National Public Gardens Day Recognition

The North Carolina Botanical Garden will join 21 public gardens throughout the state and more than 500 public gardens across the nation in celebration of the fourth annual National Public Gardens Day on May 11. In a partnership between the American Public Gardens Association and Rain Bird, an irrigation and service provider, National Public Gardens Day encourages communities to discover the natural beauty of their local green spaces while raising awareness of the important role public gardens play in promoting environmental preservation, resource conservation, education and biological diversity.

“This celebration brings together schools, families, garden enthusiasts and community members to explore the natural beauty of America’s gardens and engage in hands-on activities that inspire environmental awareness,” says Garden Director Peter White. “We look forward to a successful weekend of events and activities. Please join us for the activities listed at right, and bring a friend new to the Garden! → → → → →

A Sustainable Garden Party!

The Garden’s first annual Gala, hosted by the Botanical Garden Foundation, will be on June 2, 6:30–11:00 pm. Enjoy tasty hors d’oeuvres from Durham Catering Company with wine and beer, dancing to music by Rebecca & The Hi-Tones, and bidding on items in our intriguing silent auction. All proceeds from the Gala will support the Garden’s programs in conservation, horticulture, and education. Join us!

The online auction begins on May 19 and closes at 9:30 pm on the Gala night. Over 60 items, ranging from special private tours of Garden natural areas, Nature Conservancy preserves (The Green Swamp!), and the NC Zoo; a plethora of art pieces, including sculpture, paintings, prints, and photographs (works by Jim Gallucci, Hunter Levinsohn, Frank Holder, Mark Hewitt, Robert Johnson, Miriam Sagasti, David Otto, and others); landscape designer and architect consults; a children’s class series and week-long camp; a home gardening workshop; refurbished antique garden furniture of special provenance; dining at local restaurants; Vietri planters; and a variety of items from local retailers. Some special vacation getaways will be available to gala attendees only.

Tickets: $125 ($85 tax deductible) On-line Auction: May 19–June 2 at 9:30 pm
For tickets and to browse the auction: ncbg.unc.edu/carolinamoonlight/

... AND ... there is still time to support the gala with a sponsorship!
Bronze $500 Platinum $5,000
Silver $1,000 LEED $10,000
Gold $2,500 Contact Stephen Rich for details: stevearich@bellsouth.net

→ → → → →

11:30 am–1:30 pm: Springtime in the Arboretum
Bring a picnic and take a relaxed lunch hour at the Coker Arboretum. Tour guides will offer historical and botanical insights about the 100+-year-old campus garden. Meet the author and purchase a copy of A Haven in the Heart of Chapel Hill: Artists Celebrate the Coker Arboretum.

2:00–3:30 pm: Vegetable Tasting at the Carolina Campus Community Garden
Taste organically grown spring greens including radish, collards, mustard, bok choy, kale, lettuce and Chinese cabbage. Then tour this volunteer-run community garden that offers fresh produce to the lowest-paid University employees.

5–7 pm: A Public Garden Celebration!
Join us on the landscaped hillside embraced by our LEED Platinum Education Center... view spring displays of diverse plants native to the Southeast, enjoy light refreshments, and celebrate the proclamation of May 11 as National Public Gardens Day, delivered by Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt. Music provided by the Franklin Street Traditional Jazz Band.

→ → → → →

Inside
• The Generosity of Plants
• Fall Certificate Classes
• Home Gardening Workshops
• Gardening Questions Answered
• A Land Ethic . . . and much more!
The Generosity of Plants

My original ambition for this column was to persuade you that plants are inherently generous—that they grow outward and upward, providing great things in excess of their needs, including shade, oxygen, seeds, fruits, and edible stems, roots, and leaves. Plants are the very foundation of the ever-renewing ecosystem and support all animal species as the base of the pyramid of life.

Then on March 23 I attended an event at the Carolina Campus Community Garden (cccg), which generously provides food to UNC Housekeepers and educational opportunities for students and staff. There I found that the generosity of plants (and the work of Claire Lorch, NCBG staff and the cccg coordinator) was very well illustrated by one of the presenters, Jessica Martell, a Ph.D. candidate in UNC’s English Department who had incorporated the cccg into a class she teaches at UNC.

