New Hope Audubon Brings Birds to Kids

Thanks to a recent generous contribution from the New Hope Audubon Society, we have now embarked on developing a “bird garden” section to the children’s Wonder Garden. We are delighted with this partnership with our friends at New Hope Audubon, who have donated funds with which to purchase bird feeders, seed, and building materials for a bird blind where young nature explorers will soon observe bird activity while hidden from view. Over a series of weekends, volunteers from New Hope Audubon, along with volunteer project manager Dave Ringenburg, donated their expertise and muscle-power to build the structure. Thank you New Hope Audubon and Dave!

Chapel Hill Spring Garden Tour

Don’t miss the 2012 Chapel Hill Spring Garden Tour. It takes place April 14 & 15 and features nine gardens in town, many near Battle Park and the UNC–Chapel Hill campus. Proceeds from the tour benefit the North Carolina Botanical Garden and the educational/community service projects of the Chapel Hill Garden Club. Tickets cost $25 per person in advance or $30 the day of the tour. To learn more visit www.chapelhillgardentour.net.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Silent Spring

Published in September 1962, Rachel Carson’s controversial book, Silent Spring, is widely credited with helping to launch the environmental movement. We have planned some special hikes, lectures and book discussions in recognition of this important anniversary. See p. 10 for details.

Save the Date!

Presenting an inaugural annual fundraiser . . .

CAROLINA MOONLIGHT
Saturday June 2, 2012, 6:30–11:00 pm

The Botanical Garden Foundation is hard at work planning a fabulous silent auction, dinner and dancing under the Carolina moonlight, with jazzy local musicians and good times for all!

Visit our website for details and to sign up for email updates as this exciting new gala event takes shape.

ncbg.unc.edu/carolinamoonlight

Inside

• Director’s Message for 2012
• Spring Hikes & Lectures
• Gardening Workshops
• Herbarium Special Event
• Sandhills Musings

. . . and much more!
Let's make each year BETTER than the last! ... 2012 edition

This is like a message in a bottle: on the last days of 2011 I am thinking about 2012. The shortest day of the year has passed and daylight hours are ever longer. The ground will be warming, another growing season is upon us. The great carousel of the year starts again. With the help of our members, an engaged Board, volunteers, and staff, it is great to visualize each year being better than the one before, the Garden growing in new directions. Though there are always budget struggles and the uncertainty that change brings, it’s been a joy to be in the Education Center (I write these words from the Green Gardener desk, looking through large windows toward the grasses and trees of a winter landscape) and to contemplate our immediate prospects. Please, come by frequently to check on the changes! Here is my list for the growing season ahead. There isn’t room to write about everything—these are the highlights:

The Children’s Wonder Garden: Led by our Education staff and Elisha Taylor, Coordinator of Children and Family Education, a fun new garden full of activities for children is emerging east of the Mouzon Education Wing. A bird blind (thanks to New Hope Audubon Society, see p. 1) and digging, jumping, balancing, and gardening areas are happening. Our expanded children’s programming is bringing families to the Garden and now they will have a special place to enjoy sun, shade, fresh air, and nature.

The Piedmont Habitat & Education Center Landscape: We are adding to the plantings around the Education Center, and as these grow and take root, they confirm the skill and imagination of our Horticulture staff. Curator Chris Liloia has created a display collection of Piedmont plants to showcase the rich array of wildflowers in our region. Long-timers will recall that this green and flowering display garden replaces what used to be a paved public street! Soon the 40-year-old gardens around the Totten Center will merge with the new plantings to produce one garden. We will remove the chain link fence around the “old garden,” now that our new deer fence is up, and add paths connecting old and new.

Expanded Gift Shop, including move of the Daily Plant Sale: We will move the Daily Plant Sale to a new shade structure constructed by the Gift Shop. Hundreds of native plants will available for your home garden, plants that will draw you into the fresh air and exercise your garden caretaking skills. We think the potential is there to hire a part-time Gift Shop Manager, to diversify merchandise, run promotions and sales, and better coordinate with classes and events at the Garden. Educational programming and facility rentals are wonderful new revenue sources for the Garden—and we hope the Gift Shop will be one, too.

Promoting the UNC Herbarium Building: I hope we’ve begun to emerge from a tough economic climate and will return to raising awareness for our next big project: the move of the UNC Herbarium, the largest collection of museum specimens of North Carolina and Southeastern plants, to a new facility here. We hope our University and our Board can keep this project alive for a time when the collection, which serves the entire state and region with important information, can move to a safe, secure, and environmentally controlled building on the Garden’s campus.

There is more, of course. In 2012, we will pursue new welcoming and wayfinding signage, exhibits that tell the story of the Garden to everyone who visits, funding for the Carolina Campus Community Garden, the matching challenge for the Healing and Hope Through Science project, the conservation of additional lands around Mason Farm Biological Reserve, and the pursuit of improvements to Battle Park and Coker Arboretum. There is also behind-the-scenes work, such as moving to online program registration and adequately funding administration and the costs of our fundraising programs. Thirty Garden staff members are full of the ambition that comes with each spring, and there is a pretty wonderful future to shoot for. Thanks for being a member—and part of an ever-better Garden!

Chris Liloia and Amanda Mixon at work in the new Piedmont Habitat Garden, last August.
2012 Earth Partnership for Schools Teacher Institute

Applications are being accepted for the 2012 Earth Partnership for Schools Summer Institute. During the Institute, July 30-August 6, teachers are trained to create native plants gardens on school grounds and will have the opportunity to visit some wonderful natural areas managed by the North Carolina Botanical Garden, such as Mason Farm Biological Reserve and Penny’s Bend. Applications will be accepted until April 15 and can be found on the Garden’s website: http://ncbg.unc.edu/education-for-schools-and-teachers/#earth_partnership

Calling All Citizen Scientists!

We are partnering with botanic gardens across the country, installing a network of Climate Change Gardens. Each Climate Change Garden features genetically identical plant species selected for their biological responsiveness to temperature.

Last fall we planted our Climate Change Garden in the new landscape between the Education Center and the Piedmont Nature Trails and we need your help with this research. We are looking for volunteers to visit the garden throughout the growing season to collect data on phenological events, such as dates of first flower and seed ripening. We hope you will take this opportunity to become a “citizen scientist” and contribute to a very unique research project. Training will be provided.

Interested? Please contact Grant Parkins: parkins@unc.edu or 919-962-2887.

In-Kind Gifts Received

Our thanks go out to the following individuals who donated much-needed items for Garden programs and projects.

Frances M. Allen—dishware
Audubon North Carolina—Audubon book
Finch Blueberry Nursery—blueberry plants for Carolina Campus Community Garden (CCCG)
Louise Heath—horticulture books
Hunt Electric Supply Co.—electrical conduit for CCCG
Karen Perizzolo—refrigerator
Douglas F. Tilden—project materials for Battle Park
William C. Coker Garden Club—books for library in memory of Thelma Boyd

Energizing Forest Theatre

Thanks to an $11,000 grant from the Carolina Parents’ Council (UNC-CH), work is underway to improve the electrical infrastructure at Forest Theatre. UNC Facilities staff will install a new electrical panel and several outdoor outlets near the stage to provide additional electrical capacity for productions at the theatre. In late January and February, parts of Forest Theatre will be closed as trenches are dug and conduit is installed near the stage. Work should be completed before the spring reservation season. For more information, email ForestTheatre@unc.edu. And make sure to check out Forest Theatre on the Garden’s website to learn about upcoming productions.

