

# The Nally News

VOLUME 1, 2024

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**A Newsletter for Wave Hill's  
John Nally Internship  
Alumni & Friends**

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# News from the Potting Shed



Welcome to our inaugural edition of the Nally News. We are eager to share the compelling stories that arise from Wave Hill's potting shed—the place that has fueled the passions of many expert horticulturists during their seminal experiences gardening here as interns. The John Nally Internship was started by Marco Polo Stufano in 1991 to honor Wave Hill's first Curator of Gardens. John Nally's legendary persona and passion endures, and the stories in these pages are further testament to the impact he, and his namesake internship program, still have today. We hope this newsletter will allow you to reminisce, be inspired, and strengthen your ties with Wave Hill, as we salute our past and look toward the future.

My own journey in horticulture began in this very potting shed. Not knowing how to spell *highdrainge*, I arrived at Wave Hill and was immediately enamored with the garden, the people, and the incredible diversity of plants in this pocket of the Bronx. Marco was not keen to take garden volunteers then, but I promised to come every Wednesday. I was assigned the important tasks—pulling poison ivy, carefully painting bindweed with round up and digging toaster-sized taproots of Pokeweed. One day I returned to the potting shed after battling back these woeful warriors in the woodlands to discover the door was

locked and the gardeners had all left for the day. I lost track of time in my new garden world. About two years later, when I became a John Nally Intern while enrolled at NYBG School of Professional Horticulture, I was amazed and energized by the valuable information I would encounter every day. With Marco's leadership and the daily, inimitable guidance of Assistant Director, John Emmanuel, I became a gardener

Each year, when a new apprentice arrives ripe with enthusiasm, embarking on a horticultural quest to learn about plants, design and public gardening, our entire organization is invigorated and willing to impart the meaningful lessons they need to propel their new career.

To coincide with our annual Gardeners' Party, these informative and anecdotal articles will be filled with legendary Wave Hill characters, including people, plants, and garden spaces that comprise the magic of this small but mighty garden in NYC. Wave Hill continues to be relevant, making an impact on the global gardening community by disseminating John Nally alumni into the world of horticulture to do good work and as Marco says, "make pretty pictures."

Cathy Deutsch, Director of Horticulture

## In the Beginning...



By Francis "Bosco" Schell

"We made it up as we went along," says Marco Polo Stufano, Founding Director of Horticulture, about creating the Wave Hill gardens. "There was a vision, if you will, but no preliminary plan." That being the case, the results certainly justified the approach. Over 34 years under Marco's leadership, Wave Hill became and continues to be a jewel of the gardening world.

Marco's vision for Wave Hill entailed turning a 28-acre relatively neglected property of lawns and a few seminal trees into a multifaceted tapestry of theme gardens, featuring unfamiliar shrubs, perennials and annuals in unusual groupings. That process is not low maintenance. As Marco says, "Low maintenance is low interest." Maintenance, however, translates into manpower. Over the years, a changing array of part-time and full-time gardeners, summer high schoolers and an army of volunteers have made the vision a reality, digging, planting, weeding, mulching, watering every growing season.

Possibly no gardener other than Marco had as abiding an influence on the development of Wave Hill as John Nally. "Without John," says Marco, "Wave Hill would not be what it is today." He was a young man from Excelsior

Spring, Missouri, who had earned a master's degree in printmaking from the University of Kansas and came to New York to seek work in 1970. He did find employment working for a well-known Madison Avenue print dealer but found it routine and boring. On his way to work one day, he passed the offices of the New York Horticultural Society. His interest piqued; he walked in to find Miss Elizabeth Hall cataloguing books. After asking her some questions about NYHS, he answered hers about his background. He was looking for something different to do, perhaps to work in horticulture. No, he had no training in the field, but back home his mother and grandmother were keen gardeners and growing up he had had plenty of exposure to plants. (There is a photo of John, perhaps six-years old, in his grandmother's garden wearing farmer's overalls and holding a child-size spade.) Miss Hall knew that her good friend Marco Polo Stufano was always on the lookout for gardening hands. She suggested that Nally visit Wave Hill.

