



NEWS

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GOVERNOR PERDUE PROCLAIMS MAY 11, 2012 NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY IN NORTH CAROLINA

*North Carolina Botanical Garden To Celebrate The Important Role Public Gardens Play
In Promoting Environmental Preservation And Biological Diversity*

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (April 24, 2012) – North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue, Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt and Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton have officially proclaimed May 11, 2012 [National Public Gardens Day](#) at the [North Carolina Botanical Garden](#). Joining 21 public gardens throughout the state and more than 500 public gardens across the nation, the Garden will host events and activities to celebrate the important role public gardens play in encouraging resource conservation, environmental preservation and biological diversity.

Now in its fourth year, National Public Gardens Day was founded in a partnership between the [American Public Gardens Association](#) and irrigation product and service provider [Rain Bird](#). Communities nationwide are invited to discover the natural beauty of their local green spaces while learning about the role they play in plant and water conservation, and environmental education.

A ceremony will be held at the North Carolina Botanical Garden from 5 to 7 p.m. May 11 to commemorate National Public Gardens Day. A proclamation reading by Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt and comments from Garden Director Peter White will be followed by music from the Franklin Street Traditional Jazz Band and a viewing of spring plants native to the Southeast.

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Page 2 – GOVERNOR PERDUE PROCLAIMS MAY 11, 2012 NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY

“The North Carolina Botanical Garden thanks Governor Perdue, Mayor Kleinschmidt and Mayor Chilton for their support of National Public Gardens Day in North Carolina this year,” said Peter White, North Carolina Botanical Garden director. “We welcome everyone to come out and help us celebrate the occasion by enjoying guided tours through the Garden, a vegetable tasting and much more in the heart of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s campus.”

Events will be held Thursday, May 10 through Sunday, May 13 in celebration of National Public Gardens Day. For a list of activities, visit http://ncbg.unc.edu/uploads/files/NPGD2012_2.pdf.

For more information on National Public Gardens Day, visit www.NationalPublicGardensDay.org, “LIKE” the National Public Gardens Day [Facebook](#) page and follow the National Public Gardens Day Twitter feed, [@NPGD](#).

ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN

The North Carolina Botanical Garden, which was founded more than 40 years ago, is a 1,000-acre assemblage of display gardens and natural areas. It is nationally known as a center for the study, display, interpretation and conservation of plants. As part of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Garden houses an outdoor laboratory and classroom that supports University teaching and research. It also offers varied public opportunities for learning and recreation. Garden staff members administer several sites, including the 75-acre Display Gardens, Education Center and Nature Trails at the south edge of the UNC campus; the Coker Arboretum, Coker Pinetum and Battle Park in the heart of the campus; the UNC Herbarium on campus; and the 367-acre Mason Farm Biological Reserve nearby. The North Carolina Botanical Garden has received more than 20 awards for its dedication to public service and conservation efforts. <http://ncbg.unc.edu>.

ABOUT RAIN BIRD

Headquartered in Azusa, Calif., Rain Bird Corporation is the world’s leading manufacturer and provider of irrigation products and services. From simple beginnings in 1933, Rain Bird now offers the industry’s broadest range of irrigation products for farms, golf courses, sports arenas, commercial developments and homes, available in more than 130 countries. Rain Bird has been awarded hundreds of patents, including the first in 1935 for the impact sprinkler. Rain Bird’s philosophy, called *The Intelligent Use of Water*®, is about using water wisely. Its commitment extends beyond products to education, training and services for the industry and the community. Rain Bird maintains state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities around the world. <http://www.rainbird.com>.

ABOUT AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1940, Pennsylvania-based American Public Gardens Association (APGA) is an organization devoted to strengthening the public gardens throughout North America. With over 70 years of work increasing cooperation and awareness among the gardens, APGA has built a membership of more than 500 public gardens located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and seven other countries. Members include public gardens, as well as arboreta and zoos. APGA has also built up an international network of individual members in the U.S., Canada and 24 other countries. The APGA is committed to increasing public awareness of public gardens, and to advancing public gardens as a force for positive change in communities through leadership, advocacy and innovation. <http://www.publicgardens.org>.

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