Join Garden staff for Mountain Plants & Spring Wildflowers at High Hampton in the Blue Ridge

Sunday, May 6–Tuesday, May 9

Instructors: Peter White, NCBG Director, and Jim Ward, NCBG Associate Director for Horticulture

This workshop in the mountains of North Carolina has become a spring tradition. With the help of instructors, walks on the High Hampton Inn property, field trips, lectures, and demonstrations, you’ll become acquainted with the trees, shrubs, and wildflowers of the mountain region. For information, contact the High Hampton Inn in Cashiers, NC: www.highhamptoninn.com / 800-334-2551.

Credit for our certification programs is now available for this workshop.
Some plants respond to day length, while others take cues from temperature or a combination of environmental factors. Perhaps that explains why, here in early January, some of my plants are dormant and others are still blooming like there is no tomorrow. In spite of weather that feels more like spring than winter, the New Year has arrived. We hope 2012 will be a good year for all of our members as well as for the Garden.

Garden staff are grateful for your support and sustaining interest. Many of you responded to our plea in the last Newsletter and in the Fall Appeal mailing to make another gift in 2011: many gifts arrived to help us keep the gates open and pay for staff and expenses previously funded by the state. As you will see, the Gift List is a long one this quarter, and year-end gifts are not even all tallied as I write. Special thanks go out to everyone who has helped, especially these individuals who made additional large gifts to help “where the need is greatest,” including Sandy and Bet McClamroch, Peg Parker, Paula LaPoint, Paul and Mary MacDougal, Karla Reed, Bob and Nancy DeLong, Gale Unterberg, the Alben F. Bates & Clara G. Bates Foundation, Gary and Frances Whaley and the Whaley Family Foundation, Martin Foil, Harriet and D.G. Martin and the E. Craig Wall Sr. Foundation, Larry and Lucille Howard, Neil Joslin, Sally Vilas and Harry Gooder, Cotton and May Martin Bryan, Gretchen Cozart, Scotty Cramer, Muriel Easterling, Julie Irwin, Betty Kenan, Tom Kenan, Emily and Charles Lambeth, Cary Paynter, Renate Rodenburg, Tom and Margaret Scott, Elisa Jones, Larry Blanton and Candace Haigler, Edgar and Nan Lawton, John McClendon, Carmen Hooker Odom, Steven and Sandra Rich, Kathleen and Todd Shapley-Quinn, John Staelin, Preston Stockton, Sandy Thompson, Peter and Carolyn White, Chuck Roe and Charlotte Jones-Roe, Ken Moore and Kathy Buck.

In spite of the economic climate, all who made pledges for the Education Center have found a way to complete their gifts. Thank you to Florence and Jim Peacock, Sandy Thompson, New Hope Audubon Society and others who fulfilled pledges for the Education Center this fall. Others added to their previous gifts in support of the Education Center, including David and Lallie Godschalk, Jonathan and Mary Howes, Linda Koffenberger, Tim Kuhn, Patricia Selzen, David Bollinger, Holly Williams, Lisa Glover and Stephen Keith, Vonda Frantz and Cecil Frost, and Patricia Gensel. There are still attractive spaces available for sponsorship and a list of improvements we would like to complete. Harriet Martin funded a starter set of outdoor furniture for the Education Center and hopes other will follow her example. Tom Krakauer sent in another payment on his generous pledge honoring the life and artistic contributions of his late wife Janet. The endowment that bears Janet’s name generates funds for botanical art and illustration at the Garden.

Many Garden programs, including Horticultural Therapy, are dependent on support from grants and gifts. Special thanks for recent contributions for the Horticultural Therapy Program from Elizabeth Foreman, Catherine Bollinger and Tom Scheitlin, Barbara Hiested, and others. Another program that depends on your gifts is the Carolina Campus Community Garden. Claire Lorch and students and volunteers have built a wonderful garden near UNC’s main campus and distribute fresh produce to help University housekeeping and grounds staff feed their families. A gift from the Fox Family Foundation, plus recent contributions from Anne Scott, Peter and Carolyn White, Peter Glauber, Anne Cabell, Christopher John Casey, the Lake Forest Garden Club, Leo Glauber, and Joanna Lelekacs, and many in-kind gifts of plants and materials, will help CCGC continue.

Healing & Hope Through Science, a program that brings science education and nature to children who are very ill, received a large gift from LabCorp that will help match a grant from the Oak Foundation for that program. Recent contributors to the Garden’s Educational Outreach efforts included Tom Kenan, the Justin Lord Coleman Foundation, Joanne Lott, Dennis Freeland, Andria Dawson, Eric and Sherron Faulkner, and Cassie Neilsen. Grant and Leslie Parkins and Ann Johns directed their gifts to help provide scholarships for the Nature Explorers summer camp. Your gifts make these programs possible.

Gardeners know about planting acorns to grow sturdy oaks for the future. Special thanks go out to members who have made recent contributions to the Garden’s General Endowment fund: Ed and Nancy Preston, The English Speaking Union of the Research Triangle, and Robert and Sinead Pitts. Other contributors designated their gifts to build specific endowment funds that will generate income and help make sure their areas of interest will always have the care they need. Jim Massey made another contribution to the fund he and others established to honor his former assistant, the Mary McKee Felton Herbarium Internship endowment. Max and Haru Hommersand added to their gifts for the future Herbarium building, while other Friends of the Herbarium made gifts intended to support the work of the Herbarium staff immediately: E. Reid Bahnson Jr., Chuck James, Jim Matthews, John Bozeman, Chris Levesque, Ginger Travis, Charlie and Lydia Williams, Mark Abe, Evelyn Daniel, Stephen Johnson, and Ed and Janice Coffee Swab. Your assistance is much appreciated!

A long list of contributors designated gifts to build the Coker Arboretum Endowment, including Karla Reed, David and Lallie Godschalk, Jane and Mark Ritchie, William Bryant Watts III, Cathleen and Turner Whitted, Thomas Braaten Jr., James Devereux Joslin, the Meador and Smith families, and many others who want to ensure the Arboretum always has the care it needs. Among Arboretum supporters who made gifts that will help Margo MacIntyre and her dedicated staff and volunteers with current expenses were Mary and William Joyner and Lyn and Richard Worof.

The Battle Park Endowment Fund has also received many gifts, including generous contributions from Sandy Thompson, Fran and Gary Whaley and the Whaley Family Foundation, Jeanie Holmes, Lynn Knauff, Liz Moore, Danny Glover, Keith and Stephanie Reimer, David and Lallie Godschalk, Charles Glover, Mary Joslin, Stephen Keith and Lisa Glover, Peter Kiffney, Van MacNair III, Peg Parker, Ross Scroggs, Steven and Susan Skolsky, and many others who appreciate the efforts of Stephen Keith and so many students and volunteers who care for...
Thank you to all who support the Garden, especially to the many whose membership dues and gifts were received in the period October 1–December 31, 2011.

