



HARDY PLANT SOCIETY / MID-ATLANTIC GROUP

historical timeline

April, 1986



Joanne Walkovic and Jean Schumacher convened the inaugural meeting of the Hardy Plant Society, Mid-Atlantic Group. The membership list totaled 29 from 5 states.



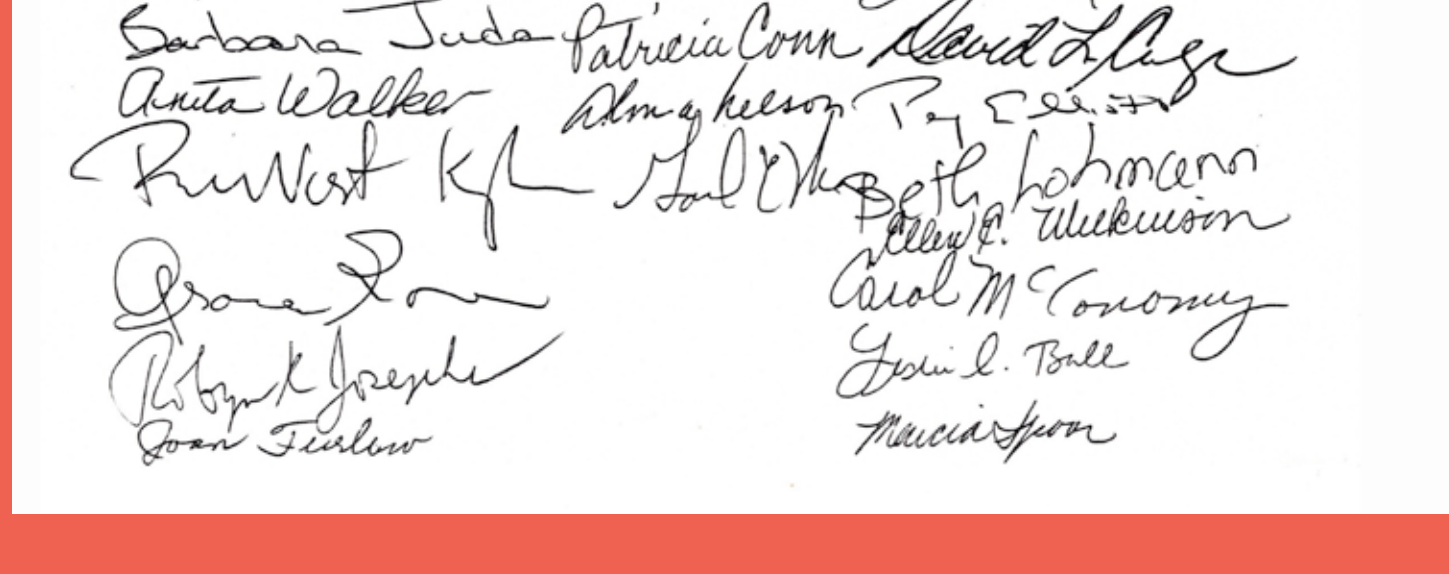
1980s

Spring and Fall Plant Sales were the main fundraisers. Members could participate in the HPS-Great Britain's Seed Distribution Program. Publications included the unnamed Newsletter, and the Membership Directory and Guide to Members' Open Gardens (later combined into one publication).



November, 1992

After the Articles of Incorporation were filed, establishing HPS/MAG as a PA not-for-profit organization, the By-Laws were accepted, and officers and committee chairs were elected by the general membership, which totaled 319 from 27 states.



1993

Jean Schumacher and Joanne Walkovic were named as Members of the Year. David Culp became the first Chairperson of HPS/MAG.



Seed Exchange began, and the first Special Interest Groups were launched.



