

The Post Serial

Volunteer Newsletter of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens

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FOUR SEASONS

Lynn Rossotti, Director of Marketing, Communications and Visitor Services

For the first ever installation of art in the gardens, Philip Haas's sculptures bring a monumental interpretation of Giuseppe Arcimboldo's celebrated botanical paintings to Hillwood this fall.

The lush foliage, colorful blooms, and vegetation native to each of the seasons are spectacularly transformed into four larger-than-life, three-dimensional portrait busts for the special exhibition *Four Seasons*, on view at Hillwood from October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017.

Contemporary American artist and filmmaker Philip Haas's fifteen-foot high fiberglass sculptures are inspired by the series, *The Seasons*, by Italian Renaissance painter Giuseppe Arcimboldo (1526-1593). This unusual series represents each season through the depiction of a portrait rendered in botanical materials such as flowers, fruits, vegetables, and branches. Haas's re-creations transform these intriguing works, enlarging the scale, altering the materials, and adding dimensionality to shed a contemporary perspective on the popular paintings. *Four Seasons* represents the third contemporary art exhibition at Hillwood, following the notable presentations of works by Eva Zeisel in 2005 and Isabelle de Borchgrave in 2012. It is the first time Hillwood has presented an installation of art in the gardens.

Giuseppe Arcimboldo's The Seasons

Giuseppe Arcimboldo was a Renaissance painter, born in Milan, who likely studied the works of Leonardo Da Vinci before he left Italy to paint for the imperial courts of the Habsburg rulers in Vienna and Prague. During the reign of Austria's Emperor Maximilian II, Arcimboldo created the series *The Seasons*, comprising *Spring*, *Summer*, *Autumn*, and *Winter*. The portraits, painted in 1563, depict faces composed of plants associated with each season. Rosebuds form the lips of *Spring*, while a ripe peach stands in for a plump cheek on *Summer*. The portraits also represent the ages that are often linked with each season of the year. *Spring* is a youthful face crafted from flower blossoms and lush greenery. A wizened old man's face, constructed out of twisted tree branches, is the subject of *Winter*. The strange series was greatly appreciated for its humor as much as for the artist's technical skill, and the paintings became quite popular in the Habsburg court.

Philip Haas's Four Seasons

Haas's sculpture series offers a new perspective on Arcimboldo's *The Seasons* and is an intriguing work of art in its own right. *Spring*, *Summer*, *Autumn*, and *Winter* stand fifteen-feet tall with giant fruit, vegetables, and flowers forming their massive features. The smile on *Summer* is constructed of two pea pods several feet long, and grapes larger than basketballs hang in bunches from *Autumn's* head in lieu of hair. The towering figures feature Arcimboldo's blend of the natural and the fantastical on a remarkably grand scale.

Winter was first displayed at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. in 2010, before traveling to the Piazza del Duomo in Milan and the Garden of Versailles in 2011. In 2012, all four sculptures in *Four Seasons* were shown together for the first time at the Dulwich Picture Gallery in the United Kingdom. Since then, the show has travelled to museums and botanical gardens throughout the United States. Hillwood's installation of *The Four Seasons* will be the first time all four sculptures have been displayed together in Washington, D.C.

Philip Haas's exhibition at the the Kimbell Museum of Art in Fort Worth, Texas, *Butchers, Gods, Dragons & Skeletons*, was listed by *Time* magazine as one the ten best U.S. museum show of the year. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Venice Film Festival's Premio Open, as well as other awards. His feature film, *Angels & Insects*, was nominated for the Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or and an Academy Award.

Art in the Gardens

The fantastical *seasons* will emerge from the ellipse lawn at Hillwood, encircled by flowers, shrubs, and verdant woodlands. Viewers will be invited to explore the intricate details of the sculptures from all angles, discovering the previously unseen sides of Arcimboldo's two-dimensional interpretations. Beginning in October and remaining on view through March, the installation will weather the changing seasons, as the surrounding gardens transition from late summer, through fall, winter, and into early spring.

Opening Celebration

Celebrate the opening of *Four Seasons* with a fall garden party on September 28. Hillwood members at the contributor level and above are invited to meet artist Philip Haas and receive exclusive access for a first look at his whimsical sculptures. Tour the gardens, enjoy live music, specialty cocktails, and light refreshments.

