



# arnoldia

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Since January 21, when COVID-19 was first diagnosed in the United States, lives across the country have been reordered in ways no one could have imagined. Amidst the pandemic, many gardens have been closed to the public, and even those that are still open have reduced their staffing to a slim crew of horticulturists who are watering greenhouse plants and ensuring that essential landscape tasks are completed. These are realities that you know firsthand. Your experiences provide a unique glimpse into this challenging and unprecedented moment.

*Arnoldia*, the quarterly magazine of the Arnold Arboretum, aims to chronicle these experiences with on-the-ground reports from you and your peers—horticulturists, arborists, and related professionals—who are caring for the plants at your public gardens during the pandemic. ***We welcome submissions that are written as observational and narrative scenes, no more than 500 words.*** The scene should capture a specific moment on a single day at your garden. It could be something that happened on the first day the landscape was closed to the public. It could be the quiet scene that unfolded on the date when a major event would have otherwise been held. It could be something that occurred once the public was welcomed back to the garden. Or it could be any of the countless moments in between.

Write with a first-person voice, and be sure to record specific things you saw, things you heard, and things you smelled. Provide enough context so that readers who have never been to your garden will get a sense of the atmosphere and ambiance. Mention the date that the scene occurred.

For inspiration, read the *New Yorker*'s coauthored article "[April 15, 2020: The Coronavirus Chronicle](#)," and imagine writing yourself into any of the small scenes within the article, replacing the central character with a first-person narrator. For instance:

"It's not unusual for me [~~Carolyn Riccardelli~~], as a conservator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, to see the building's vast limestone entrance hall devoid of visitors; witnessing the museum's private life is one of the privileges of being on staff. What's strange is to see it without flowers . . ."

For additional inspiration, consider starting with a straightforward statement: "The most surreal moment of being a horticulturist at [name of your garden] in the spring of 2020 occurred on [date] when . . .," or "The most difficult moment . . .," or "The most inspiring moment . . ." You can remove or rephrase that opening sentence after you begin.

***Submissions will be accepted through noon on Friday, May 29, 2020.*** Selected contributors will receive three copies of the print *Arnoldia* issue and an annual subscription. Please include up to three of your own photographs that show your public garden during this period.

Send submissions and questions to Jonathan Damery at [jdamery@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jdamery@fas.harvard.edu).