



# SPOHR GARDENS

FALL 2025

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## GREETINGS FROM SPOHR GARDENS

It's been a busy year in the gardens. The Waterfront Restoration Project is now complete, including moving the anchor chains that were hidden in the gardens and placing them between the anchors. Both the anchors and the chains were repainted and look as good as new. The path in the Pollinator Pathway has been regraded and gravel has been put down. The next step will be to finish edging the path with cobblestones. You can now walk directly across Fells Road from the Pollinator Pathway, under the magnolias and then curve onto the path up the hill. This fall we planted another 2000 daffodil bulbs. We continue to monitor our beech trees for the Beach Leaf Disease which, unfortunately, is getting worse. The summer drought stressed the trees even more.

Our major project for 2026 is going to be clearing the hillside from the path up to the house. The wisteria and the bittersweet have taken it over so you can no longer see the azaleas and rhododendrons planted there. This will be a large, ongoing project—see the Building and Grounds report for more details. Your generous donations will help us fund this major project.

Our 2026 Fundraiser is going to be Summer Sips at Spohr on July 16<sup>th</sup>—save the date and watch the website and the Spring Newsletter for more details.

We rely on your generous support to maintain this special peaceful place which is especially needed in our current turbulent time. We couldn't do it without you. Sincere thanks from the entire Board of Trustees.

Hila Lyman  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

**SAVE THE DATE 2026 Fundraiser**  
**Summer Sips at Spohr - July 16, 2026**



## BUILDING & GROUNDS

Caring for a six-acre garden that was started back in 1950 requires work that includes preservation, renovation and restoration. Preservation is the maintenance of the garden, renovation is the improvement of the garden and restoration is bringing the garden back to its former condition. We are encouraged and gratified by the many improvements and increased maintenance practices that have occurred recently thanks to the generous contributions by friends and followers of Spohr Gardens. You will recall that not too long-ago renovation projects included improving the front of the garden along Fells Road, installing timber stairs to the top of the hill and the beginning of work on The Pollinator Pathway.

More recently, contributions have allowed us to complete a waterfront restoration, restore the anchors, bells and anchor chains, extend and improve the Pollinator Pathway and increase garden maintenance practices

Work on the waterfront began with the removal of invasives and weeds along the path and rip rap wall. Cobblestone edging was straightened and re-laid and stone dust was added to prevent invasive weed seed from settling in.

Every great garden has unusual garden accents, and Charlie Spohr added some of the best. Over his lifetime, in addition to millstones, Charlie collected and decorated the gardens with antique anchors, chains, and bells. For the past good many years, these metal additions to the gardens have been in general disrepair, flaking, peeling and rusting. All were cleaned, sealed and painted this summer because of the generosity of Chris Kerfoot and his wife Manal. With the anchor restoration and the cobblestone renovation, the waterfront today looks much like it did back in the day when Charlie and Margaret would stroll the garden paths.

The Pollinator Pathway has been extended and a new entrance to the gardens was created on Fells Road, thanks to a generous donation by Frank Lingard in memory of his wife Bobbie. The new curving path was graded and top dressed with crushed stone for ease of walking and to simplify maintenance. Cobblestone edging was installed to mirror the image of other walkways throughout the garden.



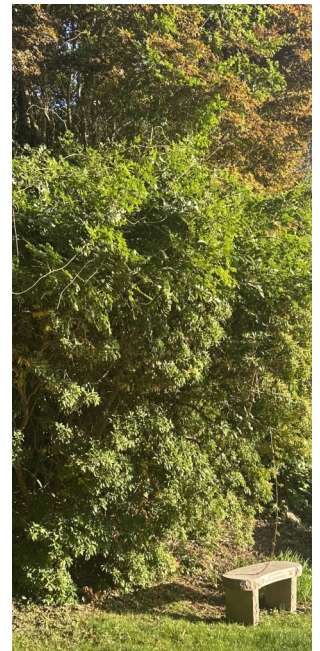
## **BUILDING & GROUNDS (con't)**

Chris and Manal spent many hours this past season working along the path pruning, weeding and planting. Other donors contributed pollinator friendly trees and shrubs that were planted here as well.

Our new maintenance practices include more frequent and expanded areas of mowing, edging and cleaning. Understory weed and scrub growth throughout the gardens will also be cut more frequently. Maintenance of our newly restored and renovated areas of the garden are beyond the scope of our garden volunteers. Work in these areas will be done by professional crews to protect and maintain our investment.

Our next major project involves garden restoration. This is not just a project we would like to do; it is a project we must do. We are losing many parts of the garden to wisteria vine, honeysuckle, knotweed and other invasives. The heavy, dense growth of these invasive plants is crushing and obliterating the original plantings beneath. Invasive plants must be removed and damaged shrubs below will need to be pruned, cut back or replaced. This work is long overdue and will take years to complete. Because of the nature of these particular invasives, we can't remove just some, we must remove them all. We hope to renovate the gardens one section at a time as cash flow allows. The hillside garden above the waterfront path will be our first area of restoration. It is one of the most damaged yet most viewed sections of the garden. Trunks of the wisteria vine here are as big as mature rhododendron stems.

We need your help now more than ever as we embark on our most ambitious and most important project in the gardens, saving and restoring the creations of Charles and Margaret Spohr. It will be long and it will be costly, but together we can get it done.



George Chapman, Chairman  
Building & Grounds

### **WAYS TO SUPPORT SPOHR GARDENS**

Mail a donation \* Give an outright gift of cash or securities \* Donate on the website \* Give a donation directly from your IRA \* Give a legacy gift through your will or trust \* Put a donation in the donation box whenever you visit \* Participate in all fundraising activities \* We are a 501c3 and all donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your generous support.





Freshly painted  
anchors and  
chains.



Work on redoing the path



Work on Pollinator Path



New Pollinator Path



Overgrown Wisteria



Overgrown Hillside