Sponsors

The exhibition is supported by Lucy Street Rhame, Nancy and CG Appleby, The Honorable and Mrs. John E. Chapoton, Henry H. Goldberg and Carol Brown Goldberg, Linda and Bill Goldman, Gloria Hidalgo, Martha Johnston and Robert Coonrod, Betsy Scott Kleeblatt, Amy and Marc Meadows, Dr. and Mrs. Michael J. Petite, Toni A. Ritzenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick S. Rolandi III, Janice and Ralph Shrader, and Leonard L. Silverstein.

All exhibitions and programs are funded in part by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts through the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program.

HILLWOOD HAPPENINGS

All Hillwood volunteers are invited to take advantage of the educational offerings listed below. **Reminder:** Volunteer happenings are also listed via the [calendar page](#) on Hillwood's main website. Events/programs can be searched on the calendar page by either selecting a date on the calendar or "find by type" filter found on the left hand side of the screen.

Please register in advance: on the sign-up sheets on the clipboard in the Horticulture Building hallway or contact Bill Johnson at (202) 243-3927 or bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org. Advance registration is not necessary for continuing education events in the Visitor Center Theater unless otherwise noted.

Plant ID Walk

August 25 (Thursday), 9 a.m.

In this session, we will focus on the plants of summer and look at some of the new plants that have been added over the last two years. Meet in the Horticulture break room.

Seasonal Display Garden Tour

August 31 (Wednesday) 10:30 a.m.

Join Jessica Bonilla, head gardener, for an informative walk in the gardens to look at the annual displays at the peak of the summer season. All Hillwood volunteers are welcome to join the tour and share in the fun.

Plant ID Walk

September 21 (Wednesday) 9a.m.

We will examine some of the plants in the Japanese-style Garden. Meet Frances Vandenbroucke in the Horticulture break room.

A Day of Horticulture

September 12 (Monday),

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Join us for an autumnal themed "Day of Horticulture" in the Visitor Center Theater:

- **Perennials for the Autumn Garden**
Sandy Flowers, director of horticulture for the Washington National Cathedral, will share her experiences using perennials in the autumn garden. She notes that some perennials can have a second flush of color and autumn blooming perennials come into their own. Blooms in the garden combined with autumn leaf color can carry your garden all the way to frost.
- **Bulbs for Fall Planting**
Hillwood's head grower Drew Asbury will discuss planting techniques and the best times and bulbs to plant in the fall for spring bloom. He will also talk about the fall blooming bulbs that add color to the late season garden.
- **Annuals that Last into Autumn**
By the end of summer some annuals have played out and need to be removed to keep the garden looking fresh. There are some plants that just keep on going. Jessica Bonilla, head gardener, will let us know which annuals look good till frost and some techniques to keep them looking their best.
- **A Few Shrubs for the Fall Garden**
There are a number of shrubs that look good in the fall. Some have showy autumn color and others have bright berries that make a stunning display till the birds get hungry. Even the dried flower heads of the hydrangea add a seasonal look to the garden.

THE TERRACE CONSERVATORY PROJECT UPDATE

Kate Markert, Executive Director

Just as soon as we receive the building permit from DC, we will begin work on construction of the Terrace Conservatory, enclosing the outdoor space adjacent to the second floor of the Visitor Center. There are many intended uses for this new 1,336 square foot indoor space, the size of the lecture room below: events of all kinds, from member receptions to programs to festival days; pop-up shops; bus tour gathering (coming and going to their busses); school groups; the list of uses goes on and on. We all know how much we need flexible space, especially right in the heart of the campus, so close to the mansion and the Visitor Center. We have learned from our newly tented courtyard how wonderful it is to have more meeting and event space. An indoor area that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer will become essential from the moment it opens.



Architectural rendering of the new Terrace Conservatory

We have already installed a door in one of the three false windows in the Visitor Center that are visible from the road but up until this point invisible in the shop. That will become the egress to and from the Visitor Center during construction, which should start in August. After the Conservatory is complete, probably next January, work will begin on the vestibule outside this door, so that we have an elegant additional entrance mirroring the one off the parking lot on the first floor. Having this option will allow all sorts of events to occur during regular visiting hours, and will

maintain a handicapped-accessible pathway to and from the mansion at all times. You may have noticed that the checkout counter in the shop has been turned around to have a face towards this door.



