



At the U. S. National Arboretum, we made breakthroughs in the battle to save the Glenn Dale Azalea and Boxwood Collections from being destroyed due to budget cuts. The Arboretum targeted these two collections to be removed due to recent budget setbacks. A global expression of outrage has caused a reversal of this decision and offered us an opportunity to save these collections and have a voice in their future.

1) The non-profit Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) started an endowment fund to “maintain and preserve the azalea and boxwood collections”. They started by getting a \$1 million gift on February 14, 2011. They need a total of \$2 million for this fund called ***Save The Azalea and Boxwood Collections***.

2) On March 10, 2011, the U.S. National Arboretum convened a meeting of over 30 representatives from the societies most involved with the Arboretum. These are called stakeholders since they have a stake in the operation of the Arboretum. This meeting emphasized the need to rebuild trust with the stakeholders by consulting with the stakeholders and informing them of any changes in plans of the Arboretum. Hopefully this meeting was just the first in an ongoing series of stakeholder meetings.

The struggle to save these collections is only half over. All stakeholders are asking their

members to participate in this effort. FONA is also asking visitors to contribute. We all need to step up and help complete this effort to save the Azalea and boxwood collections. Fortunately, this is a grassroots effort appealing to all who appreciate these magnificent collections. We are soliciting a \$10 gift from all garden club members, visitors and other friends of the Arboretum. Of course larger gifts are appreciated, but a \$10 gift from everyone will let us reach our goal of preserving these collections.

All gifts must go through the Friends of the National Arboretum’s (FONA) ***Save The Azalea & Boxwood Collections*** fund. FONA has a convenient website to make your donations at: <http://www.fona.org/>. For those that prefer to mail their donations, they may send them to Friends of the National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002, or call FONA at (202) 544-8733. Make checks to **FONA** and be sure to specify in the memo it is for “***Save The Azalea & Boxwood Collection***”.

Plant Level: Dig in and help with a \$10 gift.

Mulch Level: Move closer to the goal with a \$100 gift

Fertilize Level: Make a major gift of \$1000 or more

Azalea Angel: Include ***Save The Azalea & Boxwood Collections*** in your planned giving by contacting FONA at (202) 544-8733

All donations in any amount are appreciated.

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Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) is an independent and national 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

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