What follows is excerpted from Jessica’s presentation titled “A Pedagogical Perspective on Campus/Community Gardening.”

I am delighted to speak about my experience using the Carolina Campus Community Garden as a pedagogical tool. I am an instructor with UNC’s Summer Bridge program, a fantastic program that offers admitted Carolina freshmen the opportunity to take summer school classes before beginning their first year.

For last summer’s Bridge group, my colleague Zack Vernon and I designed a food-themed writing course that was inspired by Carolina’s summer reading choice—Jonathan Safran Foer’s Eating Animals, a treatise on the ethics of eating meat that advocates for vegetarianism by exposing the horrific state of our factory farming system. I think that the ethics of eating anything is an important topic to present to new Carolina students because, for perhaps the first time in their lives, they are suddenly responsible for feeding themselves. While they found connections of their own, what I found was a link between ourselves and a way of life that has seemingly disappeared. It is empowering to draw upon a real, living past as we imagine and map out our collective cultural future. The future of farming could very well look like the campus garden, and having this garden at UNC—on campus, within walking distance—allowed me to show this possible future to my students in the hopes that they may want to work for it with me.

Without our experience there, change would have remained a hypothetical concept, perhaps interesting to contemplate but not especially memorable or achievable. A vision of positive change took on a corporeal form in the garden, and it was a profound gift that was given to us.

Jessica Martell (far left, back row) and Zackary Vernon (far right, in overalls), both English graduate students and instructors in the UNC–CH Summer Bridge Program, took their English 100 Bridge classes to the Carolina Campus Community Garden last July (2011). Photo by Claire Lorch.
Educational Outreach News

This spring, the Garden has been visiting local 5th grade classrooms to help them prepare for their end-of-year standardized tests in science. A “Visiting Naturalist” teaches the students about producers, consumers, and decomposers, and leads students in an owl pellet dissection. Aja Kennedy, UNC student and APPLES Intern, is leading the program. Aja reports on her experience:

This semester, I served as an Education Intern in K–12 Outreach for the Garden as part of UNC’s APPLES Service-Learning Program. As a graduating senior interested in going into the field of education, this experience was invaluable to me as a vehicle to gain classroom experience as well as observe other teachers, all while getting out into the community and outside of the “bubble” that is UNC’s campus for a few hours every week. It felt great to go into classrooms and give kids an opportunity to get their hands a bit dirty with our hands-on activities; and it’s rewarding when I see evidence that they have retained the information learned by the end of the lesson. Furthermore, as someone with little experience working with environmental education and sustainability, I am constantly opening my eyes to the world of environmental conservation and ecology through working with the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

Thanks to Another APPLES Service-Learning Student

Many sincere thanks to Olivia Lamontagne, UNC senior, who also served as an Education Intern this spring through the APPLES Service-Learning Program. The goal of the internship is to provide hands-on, real-world experience in environmental education. Olivia worked with Children’s & Family Programs to prepare and deliver preschool classes, a homeschool course for 10- to 13-year-olds, and family workshops. She also provided invaluable support and enthusiasm for a wide variety of projects, including developing teaching materials, an exhibit for the new bird blind, and maintaining the children’s Wonder Garden and vegetable garden. After graduation, Olivia will be working in schools in Asheville.

Sentinel Plant Network—Southern Regional Workshop

Associate Director for Horticulture Jim Ward and Nursery/Greenhouse Manager Matt Gocke attended a two-day training workshop for the Sentinel Plant Network (SNP) at the Bartlett Tree Research Labs and Arboretum in Charlotte, NC. The SPN is a collaborative effort between the American Public Gardens Association and the National Plant Diagnostic Network, funded through the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The SPN endeavors to contribute to plant conservation by engaging public garden professionals, volunteers, and visitors in “First Detector” training and diagnosis of high consequence pests and pathogens. Currently, the SPN includes over 100 member gardens in 32 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian provinces. Jim and Matt received ID training and learned how to access diagnostic support to better monitor and protect the Garden’s plant collections.
A Developing Garden notes from Charlotte Jones-Roe, Associate Director–Development