He did, became a volunteer helper, and then was hired part-time by Marco to collect the 25-cent entrance fees at the gate on weekends, the only time the garden was then open. Soon John was on staff and Marco was coaching

him on the finer points of gardening. Not only was John a fast learner, but he was also a keen reader and studied every old and new gardening book he could lay his hands on. “Most importantly,” says Maggie Geiger-Turner, his colleague at Wave Hill and friend, “he had an incredible eye and was a born gardener.”

With time, John became an ever more important collaborator for Marco on all aspects of the garden’s development. A down-‘n-dirty hands-on with, to quote Marco, “the eye of an artist, and an unquenchable thirst for rare plants,” pushing the envelope for new herbs, bulbs, alpines, tropicals, unusual annuals and perennials. Says John Emmanuel, a fellow Wave Hill gardener, “When he found a plant he liked, he had to have it. He and Marco came up with plants I didn’t even know existed and grew them right here on Broadway.”

The two traveled to England and collected seeds, cuttings and plants of novel specimens largely unknown in this country and unavailable in the local seed catalogues and nurseries and proceeded to propagate them for display at Wave Hill. They let them self-seed, often creating unexpected plant combinations that gave Wave Hill its natural look. They introduced silver-leaf plants to American gardens, and John working in the flower garden, his “laboratory,” popularized the many new cultivars of salvias that are mainstay annuals here today. Maggie remembers working with him in the Wild Garden when he came on a leaf he did not recognize. He didn’t rest until he could identify it. Once when visiting Chicago, while waiting for a bus, John saw an interesting seedling growing in a crack in the pavement. He dug it up, took it home, studied it, and found it to be a fine example of the native heath aster, *Symphiotrychum ericoides*. Thereafter that plant was dubbed the ‘Chicago Bus Stop’ aster.

Because John had a warm outgoing personality and a fine sense of humor, he was very popular with his co-workers. Antonia Adezio, another colleague, remembers him as a remarkable human being, but also a serious professional “moving like a ballet dancer all day in the flower beds, or under a huge straw hat crouched down with a trowel in his hand.”

John excelled as a teacher, as well. Many Wave Hill volunteers and young recruits became knowledgeable gardeners under his tutelage. Susan Morgenthau was a neophyte when she volunteered at Wave Hill. “John Nally took care of strays like me,” she says. “He was completely open to people who knew little or nothing but said ‘this is what I want to do’ and he made it fun.” He put Susan to work weeding, pointing out weeds to pull, naming them, showing her the good plants that were to stay. “He never scolded for mistakes, he had great patience and was a kind, kind person,” Susan says.

As time passed, Wave Hill became a more complex garden requiring, in addition to staff, a dependable workforce. Volunteers are invaluable, but volunteers work their own time and hours. The idea began taking shape of creating a program for a group of aspiring gardeners who would sign on for the duration of the season, in return for on-the-job training and a small stipend. “We wanted to call it an ‘apprenticeship program,’” says Marco, “but ‘internship’, the word in vogue, won out.” Feelers for candidates were put out, not only for young graduates but also for individuals looking for a career-change. Funding would have to be secured. The project began taking shape, just when a huge, unexpected blow befell the Wave Hill community. John H. Nally, only 46, became seriously ill and died in April 1988.

Marco, with the help of John Emmanuel, continued to pursue the project. Finally, in 1991, Jennifer Jaggernaut from Jamaica became the first intern. Depending on availability of gifts and grants, in the ensuing years more candidates were added. At the 2015 Gardeners’ Party the John Nally Interns program was made a philanthropic opportunity that ensures its financial viability going forward. And what more fitting tribute to John Nally’s lasting presence at Wave Hill could be made than naming the program after him! “So many lives have been touched and changed by our Interns program,” says Marco, “just as John’s was when he discovered gardening at Wave Hill.”

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*Francis “Bosco” Schell is a writer, plantsman, retired book editor and longtime member of Wave Hill’s Friends of Horticulture.*

## The Tradition Continues

**By Hillarie O’Toole**

At Wave Hill today, John Nally’s craftsmanship and work ethic perseveres in the care that the current horticultural team brings to the gardens. An outstanding 70% of our present gardening staff are alumni of the John Nally Internship program, including Director of Horticulture, Cathy Deutsch (cohort of 2001). Clearly, Wave Hill sparks a connection that draws many former interns back to make this garden their professional home. As Deutsch notes, “Wave Hill is not like any other garden; the complexity of plant combinations and placement is as meaningful as the layers of personalities who planted them. At every turn, there is not only a beautiful vignette but a compelling story about how it came to be. Being here, learning here,



Gardener Sandra Schaller (second from left) during her Nally Internship with fellow 2019 alumni (left to right) Eddie Woodthorpe, Victoria Kam, and Sara Dimmitt.



