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Philanthropy’s in full bloom for TheDCH 34th Rare Plant Auction® staged throughout Longwood Gardens East Conservatory

Every plant – the rare and the not so rare – has a story to tell. The Delaware Center for Horticulture invites the public to celebrate those stories, and perhaps even create a few more, at this year’s Rare Plant Auction® on April 26, 2014.

Last year’s RPA raised $110,000 through ticket sales and auctions for TheDCH public landscapes, tree and urban agriculture programs that often serve low-income neighborhoods. The 2013 gala’s show-stopping plant was Euscaphis japonica (Korean Sweetheart Tree), which sold in a live auction hosted by a Christie’s auctioneer to a Malvern Pa. couple for $4,000.

Noteworthy for the 2014 RPA:

- Tree lovers won’t have to go looking for them this year: they’ll be staged under a big tent near the other silent auction tables
- This year’s catalog – with cover illustration by local artist Ann A. Biggs, includes a wealth of information about the plants up for auction including fun, insider back-stories of select plants
- When guests register online by April 23, they are welcome to enjoy event day complimentary admission to Longwood Gardens, before the gala which begins at 5:30 pm
- Auction checkout is quicker and easier than ever with electronic bidding
- A special announcement about the TheDCH green renovations and capital campaign will happen just prior to the live auction at 8:45 pm

Every year, hundreds of plant lovers from across the nation plan their calendars around this event, because they know that renowned experts have carefully curated a premier selection of beautiful, unusual, newly-introduced and difficult to propagate specimens from across the country, as well as unique garden accents.

The Delaware Center for Horticulture cultivates greener communities by inspiring appreciation and improvement of the environment through horticulture, education and conservation. Founded in 1977, TheDCH supports numerous community gardens and school gardens; organizes park improvement projects, beautifies Delaware’s roadsides with native vegetation; maintains the landscaping of many urban streetscapes; leads regional community forestry projects; and provides educational programs for children, teens, and adults. For more information, visit thedch.org