our property in Pennsylvania, we have:

1700

total acres stewarded.

Measured the diameter of

800+

trees and catalogued hundreds of plant species to assess habitat health.

200+

plant communities mapped across more than 750 acres of natural lands in Kennett Square.

Through biannual plantings, restored almost

2,400 feet of riparian buffer*

*areas adjacent to streams, lakes, or wetlands that contain a combination of trees, shrubs, and/or other perennial plants. These plantings are essential to cool the water (preventing bacterial growth, thereby protecting drinking water), filter runoff, stabilize banks, and provide essential habitats for native species.



Looking Ahead

In 2026, thanks in part to a sponsorship from Ballard Spahr and a growing consortium of individual donors, we will embark on a 3-year ecological baseline study at Longwood at Granogue, culminating in the establishment of a long-term strategy for the land stewardship, ecology, and regenerative agriculture program. This study will include:

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- Comprehensive mapping of the plant communities to inform high-level priorities
 - Leveraging the plant community map to prioritize areas of focus and operationalize first priorities, and
 - Collecting data at the species level to establish targets for reforestation, track the impact of our stewardship, and understand the effects of environmental change.
-

This research will guide our long-term stewardship plan, informing reforestation efforts, regenerative farming, and conservation strategies that will help the landscape thrive amid a changing climate. Each insight brings us closer to ensuring Longwood at Granogue remains a living, resilient landscape for generations to come.

As we continue to develop our vision for the property, we will rely on additional contributed support to bring that vision to life. Together – with the shared support and passion from our community – we continue this vital work, preserving the landscapes that inspire, sustain, and connect us all.



Stewarding Our Earth: One Water

Water is essential to the health and beauty of our 1,100-acres at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA, which includes historic and modern conservatories, the 86-acre Meadow Garden, wetlands, facilities, and more. Our approach to water management—called One Water—recognizes that all water has value and can be reused when properly handled. This effort began in 1985 with an upgrade to our sewage treatment system, allowing treated water to irrigate a 40-acre spray field onsite instead of being discharged into nearby creeks. Since then, we've expanded our conservation efforts through stormwater harvesting, sustainable design, and ongoing support of healthy waterways. These practices not only reduce our environmental footprint but also prepare use for an uncertain climate future, ensuring resilience while contributing to global water stewardship. This is just the beginning as we continue to advance our water management and conservation efforts both at Longwood Gardens and Longwood at Granogue.

By the Numbers

We harvest stormwater via dedicated downspouts on the roofs of the West Conservatory and The Grove, funneling into underground tanks holding 20,000 gallons each. This in turn leads to an estimated 700,000 to



gallons of water saved annually.

Our Garden Irrigation System (GIS) allows treated effluent from our sewage treatment plant to be further treated and then used for outdoor irrigation. Using this system, we have saved more than



gallons of groundwater over the last 20 years.

In 2011, we partnered with UgMO Technologies to install an irrigation control system using 168 in-ground sensors that monitor soil moisture every 10 minutes. This system allows us to reduce irrigation time, frequency, and water use—cutting annual water consumption in the Main Fountain Garden and Cow Lot



from 2018 to 2024.

We now mow our lawn areas less frequently and raised the height of the cut, as longer grass requires less water and is more

drought resistant.

Reducing the number of mowings we perform in an average year also reduces associated greenhouse gas emissions.





Looking Ahead

In 2026, we will undertake an extensive assessment of our stormwater harvesting capabilities with the goal of expanding our stormwater harvesting to our nursery complex.

Saving Rare Plants

Our newly enhanced and reopened Waterlily Court is not only a place of spectacular beauty—it's a representation of Longwood's leadership in aquatics, our long-standing dedication to conservation, and our commitment to global impact.

Accredited by the Plant Collections Network as one of the best waterlily (*Nymphaea*) collections in the US, our collection features exceptional tropical and hardy hybrids from renowned breeders. We are committed to preserving the genetic diversity of this collection—not just for display, but to share plants and materials for research, education, and conservation with institutions worldwide. Since 1960 *Victoria* seeds have been sent to 211 institutions, with more than 1,400 shipments distributed globally.

Our Waterlily Court also reflects the success of our plant exploration program, which supports global conservation and research efforts while enriching our displays. Recent work in Tanzania centered on *Nymphaea stuhlmannii*, a very rare waterlily in the wild that had not been in cultivation for more than 100 years. We imported its tubers to Longwood and using these tubers, we've learned its cultural requirements and used flowering plants to successfully hand-pollinate the flowers to produce seeds; the seeds can later be germinated to produce new plants—all to conserve *Nymphaea stuhlmannii*.