Gardener Gelene Scarborough with mentor and Founding Director of Horticulture, Marco Polo Stufano in 1997.

## John Nally Internship Alumni Working at Wave Hill Today

and engaging with the plants and people has an undeniable impact on a gardener.”

For many alumni, the Nally internship marked a pivotal moment in their lives, providing a solid pathway towards a new career. For Sandra Schaller (cohort of 2019), becoming a Nally Intern was significant in her journey into horticulture. “I had completed the certificate program at the New York Botanical Garden and had worked previously as a seasonal gardener,” she states, “I felt that I had a good handle on plants in the industry, but I was absolutely blown away by the wide array of amazing plants that I was exposed to from day one.” For Gelene Scarborough (cohort of 1997), it was the artistry and history of Wave Hill’s craft that attracted

her to the internship: “I had been working with a small private landscape business in Manhattan for a few years but was disillusioned by the aspects of gardening as a business and wanted to work in a public garden. I had heard about Wave Hill from a coworker and had seen many articles about Wave Hill in *The New York Times* and *Horticulture Magazine*. I liked the fact that Marco Polo Stufano [founding Director of Horticulture] had an art history degree and that John Nally had studied art and printmaking, which had been my two areas of study.” Likewise, Christopher Bivens (cohort of 2017), shared that he fell in love with Wave Hill on a wintery trip to see a friend who was one of the Artists in Residency during a weekend open studio event. “The Greenhouses

were full of bright colors and curious plants. I was smitten. Years later, when I was looking for career opportunities in gardening, I saw the listing for the John Nally Internship on MetroHort.org, and I thought back on my wonderful winter day there and applied.”

As any gardener knows, horticulture is both visual and performing art. While some installations provide instant gratification, others take months, years, or even decades to reach their intended vision. The continuity brought to Wave Hill’s artistry is thanks to the long-spanning careers of the horticultural team. As interns, they each had the opportunity to work in all of the garden spaces on a rotating basis. Gelene recalls, “I was so glad to have



Gardener Chris Bivens fell in love with the plant collections at Wave Hill and now shares his expertise on caring for these plants year-round.



Gardener Shane Pritchett (left) pictured in the lilac border mentoring 2023 Intern Mabel Orhiekhoe in perennial garden maintenance.

had mentors that had creative backgrounds. Having witnessed them use plants as their palette to create four-dimensional paintings was (and continues to be) what fascinates me as a gardener.” For Shane Pritchett (cohort of 2014) it was important that the program “was a particularly long internship, which allows you to work through several seasons” and the one-to-one mentorship with experienced gardeners was “invaluable.” Sandra developed a particular fondness for two garden spaces during her rotations: the Wild Garden and the Alpine House. “The Alpine House is awash with colorful blooms in late winter when most of the grounds are sleeping and the plants are dormant. Working in that greenhouse adds so much liveliness and dimension to the

Winter Season. I learned so much from the gardeners as a Nally intern; this is what has enabled me to run the Alpine House today.”

Years later, these alumni now have the satisfaction of seeing many projects they began as interns come to fruition and continue to evolve. Moreover, they now serve as the mentors to a new crop of budding horticulturists each year. When asked what she hopes the interns will take away from her after their time at Wave Hill, Gelene shares, “Along with their having a wealth of practical knowledge of the craft of gardening, I would hope that they would take away a little of the spirit of Wave Hill’s philosophy about gardening: creating gardens that will

inspire the public to be curious about the world of plants and gardens—and possibly even to create their own at home.”

The Nally internship program’s hands-on approach to education continues to appeal both to recent graduates and to those seeking a new career in horticulture. Read on to learn more about our 2024 cohort!