GENERAL SUPPORT
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Betty J. & John A. King III
Joel G. Kingsolver
Paul M. & Phebe M. Kirkman
Lynn Koss Knauff

Gift List continues on p. 12

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Chicita Calberson, who donated her home and 12 acres of conservation land last year, sent in funds with which to care for “Villa Pinea,” the house she and her late husband Bill called home for many decades.

Another exciting project underway this winter is construction of bird blind in the Children’s Wonder Garden. New Hope Audubon Society has contributed time and labor as well as funds with which to purchase materials (see p. 1). Others contributing to the Wonder Garden recently included Lisa Jackson, Betsy and John Pringle, and Gayle Lyles. Bring your little ones to enjoy this new area of the Garden soon!

As the Garden’s Horticulture staff continues to plant and care for the new landscape, members have contributed to funds that supply plants and needed materials. The Jim Todd Living Plant Fund has generated needed revenue for these purchases, as has the Colvurd Mountain Plant Fund. Recent contributions for the Education Center landscape, including those from Catherine Bollinger and Tom Scheitlin, Debbie Roos, and others have already been put to good use. Propagation volunteer Jim Schmidt made a generous gift to help with materials for a propagation structure he helped Matt Gocke design and build. The gift will be matched by Jim’s former employer, Sherwin-Williams. Brian Duckett, and Catherine Bollinger and Tom Scheitlin designated gifts for the Plant Conservation program. Jerry Lambert designated his gift for the Seed Collecting Fund, and Karen Perizzolo gave a much-needed refrigerator for seed stratification as well as a generous unrestricted gift.

For information about gift planning, naming opportunities, or current wish list items, please call.

John Lambert
919-962-9458
jonestroe@unc.edu

Charlotte Jones-Roe
Associate Director for Development
919-962-9458
The following Certificate Program Courses are described in full on our website: http://ncbg.unc.edu. Courses labeled “No prerequisites” are open to everyone!

**Certificate Courses**

**Short Course: How to Paint a Flat Wash**
Patricia Savage, Professional Artist  
Saturday, Feb 11; 1:15–4:45 pm  
No prerequisite. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)

**Short Course: Native Plant Seed Propagation Workshop**
JC Poythress, NCBG Horticulture Staff  
Saturday, Feb 18; 1:00–4:00 pm  
No prerequisite. See description on p. 7.

**Short Course: How to Paint a Feather**
Patricia Savage, Professional Artist  
Sunday, Feb 26; 1:15–4:45 pm  
No prerequisite. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)

**Identifying & Controlling Invasive Plants**
Friday, March 2; 1:30–4:30 pm  
Mike Kunz, NCBG Conservation Ecologist  
No prerequisites. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)  
See description on p. 7.

**Botany**
Emily Gillespie, Biologist  
Saturdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24; 9:00 am–1:30 pm  
No prerequisites. Fee: $140 ($125 NCBG members)

**Beginning Drawing**
Patricia Savage, Professional Artist  
Sundays, March 4, 11, 18, 25; 1:15–4:45 pm  
No prerequisites. Fee: $125 ($110 NCBG members)

**Advanced Watercolor**
Maryann Roper, Professional Artist  
Tuesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27; 1:00–4:30 pm  
Prerequisites: Intermediate Watercolor, Color Theory. Fee: $125 ($110 NCBG members)

**Plant Communities of North Carolina**
Alan Weakley, NCBG Curator, UNC Herbarium  
Tuesdays, March 6, 13, 20; 9 am–noon & March 28 all-day fieldtrip (8 am–6 pm)  
No prerequisite. Fee: $155 ($140 NCBG members)

**Portfolio/Graduation Preparation**
Emma Skurnick, Professional Artist  
Mondays, March 12, 19, 26; April 2; 1:00–4:30 pm  
No prerequisites. Fee: $125 ($110 NCBG members)

**Plant Taxonomy**
Milo Pyne, Plant Ecologist  
Fridays, March 23, April 13, 20, May 4; 9:30 am–12:30 pm  
Prerequisite: Botany. Fee: $125 ($110 NCBG members)

**Spring Flora**
Milo Pyne, Plant Ecologist  
Saturdays, March 24, April 14, 21, May 5; 1:45–4:45 pm  
No prerequisites. Fee: $125 ($110 NCBG members)

**Soil Ecology**
Nicolette Cagle, Plant Ecologist  
Saturdays, April 7, 14, 21; 9:15 am–1:15 pm  
No prerequisites. Fee: $125 ($110 NCBG members)

**Short Course: Butterflies in Colored Pencil**
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist  
Saturday, April 14; 1:00–4:30 pm  
No prerequisites. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)

**NEW Short Course: Mix & Match Color**
Patricia Savage, Professional Artist  
Sunday, April 15; 1:15–4:45 pm  
No prerequisite. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)

**Silent Spring: A Book Discussion**
Peter White, NCBG Director  
Wednesday, April 18; 7:00–9:00 pm  
This workshop serves as ¼ credit for the Certificate in Native Plant Studies, but is open to anyone. See description on p. 10.

**Native Southeastern Medicinal Herbs**
Ricky Bratz, Certified Herbalist  
Saturday, April 28, 1:00–4:00 pm  
This workshop serves as ¼ credit for the Certificate in Native Plant Studies, but is open to anyone. See description on p. 10.

**Color Theory**
Patricia Savage, Professional Artist  
Sundays, April 29, May 6, 13, 20; 1:15–4:45 pm  
Prerequisites: Composition, Intermediate Watercolor. Fee: $125 ($110 NCBG members)

**Intermediate Drawing**
Emma Skurnick, Professional Artist  
Mondays, May 7, 14, 21, 28; 1:00–4:30 pm  
Prerequisite: Basic Drawing. Fee: $125 ($110 NCBG members)

**Mixed Media**
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist  
Wednesdays, May 9, 16, 23, 30; 1:00–4:30 pm  
Prerequisites: Beginning Colored Pencil, Pen & Ink, Intermediate Watercolor. Fee: $125 ($110 NCBG members)

**Short Course: Native Plant Propagation**
Matt Gocke, NCBG Nursery Manager  
Saturday, June 2; 9:00 am–noon  
No prerequisites. See description on p. 7.