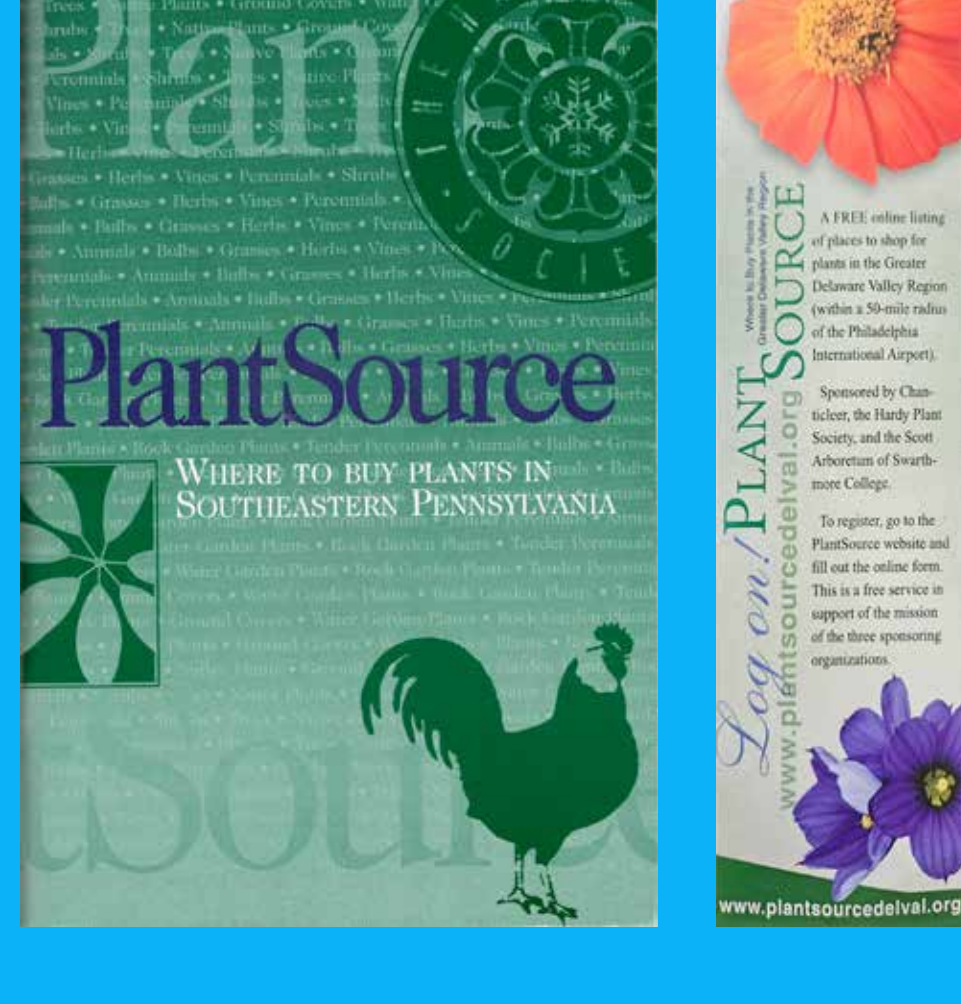
1994

The new logo featuring a snowflake (for hardiness) and a generic flower premiered on the April Newsletter.



1996

HPS/MAG joined with the Scott Arboretum and the Chanticleer Foundation to publish *PlantSource*, a printed guide to buying plants in SE Pennsylvania. For a time there was an online version as well.



1997

The first joint lecture with the Scott Arboretum was held in February.



The inaugural March Into Spring was held featuring lectures, a live auction, and plant and book sales. David Culp and Charles Cresson opened their gardens that weekend.

1999

Our domestic trip program launched with a 2-day visit to the Hamptons in September. Except for the COVID years, HPS/MAG members have traveled up and down the East Coast every year since then.



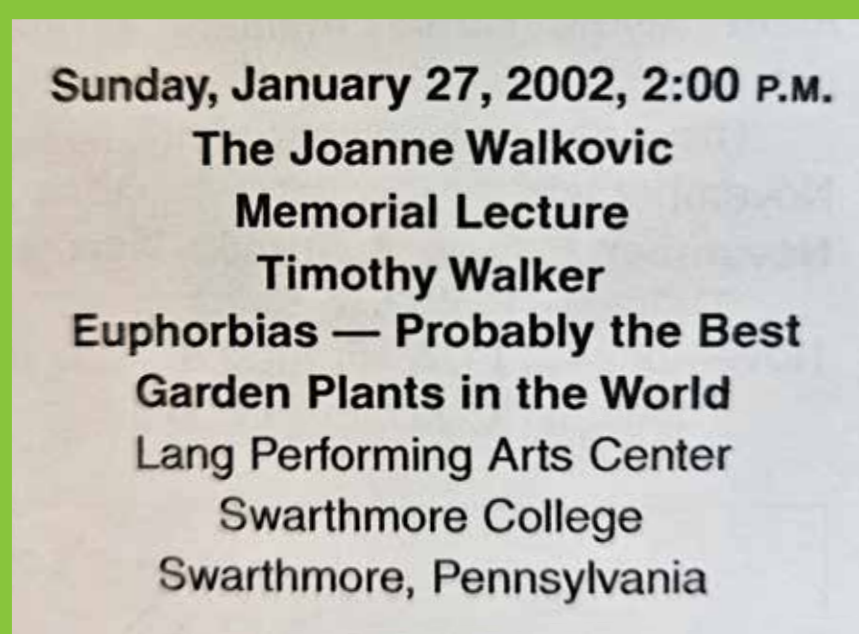
2001

Our international travels began with a 10-day garden tour of Ireland. The 19 travelers bonded over Guinness, Gaelic, and a bit of respite from the 9/11 attacks just a week prior.



