

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

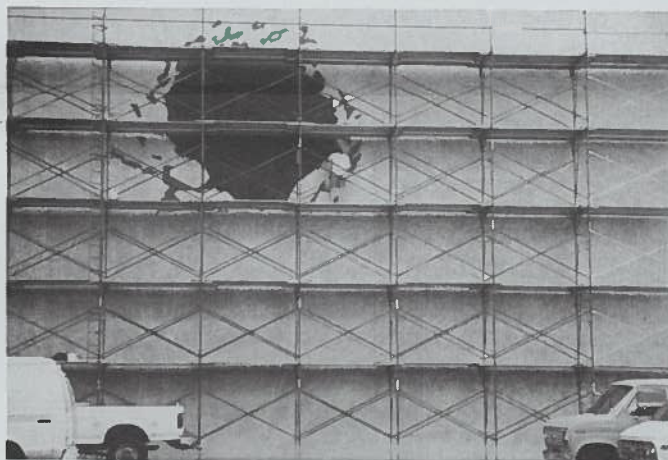
NEWS

November 1998

Volume XXXIX, No. 10

NEW PHS MURAL WILL DAZZLE CORNER OF 13TH AND ARCH

Artist David McShane begins the enormous task of painting a 40' high sunflower for the Society's new mural. The completed mural will stretch across a 115' by 42', four story building at the South West corner of 13th and Arch. The mural will be complete in December.



It's one of the last great walls in all of Philadelphia," said Jane Golden, Artistic Director for the Mural Arts Program, of the wall at 13th and Arch. "Its proximity to the Pennsylvania Convention Center, home of the Philadelphia Flower Show, makes it a perfect wall for PHS. And, since the wall is part of a historic building; it will be a protected site for many years."

Jane approached PHS in the summer of 1997 with a great idea: she wanted to celebrate collaborations with PHS by painting a mural for us. The Mural Arts program began in the eighties, since then they've painted many, many murals for PHS's Philadelphia Green (PG) sites. They've also worked on PG's Philadelphia Flower Show exhibit, recreating portions of these murals.

The new PHS mural has received generous funding from the Independence Foundation, which has helped fund PHS's Philadelphia Green programs since 1993.

"The range of artists that applied, from portrait artists to landscape painters, was

wonderful," said Anne Vallery, PHS Creative Services Coordinator and a member of the artist-selection panel for this mural. The winner was David McShane.

"What made David stand out was that he came to us with a unique concept for the mural right away; he was very passionate and enthusiastic," continued Anne.

David's idea-simple, lush and colorful-will make the wall at 13th and Arch Street a landmark spot for visitors to Philadelphia.

"I chose to create life-like plant portraits and use the subject in a unique way," said David. "I think the sunflower is a king of flowers, so I'm painting him with his leaves stretched out like a person."

A giant tomato is a vegetable every gardener grows, and will add bright, rich red to the mural. The daisies have a wonderful child-like quality. "My point is to surprise people with the vibrant colors and shapes of the plants, in contrast to the city streets. I want to draw them into the mural and to PHS," continued David thoughtfully.

(See PHS Mural, back page)

Plant These Great Woody in Your Garden

The 1999 Gold Medal Plants

PHS's Gold Medal Plant Award program honors little-known and underused woody plants of exceptional merit and promise. Here are next year's winners.

• *Enkianthus perulatus* 'J.L. Pennock' (Zone 5-7). Commonly called "white Enkianthus," this woody has pure white, urn-shaped flowers with bright green foliage, which turns a brilliant red in fall. 'J.L. Pennock' has an exceptionally long season of fall color.

• *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Zone 4-8). The dawn redwood has fern-like, light green foliage, russet fall color, a handsome fluted trunk and a rapid growth rate. This tree was once thought extinct.

• *Acer palmatum* 'Waterfall' (Zone 5-8). PHS president Jane Pepper says, "There's little to beat the graceful habit of Japanese maples, not to mention the endless variety of leaf colors and shapes."

Watch for your November/December issue of *Green Scene* to learn more about these exceptional plants in the article, *Put a Little Gold in Your Garden*, by Richard L. Bitner.