With your support, we can continue to lead in the cultivation, display, and conservation of aquatic plants—making a lasting impact both locally and globally.





Looking Ahead

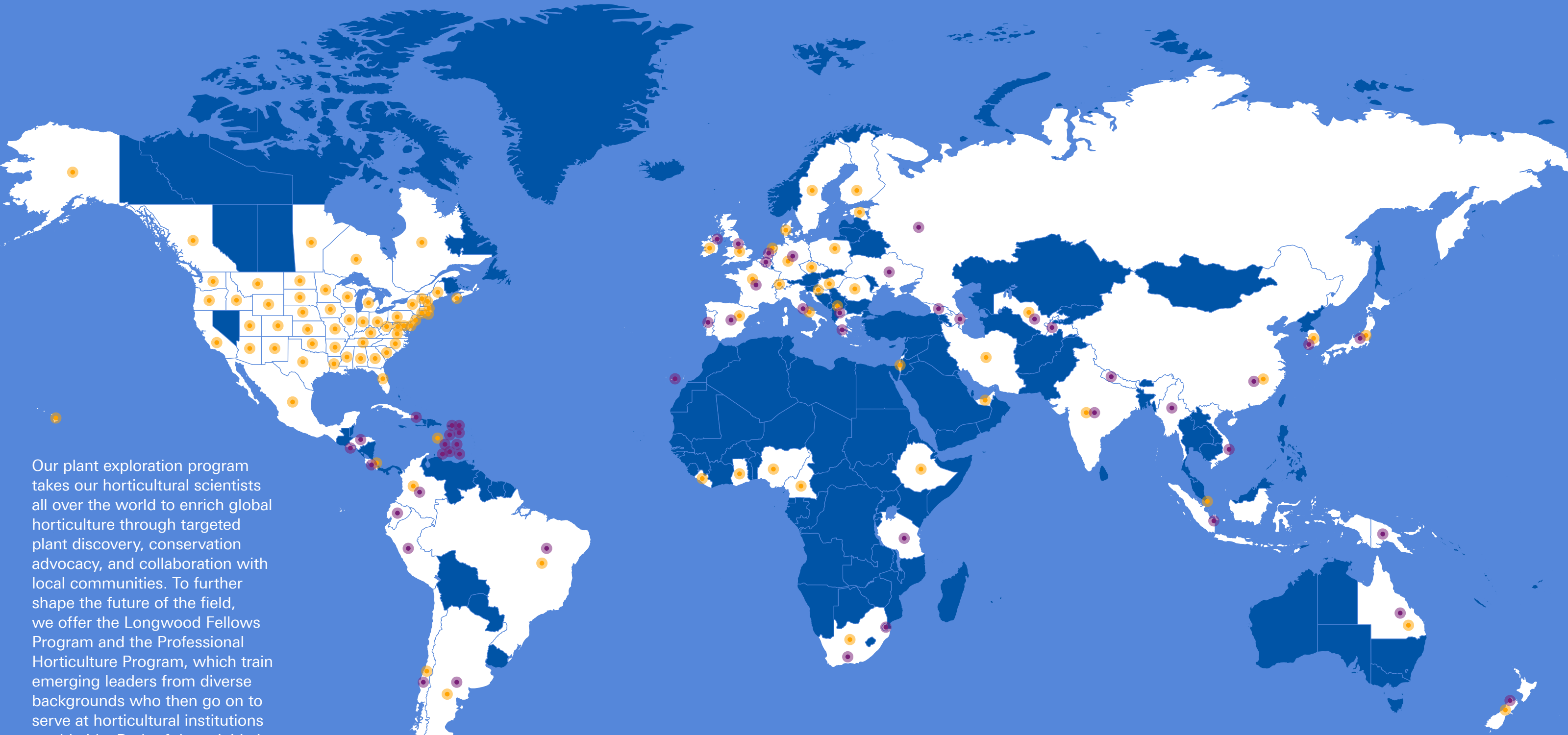
In 2026, our plant exploration efforts continue with a trip to Malawi to collect fresh seed of blue-flowered coleus (*Plectranthus thyrsoideus*), an iconic plant in our holiday displays since 1959. Future trips include Bhutan, Central Asia, Kazakhstan, and South Africa.



Inset: Director, Conservation Horticulture & Collections, Peter Zale, Ph.D, with local colleagues on a 2023 plant exploration effort in Tanzania.

