



## President's Annual Report 2025

### Year in Review

#### A Year of Growth and Connection

2025 was a year of growth, community engagement, and shared accomplishments—made possible by the unwavering commitment of our volunteers, staff, and supporters. The daily care and nurturing of our gardens are thoughtfully curated by our skilled and dedicated team. Together, we strengthened our mission to provide learning, community, and connection through nature.

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#### Volunteer Impact

- Thousands of volunteer hours contributed across all areas of operation, valued at \$36.97 per hour.
- Volunteers supported programs, gardens, events, and daily operations throughout the year.

Our volunteers are the heart of our organization, generously giving their time and talents in every season.

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#### Ongoing Programs

The Knippenberg Center continued to serve as a vibrant community hub, hosting:

- Yoga and Sound Bathing programs
  - Book Club
  - Bird walks
  - Meetings and community gatherings
  - Guided cart tours
  - Art and photography exhibits featuring local artists and Wayne High School students
  - Sculpture Trail updates, including the sale and change out of three sculptures
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#### Fundraising

Revenue was generated by fundraisers that helped us maintain a sound financial footing to support our mission.

- Plant sales
- Bench dedications

- Weddings and photo shoots
- Tours and educational programs
- Gift of Green and Holiday mailings
- Outdoor donation boxes
- Sculpture Trail commissions
- Permits and media sponsorships
- Craft sales and the Holiday Boutique
- Pavers

This year, we proudly achieved a long-standing goal with the establishment of the **Laurelwood Legacy Fund**. This endowment fund will secure long-term financial stability for the arboretum for generations to come.

We welcome contributions to the Laurelwood Legacy Fund through cash or stock donations, as well as bequests.

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## Grants and Sponsorships

We were fortunate to receive support from several generous donors, including:

- Bartlett Corporate Pest Management
- Certified Gardeners Association of Passaic County - Plant Tags
- Charlie Kientzler – Knippenberg Center Entrance Railings
- Columbia Bank - Tour Carts
- Columbia Bank - Upper Preserve
- Ira A. Roschelle Family Foundation - Welcome Garden
- Stanley Smith Trust
- Albert Payson Terhune - Children's Programs

Our ongoing achievements would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors, whose continued support strengthens our mission.

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## Seasonal Highlights

### Winter

- Greenhouse volunteers at work three days per week
- Site Manager Gary Molan conducted weekly inspections for deer damage and litter cleanup

### Spring

- Volunteer Welcome Back Party and Spring Cleanup
- Earth Day Celebration led by Katie McKuen, Bonnie Joachim, and Alice Moskowitz
- Highly successful Annual Online and Onsite Plant Sale led by Linda Wescott
- Peak Bloom and Rhododendron Tour led by Joe DiGiacomo

### Summer

- Acquisition of a new tour cart funded by a Columbia Bank grant
- Installation of Sensory Garden enclosure
- Enhancement of Welcome Garden

- Installation of Knippenberg Center entrance railings
- Two deer drives supported by 30 volunteers

## **Fall**

- Installation of two new benches and receipt of multiple paver donations
  - Participation in Wayne Day, strengthening community outreach
  - Children's programs:
    - SOAR
    - Green Quest Nature Club
  - Hosted the Chrysanthemum Society of New Jersey Show at the Knippenberg Center
  - Completion of a Boy Scout project to restore the reflecting pond
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## **End-of-Year & Winter Highlights**

- High Line visit
  - Sensory Garden plants relocated to the Upper Greenhouse
  - Halloween Thank-You and End-of-Year Volunteer Celebration
  - Skylands Holiday Open House led by Ingrid Patois
  - 3rd Annual Holiday Craft Boutique directed by Ritika Gandhi
  - All Wayne String Orchestra Concert
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## **Thank You**

This year's achievements were made possible by the passion, generosity, and teamwork of our entire community. With pride in what we have accomplished, and excitement for what lies ahead, we remain committed to our tradition of providing meaningful opportunities for learning, connection, and community.