



# H A V E R F O R D C O L L E G E A R B O R E T U M A S S O C I A T I O N

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## *CERCIS CANADENSIS*, THE EASTERN REDBUD

by William Astifan, Arboretum Director

A small eastern American woodland understory tree, the eastern redbud, *Cercis* (from the Greek *kerkis* meaning weaver's shuttle) *canadensis*, is common from southern Canada to the Piedmont, Alabama and east Texas. The tree has a short single or multi-stem trunk and rounded umbrella-like crown of spreading branches.

Standing 20 to 30 feet tall at the edges of woods, in a garden or as a specimen on a lawn, the redbud waits for the warming days of spring to burst from winter with a delightful display of purplish, rosy pink blooms before it leafs out. It appears as if it was hiding, waiting for the warmer days. The redbud announcing spring in its own special way makes it one of my spring favorites. When traveling, I still recall the beauty of the redbud blooms scattered along the highways and at the edges of woods, accenting the green flush of spring grass and brilliant red of the clay soils it so loves.

The popularity of this tree derives from the brilliant masses of flowers on bare branches before the tree leafs out. The flowers are one-half inch long, sitting on one-half inch pedicels in clusters of 4 to 8 borne directly on branches and trunks. There is a horticultural term, cauliflorous, referring to flowers borne directly on stems and trunk. Enhancing the blooms are the slender, dark reddish brown to almost black zig-zag twigs that add a most interesting artistic element.

The 3 to 5-inch heart-shaped leaf is often wider than long with 5 to 9 prominent veins. The apex comes to a point, and the leaf sits on a petiole 1½ to 2½-inches long. The leaf is attached alternately on the branches with a smooth, simple edge, and sometimes you will notice small hairs on the underside. The new growth emerges as a reddish purple, gradually opening to a lustrous green through the summer. Some experts say that it does not have a nice fall display. From my observation of the trees on campus, the leaves have an excellent yellow color that sets off the dark zig-zag branches.

Hiding in the yellow fall color are the pod-shaped fruits which place the redbud in the pea family, *Fabaceae*. Persisting most of the winter, the dark brown pods are 2 to 3-inches long and one half-inch wide. It is up to the viewer to decide whether this is a good or bad feature.

The adaptive redbud is extensively planted as an ornamental throughout the eastern United States. It is usually found as an understory tree in mixed forests. It grows best in moist, well-drained soil in part shade to part sun. However, the eastern redbud has proven to be very adaptable to different soils, full sun and dry areas. If grown in wet soils, it is prone to root rot. It is not especially vulnerable to insects or diseases, and is relatively easy to maintain.

There are several redbud cultivars on campus. Two of the more unusual are near the entrance to Sharpless Auditorium. 'Alba' is a white-flowering tree and is on the right of the sidewalk. 'Hearts of Gold', left of the auditorium entrance, lives up to its name with maturing yellow then light green-tinted leaves. 'Forest Pansy' emerges with shiny red-purple leaves that remain a subdued dark color until fall. There is a nice specimen in front of the Facilities Maintenance offices. Because of their flowers, all the redbuds make beautiful large shrubs or small trees in the landscape.



Photo by Martha Van Artsdalen

A redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, blooms alongside Hall Building.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

*As you enjoy the articles in this newsletter you will get a special look into the Arboretum. You will find that the Arboretum is more than trees and plants, it is the people and the heritage that gives it its personality. The Arboretum experience seems to grow into your life once you engage it. The students lucky enough to land jobs working with the staff develop a great sense of place and ownership in our long history. The special Arboretum staff definitely has an impact.*

*The Arboretum has turned another corner in its history. Programs and promotion of the Arboretum is turning toward outreach through educational programs. This may not sound new, however, emphasis is on the type of education. Several years ago I wrote about the new Environmental Studies Program and introduced Jonathan Wilson and Helen White. We will be working with them to continue to expand opportunities to use the campus as an environmental lab. This, coupled with the sustainability movement, has positioned the Arboretum to use new topics to plan programs. We are working on a plan to use this information to expand our outreach to new audiences.*