Reaching Around the Globe

Our plant exploration program takes our horticultural scientists all over the world to enrich global horticulture through targeted plant discovery, conservation advocacy, and collaboration with local communities. To further shape the future of the field, we offer the Longwood Fellows Program and the Professional Horticulture Program, which train emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds who then go on to serve at horticultural institutions worldwide. Both of these initiatives have allowed Longwood Gardens to share our passion for the natural world with an international community of public garden leaders and plant lovers alike.

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- The map displays exploration locations (purple dots) and geographic reach (orange dots) across all major continents. Exploration locations are concentrated in Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America. Geographic reach is most extensive in North America, with numerous orange dots across the United States and Canada, and also in Europe, Africa, and Australia.
- Locations where Longwood plant exploration has been conducted
 - Geographic reach of our Longwood Fellows, Domestic and International Interns, Staff Exchange Participants, and Professional Horticulture Students

A Legacy of Training and Leadership Development

Longwood Gardens was founded on a bold and generous idea. Pierre S. du Pont envisioned “a school where students and others may receive instruction in the arts of horticulture and floriculture”—a place where beauty, science, and learning would come together to shape the future. More than a century later, that vision continues to flourish through Longwood’s diverse education and training programs, one of the most comprehensive and accessible suites of programs in public horticulture today.

Since the 1950s, Longwood has taught, inspired, and prepared generations of horticulturists, floral designers, landscape architects, scientists, and public garden leaders who go on to enrich communities around the world. To date, more than 3,000 students from across the globe have participated in one of Longwood’s immersive, tuition-free training programs. From internships for high school, university, and international students, to the renowned Professional Horticulture Program, and the Fellows Program for mid-career professionals, Longwood opens doors to meaningful careers—regardless of financial means. Each of these programs includes not only expert instruction and mentorship, but also housing and a living stipend, removing barriers and allowing students to focus fully on learning and growth.

At the heart of this effort is Longwood’s two-year Professional Horticulture Program, which has trained industry leaders since 1970. This intensive experience—valued at approximately \$100,000 per student—blends classroom study with hands-on practice in one of the world’s great gardens. Graduates emerge not only with deep technical expertise, but with the leadership skills and confidence to shape the future of public horticulture. Longwood’s Professional Horticulture Program and Today’s Horticulture annual symposium are made possible through the generous support of The Chanticleer Foundation, Pleasant Run Nursery, and Scott Arboretum and Gardens. Philanthropic investment—including scholarship support—ensures these rigorous professional training programs remain tuition-free, expanding access and strengthening the pipeline of talent entering public horticulture at a critical moment for the field.



By the Numbers

150

educators registered for our Teacher Professional Development programs last year, impacting 2,600 students

4.8k+

students from Title I schools received free busing to Longwood in 2025

42k

students enjoyed free educational programs onsite, online, and in the community last year

\$100k

is the financial value and cost to Longwood for one student to complete our two-year Professional Horticulture Program



Longwood's commitment to education extends well beyond professional training. Each year, more than 42,000 K–12 students are inspired through free onsite, online, and community-based programs that spark curiosity, deepen understanding, and introduce young learners to the possibilities of green careers. Admission for these programs is always free, and to ensure access for schools that might otherwise be unable to visit, Longwood offers busing grants for qualifying Title I schools. These transportation grants are often the difference between a classroom experiencing Longwood firsthand or missing the opportunity altogether. The Title I Transportation Program is made possible by a generous grant from the M&T Charitable Foundation, with additional support from the Essential Foundation, Joan Mazzotti & Michael Kelly, the Meacham Family Foundation, Natalie Reese and Kleon Diamantopoulos, George Schreiber, and Charlotte Susan Munch. Demand for these funds continues to grow, underscoring the need for sustained and expanded philanthropic partnership to reach more students each year.

Recognizing the critical role educators play in shaping young minds, Longwood has expanded its impact through new professional development opportunities for teachers. In response to Pennsylvania's recently adopted STEELS standards—focused on science, technology, engineering, environmental literacy, and sustainability—Longwood's Engagement and Learning team developed hands-on workshops that help teachers bring these concepts to life. Set within the Gardens themselves, these interdisciplinary programs empower educators to connect science with the arts, math, social sciences, and mindfulness, creating richer and more engaging learning experiences for their students.

Thanks to the generosity of the Wilson Family Foundation, these workshops are offered at little to no cost and include classroom supplies, continuing education credits, and full access to the Gardens. Teachers leave equipped not only with lesson plans, but with renewed inspiration—and thousands of students benefit in turn.

