

BIOS FOR WEBSITE as of 2-14-2011

Valerie Augustine

Rental Coordinator and Marketing Programs Manager

Valerie started her work at the Gardens in February, 2008, as a marketing assistant and now manages the rental program, special events, and admissions programs. She is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Tonga, 2005-2007) and has also worked in the Washington, DC office of Congressman Tom Allen (D-ME). Valerie graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a Bachelor of Arts degree in both political science and coastal management. She serves on the Boothbay Harbor Board of Selectmen and can often be found on the stage at the Boothbay Playhouse, walking her Boston terrier, or puttering around her new house and gardens.

Tom Boudin

Chief Financial Officer

Tom grew up in Wiscasset, Maine, one of a family of eight children. He married Gail, his high school sweetheart, in 1973. He received his MBA from the University of Southern Maine and then his Maine CPA certification in 1997. Before joining the gardens in 2006, Tom was vice-president of a sawmill machinery company in Augusta, vice-president of an aircraft rental and charter company in Wiscasset, and the director of finance at Coastal Economic Development, a charitable nonprofit in Bath, Maine. Tom serves on the board of directors of Eldercare of Lincoln County and the board of trustees of the Maine Merchants Workers Compensation. In his spare time Tom enjoys spending time with family, especially lobstering with grandchildren Henry and Bella, fishing, woodworking and growing pumpkins and winter squash.

Will Bridges, wbridges@mainegardens.org

Horticulturalist

Will is a life-long Maine resident, born and raised in Caribou. He has many interests and talents and previously pursued a career in hotel and restaurant management. In 1999, he enrolled at the University of Maine, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Horticulture. After graduation, he spent three years doing residential garden maintenance and put in four years managing the yard of a local nursery. In 2009 and 2010, Will worked seasonally at the Gardens with the Horticulture Department and in 2011 joined the Gardens staff as a staff horticulturist. Will and his wife, Dottie, live in Alna on a "six acre slice of heaven" with their golden retriever, Lily, and their cat, Tigger

Barbara Freeman

Director of Communications

Barbara was born in Pennsylvania and considers Ocean City, N.J., her home town. She attended Boston University and has worked for Brown University, a U.S. Army Entertainment Office in Germany, and legendary landscape architects Ian McHarg and William Roberts in Philadelphia. She transplanted from Bucks County, Pa. to Boothbay Harbor in 1991. Once in Maine, she served as executive director of the Lincoln Arts Festival and then became a writer, photographer, and arts editor for the Boothbay Register. During her eight years at the newspaper, she won numerous awards, including the New England Press Association's first prize for environmental reporting and the grand prize for the most awards in one

year from Maine Media Women. She joined the Gardens as a Charter Member in 1991, later served on the special events committee, and in 2002 was hired as one of a staff of three.

Barbara's first book, *The Spare-Time Gardener*, was published in 2006. She is a Maine Master Gardener and a member of the Garden Writers Association and serves as a Perkins Gardens Trustee at Wave Hill, a botanical garden in New York City. She belongs to both the Boothbay Region Garden Club and the Shell Islands Garden Club on Sanibel Island, Florida, and in the winter months telecommutes to the Gardens from her kitchen table on Sanibel.

She's watched every bit of the organization's remarkable progress and growth with great pleasure and even astonishment. Whether editing the Gardens' newsletter, photographing the 250-acre grounds, writing press releases and website content, or giving presentations from Downeast Maine to Southwest Florida, Barbara's goal is to let others know about the importance and extraordinary beauty of Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and to encourage them to visit.

Dorothy Freeman, Director of Philanthropy

Coming to Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens is the culmination of a 30-year career in philanthropy for Dorothy Freeman of Boothbay Harbor, who took up the post of director of philanthropy in late August, 2011. A native Hoosier, Dorothy has directed large-scale fundraising operations for charitable organizations across the U.S. and led grantmaking foundations in Maine and Michigan. She feels that joining the Gardens as director of philanthropy is a singular opportunity to actively engage funders; friends; and board, staff, and community members in co-creating a world-class botanical garden by the sea.