For source information on winning plants or a detailed portrait sheet, call (215) 988- 8823. For information on how to enter a woody plant for next year's contest, call (215) 988-8800.

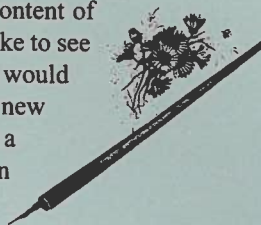
We'd Love to Hear Your Comments!

What do you think about the content of PHS News? What would you like to see more of? Are there articles you would like to comment on or ideas for new articles? You, our readers, play a crucial role in how we decide on content for the News.

Give me a call: (215)988-8768;

E-mail: lbrunton@pennhort.org;

Write a note: Lauri Brunton, 100 North 20th St., 5th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495. We may publish your ideas!



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PHS Mural (continued from page one)

David graduated with a BA in Biology from LaSalle University, and an MFA in painting from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

To paint the mural, David will use 32 gallons of special ordered exterior acrylic latex paint. Prepping for the painting included photographing the wall, scaling out the mural drawing on paper, priming the wall, then chalking on hundreds of two by two foot squares with segments of the drawing. "It's the puzzle approach," David added, with a grinning, paint-splotted face.

"I'll get some people from the Mural Arts program out here to help me paint out the drawing. Jane would like to be among the helpers," he continued.

Notes Lisa Stephano, PHS Marketing and Public Relations Manager, "The goal of the mural is to motivate people and this artist

has achieved that goal through his rendering." She continued, "What a beautiful way for us to express our mission as an organization. People will look at this mural from the street and be moved by the beauty of art and nature."

Added Blaine Bonham, PHS Executive Vice President, "This mural is a tremendous opportunity to increase PHS's visibility in Center City. Given our new mission—the *Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture*—it allows us to highlight our new initiatives."

To see the mural going up, and to see David in action, visit the site at 13th and Arch Street. David will be the person braving the intricate and enormous scaffolding, paint brush in hand. ■

Spring in England Join Jane Pepper for a Tour of Gardens of Derbyshire, Suffolk and London, June 7-19, 1999

Next summer, join Jane Pepper for a 12-day tour of large and small English gardens. Micky Blacklock, who has organized several tours for PHS to gardens in Scotland and England, will be our guide. We will stay in first-class hotels, starting with The Cavendish at Baslow, owned by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire in the heart of the Peak District. A special visit at Chatsworth, home of the Devonshire family, will include private tours of the greenhouse and garden. In subsequent days in Derbyshire, we will visit small gardens with breathtaking views, the Peak District National Park and a beautiful old estate.

On our way to Suffolk, we will stop at a garden designed by Rosemary Verey before arriving at the Swan Hotel, Lavenham, where we will stay for five nights. Visits in this area will include the College Gardens in Cambridge; one where the owner specializes in clematis; another with rose gardens and a moated house built in 1510, and Beth Chatto's garden and nursery. Visits in London will include small gardens in Kensington and a farewell dinner south of the Thames.

For a brochure, please contact Carol Lindemann, (215) 988-8818 or by email clindema@pennhort.org

The Hotline....

A caller asks . . . Is it too late to prune flowering shrubs?

It's too late for some but not for others. Some flowering shrubs should be pruned right after the blooming period. If you prune too late, you'll cut off the buds for next year; if you prune too early, the flowers will never bloom.

For example, forsythia is a plant that blooms on wood formed in the previous spring, and should be pruned in late spring to provide blooming buds for next year.

Prune roses between autumn and the time when the leaves first emerge in the spring. This will eliminate diseased material carried over the winter, and lessen wind damage.

The purpose of pruning is to remove a part of the plant that is unhealthy or unattractive. If you need to remove damaged or diseased branches, use a sharp tool, and cut back to healthy wood just above a bud. Disinfect your pruning tool to prevent the spread the disease.

PHS's Horticultural Hotline is open Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 12 noon.
Phone: 215-988-8777; Fax: 215-988-8783; E-mail: jalling@pennhort.org