At every stage, Longwood is cultivating curiosity, leadership, and opportunity—from a child's first hands-on science experience to advanced professional training for the next generation of public horticulture leaders. Through immersive, tuition-free programs and educator development, we ensure a continual pipeline of skilled, passionate talent ready to steward gardens, landscapes, and natural resources around the world. Philanthropic support makes this work possible—expanding access, meeting rising demand, and strengthening the future of public horticulture for generations to come.

To learn more about supporting Longwood's education, training, and Title 1 Transportation programs, please contact Rebecca Ackerman at rackerman@longwoodgardens.org



Looking Ahead

We understand the value and amplified impact of teaching educators. Thanks to increased support from the Wilson Family Foundation, we will be able to innovate and expand this program to reach more teachers in 2026. Our team is working to not only grow the program, but also to create a scalable model of our Teacher Professional Development program that can be adapted by other botanical gardens nationwide.



Enhancing Our Collections

The Bonsai Courtyard at Longwood Gardens is a place of beauty and reflection, where living works of art tell stories of time, care, and tradition. At the heart of this extraordinary space is a nationally recognized collection of nearly 200 bonsai—made possible in large part through the generosity of Doug Paul, founder of The Kennett Collection.

Doug's remarkable gift is one of the most comprehensive in Longwood's history. It includes an immediate donation of 50 rare specimens and bonsai-related objects, annual support to sustain the collection, a bequest of 100 additional bonsai—including kicho bonsai or Important Bonsai Masterpieces—and a \$1 million endowment to ensure care in perpetuity.

This multi-faceted commitment is already making an impact. In 2024, annual support enabled the acquisition of new specimens and provided Bonsai Curator Kevin Bielicki with the opportunity to study in Japan, deepening relationships with bonsai masters and inspiring new ideas for our collection. In 2025, 12 more trees and historic kiln poles enriched the display, offering guests even deeper connections to this centuries-old art.

Through his vision and generosity, Doug Paul is ensuring that Longwood's bonsai collection will thrive, inspiring all who visit.

By the Numbers

50

rare bonsai specimens were received as part of the initial gift from The Kennett Collection

\$1M

endowment ensures care of the collection in perpetuity

Below: Doug Paul of The Kennett Collection



Looking Ahead

Curator Kevin Bielicki is dedicated to broadening the reach of our collection by sharing the art of bonsai in innovative ways. During *Garden Glow* Kevin is combining his traditional art background and bonsai artistry in the creation of a new nighttime display, *Seeking Light: Bonsai Illuminated*.



Preserving Horticultural Heritage

Our vision for preservation extends to safeguarding our horticultural heritage—and sharing our expertise far and wide.

This commitment is deeply rooted in our mission and reflected in the resources we steward. Our Library & Archives serve as invaluable learning resources for those engaged in horticulture, botany, and the allied arts and sciences. As experts who understand their significance, we curate and maintain these resources thoughtfully and purposefully.

Founded to house Pierre S. du Pont's collection of horticultural and botanical works, the Library has grown into a dynamic collection of more than 30,000 books and ebooks. It includes rare and special collections of scarce, fragile, and unique materials that support research and learning at the highest level—all while preserving history and advancing knowledge.

Our archives provide a comprehensive record of Longwood's growth and evolution. From architectural plans and maps to recordings and heritage objects, these materials document the story of Longwood and its role in shaping horticultural excellence.

Beyond our Library & Archives, we preserve—and share—horticultural heritage through diverse collections that inspire and educate. In 2025, Longwood received a gift of 42 suiseki stones, along with display stands, pots, and related publications, generously donated by bonsai and suiseki enthusiast Dr. Thomas Goldbaum. These stones enrich our bonsai collection and offer a unique opportunity to share the cultural significance of suiseki—a traditional Japanese artform of appreciating naturally occurring stones for their aesthetic qualities and resemblance to natural landscapes—with our guests.

"I truly wanted to find a home for these suiseki stones and a place where others could experience their artform," shares Dr. Goldbaum. "When you look at Longwood's mission, education is at the forefront. Pairing that with the exceptional trees in the bonsai collection and the phenomenal Bonsai Display and Workshop areas made this donation an easy decision. I wanted many people to see them, enjoy them, learn about them, and experience them."

This gift not only enhances our collection but also strengthens our ability to educate and inspire. We are honored to steward these pieces and share their artistry—serving as one of the many ways we are advancing our mission and demonstrating our role as a leader in horticultural excellence.

