

~ 26 ~

The Ohio State University Chadwick Arboretum Learning Gardens in 2003

Steven M. Still and Annette K. Duetz



The renovated and expanded Gazebo Border in front of Kottman Hall is shown here. Howlett Hall is in the background. The bare strip between the sidewalk and the plantings now boasts a healthy green turf and provides protection to the plants from salt used during the winter.

Under the leadership of Dr. Steven Still, the Chadwick Arboretum Learning Gardens team in the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science was able to install our initial garden in 2002.

The van Fossen Wildflower Garden had its first fabulous season this past spring. Our second project was the renovation of the small bed west of the Howlett Hall entrance. This area now hosts a shade garden.

Steven M. Still and Annette K. Duetz, The Ohio State University, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science.

In 2003 we then renovated and expanded the Gazebo Border in front of Kottman Hall. Nance McAleer, a former Mayhew scholar and undergraduate student, did the design for this area.

Our largest project in 2003, however, was the installation of the Kleinmaier Perennial Garden. This garden, an area of approximately 6,000 square feet, focuses on perennials, shrubs, and small trees.

Deb Knapke, a former undergraduate and graduate student in the department, designed this garden, which is also located in front of Kottman and Howlett Hall. Only a few finishing touches remain for next spring and the garden will be complete.

Ever since we began developing the Learning Gardens in front of the Horticulture and Crop Science buildings, we have been able to generate a lot of interest from the industry as well as from the public. This is largely due to the colorful trial gardens that are maintained year-round under the leadership of Dr. Claudio Pasian and Monica Kmetz-Gonzalez.

This fall new beds are emerging at the corner of Woody Hayes Drive and Fyffe Court. After resting over the winter, these beds will host their first crop in the spring of 2004.

Some future projects in the Learning Gardens are the relocation of the Minton Rose Garden from main campus, the renovation of the entrance beds in front of Howlett Hall, and a possible extension of the van Fossen Wildflower Garden.

Horticulture students will begin the design process in class, and Chadwick's own Mayhew scholars will then take over with the installation and maintenance of the areas.

The interest and support of the industry has been very encouraging throughout our first two years. Kurtz Brothers and the city of Columbus Compost Facility have given us large amounts of both amendment and mulch.

Our summer and winter annual display was only possible due to the generosity of Possum Run Nursery and deMonye's Greenhouses. Green Velvet Sod Farms donated the new turf in the Kleinmaier Garden and the Gazebo Border.

The Learning Gardens have not only become an everyday destination for faculty, staff, students, and volunteers, but they have also become a welcome rest area for visitors passing through on their way to main campus. All of this makes our Learning Gardens a very unique place where you can experience and learn about horticulture first-hand.

Come and see for yourself!

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