An unanticipated gift from the late William Joslin will help the Garden retain several staff positions in spite of state budget cuts and add significantly to the Coker Arboretum Endowment. Bill and his wife Mary Coker Joslin were among the original contributors to the permanent endowment fund for Coker Arboretum in the late 1990s. Fifteen years since the first gift by the DeBerry family, the basis of the Coker Arboretum Endowment has grown to more than $600,000. The goal is to grow the endowment so that it will fully sustain the salaries, wages, and materials necessary to keep the Arboretum at its best through even the most debilitating funding cuts. UNC alumni, and all for whom the Arboretum is a special place, are encouraged to consider following Bill’s example, at this time or as part of your estate plans. Among the many recent contributions to the Coker Arboretum Endowment are those from Nolan Lovins, Linda Williams Norris, Sarah J. Wilds, Carolyn and Fraser MacIntyre and future members and volunteers help clients with illnesses and disabilities benefit from hands-on gardening experiences. Other aspects of the Garden’s Educational Outreach continue, thanks to contributions including those from Tom Kenan and the Snyder-Watchorn Foundation. Tour Guide Paula LaPoint, learning of a need, arranged for the Central North Carolina Mineral Club to contribute to scholarships for this summer’s Nature Explorers day camp at the Garden. If you would like to help a child attend Nature Explorers, or contribute the $150 that allows an entire third grade to tour the Garden, please let us know.

Another much-needed structure near the Education Center is under construction with support from family and friends of Botanical Garden Foundation Board member Tom Scott and his wife Margaret: the attractive open-air pavilion will soon display and shade Garden-propagated plants for sale.

As always, and especially in years like this when the state has reduced funding of the Garden’s budget to less than 40%, memberships and gifts “where the need is greatest” are crucial. In addition to the unrestricted portion of Bill Joslin’s trust, the Garden has received membership dues and unrestricted contributions, including those from Margaret “Peg” Parker, the Silver Foundation, Nan and Edgar Lawton, Sandy and Reaves Thompson, David and Laurie Joslin, Nolan Lovins, Jennifer Parker, the Marshall & Isley Trust Company, Claire and Hudnall Christopher, Barbara Roth, Elisa Jones, Lucille and Lawrence Howard, Bruce Carney, Larry Blanton and Candace Haigler, Harriet and D.G. Martin, the Mary & Elliot Wood Foundation, the Neisler Foundation, John Robert Stellin, Preston Stockton, John McLendon, Peter and Carolyn White, Jonathan and Mary Howes, Mark and Stacey Yusko, Banks and Louise Wooten Talley, Joel Mattox, Karen Perrizzolo, Lale and John Burk, Charles and Nancy Norwood, and many others. Katharine Lee Reid is among our members who designated their gifts to build the General Operating Endowment: her gift will generate unrestricted funds next year and from now on. Your dues and undesignated gifts keep the Garden open, and we are most appreciative!

The North Carolina Chapter of the Piedmont Hosta Society made a contribution toward the new landscape and the American Hosta Society has contributed to the development of the Wonder Garden.

The Battle Park Endowment Fund has received many contributions since the last newsletter. All are recognized in the Gift List, but especially generous contributions came from Moyna Monroe, Mike and Elton Miles, Gary and Frances Whaley, Courtney Toledo, Ida Ballard, Richard Rosemond, Bibby Moore, Henry Grossberg, and the Raleigh Fine Arts Society. The purpose of the fledgling Battle Park Endowment is to generate funds so that the beautiful forest and trails between Gimghoul Castle and Forest Theatre will never again lack for care. Deborah Miller designated her gift for the Forest Theatre Restoration Fund, another campus treasure in the care of Battle Park Curator Stephen Keith and the students, interns, and volunteers who assist him.

There are still attractive rooms in the Education Center for which we are seeking sponsors! If you are interested in naming a space or honoring someone with a naming, please call Charlotte Jones-Roe: 919-962-9458.

If you have not visited the Mercer Hubbard Herb Garden recently, you are in for a treat. Two years ago, Eszter Karvaz donated a ceramic sculpture made by local artist Sarah Craige. Gifts from many individuals have added to Eszter’s gift, allowing us to install the piece featuring cont’d on next page
a pomegranate tree and beautiful white bird against a breathtakingly blue sky. In a matter of days after installation, the Carolina Blue ceramic mural was drawing visitors into the Herb Harden, a site where many people first become interested in knowing and growing plants.