**Summer Flora**
Milo Pyne, Plant Ecologist  
Saturdays, June 23, 30, July 14, 21; 9:30 am–12:30 pm  
No prerequisites. Fee: $125 ($110 NCBG members)

**Pollination of Flowering Plants**
Anne Lindsey, Botanist  
Saturdays, June 2, 9, 16, 9:00 am–noon, and June 30, 1:00–4:00 pm  
No prerequisite. Fee: $125 ($110 NCBG members)
Home Gardening Workshops

**Weeds 101**
Saturday, Feb 11, 9:00–11:30 am
(Inclement weather: Feb 18)
Sally Heiney, NCBG Horticulturist “Queen Weeder”

Every gardener and homeowner can tell you what they consider to be a weed. Too often, one person’s weed is another creature’s lunch or shelter, while another person’s prized plant might be the next ecological disaster. Discussion topics will include a brief history of weeds and their impact on ecosystems and our economy. This workshop focuses on identifying your weeds and strategies for their management, whether they be friend or foe. Management practices include time-tested approaches and the newest techniques we’ve explored here at NCBG, with an emphasis on environmentally responsible gardening. Participants are welcome to bring in their own specimens for identification. Fee: $27 ($22 NCBG members)

**Get Ready for Spring: A Vegetable Gardening Workshop**
Feb 18, 9:30–11:30 am
Bob Peoples, NCBG Horticultural Technician

Get ready for spring! We have a new Vegetable Demonstration Garden and are excited to have this learning laboratory for a new workshop in our Home Gardening Series. This workshop covers what vegetables to plant for a spring garden; when to start planting; how to grow your own vegetable seedlings; tips on protecting plants from freezing; and how to get a large harvest from a small space. Fee: $27 ($22 NCBG members)

**Native Plant Seed Propagation Workshop**
Saturday, Feb 18, 1:00–4:00 pm
(Inclement weather: Feb 25)
JC Poythress, NCBG Conservation Horticulturist

This course is dedicated to the propagation of native perennials and woody plants by seed. Topics will include seed collection methods, post-collection handling, cleaning equipment and techniques, and seed storage. Subjects relating to successful seed germination will be discussed, including sowing media, cultural requirements of seedlings, and satisfying dormancy requirements, and many specific examples to highlight major plant groups. Free seeds will be provided to participants with a demonstration of proper sowing method. Serves as ¼ credit for the Certificate in Native Plant Studies, but is open to anyone. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)

**The Do’s and Some Don’ts of Pruning**
Saturday, Feb 25, 2:00–5:00 pm
Charles Tomberlin, Horticulturist

Join us for this popular, informative workshop on the DOs, DQs, DOs of pruning. Pruning is beneficial to the overall health of plants and stimulates new growth and flowering. Participants learn about the different types of pruning equipment, safe use of that equipment, best pruning techniques, proper timing of pruning, and hands-on pruning activities. Primary focus will be on, but not limited to, trees and shrubs. Register early! Fee: $37 ($32 NCBG members)

**Identifying & Controlling Invasive Plants**
Friday, March 2, 1:30–4:30 pm
Mike Kunz, NCBG Conservation Ecologist

A workshop for anyone interested in invasive plants; it will be beneficial to home gardeners, landowners, and professionals. Through classroom and field demonstrations, participants learn the tools and methods needed to identify invasive species and effectively remove invasive plants. Explore techniques specific to situations and invasive species. Involves some walking outdoors on uneven terrain. Serves as ¼ credit for the Certificate in Native Plant Studies, but is open to anyone. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)

**Nature Photography: Within Your Grasp**
Saturday, March 10, 9:30–11:30 am
Al Denelsbeck, Professional Photographer

This two-hour presentation provides a basic perspective into approaching nature and wildlife photography as a serious pursuit. You’ll get tips on your overall approach, finding subjects, composing your images, and being prepared for dedicated photographic outings, as well as hearing some of the back-stories of chasing the pictures. Well illustrated and with accompanying handouts, this presentation is both interesting and fun, and will encourage you to produce those photos yourself! No materials needed. Al Denelsbeck (http://wading-in.net) has been pursuing photography for over 25 years, with most of the emphasis on nature and wildlife subjects, especially in the close-up world. He stresses that photography is not about equipment, but about approach. Fee: $27 ($22 NCBG members)

**Spring Garden Photography Workshop**
Saturday, March 24, 1:30–4:30 pm
Al Denelsbeck, Professional Photographer

Celebrate spring by learning how to get better results from your garden photography. Learn about light levels, angles, and control; framing and composing your subject for best impact; making the most of conditions; and working with small subjects. The first part of the course provides instruction and tips regarding your photographic approach, while part two takes place in the garden itself, where you get to practice applying what you’ve learned, with a qualified nature photographer to answer questions. Bring your camera! Al Denelsbeck (http://wading-in.net) has been pursuing photography for over 25 years, with an emphasis on nature and wildlife subjects, especially at close range. He stresses that photography is not about equipment but about approach. Fee: $37 ($32 NCBG members)

**All About Grains: Plant to Plate**
Saturday, March 31, 10:00 am–12:00 pm
Abraham Palmer, Box Turtle Bakery

This workshop will explore wheat varieties and some related grains, from the garden/field to the freshly baked loaf on your plate. Learn about grain varieties, cultivation, harvesting, cleaning, storage, milling, and using grains in various forms. While soft wheat for biscuits and other baked goods is still grown in large quantities throughout the Southeast, we are in the early stages of reintroducing bread wheat to parts of the country outside the Midwest. Other regions have successfully interested local gardeners in reintroducing some of these fascinating species of plants. This is your opportunity to join the effort by taking home seeds to plant and information to let you taste the results of your labors. Abraham Palmer started Box Turtle Bakery in 2009 with the goal of freshly milling and baking locally grown grains into a variety of whole grain breads. Fee: $27 ($22 NCBG members)

Continued on next page . . .
**More Adult Workshops**

**Native Southeastern Medicinal Herbs**
Saturday, April 28, 1–4 pm
Ricky Bratz, Certified Herbalist

During this short course, participants explore the beauty of our spring native medicinal plants. Using the expansive resources of the gardens and woodland trails, students will take in the abundant medicine that our local flora has to offer. Topics include field identification, history and lore of each plant, therapeutic and medicinal uses and preparations. You may discover some other uses for your favorite native plants! All levels of experience are welcome. **Serves as ¼ credit for the Certificate in Native Plant Studies, but is open to anyone.** Bring notebook, walking shoes, and water / snack if desired. Fee: $35 ($30 for NCBG members)

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**Chinese Brush Painting**
Instructor: Jinxiu (Alice) Zhao

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**Walks and Hikes**

**Spring Wildflowers at Stillhouse Bottom**
Saturday, March 17, 2–4 pm
Carol Ann McCormick, Botanist, NCBG Staff

Celebrate spring at Stillhouse Bottom Nature Preserve—home to an amazing array of spring wildflowers and several regionally rare plant species. This hike is off trail, on steep and rocky slopes, with un-bridged stream crossings. Please wear sturdy walking shoes. Children welcome; please leave pets at home. Meeting place will be confirmed at time of registration. Fee: $5 (Free for NCBG members)

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**Earth Day: Wildflowers on the Nature Trails**
Sunday, April 22, 2–4 pm
Carol Ann McCormick, Botanist, NCBG Staff

Explore a Piedmont hardwood forest and find early spring wildflowers including spring beauties, wild ginger, and star chickweed. Participants will also spot lesser-known native plants such as pennywort and dwarf paw paw. Easy pace; some steps and uphill walking. Children welcome; please leave pets at home. Meeting place will be confirmed at time of registration. Fee: $5 (Free for NCBG members)

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**Mother’s Day Walk at Mason Farm**
Sunday, May 13, 2–4 pm
Ed Harrison, Naturalist

