

Women's National Farm and Garden Association Plants Tree to Celebrate 100th Anniversary

On Thursday May 14, the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association (WNFGA) held its annual meeting in Washington at the U.S. National Arboretum. In addition to recognizing the ongoing support the Association has given the National Arboretum, they completed their 100,000 Native Plants project. The goal of the project, one of two centennial projects for the association, was the planting of 100,000 native plants to highlight the importance of our native flora in supporting beneficial wildlife in North American landscapes.

The 100,000th plant is a flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), grown from seed collected near Cedar Hill, Texas. This population of our native dogwood is unusual as it is found growing in limestone-based soils. The young tree was planted by the current WNFGA President, Molly Hammerle, accompanied by Julia Siefker, Audrey Ehrler, Susan Celentano, Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski, and Arboretum staff member, George Waters in the Arboretum's Louisa King Memorial Dogwood Collection (named in honor of WNFGA's first president). This limestone-adapted dogwood increases the breadth and diversity of our native flowering dogwood germplasm, and will greet visitors as they enter along the main entry path into the collection.

The Woman's National Farm and Garden Association has financially supported the Louisa King Memorial Dogwood Collection for six decades, including creating and sponsoring the Renaud-Peterson Arboretum Internship for 25 years, as well as additional projects throughout the National Arboretum.