The reference library in our Green Gardener Room continues to be a very popular resource. The collection began with the horticultural library left by Addie Totten, a strong advocate for gardening and horticulture in her role as president of the Garden Clubs of North Carolina. A bequest from Sarah Fore Gaines sponsored construction of the room in which the library is now housed. Gifts from Ellen M. Johnson and others funded shelving and many needed additions. For many years, Garden Business Manager Frances Allen has contributed to pay for subscriptions so that current periodicals would be available to users of this library. Among other recent contributors to the library are Gail Sandler, the Gay Rakes Garden Club, and the Laurel Hill Garden Club. Many thanks to all the contributors and volunteers who make the Garden’s library available for the use and enjoyment of all.

Mary Coker Joslin, whose uncle Will Coker founded the UNC Herbarium, has made a generous contribution that will provide helpful funds right away for Herbarium staff, interns, and volunteers. Among the other “Friends of the Herbarium” who made recent expendable gifts are Anne Fleishel Harris and James Albert Belcher. Recent additions to the UNC Herbarium permanent endowment fund have come from Henry and Irene Cotter, Rachel Frew, and Mrs. Wallace Wooten. Others have quietly informed us that gifts to the Herbarium will be part of their legacy. Work on “The Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States” by Curator Alan S. Weakley continues, and hiring for this year’s Charles T. Mohr and Mary M. Felton interns is underway. The UNC Herbarium is a lively place these days.

The North Carolina Botanical Garden is a “Conservation Garden,” and one of the functions of our private, non-profit support organization, the Botanical Garden Foundation, is to act as a land trust for special natural areas. Calhoun Bond made a recent gift toward the Natural Areas Endowment, which was established to provide funds for stewardship of the Foundation’s natural areas. Shelby and Noel Dunivant are among those who contributed recently to Stillhouse Bottom Nature Preserve. Other Garden members have designated their gifts to build the endowment for UNC-owned Mason Farm Biological Reserve, including Lynn Richardson, Margaret Markham, Kat Mordecai, and Patricia Murphy. Among recent contributors to the Garden’s general Conservation Fund were the Schwab Fund, John and Ashley Wilson, Jay Corum, and Catherine Bollinger and Tom Scheidt.

We are grateful to all of our members and contributors who make it possible for the Garden to continue to display and conserve native plants, protect natural areas, study and propagate native species, heal and educate and inspire people of all ages, and plant seeds of understanding and appreciation of plants and nature in future generations. Thank you for your interest and support.

Charlotte Jones-Roe
Associate Director–Development
919-962-9458  jonesto@unc.edu

Gifts

Thank you to all who support the Garden, especially to the many whose membership dues and gifts were received in the period January 2–March 30, 2012.

GENERAL SUPPORT
William T. & Gail S. Alberti
Sue Aldworth
Laura & Sydenham B. Alexander Jr.
Carl & Mary D. Anderson
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Eppie Bennett Cox
Earl R. Creutzburg
William E. Crow
Chesley Cucich
Linda Curcio, for portable exhibit

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Fall 2012 Certificate Courses

The following Certificate Program Courses are described in full on our website: http://ncbg.unc.edu. 😊 = “No prerequisites”—open to anyone!


### Botany 😊
Olivia Lenahan, Ph.D Horticultural Science
- Saturdays, Aug 4, 11, 18, 25; 9:15 am–1:15 pm
- Fee: $150 ($135 NCBG members)

### Soil Ecology 😊
Nicolette Cagle, Ecologist
- Saturdays, Aug 4, 11, 18; 1:30–5:30 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Short Course: Drawing for People Who Think They Can’t Draw 😊
Emma Skurnick, Professional Artist
- Saturday, Aug 25; 1:00–4:30 pm
- Fee: $40 ($35 NCBG members)

### Short Course: Introduction to Botanical Illustration 😊
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
- Saturday, Aug 25; 1:00–4:30 pm
- Fee: $40 ($35 NCBG members)

### Beginning Drawing
Emma Skurnick, Professional Artist
- Mondays, Aug 27, Sep 10, 17, 24; 1:00–4:30 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Plant Ecology
Steph Jeffries, Forest Ecologist
- Wednesdays Sep 5, 12, 19, 26; 9:30 am–12:30 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members). Rain Date: 10/3