2002

In conjunction with Scott Arboretum, HPS/MAG establishes the Walkovic Memorial Lecture, following Joanne's untimely death.



2003

HPS/MAG awarded grant scholarships of \$2,500 to several graduates of the W.B. Saul Agricultural High School. As of 2026, HPS/MAG has awarded \$138,244 supporting 128 non-profit community organizations through a competitive process with their horticultural projects.



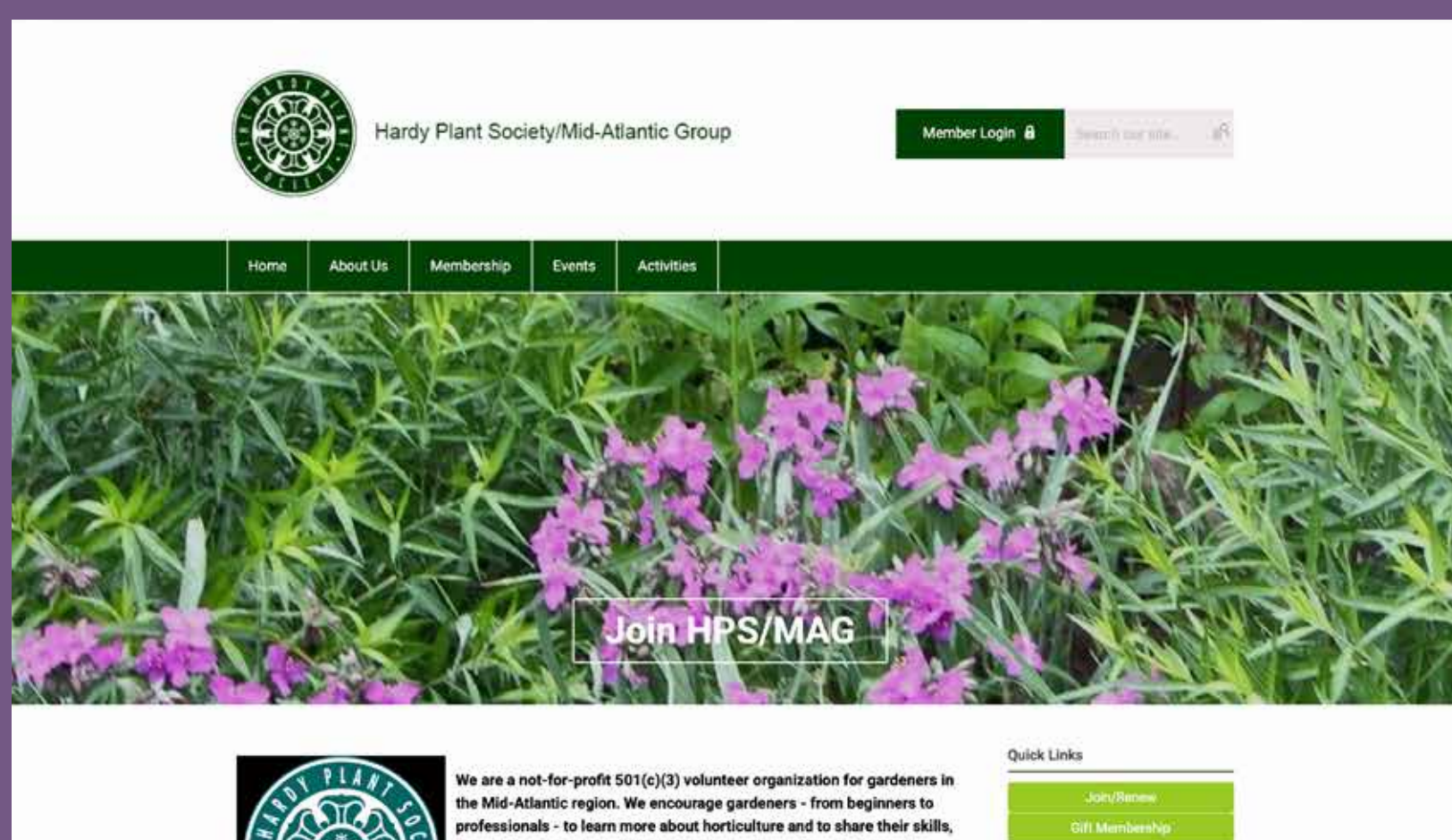
2004

The one-day Member Garden Tour replaces the People, Plants and Garden weekend.