Take your mother for a turn around the Mason Farm Biological Reserve’s “old farm trail,” which travels through some 260 years of cultural and natural history. Naturalist Ed Harrison will point out our wildflowers and discuss how the Garden’s intense management of both field and forest benefits local biological diversity conservation. Meeting place will be confirmed at registration. Fee $10 ($5 NCBG members)

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**Yoga at the Garden**
Joanne Marshall, Yoga Instructor
Sundays, 3:30–4:45 pm: March 4 & 18; April 1, 15, & 29; and May 6 & 27

Enjoy the benefits of a mindful yoga practice—emphasizing restoration and relaxation—in the beautiful Growing Classroom of the Education Center. Perfect for gardeners and nongardeners alike. Bring your yoga mat if you have one; a limited number of mats will be available. Per-session fee: $10 ($5 NCBG members)
Children's Programs

Sweet Peas (ages 2½–4, with parent)
Tuesdays, 1:00 – 11:00 am (see dates below)
A great opportunity for child and parent to learn together! Share a morning of discovery with your growing “sweet pea” and nurture their natural curiosity for the world around them. Classes may include stories, songs, mini-hikes, crafts, puppets. No strollers or non-registered siblings, please.
Mar 6 – Windy Weather
Mar 20 – Sing a Froggy Song
Apr 3 – Seed Surprise
Fee: $10 ($8 NCBG members) per child adult pair (per date)

Part I: April 11–May 16
Part II: Wednesdays, Oct 10–Nov 14
Wednesdays, 1:30–4:00 pm
Young Ecoscrapers (ages 10–13)
more than three children per adult, please!
the gardens. Program is held rain or shine.
Fee: $75 ($70 NCBG members), for all 6 sessions.

Bluets: Preschoolers Exploring Nature (ages 4–5)
Tuesdays, Mar 20–May 1
(no class 4/3; 1:30–3:30 pm)
Learning comes naturally for 4 and 5 year olds during this popular, fun-filled series that fosters a sense of wonder for the natural world through hands-on activities, outdoor exploration, stories, crafts, puppet shows, and group play. Preschoolers will “dig in” to our new children’s vegetable garden, dip in the pond for tadpoles, observe buds up-close at the bird blind, and more. Healthy snack provided. Homeschoolers welcome!
Fee: $100 ($90 NCBG members), for all 6 sessions.

Blazing-Stars: Afterschool Nature Club (K–1st grade)
Thursdays, Mar 20–Apr 26 (no class 4/5; 3:30–5:00 pm)
Join us for this afterschool series designed for kids interested in learning more about nature and science first-hand. Explore the natural cycles that turn the world around! We’ll develop our understanding of ecology as we investigate animal, plant, water, and rock cycles, trek the trails, and play games. This program offers an exciting complement to your child’s education and an opportunity to explore outdoors. Homeschoolers welcome!
Fee: $75 ($70 NCBG members), for all 6 sessions.

Nature Tales: Storytime in the Garden (ages 2–5 with adult)
Thursdays, May 3–Aug 16; 10:00–10:45 am
Join us Thursday mornings to listen to nature-themed books at the Storyteller’s Chair, and then enjoy hands-on explorations and activities in the gardens. Program is held rain or shine. Fee: $5 per family per date (no more than three children per adult, please!)
May 3 – Frog Fun
May 10 – Terrific Trees
May 17 – Bird Bonanza
May 24 – Flower Power
May 31 – Things with Wings
and continuing into mid-August

Young Ecoscrapers (ages 10–13)
Wednesdays, 1:30–4:00 pm
Part I: April 11–May 16
Part II: Wednesdays, Oct 10–Nov 14
Young Ecoscrapers is an exciting new two-part program designed for home-educated 10 to 13 year olds. Students will learn about pollination and native pollinators, conduct soil studies, grow native plants, and design and install a pollinator garden in our new children’s Wonder Garden. Students will be leaders in every aspect of the creation of the pollinator garden, including the planning, planting, maintaining, and interpreting of this space. This unique course will teach basic tenets of ecology in an applied way, as well as the process of landscape design. Most important, students will produce a tangible product of their learning process in which they can feel a sense of pride and ownership: a garden designed by kids as well as for kids!
Ecoscrapers is taught for 6 weeks in spring and an additional 6 weeks in fall. Fee: $300 ($270 NCBG members) for 12 classes, to be paid in two installments. Parts I and II can be booked separately.

Family Programs

Signs of Spring Family Hike (ages 5 & up, with adult)
Saturday, Mar 24; 1:00–2:30 pm
Who’s singing in the vernal pools? What’s blooming up from beneath the fallen leaves? Celebrate the Spring Equinox exploring the gardens and trails for signs that the natural world is waking from its winter slumber. We’ll learn some spring facts and folklore and search for amphibians, bursting buds, early birds, and other spring surprises. Fee, per family up to 3 people: $15 ($10 NCBG members); $5 per additional child

Magic in the Garden: Sculpture-Making & Fairy House Building
Saturday, April 28; 10:00 am–12:30 pm
The young and the young-at-heart are invited to join us for an enchanting afternoon of family fun in the Garden! Create a magical woodland creature from concrete and recycled objects with local artist Forrest Greenslade (forrestgreenslade.com). Then listen to a reading from Tracy Kane’s Fairy Houses book to inspire you to use natural materials to create magical homes for fairies, elves, and other wee folk that will transform the new children’s Wonder Garden into a fairy village! Assorted materials will be provided, but your whimsical additions are encouraged: twigs, grasses, stones, pine cones, seedpods, shells, and more.
Bring your imagination and love of nature . . . and come dressed in your most magical costume!
Fee, per child: $10 ($8 NCBG members)

Nature Explorers Summer Camp 2012!
Our unique camps are designed to foster environmental awareness and a sense of wonder through direct experiences with the natural world, including hands-on activities, garden and trail walks, games, and crafts.
• 6 sessions of day camps for kids ages 4–10 that feature small group sizes and loads of fun
• All sessions taught by experienced environmental educators
• After care available for full-day programs

Registration begins Feb 8 (members) & Feb 15 (public)
View camp brochure, registration instructions, and FAQs on our website: ncbg.unc.edu

Lectures/Special Events >>
A Darwin Day Presentation
Sunday, Feb 12, 1:00–3:00 pm
Celebrate the 103rd birthday of Charles Darwin with a plant adaptations walk followed by a presentation by Dr. Janice Swab on “Darwin’s Voyage: Then and Now.” Dr. Swab is Professor Emerita of Biology, Meredith College. She has traced most of Darwin’s 5-year voyage on the HMS Beagle, noting how the places he visited have changed and how they remain the same. Dr. Swab will comment on Darwin’s plant collections and his struggle to identify plants. This event is free and includes a reception, but advance registration is requested.