### Applied Conservation Biology
Johnny Randall, NCBG Director of Conservation
- Thursdays, Sep 13, 20, 27, Oct 11, 18, 25; 3:00–5:00 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Beginning Watercolor
Maryann Roper, Professional Artist
- Tuesdays, Sep 4, 11, 18, 25; 1:00–4:30 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Short Course: Fall Leaves in Colored Pencil 😊
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
- Saturday, Sep 8; 1:00–4:30 pm
- Fee: $40 ($35 NCBG members)

### Field Sketching
Emma Skurnick, Professional Artist
- Mondays, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22; 1:00–4:30 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Intermediate Watercolor Techniques for Illustrators NEW!
Emma Skurnick, Professional Illustrator
- Tuesdays, Oct 2, 9, 16, 23; 10:00 am–1:30 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Short Course: Introduction to Mushrooms
Rytas Vilgalys, Dept of Biology Duke University
- Wednesday, Oct 3, 4:00–4:45 pm & Saturday, Oct 6 9:30–11:00 am 😊
- Fee: $40 ($35 NCBG members)

### Beginning Colored Pencil
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
- Saturdays, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27; 1:00–4:30 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Short Course: Lichens 😊
Gary Perfumter, UNC Herbarium Associate
- Wednesday, Oct 10, 9:00 am–3:00 pm
- Fee: $80 ($65 NCBG members)

### Advanced Colored Pencil
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
- Wednesdays, Oct 10, 17, 24, 31; 1:00–4:30 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Plant Taxonomy
Milo Pyne, Plant Ecologist
- Saturdays, Oct 27, Nov 3, 10, 17, 24; 1:15–4:15 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Pen & Ink
Emma Skurnick, Professional Artist
- Mondays, Oct 29, Nov 5, 19, 26; 1:00–4:30 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Dendrology 😊
Steph Jeffries, Forest Ecologist
- Wednesdays, Oct 31, Nov 7, 14, 28; 9:30 am–12:30 pm. Rain Date: 12/5
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Composition
Patricia Savage, Professional Artist
- Sundays, Nov 4, 11, 18, Dec 2; 1:15–4:45 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

### Flowering Plant Families
Olivia Lenahan, Ph.D Horticultural Science
- Sundays, Nov 4, 11, 18, Dec 2; 1:30–4:30 pm
- Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)
Home Gardening Workshops

Southeastern Native Perennials Walk & Talk
Chris Liloia, NCBG Curator
Tuesday, May 15, 6:00–8:00 pm
It’s spring! Join us for a walk through the Botanical Garden’s plant collections. This workshop will focus on our wonderful native perennials from Actaea racemosa (early black-cohosh) to Zizia aqua (common golden alexanders). We’ll use the garden around us as a starting point to explore topics like growing requirements as well as dividing, transplanting, and care of sun and shade perennials. Bring your questions! (and snacks if you like.) Fee: $37 ($32 NCBG members)

Native Plant Propagation
Matt Gocke, NCBG Nursery Manager
Saturday, June 2, 9:00 am–noon
Want to learn more about propagating native plants? In this class participants are exposed to several forms of vegetative propagation. Topics include the fundamentals of vegetative propagation and techniques for vegetatively propagating southeastern native plants using stem cuttings and root cuttings. A portion of the class is dedicated to hands-on propagation of native plant species and a tour of the propagation facilities at the Botanical Garden. Counts as ¼ credit for the Certificate in Native Plant Studies, but is open to anyone. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)

Green Roof Sheds
Alan Myers-Davis, Sr Project Mgr, Living Roofs, Inc
Saturday, June 16, 2:00–3:30 pm
Learn about all aspects of green roofs, including their history, benefits, and construction. This workshop is geared toward homeowners who are interested in building small-scale green roofs on their property. We will cover the basics of green roofs, trends in the industry, and creative ways homeowners can utilize green roofs in their landscapes and gardens. Participants will be eligible to purchase a full set of stamped architectural drawings for DIY green roof sheds at 50% off. Fee: $37 ($32 NCBG members).