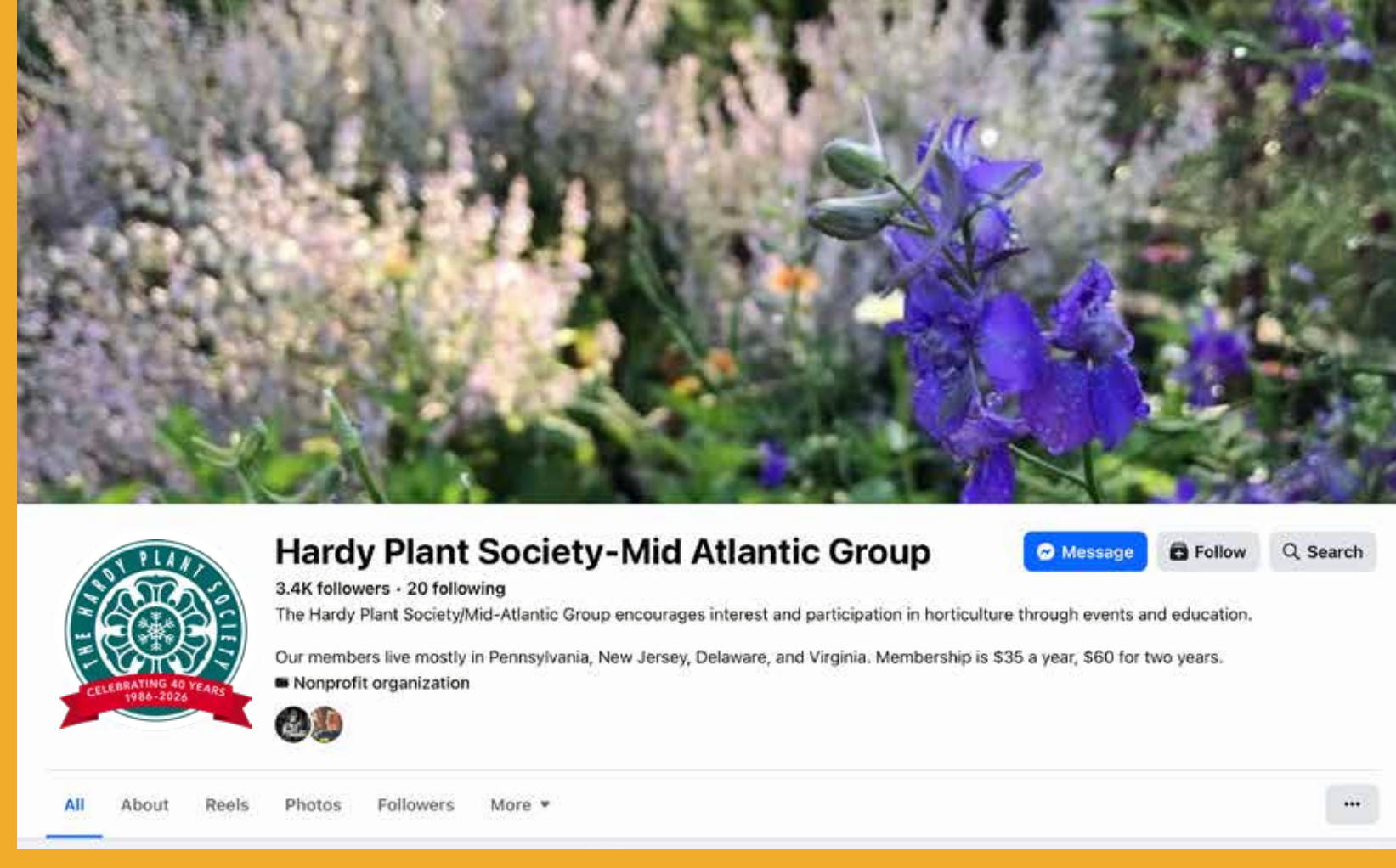
2006

HPS/MAG goes digital with the launch of its website.



2014

HPS/MAG goes social, with the launch of its Facebook page.



2019

HPS/MAG acquired 501(c)3 tax status, allowing it to accept tax-deductible donations.



2020

The newsletter is relaunched under Pat Moir's winning name, "Hardy Happenings."



2020-2021

HPS/MAG pivots to support members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some programs and events go virtual, including the 2020 March Into Spring auction. As restrictions loosen, masked in-person events re-start.



2026

As the USA marks its 250th anniversary, HPS/MAG marks its 40th, a milestone reached by only about 12% of organizations.