Interior of the Terrace Conservatory

The first piece of the construction project will be to build the ramp that connects the new shop door to the new walkway adjacent to the road. Once the bridge allows visitors an alternative route to the mansion, we will close off the two doors leading out to the terrace, covering them with a wall of signage that shows the exciting new amenity that is coming. For the next few months, you will have many occasions to see all that is new in the shop if you are coming and going through the Visitor Center!

Early on in the construction, a great deal of demolition must occur – the entire brick flower boxes will be dismantled, along with a course of brick and the current terrace flooring. It will be noisy! We are planning to move the orientation film to the mansion staff dining room for as long as the demolition is in progress, potentially several months. We can only hope that the work goes faster than is now planned. As part of the project, we will also refresh the second floor lobby space and install interpretive materials that flesh out the life of Marjorie Merriweather Post, telling the story of our founder beyond the focus on collecting that is told in the orientation film. Many donors will make this beautiful space possible. We have raised \$867,375 against a goal of \$1 million in private funds; Hillwood will also contribute \$1 million through the operating budget over three or four years. We are most grateful to the many donors at all

levels – from \$25 to \$75,000 – who have come together to fund this critical new amenity. Of course, we are always looking for new donors, so please consider a contribution to help us achieve the goal.

We will keep you apprised as the work progresses!

NEW WOODLAND PATH BECOMES A MAJOR ADDITION TO HILLWOOD'S GARDENS

Betty Cochran, Newsletter Volunteer

This spring and summer a major new garden, called the Woodland Path, has been added to Hillwood's campus. This horticultural gem encompasses about a third of an acre on the previously undeveloped hillside below Friendship Overlook and the Putting Green. The Woodland Path and surrounding woodland garden are part of the five-year program of enhancing Hillwood's gardens under the guidance of consultant Rodney Robinson.



New Woodland Path

The garden of the Woodland Path begins at the entrance to the Woodland Trail, below the Putting Green. A short way down the trail, visitors turn right onto the new garden's broad path, covered with shredded hardwood. The easy-to-walk path curves around for about 230 feet. It ends at a few fieldstone steps descending to the lower

drive, about halfway between the mansion and the lower gate.

Once on the Woodland Path, visitors are in what feels like another world, a calm and beautiful woodland garden. They find a mix of mature trees and shrubs, new woody plants, and mass plantings of new perennials and groundcovers. Within the garden, on both sides of the path, are several low stone retaining walls, built in Marjorie Post's time to stabilize the hillside.



Retaining wall original to Marjorie Post's residence

Nearly 70 shrubs have been added to the existing camellias, azaleas, and hydrangeas. About half of these woody additions are azaleas, especially the cultivar 'Nancy of Robin Hill', with soft pink blossoms.

The wide variety of perennials and groundcovers includes four kinds of ferns—maidenhair fern, wood fern, and 300 each of hay-scented and Christmas ferns—and three kinds of Carex sedges. (See more information in the plant profile on pages 7 and 8.) Hostas are represented, including a hundred 'Golden Tiara'. There are also swaths and drifts of columbine, sweet woodruff, crested iris, gold-striped hakone grass, variegated lily of the valley, and blue and purple woodland and creeping phlox, along with several other kinds of plants that provide seasonal color in the shade. Planted in lesser numbers are goatsbeard, woodland aster, fairybells, prairie trillium, and many others.



Volunteers planting along the new Woodland Path

The garden was designed by Allan Summers of Robinson Anderson Summers, the landscape architecture firm of consultant Rodney Robinson in Wilmington, Delaware. Preparation of the site and installation of the garden was supervised by Marshall Paquin of Hillwood's Horticulture Department. Marshall and the horticultural staff removed old overgrown or invasive plants on the hillside and added truckloads of compost, layered six inches deep, to the new beds. The new plantings were installed in three days in early June by horticultural staff and a dozen volunteers.

The volunteers who helped with the planting were Noel Bakhtian, Joan Bennett, Paul Brown, Tina Byrd, Susan Fischer, Peter Fuchs, David Maxfield, Marc Nielsen, Deb Peck, Leo Sanchez, Katherine Schinasi, Buzz Seltzer and Carol Truppi. Together, staff and volunteers installed more than 3,000 plants.