*Hillarie O’Toole holds a certificate in Horticulture from NYBG and is a classically trained musician. She works part-time as Wave Hill’s Horticultural Coordinator and is a 2024 John Nally Intern.*

## Intern Alumni in the Field

**After experiencing a year in the garden, the 2023 Nally interns have followed personal and professional horticultural pursuits.**



Five John Nally interns joined Wave Hill for the 2023 season (from left) Mabel Oriekhoe, Maggie McEvoy, Carolina Villanueva, Ethan Pomerantz, Michael Calligeros.

**By Steve Conaway**

Michael Calligeros described an experience during his internship while grooming the flowers around the Pergola on a bright blustery day, looking out at the Palisades, “This moment affirmed that I wanted to be in this field, working in these beautiful spaces.” Since the end of the internship, he has been working for a private firm tending a variety of spaces, from manicured gardens in Riverdale to rooftops on Manhattan high rises.

Maggie McEvoy found a lot of value in the broad horticulture exposure that the Nally internship provided. She fondly remembers the enlightening conversations she had with other interns and gardeners from around the country at the fall Gardeners’ Party. “It was so much fun talking to other gardeners and making connections with the future of horticulture.” On a field trip to Sleepy Cat Farm in Greenwich, CT Maggie fell in love with the space and now works there as a seasonal gardener.

Ethan Pomerantz loved the problem solving and teamwork of his time at Wave Hill, “I liked when we got to be creative and build something that had a lasting change on the garden.” Ethan strives to further refine his gardening skills and continue to learn about a wide array of horticultural styles while working for private gardens around Connecticut this season.

Mabel Orhiekhoe moved back home to help her family in Tennessee but has carved out some free time restoring the home garden. She said, “I really cherish the camaraderie I had with my fellow interns and the mentorship I received from the talented Wave Hill gardeners.” Her experiences at Wave Hill inspired an interest in the complex management of public horticulture and she is pursuing opportunities to learn more about the administration-side of gardens.

Carolina Villanueva is currently working with a team to develop a new park in Queens, NY dedicated to heroes of the pandemic, highlighting the culture of local Filipino-Americans. She reflects on the internship giving her a new holistic approach to gardening, “It is like being a musical conductor when gardening; you consider the color, height, fragrance, and other plants that will grow together to make a beautiful symphony.” She applies this approach to gardening in all her endeavors as a volunteer, a professional in her field, and in her own home garden.

*Steve Conaway holds a PhD in plant pathology from Pennsylvania State University and serves as the Associate Director of Horticulture at Wave Hill.*

# Farther Afield



**CATHY DEUTSCH** *What was most memorable about your time as an intern?*

**ULI LORIMER** It is hard to pick one memory, but three things are intertwined with one another and emblematic of the careful and considerate approach to horticulture that I learned at Wave Hill. My first fond memory was washing terracotta pots on rainy days. So many of the other horticultural institutions I have worked for use only plastic pots, but I didn't know that as Wave Hill was amongst my first exposures to public gardening. Don't all gardens use terracotta pots and containers? While it may seem tedious, I understood that the care, attention and sanitation were key to the health and vigor of the plants destined to be grown in those pots. Plus, stacking them into ever larger pyramids was a fun challenge. The second fond memory involves the Rolodex of soil recipes. Wait a minute, don't all plants want to grow in plain old potting mix? I was so impressed with not only the way in which our general soil mix was made, but how one could tailor a mix to suit acid loving plants, cacti and succulents, wetland plants etc. Such attention to detail and meeting each plant's needs was so eye opening for me. Potting soil was something that was needed year-round, so we often had to mix new batches of soil in the dead of winter. How to ensure the leaf

mold and loam piles that were kept outdoors did not freeze solid? This brings me to my last fond memory, the trip to the Bronx Zoo for a load of "zoo doo." John, Jose and I drove the dump truck over to the Bronx Zoo and were guided to the largest pile of animal excrement I had ever seen (and smelled!). With two enormous scoops, a front-end loader filled the dump truck with fresh "zoo doo". We swiftly returned to Wave Hill and covered the leaf mold and loam piles with a heavy sheet of plastic and then covered them in about a foot of animal manure. I will spare you the details of what was in the manure (just think snakes and elephants) but the whole event has stuck with me all these years. As I was shoveling the manure out of the truck, the brilliance of this method dawned on me, the manure generates heat as it decomposes keeping the leaf mold and loam piles unfrozen during the winter and allowing us to periodically use portions, per the recipe for more potting soil.