Living Roofs, Inc., in Asheville, is the first company in NC specializing in professional green roof services and is committed to the development of green roof technologies (www.livingroofsinc.com)

Herbs and Cooking: Plant to Plate
Dilip Barman, gardener, chef, photographer
Saturday, July 21, 3:30–5:00 pm
Participants explore growing and cooking with herbs, highlighting common herbs such as rosemary, sage, basil, and oregano. After covering basic cultural practices for growing herbs locally, the workshop explores some conventional, as well as more unique, uses of these herbs in your cooking. Special dishes will be prepared for tasting! Fee (includes refreshments): $40 ($35 NCBG members)

Dilip Barman is President of the Triangle Vegetarian Society, North American Regional Coordinator for the International Vegetarian Union, and an organic gardener. He grows many herbs, roses, fruits, and ornamentals in his Durham garden and is an international presenter on vegetarian cooking.

Yoga at the Garden
Joanne Marshall, Yoga Instructor
Sundays, 3:30–4:45 pm: 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 non-gardeners alike. Bring your yoga mat if you have one; a limited number of mats will be available. Per-session fee: $10 ($5 NCBG members)

Organic Rose Gardening
Dilip Barman, gardener, chef, photographer
Sunday, June 3, 2:00–4:00 pm
Interested in growing roses but have stayed away because it’s too challenging? In this 2-hour workshop, we’ll discuss myths and learn that growing roses organically is fairly easy. June is not a good time to plant, but it is a great time to be on top of deadheading, fertilizing, preventing disease, and starting to plan next year’s garden. Gain information on how to select roses for the home garden; how and when to plant; issues of bare-root, potted, grafted, and own-root; pruning; and maintenance. Fee: $37 ($32 NCBG members)

Dilip Barman, organic gardener, has grown roses of many types organically and won awards for his roses.

Enticing Hummingbirds to Your Garden
Olivia Lenahan, Horticulturist
Saturday, June 23, 2:00–4:00 pm
This workshop covers plant selection, including native plants, growing tips, and a discussion of hummingbird habitats. In a walk through the garden, we will take a closer look at plants that attract these beautiful birds. Fee: $37 ($32 NCBG members)

Barefoot in the Garden: Colorful Groundcovers
Olivia Lenahan, Horticulturist
Saturday, July 14, 2:30–4:30 pm
This workshop covers colorful alternatives to lawn, with classroom discussions on groundcovers, including our wonderful native plants, and a walk through the gardens. Fee: $37 ($32 NCBG members)

Honeybee Hive Tour
Anne Cabell, hobbyist beekeeper
Sunday, June 3, 2:00–3:00 pm
Come learn about one of the world’s most fascinating insects and explore a real live hive. Bees are responsible for pollinating one third of the world’s food and produce one of the sweetest treats around. The workshop will take place at the Carolina Campus Community Garden (CCCG) located off Cameron Ave., in Chapel Hill. Open to all ages and free-of-charge! Rain date: 6/17. To get directions to the CCCG and confirm that the workshop will be held if weather is uncertain, check the CCCG website: http://sites.google.com/site/uncgarden/contact-us

More Workshops

Barefoot in the Garden:
Colorful Groundcovers
Olivia Lenahan, Horticulturist
Saturday, July 14, 2:30–4:30 pm
This workshop covers colorful alternatives to lawn, with classroom discussions on groundcovers, including our wonderful native plants, and a walk through the gardens. Fee: $37 ($32 NCBG members)

Lectures, hikes, children’s programs on next page . . . >>

Registration Procedure
Coming Soon—online registration for all our programs and events! Visit our website after May 1st for a quick and easy way to register.

http://ncbg.unc.edu
(call if you have questions)
North Carolina’s Estuaries in the Face of Sea Level Rise

Tuesday, May 22 – International Biological Diversity Day – 7 pm

Tom Hancock, Director of Conservation, Bald Head Island Conservancy

North Carolina is home to a variety of diverse coastal marine ecosystems including salt marshes and sea grass beds. In addition to their natural beauty, these ecosystems serve as valuable habitat for numerous species, many of which are commercially important. As North Carolinians, we should be proud of environments such as these that fringe our 300 miles of coastline, but at the same time we need to be aware of increasing pressures that are stressing these ecosystems and their inhabitants. One such pressure is sea level rise. In this lecture we will discuss our diverse estuarine habitats, the organisms that call them home, how sea level rise may impact their future, and what actions concerned citizens can take.

This lecture is free, but please register online.

