

Tree



Talk

Community Arboretum Newsletter • C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University

Great Flowering Trees of the C.W. Post Community Arboretum

By Vincent A. Simeone, Horticulturist and Arboretum Coordinator

Many consider spring a time of rebirth as the garden awakens from a long, cold winter. The C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University is truly one of the most unique landscape settings on Long Island. Its magnificent buildings, specimen trees and breathtaking views are inspiring throughout the year. But, spring is a special time on campus. The grounds come alive with masses of flowering trees, shrubs and bulbs. Traditional flowering trees blooming in April and May include Magnolia, Dogwood and Ornamental Cherry. Over 75,000 tulips and daffodils planted throughout the grounds accent these showy spring flowering trees.

Although the entire campus is a horticultural showplace, the majority of the specimen flowering trees can be found in the arboretum that surrounds Winnick House. Magnolias are typically the first of the flowering trees to bloom in April. There are several mature **Star Magnolias** (*Magnolia stellata*) located along the walk in front of Post Hall. These small to medium sized trees have pure white, star-shaped flowers that exude a sweet, lemony scent. In addition, there is a newly planted allee of Saucer Magnolia located next to the formal garden on the south side of Winnick House. The allee consists of several large saucer magnolias that are offshoots of the original trees from the Post family estate dating back to the 1920s. There are also nine new trees that were planted in 2003 to replace trees that were lost over time. **Saucer Magnolia** (*Magnolia x soulangiana*) offers large white or pink saucer-shaped flowers. These big and bold masses of color are a breathtaking site to visitors to the garden.

Directly around the formal garden are large specimen **Oriental Flowering Cherries** (*Prunus subhirtella*) that bloom in May. These tall trees adorn petite pink flowers that fade to white as they age. In addition, a new variety of cherry known as Prunus 'Snow Goose' highlights the area near the parking lot of the library. This impressive grouping of trees display white, ruffled flowers and an upright, vase shaped growth habit.

The gnarled trunk of this Oriental Flowering Cherry bears a crown of delicate pink cherry blossoms. It is more than three quarters of a century old.



Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is the quintessential flowering native tree of the east coast. Since the turn of the 20th century this wonderful tree has graced the front lawns of many home gardens as well as parks and public gardens. Although Flowering Dogwood has been plagued by a disease called Anthracnose, which is a blight that kills

leaves and twigs, it is slowly making a comeback in the American landscape. The four-petaled white or pink flowers unfold in May and last several weeks. Along Chipmunk Trail, between Hillwood Commons and Post Hall, Dogwoods can be found scattered across the woodland. On the west side of Winnick House one of the largest Pink Dogwoods on Long Island graces the edge of the Great Lawn. In the courtyard of Winnick House one can also find a most peculiar dogwood growing. The **Pagoda Dogwood** (*Cornus alternifolia*) has a very layered, irregular growth habit and clusters of flat-topped, creamy white flowers in late spring.

Directly across from the Great Lawn near the large Pink Flowering Dogwood is a native **Eastern Redbud** (*Cercis canadensis*) which displays delicate, deep pink flower buds that open to pink flowers in late April and early May. This widespread native can be found growing naturally along forest edges and highways up and down the east coast.



A Flowering Dogwood and Eastern Redbud along the C.W. Post Community Arboretum Trail

Earning a Green Thumb

Students enrolled at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University are working on their green thumbs this Spring Semester 2005, thanks to a



Biology Professor Todd Zimmerman (far right) with students, examines the growth of orchids in the Miracle-Gro Greenhouse.

new under-graduate biology course, "Ecology and Evolution of Orchids," that focuses on many aspects of the popular plant.

Students are being taught by Assistant Biology Professor Todd Zimmerman, whose plants last year won two ribbons – one for first place, the other for second – in the 24th New York International Orchid Show at Rockefeller Center in New York City. Discussions include the history of the orchid trade, the structure and function of orchids and how that relates to survival in the wild, orchid types and the role of horticulture and conservation of orchids in society today.

Lectures include hands-on activities such as the use of microscopes and dissection of flower parts. Visits to the C.W. Post Miracle-Gro Greenhouse are incorporated into lectures. "This helps students experience the environment the plants are living in and adapted to rather than just imagine it from words written on a blackboard," Professor Zimmerman said.

Although there is not enough time for students to grow their own orchids, they are observing live plants in the greenhouse. "Orchids grow very slowly," Professor Zimmerman explains. "It generally takes a full year for a plant to put out a new growth and then flower, so by the end of the semester a student would see very little change in the plants." If students would like to try to grow their own plants, Professor Zimmerman will offer advice. "I hope the students will be able to grow orchids on their own by understanding how the plant works."

Great Flowering Trees (continued from page 1)



This Red Chestnut has several large burls which are natural growths on a tree trunk.