*The Executive Committee is working on plans to expand our outreach to new people. By doing so, we anticipate potential members will develop interest in what we are doing. Our goal is to build on the current membership base. I am excited about expanding into new programs and interest areas. There are some activities that we will continue to offer: Earth Day on April 22 and Arbor Day tree planting on April 29. As we continue to ready the campus for Commencement, (this year it is on Saturday May 14, a change from Sundays) I am always amazed at the campus' beauty. I invite you to come to campus and experience spring and bring a friend.*

*I end on a special note of thanks to Pat Turner. Pat, who has served on the Arboretum Association Executive Committee over the last 20 years, now feels it is time, in her words, "to step aside and make room for a new branch on the tree." Well said; I know that we will continue to see Pat at our events. Please join me in sending Pat our best wishes.*

Bill Astifan  
Arboretum Director

## AN INTERNATIONAL VISIT

*by Bill Astifan, Arboretum Director*

**O**n November 12, 2015, I hosted a campus visit by Yukio Tada, Norihiko Tanikawa and Takeshi Konishi, members of the Rotary Club of Tokyo, Japan. These representatives were in town to visit their sister club, the Rotary Club of Ardmore. It was a delightful tour that started in the Arboretum Office for orientation and presentation of the college landscape history. I then led them on a walking tour that culminated at a site along Woolman Walk behind Swan Field where there are four Okame cherry trees, *Prunus* 'Okame,' purchased and planted in 2008 with funds their club donated to the Arboretum through the Ardmore Club.

My thanks to Hogie Hanson, Haverford College retiree and member of the Ardmore Rotary Club, for assisting with these arrangements.

## DEDICATED STUDENTS



Photo by Mike Startup

***When the 2-foot blizzard struck one January weekend, several dedicated Arboretum student workers showed up to shovel, rather than sleep in on a Saturday morning. From left to right: Miwa Wenzel, Abby Fullem, Zoë McAlear and Adriana Cvitkovic.***

## NEW BOOK CAPTURES LANDSCAPE HISTORY

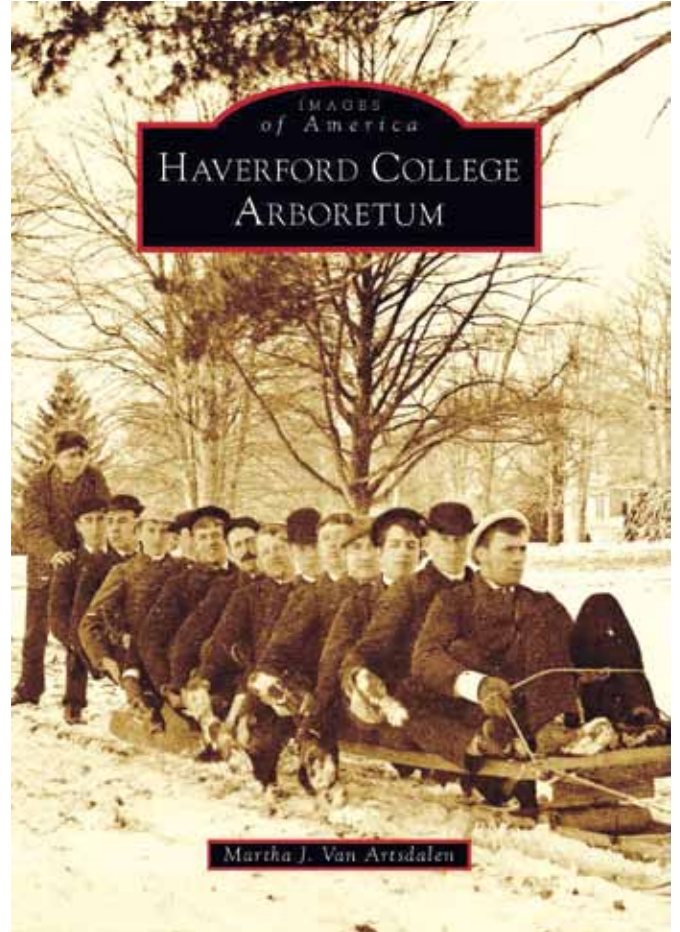
Cows once grazed on today's athletic fields. Class teams in the 1890s raced each other on wooden bobsleds down the hill below Barclay Hall. In the 1950s, the public paid 25 cents to skate on the frozen Duck Pond to music piped through a set of loud speakers.

