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Delaware Center for Horticulture Appoints Director of Horticulture, Program Staff Members, and Board Members

(Wilmington, DE) – The Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH), a local non-profit organization dedicated to improving the community through the power of plants, announced the appointment of Ann Mattingly as Director of Horticulture. Ann brings more than two decades of experience in horticulture to DCH, recently serving as the Marketing Director for Fedco Seeds, an organic seed cooperative in Maine. Most notable of Ann's experience is her depth of organizational knowledge, having held several positions at DCH, most recently serving as the Director of Programs & Impact. Ann will bring both her depth of experience and deep commitment to this role, offering leadership in strategic development, ecological land stewardship, and program design.

"My passion has lived at the intersection of plants, community, and the natural environment," says Ann. "I believe deeply in the power of collaboration and see DCH's programs working together creatively and cooperatively, and in partnership with residents, CBOs, and the City, to create lasting change."

As Director of Horticulture, Ann will provide the strategic vision for horticultural programs and offerings, as well as the management, development, and sustainability of DCH formal gardens, public landscapes, and urban farms. Ann will provide strategy and direction in the programmatic planning, development and delivery of both formalized training and passive education opportunities for the benefit of our community and the environment.

New team members have been hired to support the mission of DCH to work alongside communities to inspire and transform spaces into greener, livable spaces.

Kesha Braunskill – Community Forestry Manager: Kesha will manage tree stewardship and tree planting programs and initiatives, as well as serve as the liaison to our partnerships in the City of Wilmington in providing arboriculture expertise for tree consultation, tree assessment, and contractual oversight. With experience at the U.S. Forest Service and the State of Delaware, she has engaged communities and municipalities statewide, emphasizing the significance of trees in both traditional and innovative ways. Kesha is an ISA certified arborist and holds a BS from the University of Maryland and a MS from Delaware State University.

Julia Lo Ehrhardt – Ecological Landscapes Manager: Julia will be responsible for the installation, maintenance, and stewardship of DCH's sponsored and contracted landscape projects as public examples and hands on laboratories of sustainable ecological best practices. She will lead the public

landscaping team and maintain DCH's grounds, gardens, container displays, and indoor plant collections, ensuring high-quality horticultural standards and thoughtful seasonal execution. Julia has over twenty years of experience in horticulture, conservation, education, visitor services, and volunteer program management. She possesses a BSc. Agriculture, MS Public Gardens Administration (Longwood Graduate Program) and an MPS in Sustainable Food Systems from the Culinary Institute of America. Her career has taken her to the New York Botanic Garden, Longwood Gardens, Mt Cuba Center, and Tyler Arboretum.

Additionally, DCH appointed two new members of the Board of Directors; Geoff Anderson, RLA, LEED AP or RAS Landscape Architects, and Timothy G. Smith, a Delaware Master Naturalist. Both additions will bring their talent and expertise to contribute toward the mission and growth of DCH.

About the Delaware Center for Horticulture
Since 1977, the Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) has worked alongside communities to transform underused and overlooked spaces into vibrant places of beauty, connection, and resilience. What began as a small volunteer-led initiative has grown into a trusted leader in urban greening, environmental education, and community revitalization throughout Wilmington and New Castle County. Our mission is to mobilize people to transform neighborhoods and communities through the power of plants. By integrating horticulture with workforce development, public health, and sustainability, we help strengthen the social fabric and create greener, more livable communities. We envision a future in which all residents are actively involved in protecting and enhancing the region's ecosystems. For more information, visit www.thedch.org.

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Pictured left to right: Ann Mattingly, Director of Horticulture, Kesha Braunskill, Community Forester, Julia Lo Ehrhardt, Ecological Landscapes Manager at the Delaware Center for Horticulture.