She believes that like horticulturists, who combine the science and art of plant cultivation, the work of a development team is to prepare the "philanthropic soil" for continuously *growing* friends and funds for the Gardens. She feels that the better we do our work of raising substantial and sustainable funding, the better everyone else can do their work of co-creating the living treasure that is Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.

Laura Livingston Membership Assistant

Laura is a transplant to Maine but has lived in the Boothbay area for the past 27 years. She graduated from the University of Southern Maine with a BA in Geography/Anthropology and went to work in the phytoplankton culture center at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. Two years later, she moved to the Maine Department of Marine Resources and dedicated 20 years to the management of clam flats in Southern Maine. Prior to coming to Maine, Laura worked as an administrative secretary at Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia.

Laura and her husband have a love for the land and enjoy hiking and camping around the beautiful state of Maine. She is delighted to be working at the Gardens as the Membership and Database Assistant.

Frank Merrill
Rental Coordinator

I enjoy the feel of soil sifting through my finger tips and continue to marvel at the power of a single seed. How strange that a tiny seemingly lifeless seed has the energy to bring forth life. Here at CMBG, I find work to be enriching because of the right mix of people and beautiful scenery. With efforts from all departments, a marvelous combination takes shape to form the experience that is Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. I will continue to keep hydrated, let the sun shine on me, and keep my feet planted in fertile soil.

Justin Nichols,
Horticulturist

Justin has worked primarily in horticulture since 1990, with the bulk of his gardening time logged on an historic estate. He is enthusiastic about his work at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, tending high-caliber gardens and working with exceptional colleagues.

Sharmon Provan
Plant Records Coordinator/Plant Propagator

Growing up on the West Coast, Sharmon attended The Evergreen State College and moved to the Bay Area for graduate school. After a four-year layover in the canyons of Southern California, she headed east to the beautiful midcoast region of Maine.

While her education was mostly writing based and her career experience fell primarily within the entertainment, real estate, and education fields, Sharmon quickly dug into the earth upon arrival in Maine by enrolling in the University of Maine's Master Gardener program. In 2004, she volunteered with Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens' horticultural staff members Dick Zieg and Bruce McElroy (two men who easily do the work of ten), who inspired her to want to become part of the Gardens on a permanent basis.

Since 2005, Sharmon has felt very fortunate to be one small part of the team that continues to transform this magnificent piece of land into a botanical garden reflecting the best of Coastal Maine's natural landscape.

Amanda Russell
Volunteer Coordinator/Visitor Services Manager

Amanda studied forestry at the University of Maine, education at the University of Southern Maine, and nonprofit and corporate management at the Muskie School of Public Policy.

Growing up in the coastal village of Round Pond has kept Amanda close to the land and waters. She and her husband, Andy Abello, manage their 150-acre Certified Green Tree Farm in Edgecomb, where Andy harvests native woods for his handcrafted furniture and Amanda cultivates parts of the land for non-timber products, such as fir tips. Wind Ridge Tree Farm was named the 2010 Outstanding Tree Farm for the State of Maine. The couple have, over the years, accomplished an exceptional restoration of their 18th Century home on the property. For the last decade, Amanda has focused on the link between land use, community planning, and transportation, serving on planning boards and state committees and founding the thriving nonprofit organization, Friends of Midcoast Maine, committed to the "smart

growth” movement in the area. She is currently president of Friends of Coastal Preservation, another nonprofit focused on transportation and growth in the region.

Richard B. Zieg
Horticulturist

Flowers have been the focus of Dick’s life since childhood. His family was involved in the National Dahlia Society and the National Chrysanthemum Society, growing both types of flowers for competition. Dick accumulated quite a collection of silver awards from exhibiting in chrysanthemum shows as a young man.

He had his sights on a horticulture degree from the time he was fourteen years old and later worked his way through the University of Maryland horticulture program at USDA Turf and Grass Investigations in Beltsville, Md. Various landscape companies in the Washington, D.C., area provided the “hands-on” experience needed to build a botanical garden. After moving to Maine, Dick shared innkeeping chores with his wife, while also working for a landscape contractor in Surry. In 2003 he was hired as the first full-time employee to work outdoors at the Gardens and began the process of building and maintaining what you see on the grounds today.