Generations have used the campus of Haverford College in many ways. Now a book captures the history of this landscape using photographs from the college's Quaker & Special Collections. *Images of America: Haverford College Arboretum*, by plant curator Martha Van Artsdalen, tells the story of how 200 acres of farm fields evolved into an Arboretum of majestic trees, a 2.2-mile Nature Trail and elegant stone entrance gates. Photographs capture the barn on fire in 1922, long-gone gardens, a football game in the 1920s and students cleaning out the pond in the 1950s.

"People most frequently think of history in terms of people, buildings or events, rather than landscapes," Martha explains. "But the evolution of the land tells a story, too."

The book covers 175 years of the Arboretum's history, from 1833 when the first 23 students were assigned their own garden plots to tend, to the building of the Peace Garden. In between, students held class snowball fights, the Pinetum was planted and commencement day receptions were shaded by a massive American elm on Founders Green. Text accompanies the nearly 200 images in eight thematic chapters.

***Images of America: Haverford College Arboretum* is now available at the college bookstore in the Whitehead Campus Center, 610-896-1178 or online at [haverfordbookstore.com](http://haverfordbookstore.com) for \$21.99.**



Courtesy of Arcadia Publishing

## GRIM DIAGNOSIS



Photo by Mike Startup

*Charlie Jenkins, right, and Jim Ward of John B. Ward and Co. use a Resistograph to determine the extent of interior decay in the Greek fir, *Abies cephalonica*, by the Observatory. The extensive decay, plus Shoe String Root Rot, *Armillaria mellea*, at the soil line, make the tree a hazard. It will be removed in the near future.*

## A FLURRY OF PLANT MADNESS

by Mike Startup, Horticulturist

The madness will soon begin with the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Sixty-four teams over the next few weeks are playing for the title of National Champion. I started to ponder this negative correlation between basketball teams in the tournament and the emergence of the first spring flowers. For plant lovers, I like to think of March Madness as the time when the plants start their flurry.

I recently gave a quick count of what's in bloom on campus, in the neighborhoods and in my own garden. I came up with an impressive list of 29 "teams."

By the end of the first weekend of play, the basketball field will be reduced by half. Not so, on our side of the court! The numbers of plant teams will only be increasing. This weekend, go out in the yard and put together your list of teams. Everyone counts, from the blooms of the 3-inch snow drop to the diminutive red flowers of the 60-foot red maple.

There is no winner in the plant world, but to all who are watching your brackets closely . . . good luck.

## THE BEST STUDENT JOB

*Editor's Note: The Arboretum offers a limited number of work opportunities for students every semester. Teamed with horticulturists Carol Wagner, Mike Startup and Charlie Jenkins, the students share the same tasks: greenhouse watering, shoveling snow, raking leaves, weeding display beds, planting shrubs and trees. This May's commencement will see seven of our students say goodbye as they leave Haverford for new pursuits. We will miss them all. The reflections of several on their time spent in the Arboretum follow.*

There has been very little consistency throughout the four years that I've spent at Haverford. I've lived somewhere different every year. Each semester has come with new classes and professors, new challenges and commitments. I've spent each of my summers in a different place. My friends have shifted over the years as our lives intersect or go different ways.