**CD** *Do you think being a John Nally Intern influenced the trajectory of your career? If so, how?*

**UL** Aside from the prestige of having Wave Hill on your resume, my experience connected me with other horticultural professionals that have led to fruitful

# An Interview with Uli Lorimer

**Wave Hill's Director of Horticulture, Cathy Deutsch, caught up with fellow Nally alumni, Uli Lorimer (Cohort of 2002). Lorimer now serves as Director of Horticulture at the Native Plant Trust, headquartered in Wayland, MA, and is the author of *The Northeast Native Plant Primer*.**

collaborations well into the future. Wave Hill is so well regarded, and the internship program consistently produces exciting, talented horticulturists. I feel fortunate and privileged to have been part of its long history and commitment to exceptional horticulture.

**CD** *What is something you do now in the garden that you learned at Wave Hill?*

**UL** Keeping and recycling materials on site was one of the lessons learned from my time both as an intern and as a staff member at Wave Hill. We collected leaves from the grounds and used them to mulch the shade border and woodland gardens. I don't think I ever once opened a plastic bag of mulch. This approach of intentionally keeping materials on site, reusing the gifts of nature came from one of my horticultural heroes John Emmanuel. Now over two decades later, we are seeing the "Leave the leaves" campaign in the fall take off and I can only chuckle inwardly about how Wave Hill was a champion of that approach so very much earlier.

**CD** *What has changed most dramatically about horticulture since you were an intern?*

**UL** Horticulture is far more ecologically conscious now than it was when I was an intern. Although important to say, Wave Hill horticulture was already ahead of the curve back in 2002. We embraced groundcovers, creatively combined texture with form and flower and color, kept as much natural material on site as possible. We created our own potting soil, used only terracotta and very few plastic pots.

**CD** *In what way has your experience at Wave Hill influenced your gardening style?*

**UL** It was at Wave Hill that I first began to understand how to artfully combine plants, from the container displays to the ways in which the greenhouse displays were orchestrated. Every planting bed was packed full of botanical treasures, an approach that I have continued to encourage. Plant thickly, plant abundantly, and plant with a sense of joy and abandon trusting the plants to show you their potential. Learning to recognize natural patterns and rhythms helped me to understand the wisdom of working with these processes rather than against them. Looking back, so much of this seems like common sense to me now, but without the exposure gained at Wave Hill, it might not have become second nature and comfortable in the way it is currently.

**CD** *What is a tree you must have in your garden? What perennial? What geophyte?*

**UL** With so many excellent woody trees and shrubs to choose from that grow at Wave Hill, my favorite has long been the cutleaf staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina* 'Laciniata' which grew in the Wild Garden. Its gnarled architectural trunks arose like a serpent from the soil and held aloft gorgeous, delicate and finely toothed leaves which morphed into the fiery red, orange and yellows of autumn by the end of the season. Simply spectacular! My perennial of choice is swamp sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) which is tall, graceful and blooms from late summer until the first frost. Lastly and as a former Woodland Gardener, I would pick glory-of-the-snow (*Chionodoxa sardensis*) as my favorite geophyte. It simply carpets the woodlands in spring, creating a fairytale like magic for those visitors that travel the woodland paths.

**CD** *What is something you would like to see improved at Wave Hill?*

**UL** Some renewed attention to the conifer collection along the northern border of the gardens as well as the development of the meadow and grasslands below Wave Hill House. Both serve important functions to frame the vista to the Palisades and provide important habitat for the insects, birds and mammals that call Wave Hill home.

**CD** *We agree! The Conifer Slope has had additional ferns planted over the years to bolster the understory with "green mulch" and recently, we used an air spade to conduct root collar excavations on certain trees exhibiting signs of stress. We are also embarking on a phased renewal project focused on the Meadow, Compost and Woodland. We are delighted to be collaborating with Tom de Witte, his mentor Piet Oudolf, and our own Marco Polo Stufano to enhance the biodiversity and beauty of the meadow space. Before we break ground on this exciting project, we must address storm water management. We'll keep you posted as plans develop.*

# Introducing the 2024 Cohort!



Wave Hill is delighted to welcome five enthusiastic, budding horticulturists to the 2024 cohort (from left) Hillarie O'Toole, Dave Pallata, Fergus Barragry, Miranda Viederman and Jon Solomon.