Thomas Jefferson’s Revolutionary Garden
Thursday, March 15; 2:00 pm
Peter Hatch, Director of Gardens & Grounds for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello

Has any gardener collected so many kinds of vegetables as Thomas Jefferson assembled for his garden at Monticello? Peter Hatch will discuss his forthcoming book, “A Rich Spot of Earth: Thomas Jefferson’s Revolutionary Garden”—the story of Jefferson’s 1,000-foot-long, terraced vegetable garden, an experimental laboratory of 330 varieties of 99 species of herbs and vegetables. Carved from a hillside to create a uniquely warm microclimate, the garden was an Ellis Island of new and unusual introductions from around the world. Writing that “the greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture,” Jefferson exchanged seeds of the latest vegetable novelties with leading gardeners of the early 19th Century with missionary zeal. Co-sponsored by the Herb Society of America (HSA). Fee: $15 (free for HSA & NCBG members)

Robert Frost—Full Day of Spring
Wednesday, March 21; 7:00 pm
Peter White, Director
Back by popular demand! In recent years, Garden Director Peter White has celebrated the natural history of Frost’s poetry with the arrival of spring (this March marks the 138th anniversary of Frost’s birth). Combining three threads from his own childhood—his mother’s poetry, summers on a Maine lake, and a love of nature—Director White introduces you to Robert Frost, the natural historian who recognized many species of plants and animals on his daily walks, understood plant families, observed nature in detail, and wrote of the need for wilderness and conservation. Enjoy the science and the poetry of Robert Frost. Free, but advance registration is requested.

Silent Spring—Celebrating 50 Years of a Conservation Classic
In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the publication of Rachel Carson’s revolutionary Silent Spring, the Garden is hosting several special events this spring:

Silent Spring: a book discussion
Wednesday, April 18; 7:00–9:00 pm
Join NCBG Director Peter White, who facilitates this discussion—using a book-club discussion format—about Silent Spring’s impact as a major landmark in the environmental movement. Participants will independently read Silent Spring along with study questions provided by Dr. White and come prepared to discuss with others. This is a great opportunity to read a classic that had a huge influence on the birth of the environmental movement. This workshop serves as ¼ credit for the Certificate in Native Plant Studies, but is open to anyone. Fee: $20 ($15 NCBG members)

Bird Walk at Mason Farm with Cynthia Fox
Saturday, April 21; 8:00 am
Join Cynthia Fox, bird expert and owner of Chapel Hill’s Wild Bird Center, for an early morning walk at our Mason Farm Biological Reserve. The 367-acre reserve encompasses a combination of forests and old fields that support approximately 800 species of plants and 216 species of birds. A greater number of different species of animals have been recorded at Mason Farm than in any other comparable-sized area in the entire Piedmont. Participants will learn to recognize birds by song and sight. Bring your binoculars! Meeting place will be confirmed at time of registration. Pre-registration is required. Fee: $10 ($5 NCBG members)

Silent Spring: Bringing Immediacy to Its Anniversary
Thursday, April 26, 7:00 pm
Priscilla Coit Murphy, PhD, Scholar and Author of What a Book Can Do: The Publication & Reception of Silent Spring
This lecture focuses on the arrival, content, and impact of Silent Spring, still in print 50 years later. Describing how Silent Spring put the threat of pesticide abuse into American public view, Dr. Coit Murphy will re-create a sense of the course of events in 1962, to bring immediacy to the anniversary and the book’s unique ability to enable a single citizen to place a matter of public importance into the forums of debate. Free, but pre-registration required.

12th Annual Evelyn McNeill Sims Lecture
Sunday, April 29, 2:30 pm
Wildflowers & Wild Places: Finding Mentors & Muses for the Next Generation
—Tom Earnhardt, Naturalist, Writer, Botanical Garden Foundation Board Member

Children learn best before their early teens. In those years it is easier to absorb new languages, ride a bicycle, hold a slippery salamander, and learn to swim. It is also the time when children are most awed by the natural world. Unfortunately, in our high-speed, digital world, the main contact many children have with the wonders of nature—wildflowers, forests, streams, birds, insects—is via the small flat screens of smart phones and computers. Young adults are far more likely to gravitate to wild places, and become stewards of the natural world, if they were taken outside as youngsters by “mentors and muses.” All children should have the opportunity to enter the “digital free zone” of nature with mentors and muses. When girls and boys are shown their first Trout Lily, Flame Azalea, or Jack-in-the Pulpit, they never forget it!

For many years Tom Earnhardt has been a frequent visitor in North Carolina homes as writer/host of UNC-TV’s “Exploring North Carolina.” A lawyer by training and law professor for two decades, Tom has lived a rich “second life” as a naturalist, writer, and champion of wild places. Free, but pre-registration is requested.

Lectures & Special Events

10 NCBG Newsletter February 2012
Consider This

Conservation Support from a Crop Protection Partner
by Johnny Randall, Associate Director for Natural Areas & Conservation Programs

The Garden’s Conservation Department has benefitted from and depends on a diverse array of funding sources. Only two out of the five full-time Conservation staff positions are state-funded; the other three positions rely on Botanical Garden Foundation endowments and expendable accounts, gifts, grants, and contracts from federal agencies, non-profits, and corporations. These funding sources will provide over a half-million dollars to the Conservation Department over the next four years!

Our longest-running (decade-long) line of support comes from Syngenta Crop Protection, who recognized the North Carolina Botanical Garden as a leader in conservation practices and considers ours one of their most successful partnerships. Syngenta funded the publication of our wildly popular “Controlling Invasive Plants” booklet (now in its second revision and fourth printing), which is already in the hands of thousands and is available as a PDF on our website. Even more significant, Syngenta has provided major support for our seed collection and storing endeavors (i.e., seedbanking) with the Millennium Seed Bank (msb, of Kew Garden, England), the Seeds of Success program (sos, coordinated by the US Bureau of Land Management), and our 27-year involvement with the Center for Plant Conservation (cpc).

Seedbanking, otherwise known as ex situ (off-site) plant conservation, safeguards both vulnerable plant species (through cpc) and the more common native plants (msb and sos) that represent the plant community matrix. Our cpc holdings provide seeds for legitimate rare plant recovery work, for research, and to safeguard against extinction in the wild. The msb and sos collections are used in habitat restoration projects and native plant cultivar development. I should also point out that all food and forage crops have wild ancestors that continue to play a role in the development of new varieties and crop improvements (for disease resistance, drought tolerance, vigor, nutritional value, etc.). I look forward to the day that some of our stored seeds might be used to bolster the quality of food and forage crops!

Our sos activities have resulted in the collection of tens of thousands of seeds and two prestigious recognitions: the first sos Seed Collector Award, which went to Conservation Botanist Andy Walker in 2009, and the Partners in Conservation Award from the Bureau of Land Management in 2010. I represented the Garden at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seedbank Planning meeting this year in January, in New York, and we will officially brand our Southeast Regional Seedbank in the near future.

It is an agreeable irony that Syngenta Crop Protection supports our rehabilitation of former agricultural lands like Mason Farm Biological Reserve, given their primary focus on agronomics. And in fact, we can think of our Syngenta-fueled Mason Farm rehabilitation efforts as farmland improvement!
Mason Farm Reserve
Angela G. Beasley
Susan Blackford & Jan Hansen
William V. Burlingame
Margaret Campion
David Greenwood
William R. Kaiser
William Kier & Kathleen Smith
Alicia B. Maynard
Kat Mordeciai
Patricia L. Murphy
Robert & Sinead Pitts
Lynn Richardson
David Sikes

Natural Areas Endowment
Callhoun Bond Jr.

