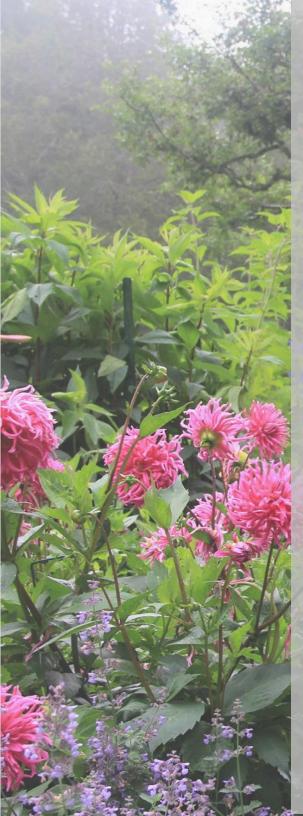




LAND & GARDEN PRESERVE 2016 Annual Report



2016 - A Year in Review

Dear Preserve Donors,

I am delighted to present the 2016 Land & Garden Preserve Annual Report. Thank you for your continuing generosity to help support the Preserve's mission. In my second year as the CEO of the Preserve, I am happy to report that the Preserve is thriving. The gardens, lands, and trails continue to be sources of joyful connections to nature for many people this year.

Ours crews have been hard at work on all of the Preserve's holdings. One of our biggest challenges has been managing invasive species at Little Long Pond. This year crews began removing invasive exotic plants such as Japanese barberry, multi-flora rose, and Japanese knot weed along the Little Long Pond dam beside Peabody Drive.

A major development in 2016 was the creation of the Capital Improvement Fund to support the Preserve's role as custodian, anticipating major expenses of roadwork, dam repair, restoration of Little Long Pond, as well as stewarding major construction projects that may occur in relation to the gardens. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, we raised over \$200,000 for the Fund. These donors are specifically noted in this report. Many thanks to Gail Clark and Ted Eayrs for organizing the Centennial Carriage Drive. The generosity of the members of the Drive allowed us to start the Capital Improvement Fund in honor of David Rockefeller and Frolic Weymouth. David and Frolic loved driving their team of horses over the Preserve's carriage roads each summer.

Thanks to an anonymous contribution, we were able to begin the longanticipated improvements to the Harbor Brook Trail. Avi and Elan Gabel-Richards, along with their team from Pathmakers, installed bog-walks, bridges, and trail reroutes to make Harbor Brook a more pleasant hike. In 2017, they plan to move some steep, southern sections to the eastern side of Harbor Brook. The new routing of the trail will require two bridges over the Brook.



July 2016 also saw an overwhelming response to our Lantern Stroll in the Asticou Azalea Garden. Held every other year since 2008, the stroll has its roots in Charles Savage's tradition of bringing guests from the Asticou Inn to the garden, each carrying a small, lit lantern. The Preserve carried on this tradition by inviting the community to experience the beauty of the garden at night, accompanied by traditional Japanese Koto music. Japanese paper lanterns were hung throughout the garden, and floating lanterns were set out on the pond. It was truly a magical evening.

All the wonderful work of the Preserve could not happen without your support. Our lands and gardens flourish thanks to the commitment of our donors and volunteers. We rely on these charitable contributions to cover nearly half of our operating budget. Happily, unrestricted giving trends are improving at the Preserve, with an 8% increase in contributions over last year and 77 new donors. We are very grateful to all of you who made the Preserve a philanthropic priority this year.

Thank you again to everyone who loves, supports, and enjoys the magnificent resources of the Preserve. I look forward to seeing you at Asticou, Thuya, or hiking around Little Long Pond.

Respectfully yours,

Rodney Eason, CEO

Land & Garden Preserve

reason@gardenpreserve.org

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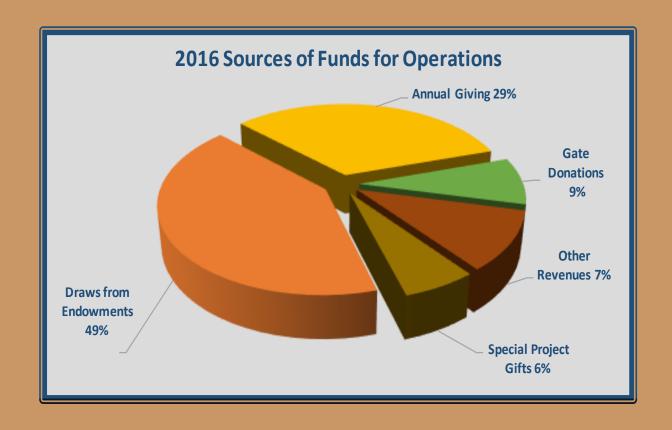


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Thank you to all our 2016 supporters!

