

Inspiring Visitor Experiences

- On October 28, 2010, we officially dedicated the Brian C. Nevin Welcome Center. This also marked the culmination of “Plantations Transformations,” a 10-year initiative to bring all of our facilities in line with the high quality of our programs and living collections.
- Bermed into Comstock Knoll, the Nevin Center is fully accessible, enabling visitors with mobility concerns to view and explore the popular Bowers Rhododendron Collection for the first time in Plantations’ history.
- The architects who designed the Nevin Center, Baird Sampson Neuert, won an Award of Excellence from *Canadian Architect* magazine for their work on the building, one of only six awards given in 2010.
- A touch-screen computer kiosk in the lobby allows visitors to design and map their own tour as well as browse our calendar of events, garden highlights, and search for the location of a specific plant or memorial.

The exhibit cases in the Nevin Center lobby showcase Plantations’ history, our mission and programs, the unique geological features of our landscapes, artwork inspired by our horticultural collections and natural areas, and seasonal attractions and special programs.



University Photography



Sue Rakow

Preserving Natural Areas

In collaboration with the Cornell student organization, FOG (Friends of the Gorges), Plantations’ natural areas staff continued to improve gorge safety, reduce inappropriate use, and promote the appreciation and enjoyment of the gorges. FOG members worked with us on trail reconstruction projects and developed a new “adopt-a-gorge” stewardship program, recruiting six fraternities and service organizations to regularly help remove litter from Cascadilla and Fall Creek Gorges.



Michael Roberts

- Last spring, we launched the Natural Areas Academy, a new education program that aims to foster the conservation of our natural heritage by demonstrating essential stewardship methods, cultivating environmental literacy, and encouraging interactive experiences with the natural world. Thirty people participated in seven workshops and other field-based activities utilizing Plantations’ preserves as outdoor classrooms.
- Last spring, our natural areas staff and volunteers found more infestations of the invasive insect, hemlock woolly adelgid, in hemlock trees around Beebe Lake, in Cascadilla and Fall Creek Gorges, and at Fischer Old Growth Forest in Newfield, one of Plantations’ most important natural areas for teaching and research. In 2010 we treated over 150 trees at Beebe Lake, at a cost of approximately \$50 per tree. As funding allows, we will continue control treatments on infested trees.

Growing Greener

- During the fall semester, we gave several tours of the Nevin Center for students and faculty in architecture, design and environmental analysis, and landscape design, focused on the green construction and sustainable features of the building.
- Our horticulture program purchased two fuel-efficient “mini-trucks” this fall, following several years of research to find hard-working vehicles that can navigate over narrow garden pathways. The new vehicles have 4-wheel drive, all-weather cabs, dumping beds, fold-down sides, and a fuel efficiency rating of 45–50 mpg.

Plantations continued to partner with the Town of Cayuga Heights and several area tree care companies to accept bulk leaves and wood chips, the primary ingredients of our in-house mulch. This recycling partnership saved Plantations an estimated \$30,000.



University Photography



Cornell Plantations
1885
Botanical Gardens • Arboretum • Natural Areas

Lower Cascadilla Gorge Trail
reopened!

Cornell Plantations
Annual Report
2010

cornellplantations.org

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When the history of Cornell Plantations is charted by future generations, I believe that 2010 will be recognized as a landmark year in our evolution.

While many efforts were finished and new initiatives begun, our crowning achievement was certainly the completion and dedication of the Brian C. Nevin Welcome Center. Finally, Plantations has a fully accessible facility to welcome, orient, and educate our thousands of annual visitors. Our goal was to create a building that would be in harmony with our unique landscape, fulfill our commitment to sustainability, and enhance our visitors' experience at Plantations—whether they are inside or outside. Reactions to the Nevin Center have been universally positive and our architects, Baird Sampson Neuert, have already received a prestigious design award for their work.

In the past year, we also debuted a new logo and magazine (*Verdant Views*), designed and built a beautiful new stone

overlook in the arboretum, added 2,773 accessioned plants to our horticultural collections, launched the Natural Areas Academy, and reopened part of the restored Cascadilla Gorge Trail.

But this is no time to rest on our laurels. As a progressive public garden, Plantations is committed to further enhancing our horticultural collections, educating more diverse audiences, and protecting our natural preserves from a variety of threats.

This report highlights many of our 2010 achievements. I hope that it will inspire you to visit Plantations, participate in our programs, and to continue your investment in our vital mission.



Donald A. Rakow
The Elizabeth Newman Wilds Director



Cornell Plantations Highlights 2010



Plant Diversity

Our expert gardeners, assisted by our summer interns and fall work-study students planted over 2,300 new trees and other plants in the beds surrounding the Nevin Welcome Center, the bioswale, the Dallas Tree Plaza, and the berms around the new parking area.