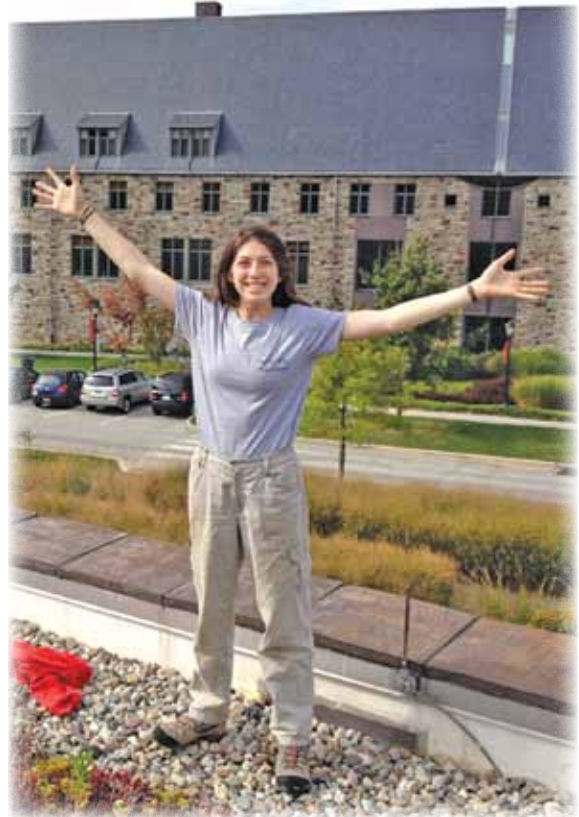
Throughout it all, my only constant has been my work at the Arboretum. Twice a week, every week of every semester, I have woken up at 6:20 to eat a bowl of oatmeal and get dressed to work outside. Every time my alarm goes off that early, I wake up in a haze and question why I ever thought it was a good idea to work the morning shift at the arboretum. But, by 10, when I finish for the morning, my mood has completely turned around. Despite how much I despise each of those early mornings in the first moments of the day, there's been something that calls me back each semester.

Working at the Arboretum has been one of the most rewarding parts of my Haverford experience, filled with great bosses and strong connections to the other student workers, invigorating hours spent outside in every type of weather, and a feeling that I'm contributing to the beauty of our campus. Tomorrow morning my alarm will go off at 6:20 and I'll hate that I have to wake up and venture into the cold but, come the end of this final semester, it's going to be hard to say goodbye to these days of working at the Arboretum with my favorite horticulturists.

— Zoë McAlear '16



Zoë McAlear '16



Abby Fullem '16

I have the best student job on campus. Working with the horticulturists at the Arboretum has been a defining part of my experience at Haverford College. It facilitated my interest in soil science and plant biology, and shaped the path of my academic career. I have memories of Mike Startup quizzing me on Latin plant names and plant families for a biology class.

Working with the Arboretum provides solace from the hectic day-to-day of college. After a morning of work, I feel refreshed, and am energized and ready to dive into my work. Sometimes, work actually entails leaving campus, squished between Mike and Charlie Jenkins in the dump truck headed to pick up mums at the local nursery. Whether it's a wave from a golf cart or a handmade felted hat for Christmas from Carol Wagner, the community within the grounds crew is incredibly kind and supportive. I'll say it again: I have the best student job on campus. Granted, I'm probably a bit biased, but I stand firmly by that statement.

— Abby Fullem '16

**THE BEST STUDENT JOB** *(continued from page 4)*

I started working at the Arboretum within my first few weeks at Haverford, and it has remained a foundational part of my Haverford experience. I fondly think back to my first day on campus, move-in day, when my mother stopped Mike Startup to ask who put together the nearby flowerpot arrangements. Mike told us he was one of the people behind the campus' beauty, and I quickly inquired about student work opportunities with these impressive horticulturists. The rest is history.