By the Numbers

30k

books and ebooks comprise Longwood's Library & Archives collection

42

suisseki stones received via a generous donation from suiseki enthusiast Dr. Thomas Goldbaum



Building Community

Since our Volunteer Program began in 1989 with a single orchid expert, it has grown into a thriving community of 582 passionate individuals. Collectively, they have given more than 1.2 million hours in support of Longwood. In 2025 alone, volunteers contributed 56,266 hours—an average of 97 hours per person. Their service touches every corner of the Gardens: engaging guests, caring for natural lands, and supporting horticultural excellence. Many have shown extraordinary dedication, with 30 volunteers serving more than 20 years and eight contributing over three decades.

We also welcome corporate volunteer teams, whose one-day projects add tremendous value. In 2025, 19 teams—including groups from JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America—contributed 823 hours to efforts ranging from planting bulbs to restoring landscapes.

Together with our staff, who volunteered 1,061 hours with outside organizations in 2025, our volunteers form a vibrant network of service. Each shares their most valuable gift—their time—ensuring Longwood continues to grow in beauty, purpose, and community.



By the Numbers

1.2m

Volunteer hours have been given since the program's inception in 1989

582

active Volunteers were working throughout the Gardens over the past year

19

corporate teams contributed 823 hours in efforts ranging from bulb planting to landscape restoration in 2025

In 2026, we look forward to welcoming more corporate volunteer teams to our Gardens.



Thank You

Support from our donors helps Longwood steward one of the greatest collections of gardens in the world, advance global conservation efforts, and provide environmental education and memorable experiences to thousands of students each year. From land preservation and ecological stewardship to innovative horticultural practices and training future environmental leaders, you help us respond to a changing world while remaining a place of wonder, learning, and joy.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donors who have contributed to advancing the mission of Longwood Gardens during the past year.

\$25,000 and above

Anonymous
Estate of Nancy E. Allen
Ms. Adrienne Arsht
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Bancroft Construction
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Mrs. Carroll M. Carpenter
Chase
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S4 Lights
Valerie J. Sill
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The Wilson Family Foundation
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\$10,000 to \$24,999

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Chanticleer Foundation
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The Nussdorf Charitable Fund, in honor of Genie Birch
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Mr. and Mrs. Cory Porter

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Estate of Bruce Wands
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\$2,500 to \$4,999

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\$1,000 to \$2,499

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in memory of Gary Hufford
Katharine Wiseman and Matt Stachel
Timothy Yoder

Listing is as of January 31, 2026.

Space permits us to list those who contributed \$1,000 or more this year. We extend our appreciation to everyone who contributed financial support, volunteered their time, or donated to our collections.

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. If you see an error, please accept our apologies and email development@longwoodgardens.org.

The Pierre S. and Alice du Pont Founders Circle recognizes those who have made the thoughtful decision to include Longwood Gardens as part of their estate plans.

Anonymous (3)
Nancy E. Allen †
Ms. Nancy S. Bandman
Sarah Cathcart
Ms. Debra DeMarco
Cynthia and Nelson Farris
Art and Julia Fisher
Joanne and Stephen Green
Mrs. André Harvey
Mary Hisrich †
Ann S. and Steven B. Hutton
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in memory of Shannon Strawley
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To learn more about making Longwood Gardens a part of your legacy, contact Rebecca Ackerman, Director, Major and Planned Gifts at rackerman@longwoodgardens.org or 610.388.5259

longwoodgardens.org/planned-giving

Longwood Gardens welcomes the inaugural members of our Corporate Innovator program.

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Join Longwood Innovators

Provide support for our mission-based programs by helping us preserve beautiful Gardens, bring environmental education to thousands of students, and further conservation research.

Give to the Annual Fund

Your gift of any amount will make an impact.

Provide Program Support

Your designated support of a program will ensure that 100% of your gift directly helps sustain the work that we do in areas such as conservation, plant species preservation, community engagement, and K-12 education.

Make an Honorary or Memorial Gift

When you give a gift in honor or memory of a loved one, you create a lasting tribute that helps Longwood Gardens continue to inspire, enrich, and delight visitors for generations to come.

Make Longwood Part of Your Legacy

By including a bequest to Longwood in your estate plans, you help to ensure that our Gardens will provide joy and inspiration far into the future.

Engage as a Corporate Partner

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LONGWOOD GARDENS

Longwood Gardens is the living
legacy of Pierre S. du Pont
bringing joy and inspiration to
everyone through the beauty of
nature, conservation, and learning.

Longwood Gardens
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