Plantations' construction crew built a beautiful new stone bed for the Esther and Donald Bushey Garden at the west side of the Mullestein Winter Garden. In the spring, we will install its permanent planting of dwarf conifers and boxwoods, with *sempervivums* (hens and chicks) and low sedums for additional color and texture.

Progressive Education

- With an endowment gift from Daniel and Jean Pope, we established a new summer internship in natural areas stewardship, named in honor of Dan's father, John A. Pope. We received applications from 68 Cornell students, representing 30 different majors, for eight positions in our 2010 internship program. Four interns continued through the fall semester in work-study positions in our horticultural and natural areas programs.
- In August 2010, we launched our new biannual publication, *Verdant Views*. The aim of the new magazine is to respect the scholarly richness of Plantations' history, while addressing contemporary issues through engaging feature stories and updates on our programs.



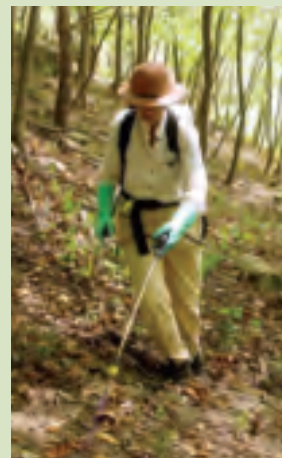
More than 1,500 people attended our annual Fall Lecture Series, which featured six speakers on topics ranging from native to urban to "wicked" plants, and a lively portrayal of the great American naturalist John Muir (pictured above). You can watch these talks online or download them at CornellCast: www.cornell.edu/video (search for "Plantations").

Collaborative Research

Plantations continues to protect and manage a diverse portfolio of natural areas and rare species habitats that support teaching and short- and long-term research at Cornell.

The breadth of scientific topics being studied includes:

- Insect-plant interactions, such as the efficacy of *Laricobius nigrinus* beetles as biocontrol agents for hemlock wooly adelgid; goldenrod defense chemistry for insect herbivory; and yellow jacket wasp reproduction.
- Wildlife impacts, such as amphibian fungal infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*; and deer, earthworm, and disturbance interactions in forests.
- Characterizing species, such as the evolutionary relatedness and hybridization among oaks; characterizing and inventorying protostelid slime mold diversity and habitats.
- Furthering conservation, such as controlling the invasive pale swallow-wort (pictured right).

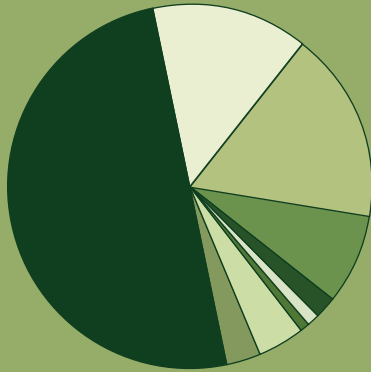


Thank you

As Cornell Plantations grows forward, your support continues to sustain our gardens, natural areas, and education programs.

Financial Report 2010

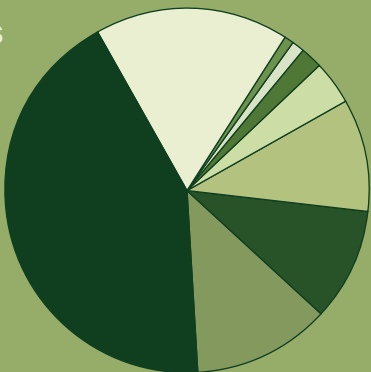
Income



■ Endowments	\$1,454,335	50%
■ Gifts - Unrestricted	\$412,249	14%
■ Gifts - Designated & Restricted	\$478,921	17%
■ Cornell Endowed	\$239,755	8%
■ Cornell Agriculture & Life Sciences	\$46,228	2%
■ Visitor Services/Gift Shop	\$16,716	1%
■ Education Program	\$13,830	1%
■ Grants	\$121,339	4%
■ Miscellaneous	\$97,201	3%

Total Operating Income	\$2,880,574
Plus restricted bequest	\$1,028,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,908,574

Expenses



■ Collections and Natural Areas	\$1,237,797	43%
■ Education Program	\$479,796	17%
■ Visitor Services/Gift Shop	\$22,402	1%
■ Publications/Communications	\$39,479	1%
■ Special Projects	\$45,443	2%
■ Development	\$123,008	4%
■ Facilities & Equipment	\$302,149	10%
■ Administration & Business	\$299,127	10%
■ Transfer to Holding Accounts	\$331,373	12%

Total Operating Expenses	\$2,880,574
Transfer restricted bequest to holding account	\$1,028,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,908,574

Fiscal Year July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010



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Paul Schmitt