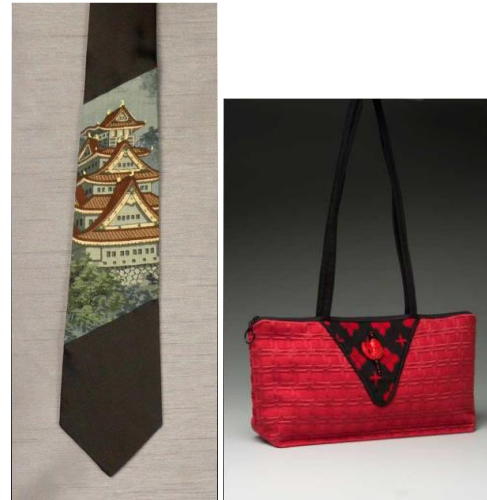
MUSEUM SHOP

Lauren Salazar, Head of Merchandising

August is the start of the summer gift show season and buyers attend to select merchandise for the holiday season and spring 2017. Nichelle and I attended The Accessories Show in New York July 31 to select new wearables for the fall and winter. Our main goal is to find fabulous new jackets and accessories. I will also attend the New York gift fair in mid-August to source gift

items for the fall, the holidays and Strathmore's Museum Shop Around. Look for new merchandise to start arriving in the shop in October.

Some finds that I'm most excited about:



Kimono Scarves, Neckties, Handbags and jewelry – created from scraps of vintage kimonos, each piece is one-of-a-kind.



Italianissimo jewelry – inspired by collage and handmade in Italy.

Upcoming Events:

- **Kennedy Center Sidewalk Sale, September 10, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Kennedy Center**

Join us and grab some bargains as we participate in this annual multi-museum event. No charge. Two hours free parking for customers (with validation).

- **Kimono Trunk Show, October 22, Hillwood Visitor Center**
Vintage and contemporary kimonos, haoris and yukatas.
- **Heidi Lowe Earrings Galore , October 29, Hillwood Visitor Center**
A one-day popup earring event from the innovative jewelry gallery from Rehoboth Beach, DE.
- **Strathmore's Museum Shop Around, November 10 to 13, Strathmore Mansion, North Bethesda, MD**
The Hillwood Museum Shop joins 17 other local museum stores. Free parking.
- **Volunteer & Staff Holiday Discount, December 1 to 31**
Receive 30% off merchandise and books. Select merchandise and sale items are excluded.

PLANT PROFILE: SEDGE (CAREX SPP.)

Jane Berger, Special Projects Volunteer

Carex comprises a huge family of plants, with many species and many, many cultivars. Worldwide, there are around two thousand species of these grass-like plants, usually found in damp soils, woodlands, or bogs. They are often densely tufted, and the leaves form a basal rosette. Most designers install sedges for their foliage, which can range in color from pure green to greenish-blue, variegated with white or yellow stripes, and to bronze. Although the sedges have flowers, they are usually insignificant and most likely you will never notice them.

These plants are terrific planted in masses, or used for edging along borders. Here at Hillwood, we have three sedges along the woodland path.

Variegated Japanese Sedge (*Carex oshimensis* 'Evergold')

You can't miss this sedge, a tufted mound with graceful thin blades of deep glossy green and a central stripe of golden yellow. It's evergreen in USDA zones six to nine, and it grows in full sun, or dappled shade. In full sun, it needs regular watering, but in shade, it requires only occasional watering. It's deer and disease resistant as well, and it looks fabulous spilling over a path, lighting up a dark corner of the garden, or used as a special feature in a container or window box. It will reach 12 inches in height, and its spread is 12 to 18 inches.



Carex oshimensis

Blue Wood Sedge (*Carex flaccosperma* var. *glaucodea*)

This sedge is native to eastern North America, found in woods and thickets. It's evergreen, with delicate blue-green leaves about one-half inch wide. It spreads slowly in the woodland garden and is quite drought tolerant after it's established. It's generally about 12 inches high and wide, and is hardy in USDA zones five to eight. It's a wonderful ground cover in shade gardens, but it can also be used as an edging plant for paths or walkways or as an accent in smaller landscapes.

Pennsylvania Sedge or Oak Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)

This native sedge with a fine, fountain-like habit is a shade-loving perennial naturally found in dry woodland areas, often in the accompaniment of oaks. It only reaches eight to ten inches in height, but its delicate, arching semi-evergreen leaves make a lovely statement when massed in the garden. It's often used as an underplanting for larger shade perennials, or sometimes as a substitute for lawn. It's hardy in USDA zones five to eight.