There are also several less common species of flowering trees growing at C.W. Post. The **Red Chestnut** (*Aesculus x carnea*) has deep pink flower spikes that elongate to 8" in May. After the flowers fade, unusual palm-shaped leaves emerge and remain for the summer months. A large specimen Red Chestnut is located next to the Labyrinth on the south side of Winnick House.

The Chipmunk Trail meanders through an exquisite woodland that features many native trees. One unusual native is the **Carolina Silverbell** (*Halesia tetraptera*). This flowering tree has an irregular growth habit and will develop a wide spreading, shrubby habit. Silverish white, bell-

shaped flowers will open along the stems like chimes along a string. The grey bark will exhibit white streaks that are most noticeable in the winter or early spring when the tree is leafless.

Spring is a great time to explore all of the beauty, nature has to offer at C.W. Post. A casual walk through the arboretum will unveil many of the beautiful flowering treasures that make the campus so magical. These spring flowering trees paint the landscape with beautiful pastel colors and remind us of their unrivaled splendor.



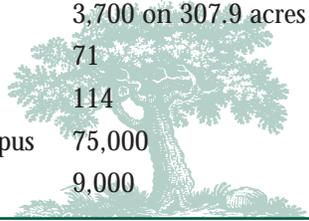
Creating Great Gardens

Over 200 landscape designers, horticulturists and landscape architects attended an educational symposium in February at the C.W. Post Campus. Sponsored by C.W. Post and Atlantic Nurseries, the 18th annual forum provided innovative, cutting edge information to professionals in the horticultural industry.

Among those in attendance: (from left) Case Joose, grounds manager, C.W. Post Campus; Fred Soviero, Hofstra University; Fritz Schaeffer, owner of Atlantic Nurseries; Daryll Troutt, guest speaker; Pam Harper, author and photographer; Dennis Schraeder, Landcraft Environmental; Jim Glover, Glover Perennials; John Gaylarido, general manager of Atlantic Nurseries.

Arboretum Facts:

■ Total Trees on Campus	3,700 on 307.9 acres
■ Number of Species	71
■ Total Trees in Arboretum	114
■ Tulips and Daffodils on Campus	75,000
■ Lily Flowering Tulips	9,000



New Additions on Campus...

Persian Parrotia: This tree belongs to the Witch Hazel family and comes from the Middle East. It has interesting exfoliating bark and nice fall color. It is located south of the library entrance.

Golden Chain Tree: This tree belongs to the legume family and produces, as the name suggests, chain-like hanging clusters of bright yellow flowers in May. It is located southeast of Pell Hall.

Chastetree: This interesting shrub flowers later in the summer with blue/purple spikes and has interesting starlike compound leaves, which are also aromatic. It is located south of the library entrance.

Crape Myrtle: This small tree or shrub is a profuse bloomer down south but is now also available in white and pink flowering hybrids that are hardy here. It is a heavy bloomer in summer and has good fall color. It is located on the south side of the bookstore.



The Crape Myrtle with its vibrant colors is abundant on-campus. It can flower for 120 days or more. Full sun and well-drained soil is preferable.



The 90-year-old American Elm, planted fully grown in the 1920s, is the centerpiece of the admissions courtyard. It is considered a landmark specimen and is on the National Register of Historic Elms. There are only 5,000 trees of this size and age remaining in the United States. It has a trunk circumference of more than 10 feet, 4 inches at breast height. The 50-foot tree has a large, spreading crown growing above divided trunks, giving it a distinctive, vase-like appearance.

Tree Talk

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Plan Your Visit to the C.W. Post Community Arboretum

The C.W. Post Community Arboretum is a magnificent 20-acre tract of native trees and nature trails within the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University. It features 114 trees (71 species), some very rare, that are labeled with horticultural and origin information. Self-guided walking tours begin at Hillwood Commons and last 30 to 45 minutes. To obtain your free map, go to the Hillwood Commons Information Desk or call (516) 299-3500 or e-mail neighbor@liu.edu.



C.W. POST CAMPUS

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR UNIVERSITY.

Celebrate Trees!

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Become a Friend of the Arboretum

We acknowledge, with gratitude, Atlantic Nurseries of Dix Hills for a donation to the arboretum. We depend on the generous support of our friends to preserve the campus's valuable natural areas and tree collection. Donations to the C.W. Post Community Arboretum help us care for the trees and fund the tree replacement program. Your contribution will help us maintain and enhance this beautiful arboretum.

For information on donor opportunities, please call the C.W. Post Development & Alumni Office at 516-299-2263 or e-mail neighbor@liu.edu.



The Karlan/Geisman Meditation Garden was a generous donation from Upper Brookville resident Blanche Karlan.