## Get to know this year's John Nally Interns.

### Fergus Barragry

Fergus hails from Cambridge, England, and has lived in the New York City area for the past fifteen years. Raised close to nature throughout early childhood, he took his love for all things green to the next level in the summer of 2022 when he started volunteering on behalf of the NYC Parks Department in Van Cortlandt Park. To round out his education, Fergus is likewise studying towards certificates in Arboriculture and Landscape Management at the New York Botanical Garden, and GIS at Hunter College. With an affinity for trees and woodlands, Fergus aims to attain ISA certification and soon get a taste of both climber-pruner and forestry work. His favorite trees are *Platanus occidentalis*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, and *Aesculus hippocastanum*.

### Dave Pallata

Dave is a career changer, switching to Horticulture after many years as a Project Manager in the medical device industry. He is a second year student at the New York Botanical Garden's School of Professional Horticulture and will graduate next March. Dave and his wife Courtney live in New Jersey, and he has two daughters, Chay, 22 and Ellie, 14. He has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Dave is interested in native plants, perennials and aquatic plants, and would like to work in public gardening after graduation.

### Jon Solomon

Jon grew up in Riverdale and frequently visited Wave Hill with his family as a small child. A recent graduate of the University of Vermont, he holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology. When he returned home

from college, he became reacquainted with Wave Hill as a volunteer, where he greatly enjoyed learning from all the gardeners. He is most interested in natural ecological communities and how we can design gardens to be beautiful while emulating natural communities and fulfilling lost ecosystem services. While his current career path is not fully determined, he anticipates that one day he would like to follow this path to ecosystem conservation or designing gardens and parks!

### Miranda Viederman

Miranda is a recent graduate of Bowdoin College, where she studied English. After enrolling in a horticulture course at Southern Maine Community College, she got a job maintaining residential gardens near Portland, where she spent the year living aboard a sailboat. Miranda is excited to spend the season at Wave Hill and hopes to learn more about landscape and garden design with an emphasis on native plants and wildlife habitat.

### Hillarie O'Toole

Hillarie O'Toole joined Wave Hill in November of 2022 as the part-time Horticultural Coordinator. With a professional background in opera performance, she has held positions in music education and arts programming at institutions including Carnegie Hall and Juilliard. She served as Manager of Public Education at the New York Botanical Garden from 2018 to 2021, where she curated a myriad of public programs and performances. It was during her time as an administrator there that she found herself increasingly drawn to the creative aspects of horticulture and the joy of working outdoors. She is now pursuing a career change and is enrolled in the Horticulture and Sustainable Landscape Design certificate programs at NYBG. An avid home gardener and birder, she is most interested in creating beautiful outdoor spaces for diverse NYC communities that also support local wildlife populations. She looks forward to learning the skills behind Wave Hill's artistry—and to pursuing a long second career in public gardens and rooftop garden design.



John Nally interns meticulously weed the spring bulb display in the Paisly Bed. They are instructed in techniques and standards unique to the world of fine public gardening.



Interns Miranda Viederman, Hillarie O'Toole, and Dave Pallata (L-R) pot up divisions of *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem) for use in a summer container display.



Nally Alumni Stephen Zelno (cohort of 2013) is a horticulturist at Naumkaeg in the heart of the Berkshires. He now returns to Wave Hill annually with his interns.

## Join the John Nally Alumni Network



Stay in touch with our growing network of John Nally interns, share updates about your career in horticulture, and learn about future alumni events.

## Apply for the 2025 John Nally Internship



Join a small cohort of passionate, up-and-coming horticultural professionals. The John Nally Internship program is best described as a hands-on apprenticeship designed to further an understanding of the principles of horticulture. In most cases, the interns are seeking a career in the profession and are hoping to round out their education with daily work experience.

The 2025 John Nally Internship runs from early April to mid-November. The work schedule is 8:30AM to 4:30PM, five days per week, with some weekend obligations. Applications will be available in early January 2025.



# Support the 2025 John Nally Internship

John Nally Internships are generously supported by the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, private supporters and individual donors.

Learn more and contribute to this one-of-a-kind hands-on learning opportunity.



Special thanks to Bartlett Tree Experts and our many friends in the field for their contributions throughout the year:



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