



PRESS RELEASE

January 24, 2017

For immediate use

Contact: Jennifer Peterson, Communications Manager, NC Botanical Garden, 919-962-9457;
jennifer.peterson@unc.edu; ncbg.unc.edu

Celebrate Darwin Day with a lunchtime talk about one of Darwin's favorite plants, the Venus flytrap

Chapel Hill – On **Sunday, February 12th, at 2 p.m.**, the North Carolina Botanical Garden (NCBG) will celebrate the 208th birthday of Charles Darwin with a presentation by Johnny Randall, the NCBG director of conservation programs, entitled ***Charles Darwin and his "Most Wonderful Plant in the World" – The Venus Flytrap***. The event is open to the public, and admission is free. It will take place in Reeves Auditorium in the Garden's Education Center (located at 100 Old Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill, NC).

Charles Darwin was deeply interested in carnivorous plants and was particularly intrigued by the Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*), which is native only to a small area along the coasts of North Carolina and South Carolina. In his 1875 book *Insectivorous Plants* he called the plant "one of the most wonderful in the world." This presentation will take a look at Darwin's studies of the Venus flytrap as well as its natural history, evolutionary biology and current conservation efforts. A reception will follow.

Johnny Randall has served as the NCBG director of conservation programs since 1998 and is adjunct faculty in the UNC-Chapel Hill Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology. In addition to overseeing the conservation and management of natural areas and administering the Garden's seed conservation programs, Randall conducts research on rare plant reintroductions and directs rare plant recovery projects.

This event is free, but advance registration is requested. To register, please go to: <http://go.unc.edu/darwinday2017>.

###

The North Carolina Botanical Garden, part of the University of North Carolina, is a 1,000-acre assemblage of display gardens and natural areas. The Garden is nationally known as a center for the study, display, interpretation and conservation of plants. Through its educational, recreational, therapeutic horticulture and research programs, it extends opportunities for connection with nature to people of all abilities and backgrounds. The Garden is open seven days a week and admission is free. Information at <http://ncbg.unc.edu>.



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the nation's first public university, is a global higher education leader known for innovative teaching, research and public service. A member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, Carolina regularly ranks as the best value for academic quality in U.S. public higher education. Now in its third century, the University offers 77 bachelor's, 113 master's, 68 doctorate and seven professional degree programs through 14 schools and the College of Arts and Sciences. Every day, faculty – including two Nobel laureates – staff and students shape their teaching, research and public service to meet North Carolina's most pressing needs in every region and all 100 counties. Carolina's more than 308,000 alumni live in all 50 states and 150 countries. More than 167,000 live in North Carolina.