

Gardens for Good

In February 2021, the Garden Conservancy launched our new granting initiative, Gardens for Good. Through this initiative, the Conservancy awards grants, typically ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000, to small public gardens and organizations across the nation making a significant impact in their communities through garden-based programming.

This year, the Conservancy awarded eleven grants totaling over \$80,000 to support a broad range of initiatives nationwide, including:

- the restoration of historic garden structures at a public garden in Salem, OR;
- urban farms providing fresh produce in New York City;
- landscape horticulture training for underserved communities in Milwaukee, WI;
- relief funds for a public garden after a devastating winter storm in Hempstead, TX

We are pleased to share with you updates from several of our 2021 grant recipients.

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (SCLT), in Providence, RI, is an organization whose mission is to provide access to land, education, and other resources so that people in Rhode Island can grow food in environmentally sustainable ways and create community food systems where locally produced, affordable, and healthy food is available to all. Shana Santow, development director, recently reported:

"The pandemic brought a sense of urgency to our work to build a more resilient food system in Rhode Island, i.e., one that guarantees equitable access to healthy food and protects local agriculture jobs. SCLT's mission

resonated with the public last year. Funders and donors such as the Garden Conservancy helped to provide Covid-19 relief funding so we could give additional, free resources to community gardeners and farmers in need. SCLT's membership also grew (by 20%) in 2020, reflecting people's increased interest in growing their own food.

Given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic, we have had to stay nimble in order to find the right distribution channels for network farmers' produce. Ideally, restaurants will re-open (and stay open) at full capacity for the remainder of 2021, and have resumed buying both through our Aggregation Program and directly from farmers. If we continue to see high unemployment and infection rates, we will see more demand for produce through Food on the Move and other emergency food suppliers such as Providence in the Parks. Having had to realign our aggregation and distribution infrastructure this year, we have been able to match farmers with buyers in either scenario, and have been able to direct affordable, fresh food to the communities where it is needed most. This keeps small-scale farmers in business and enables us to continue to build a more resilient local food system."

THE LORD & SCHRYVER CONSERVANCY, in Salem, OR, is using their \$5,000 grant for two on-the-ground preservation projects at neighboring gardens designed by Edith Lord and Elizabeth Schryver.

During an extensive rehabilitation at Deepwood Museum & Gardens, sixteen mature Camellia specimens were given a temporary home at Gaiety Hollow, in Salem, OR. Gardens for Good grant funds will enable the Lord & Schryver Conservancy to safely relocate the Kanjiro Camellia, *Camellia sasanqua* 'Kanjiro'; Pearl Maxwell Camellia,



Camellia japonica 'Pearl Maxwell'; photo courtesy of Lord & Schryver Conservancy

Camellia japonica 'Pearl Maxwell'; and Setsugekka Camellia, *Camellia sasanqua* 'Setsugekka' to their original home. The funds will also enable the Lord & Schryver Conservancy to preserve some of Gaiety Hollow's important hardscapes, including their historic brick pathways and garden retaining walls.

SYLVESTER MANOR EDUCATIONAL FARM, on Shelter Island, NY, has been home to eleven generations of its original European settler family since 1651. It reflects a remarkably intact history of America's evolving tastes, economies, and landscapes. Over time, Sylvester Manor has been transformed from a slaveholding plantation to an Enlightenment-era farm, to a pioneering food industrialist's estate, and today, to an organic educational farm.

Through an internship funded by the Garden Conservancy's Gardens for Good program, University of Massachusetts Amherst Masters in Landscape Architecture candidate Anna Kellerman is producing a Sylvester Manor House Landscape Study for the historic site.

Anna's research on the roses alone have made the study a great success. As part of preservation planning for the 1737 Manor House, Anna thoroughly researched the plantings around the structure and was able to identify the rose climbing the porches as a rambling rose cultivar, 'American Pillar'. She learned it is one of three cultivars still available of the 27 cultivars developed by Walter Van Fleet (1857-1922) in the late 1800s. Van Fleet likely knew Sylvester Manor proprietors Phoebe and Eben Norton Horsford through Harvard University. Their daughter Cornelia, renovated the Manor House and porches in 1908, the same year Van Fleet introduced the 'American Pillar'.



Rosa 'American Pillar'
on the east porch;
photo courtesy of Sylvester
Manor Educational Farm