Carex pensylvanica

NEW STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

We are delighted to welcome nine new volunteers and three new staff members! Please join us in welcoming our newest members to Hillwood:

Joining the Hillwood staff:

- Jarrell Williams, Special Police Officer
- Freddy Mancilla, Development Assistant
- Tiffany Fitzgerald, Special Police Officer

Joining the Interpretation volunteer corps:

- Catherine (Cathy) Fleishman

Joining the Horticulture volunteer corps:

- Carol Truppi
- Jen Fletcher
- Barbara Marin
- Rose Thorne

- Marc Nielsen
- Maite Leo
- Allison Schmale
- Randall Mclean

BABY NEWS

Two of Hillwood's staff members are delighted to share the newest additions to the Hillwood family:

Katy Albertson, Head of Visitor Services, and her husband Mike welcomed Maxwell (Max) Beckham Albertson (7 pounds, 9 ounces) on August 3 at 4:01 p.m.



Maxwell (Max) Beckham Albertson

Adrienne Starr, Donor Relations & Special Events Manager, and her husband Oliver welcomed Leighton Alexandra Rose Mercer (7 pounds 5 ounces) on August 3 at 9:28 p.m.



Leighton Alexandra Rose Mercer

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Lisa Leyh, Interpretation Volunteer Manager

Hillwood is recruiting for a variety of volunteer roles and we need your help spreading the word: Visitor Services Volunteers, Family Art Volunteers, and Gallery Attendant Volunteers, a new

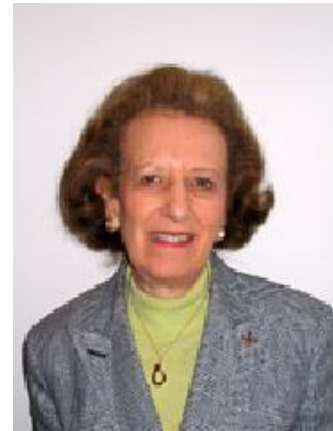
volunteer position at Hillwood (see below for more details). You can help by spreading the word to friends, family members or clubs and organizations you're affiliated with. Please direct any inquires or possible applicants to Lisa Leyh at (202) 243-3938 or LLeyh@HillwoodMuseum.org.

- **Visitor Services Volunteers (VSVs)**
VSVs offer a gracious welcome and interpretive assistance to visitors in the Visitor Center and mansion. Openings are available for the 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. shifts on Saturday and Sunday.
- **Family Art Volunteers**
Family Art Volunteers assist in facilitating art-making activities with caregivers and children at family-friendly public programs, such as Fabergé Egg Family Festival and Girl Scout Day. Volunteers commit to a minimum of 4 out of 10 events throughout the year, primarily on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. The four-hour shifts vary in timing depending on the program.
- **Gallery Attendant Volunteers (GAVs)**
Gallery Attendant Volunteers, a new volunteer position under Security, serve on-station in the mansion by observing and reporting any suspicious activity or unusual conditions. GAVs also assist in staffing the coat check, directing visitors to parking, and fielding visitor questions. The volunteer shift is four hours Tuesday-Sunday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM: NATALIE SMITH BOUQUET

On Saturday June 4, 2016, former Hillwood volunteer Natalie Smith Bouquet of Chevy Chase, Maryland passed away. Natalie was the beloved wife of Dr. Jean-Pierre Bouquet and devoted mother of Jacqueline Bouquet, Michele Bouquet and Edouard Bouquet. Sister of Victor Smith and the late Maurine Starr as well as the adored grandmother of Nicholas Bouquet, Alexandrina Kay,

Christopher Sievering, Genevieve Bouquet, Samantha Sievering, Josephine Bouquet, Jean-Pierre Bouquet II, Jackson Bouquet, and Griffin Bouquet; and great-grandmother of Isabella Kay.



Natalie Smith Bouquet

The family requests that memorial contributions in Natalie Smith Bouquet's name be made to The American Diabetes Association (www.diabetes.org). [Click here](#) to view the complete obituary.

The *Post Serial* is published quarterly for Hillwood volunteers by Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. It is edited under the direction of the volunteer management team of Bill Johnson, Lisa Leyh, and other Hillwood staff members. Copyright 2016 by Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens.