Propagation Beds
James Schmidt

Sculpture in the Garden
Ruth E. Brown
Forrest & Carol-Arn Greenslade
Frank D. Holter
Roger & Beth Lamanna
Carolyn A. Owen

GARDEN CLUBS
Garden Club Council of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
Lake Forest Garden Club of Chapel Hill
Lake Trace Garden Club, Sanford
Woodrose Garden Club, Raeford

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS
Paul Bassette—for Timothy Bassette
Linda Joy Collins—for Richard Collins
Amy D. Dement—for Catherine Adamson
Rosine D. Frederick—for Stacey Hagerty
Pomegranate Rose
Jim Phillips—for Teresa Phillips & Kathy Shrats
Christopher Wells—for Doris Wells
Peter White—for Chris Payne

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Carol & Norton Hadler
Frances M. Allen
Jim R. Massey
Dr. & Mrs. Cliff Baggett
Timothy Carl & Mary Sue Smith
Timmy Battle
Raleigh Fine Arts Society
Battle Park Volunteers & Interns
Stephen Keith
Jeffery Beam
Rachel J. Frew
Catherine Bollinger

David M. Bollinger
Jerree Scheinlin
Elizabeth Farrow Burford
Betty Ray McCay
Ned & Nancy Carson
Mary L. Dexter & Bonnie Kell
Arthur S. DeBerry
Mary Alice C. Youths
Mignon & Arthur S. DeBerry
Eleanor Lamb

Nancy Easterling
Susan Slatkoff & Ronald Strauss

Ruth Edgerton
Helen Jane Wetttach
Steven Feingold
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Sally Heiney
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Ann H. Mack
Wanda & Tye Hunter
Mike Mathers & Sandra Brooks-Mathers
Charlotte Jones-Roe
James D. Joslin
Jim R. Massey
Stephen Keith
Linda Keith Chadwick
Ann M. Kirk
Pat Kiffin
Peter Michael Kiffin
Beth Kurz
Lillis Altschuller
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Ginger R. Travis
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Ken Moore & Kathy Buck
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M. Franchot Palmer
Bahar Prater
Olivia B. Holling
Betsy & John Pringle
Harriet & D. G. Martin
Sharlie Battle Robins
Raleigh Fine Arts Society
Elizabeth Russo
Nidia T. Scharlock
Margaret & Tom Scott
Rachel Ray Wright
Rev. Julia Ross Strope
Leandra Strope
Nan Davis Van Every
Jean H. Ebert
Barbara Warren
Robert H. Warren
Helen Jane Wetttach
Ginger Travis
Nancy Winslow
Nina Gray Wallace

IN MEMORY OF
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John H. Bramson
Thelma Boyd
Deborah M. Hock
William C. Coker Garden Club, gardening books for library
Valerie Broadwell
Little Creek Neighborhood Assoc.
John & Else Couch
John Robert Stuelin

Bill Craft
Anna R. Craft
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Claire & F. Hudnall Christopher Jr.
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Diane Willis

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Mary McKeel Fetton
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Fetton Herbarium Internship
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for Mason Farm Reserve
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Robert Dricks Jr.
Mary Edurburn
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Sharon Lee Graham
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Mike & Jane Medlin
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Eleanor Lamb
Mary Alice C. Younts
Rachel J. Frew
Stephen Keith
Jim R. Massey
for
Mike Mathers & Sandra Brooks-Mathers
Anne Murphy
Chris Payne

Harriet & D. G. Martin
Mary McKee Felton

Shirley S. McLean
John Hill & Lynette Parker
Jessica Lee Rutson
Albert & Laurie Radford
David & Jean Radford
Leif Rego
Mike Mathers & Sandra Brooks-Mathers
Earlene Rupert
Winifred C. Browne
Lilian Smith
Margot C. Lester
Jean & Pearson Stewart
Jim R. Massey
Maryellen Bowers
Ken Moore & Kathy Buck
Jean C. Stewart
David N. Thompson
Charles & Patricia Thompson
Anna H. Wilson
Gay Brashears
Jean D. Buckwaller
Margaret Campion
Laurence & Eleanor Dahners
Harrice & J. Kimball King
Ed & Mary Alice Lebekin
Patrick Michael Riley
Colin G. Thomas Jr.
Audrey & Jeanette L. Tolley

MATCHING GIFTS
Amgen Foundation—matching the gift of Edward & Kari A. Oelberwitz
Becton Dickinson—matching the gift of Perry Haaland & Pamela Timmons
Coca-Cola Co.—matching the gift of Stephen & Sandra Rich
Colegate-Palmolive—matching the gift of Lowell M. Hoffman
GlaxoSmithKline—matching the gift of Charles & Karen Goss

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Jefery Bean
Emma M. Beckham
Linda Convissor
Diane Frazier
Elisabeth Bragg Grey
Stephen N. Johnson
Eszter S. Karvazy
James M. Kirkman
Joseph Robert Moran
Karla Reed
Bruce Lee Runberg
Richard V. Woldenberg
Alice Zawadzki

Gifting of Charles & Karen Goss

February 2012 NCBG Newsletter 13
Flora of the Sandhills—musings

By Bruce A. Sorrie, University of North Carolina Herbarium Associate

The Sandhills is a narrow band of rolling hills between the flat Coastal Plain and the Piedmont. It extends from North Carolina to Georgia. Note that the Sandhills Region belongs to the Coastal Plain Province, not the Piedmont as stated by some authors. Its geology, physiography, climate, and botanical history belong to the Coastal Plain; this is why biologists and geographers often refer to it as the “inner coastal plain” rather than any part of the Piedmont.

The Sandhills represent the innermost advances of the ocean onto the continent, beginning some 40 million years ago and with intermittent advances over the eons. Even as recently as 2 million years ago, Fayetteville enjoyed ocean views and a maritime environment! Since then, however, the Atlantic has retreated more-or-less steadily to its present position. With each retreat of the ocean, the Sandhills region was subjected to the usual weathering processes and also received material carried down from Mountain and Piedmont areas; therefore the Sandhills region isn’t simply old beach sand but a complex of soil types.

In North Carolina, the Sandhills comprise parts of Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland Counties. No one county occurs completely within this region. For example, just a short distance east and southeast of Erwin, Fayetteville, Raeford, and Laurinburg, the landscape is dramatically flat and dotted with Carolina bays of all sizes; here you are in the “middle coastal plain” and you encounter many plants that do not occur in the Sandhills proper. Conversely, just a short distance west and northwest of Lillington, Sanford, Carthage, and Rockingham, the soil has rocks in it and rock outcrops occur on riversides and slopes; here you are in the Piedmont. This rapid turnover in soil types and floras makes the Sandhills a transition zone, where one can see some dramatic east–west couplings of plants. For example, in Fayetteville you can see mountain laurel and galax growing within a few yards of pond cypress and Atlantic white cedar! West of Rockingham, silverbell trees and dwarf larkspur (Delphinium tricorne) grow in the same floodplain as floating pennywort (Hydrocotyle ranunculoides) and cypress-knee sedge (Carex decomposita). And at Raven Rock State Park, creeping blueberry grows beneath Catawba rhododendron!