Some of my favorite memories include using a leaf blower for the first time (power tools are too much fun!), shoveling snow at 6 a.m. on a blizzardy Saturday morning with my coworker Miwa Wenzel, and receiving my dark green Arboretum sweatshirt. I have such pride in that green sweatshirt. It represents my connection to an amazing group of people. The Arboretum and Grounds crew have helped complete my Haverford community — I have many more friends to greet around campus. Working well with students is not in the horticulturists' job description, but somehow I ended up with three amazing bosses, who I appreciate very deeply. Thanks for four spectacular years!

— Adriana Cvitkovic '16

Coming to work at the Arboretum is always something I look forward to every week, and there are so many wonderful and humorous memories that accompany these enjoyable times here. My favorite moment was when I partook in the making, decorating, and arranging

of Christmas ornaments for the holiday party; it was an interesting approach to use the native flora, and I enjoyed getting some independence to create my own designs! Yet I have also enjoyed many other occasions, including planting and identifying my new collection of succulents, relaxing in the tropical greenhouse after a day's hard work, and getting stuck in the shrubs in front of Magill. I cannot wait for even more enthralling adventures and experiences before my graduation in the spring!

— Lauren Morse '16

I'm so happy to be back working at the Arboretum in my senior year after a two-year hiatus. This year, as I looked back over my time at Haverford, I realized many of my favorite memories were working at the Arboretum during my freshmen year: shopping for mums in the fall, eating a ton of delicious food at the holiday potluck, and working on the Stokes Hall green roof in the early morning. I'm thankful that I was welcomed back, and I have been able to have another year making more great memories and spending time with some of the most wonderful people on campus. Working at the Arboretum makes me feel involved on campus in an important way — it's wonderful to walk by tulips blooming in the spring from bulbs I helped to plant. I have learned so much from this job, but perhaps even more importantly, I've had a ton of fun!

— Andrea Gaughan '16



**Adriana Cvitkovic '16**



**Lauren Morse '16**



**Andrea Gaughan '16**

Photos by Mike Startup and Carol Wagner

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Earth Day

Friday, April 22

### Arbor Day

Friday, April 29 • Noon

Five years ago, the Arbor Day Foundation conferred the honor of Tree Campus USA on Haverford College, but the Arboretum's tradition of planting a tree on Arbor Day each April has been practiced for over 100 years. This year's Arbor Day tree will be a native sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*. The tree will replace a pin oak, *Quercus palustris*, that had to be removed because of interior decay. We'll gather at the corner of College Lane and Coursey Road in front of Sharpless Hall. Come welcome the newest addition to the Arboretum collection and take home a plant dividend.

### Fall Lecture

Sunday, October 2 • 2 p.m. • *Sharpless Auditorum*

### Annual Dinner Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 6 to 9 p.m.

*Founders Great Hall*

## A Closer Look . . .



Tropical plants, including this small banana tree, *Musa* sp., bloom happily in the greenhouse over the winter months.

## HOUSTON, WE HAVE LIFTOFF



Photo by Mike Startup

The large structure emerging this spring on fields near Haverford Road has attracted the interest of many walking on the Nature Trail. This is an upgraded discus/hammer cage that will separate the running and throwing events at spring track meets as well as conform to NCAA specifications. It replaces a much smaller setup on Walton Field.

*"It is one of life's rarest delights to sit where one may look out over the Haverford Campus into the exquisite arching, and lacing, and light of a May evening passing westward through the trees."*

— Elihu Grant (1873 – 1942)

American minister and scholar, in *Haverford Moods*, 1924



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Members at Large

Ann Ashmead	Tom Shotzbarger '77
Agnes Moncy	Matt Simon '77
Nancy Pasquier	Alan Wood
Laura Patterson	

#### Staff Representatives:

Bill Astifan, *Arboretum Director*  
 Don Campbell, *Director, Facilities Management*  
 Claudia Kent, *Assistant Director, Facilities Grounds & Sustainability*  
 Jesse Lytle, *Chief of Staff, President's Office*

#### Student Representatives:

Austin Huber '19, Jeanne Quinn '16 & Annika Ulrich '18

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