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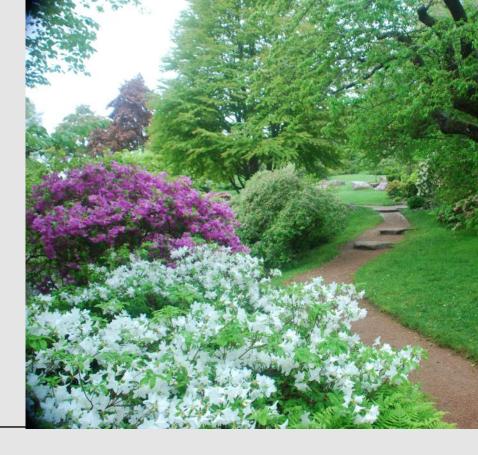
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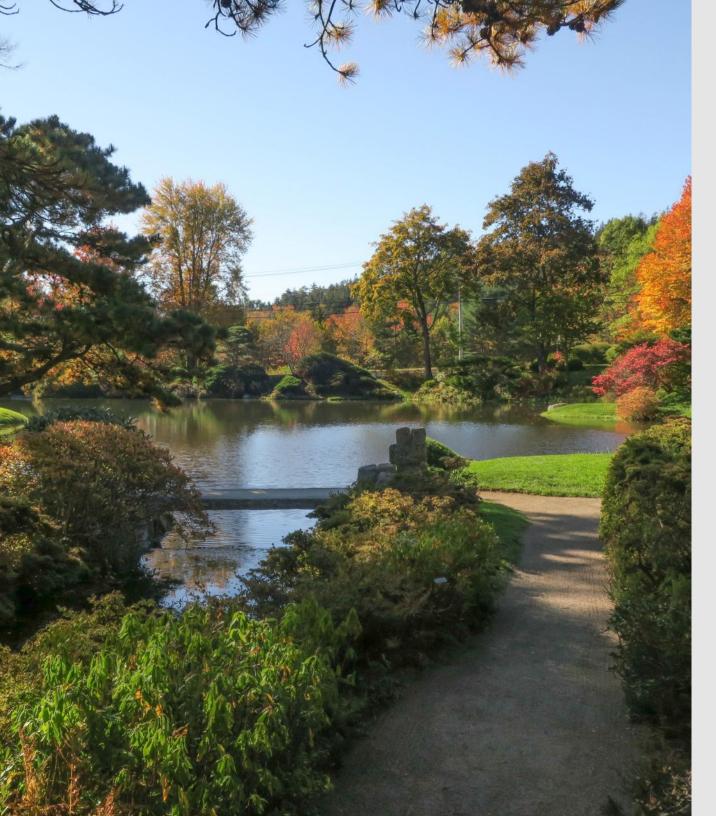
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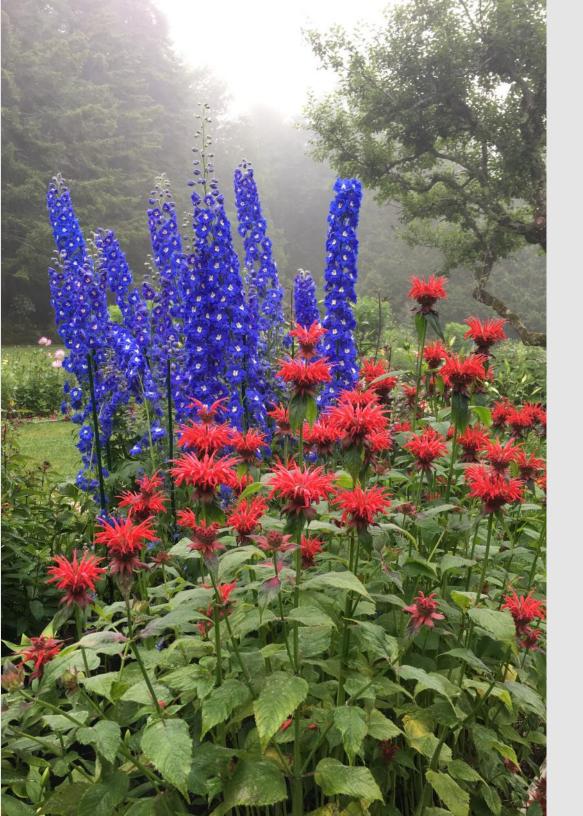
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