With plants from two major phytogeographic regions on either side, plus some endemics of its own, the Sandhills boasts a remarkably diverse flora for its relatively small size. Just how many you ask? Let’s first take a look at the state as a whole: North Carolina has about 4000 species and varieties—3200 of them native, 800 non-native. As of August 2011, 2038 species and varieties had been documented for the Sandhills; 1708 of them are native, 330 alien. Thus, the Sandhills Region supports half of all plants known from North Carolina! In this era of “green,” it is comforting to know that you don’t have to travel all over the place to see a very large portion of our state’s plants.

Looking at individual counties, Richmond has the largest documented flora with 1450 species and varieties, then Moore (1440), Cumberland (1431), Harnett (1334), Hoke (1150), Lee (1060), and Scotland (919). More important are the numbers of native plant species: Richmond leads with (1277), then Cumberland (1247), Moore (1231), Harnett (1176), Hoke (1003), Lee (925), and Scotland (797). Lee and Scotland have small floras, but for different reasons. Lee is very small in area and has not been as intensively studied as the others. Scotland does not overlap the Piedmont nor does it have a piedmont river running through it, such as the Pee Dee, Deep, or Cape Fear; these brownwater rivers bring many Piedmont species with them down into Cumberland, Harnett, Lee, Moore, and Richmond Counties. Hoke also lacks any direct Piedmont influence, but boasts a large percent of Fort Bragg with its plethora of fire-dependent plants of the longleaf pine ecosystem, including many rarities. Only Hoke and Scotland have Carolina bays and associated “middle coastal plain” flora.

I encourage any student of the native flora of the Southeast to delve into the diversity of the Sandhills. You will be richly rewarded.
A special presentation & fundraiser for the UNC Herbarium . . . join us!

Bartram and Michaux—stories of botanists and explorers
March 7, 7:00 pm, Reeves Auditorum, Education Center

Join us for this fundraiser for the UNC Herbarium—a unit of the North Carolina Botanical Garden. Herbarium Curator Alan Weakley is master of ceremonies. Garden Director Peter White first discusses botany as an historical science—a subject whose understanding is built through years of observation and is rich with interesting and colorful people from past generations. He will focus on the Quaker botanists and their influence on botany in the late 1700s and 1800s, especially William Bartram of Philadelphia who explored the Southeast at the time of early European settlement, when Native American civilizations and old-growth forests were part of the landscape. You will be fascinated as he weaves in stories of the Lost Colonies and John Lawson, who journeyed between Pittsboro and Hillsborough in the early 1700s.

Continue as a botanical time-traveler in the second part of the program: a visit to 18th-century America with an experienced, dedicated French explorer-botanist for your guide. Andre Michaux will entertain you with stories of his journey through the rugged and beautiful Carolina landscape as he surveyed this largely unknown land, searching for useful trees and plants. He describes his wilderness adventures and some of his botanical discoveries as well as encounters with inhabitants of early America. Michaux is played by retired librarian/Michaux scholar Charlie Williams of Charlotte, NC. Appearing in 18th-century dress, he speaks to his audience in the formal English of the day and the tone of a dedicated scientist.

Help us raise funds and awareness for the UNC Herbarium—the largest museum collection of plants in the Southeast. The Herbarium safeguards more than a century’s-worth of plant specimens that provide the underpinning of all we know about plant identification, taxonomic relationships, and distribution in our region of the world. Fee: $10 ($5 NCBG members). Pre-registration is required: please call 919-962-0522 or email laurende@email.unc.edu.

Staff Notes

Garden Director Peter White and retired Assistant Director Ken Moore hosted the Raleigh Fine Arts Society’s visit to the Garden on October 18. The visit was arranged by our former Board member Louise Talley. Peter presented the lecture “The Ecological and Evolutionary Lessons of Fall” to the Garden’s volunteers on November 17.

In October, Natural Science Educator Grant Parkins attended the North American Association of Environmental Educators (NAAEE) Conference, which was held in Raleigh. He co-presented a full-day workshop for the conference called “Transforming School Grounds into Teaching Tools” (part of this workshop was hosted at the Garden). In addition, Grant, Johnny Randall, Lauren Davis, and Sally Haskett teamed up to provide a field trip to Mason Farm Biological Reserve and the Display Gardens for NAAEE participants called “Conserving Native Species and Natural Communities.” In November, Grant also gave two presentations to the North Carolina Science Teachers’ Association’s annual Professional Development Institute: “Earth Partnership for Schools” and “Themed Gardens for the Schoolyard.”

On November 15, Johnny Randall, Associate Director for Natural Areas & Conservation Programs, and Publications & Publicity Coordinator Laura Cotterman “manned” the Garden’s display at the UNC-Chapel Hill Sustainability Day event. On November 17, Johnny gave a presentation titled “Ecology, Landscape Design, and Urban Conservation Practices” to the Durham County Master Gardeners in Hillsborough. Johnny also presented on remnant Piedmont savanna roadside vegetation conservation at the N.C. Vegetation Management Association’s annual meeting on December 8 in Chapel Hill. And he attended the founding meeting of MARS-B, the Mid-Atlantic Region Seedbank, at the Black Rock Forest Lodge and Science Center in Cornwall, New York, on January 3–5.

Katie Stoudemire, Program Coordinator for Healing & Hope Through Science, completed the UNC School of Education Department’s NC Teach program last summer and received her Professional Educator’s License from the State of North Carolina this December.
Membership Dues!!

Wondering when your membership is up for renewal? Check right above your name & address on every issue of the newsletter.

Our garden is serving as the regional host for National Public Gardens Day 2012, on May 11! Watch our website and e-news update, “Garden Notes,” for details on special events that day.

Volunteers: Save the Date!

GARDEN VOLUNTEERS
DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS!

Thursday, April 19, 5–7 pm

Celebrate with us as we recognize, YOU, our extraordinary volunteers. Please join us for dinner, friendship, and entertainment as we honor your service with the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

Garden Hours

Weekdays Year-round: 8 am – 5 pm

Weekends now–May 28
Saturdays 9 am – 5 pm
Sundays 1 pm – 5 pm

Weekends June 2–Sept 2
Saturdays 9 am – 6 pm
Sundays 1 pm – 6 pm

Please consult our website for holiday closings.

DeBerry Gallery for Botanical Art & Illustration

through February 27

Seed Play by Nancy G. Cook

Nancy Cook, internationally exhibited artist from Charlotte, NC, creates realistic images of natural objects with textiles, ink, and thread. “Seed Play” explores the architecture of seeds and fruit in a whole-cloth quilt format. “My artwork combines my passions for nature, texture, color and women’s work as art. I strive for lively compositions using hand-guided machine quilting for bas relief and add additional dimension with hand stitching.”

March 3 – April 1

UNC Masters in Fine Art Students

Lee Delegard and Chris Musina approach nature in different yet similar ways. Lee creates works of cultural objects, colors, and materials that transform into a natural ecology of sorts. Chris uses nature as a descriptor of culture, a tool to understand that which opposes nature. These artists works consider the local environments, including plant life, to interrogate the culture of a specific place.