Tom Hancock has a B.S. in biology, M.S. in marine biology, and a Ph.D. in biology (under the direction of Bill Smith at Wake Forest University). His research focused on the physiology and ecology of dune plants. He also taught life science at the middle school, high school, community college, and four-year college levels.

Art at the Garden

Visual Poetry of Piedmont Woodlands and Watersheds
photography by Dave Otto

Carrboro resident Dave Otto shares the visual poetry he has found wandering the streams and woodlands of the North Carolina Piedmont.

New Directions—
A Certificate in Botanical Art & Illustration Faculty Exhibit

Linda Koffenberger  Maryann Roper  Patricia Savage  Emma Skurnick
Reception: June 3, 2:00 pm

Selected Works by Alumni of the Certificate in Botanical Art & Illustration Program
Reception: August 5, 2:30 pm

The DeBerry Gallery will host a nature-themed exhibit by graduates of the Garden’s Certificate in Botanical Art & Illustration Program. Come see how their training has influenced the artworks they are currently creating.

Walks and Hikes

Mother’s Day Walk at Mason Farm
Sunday, May 13, 2:00–4:00 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 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).

Celebrate Endangered Species Day by attending the . . .

Penny’s Bend Wild Blue Indigo Hike
Saturday, May 19, 9:30 am–1:00 pm
Ed Harrison, Naturalist
Ed Harrison, Penny’s Bend Management Committee member, leads a hike through the spring landscape of this 84-acre natural area surrounded on three sides by the Eno River in northeast Durham. With luck, the wild blue indigo (Baptisia australis) will be in full bloom. Penny’s Bend Nature Preserve encompasses mature forests and remnant diabase glades and prairies with regionally rare plants. Fee: $10 ($5 NCBG members). Directions provided after registration. About 2 miles in length, much of this hike is on primitive trails over uneven terrain, with one short, steep climb up from the river. You will want to wear sturdy hiking footwear, and have a walking stick if you use one; bring water.

Pollination-Themed Tour of the Garden
Saturday, June 23, 10:00 am (rain or shine!)
In honor of National Pollinator Week, we are offering a FREE pollination-themed tour of the Garden. Come learn about the plight of our native pollinators and the role that native plant gardening plays in pollinator conservation. This 60-minute tour of our gardens will highlight various plants that attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other native pollinators. Participants will also receive tips and resources to turn their home landscape into a pollinator garden. Free, but please register online as with all programs!

Registration Procedure
Coming Soon—online registration for all our programs and events! Visit our website after May 1st for a quick and easy way to register
http://ncbg.unc.edu (call if you have questions)
**Children’s/Family Programs**

**Nature Tales: Storytime in the Garden (ages 2–5 with adult)**  
**Thursdays, through 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. Meet in the Education Center breezeway, rain or shine. Fee: $5 per family per date (no more than 3 children per adult, please!)

- May 10 – Terrific Trees
- May 17 – Bird Bonanza
- May 24 – Flower Power
- May 31 – Things with Wings
- Jun 7 – Gardening Fun
- Jun 14 – Going Batty
- Jun 21 – Wonderful Water
- Jun 28 – Over in the Meadow
- July 5 – A Shell for a Home
- Jul 12 – Fairy Tales
- Jul 19 – Snug as a Bug
- Jul 26 – Tracks and Trails
- Aug 2 – Itsy Bitsy Spider
- Aug 9 – Mud!
- Aug 16 – Hide and Seek

**Explore Morgan Creek! Family Hike (ages 5 & up w/adult)**  
**Saturday, June 2, 10:00 am–12:30pm**

Enjoy an early summer hike along our Nature Trails to Morgan Creek to explore this stream habitat and its local history. We’ll use nets to collect, examine, and discover the amazing world of aquatic insects and other water critters. Mayflies, crayfish, tadpoles, oh my! Learn about animal adaptations and the importance of indicator species to determine the health of the creek. Wear clothes and closed-toed shoes to get wet! This is a family program: parents/caregivers must remain with their child at all times. Fee, per family up to 3 people: $15 ($10 NCBG members); $5 per additional child.

**Kid’s Nature Photography Workshop**  
**Al Denelsbeck, Professional Photographer**

**Saturday, June 9 National Get Outdoors Day!! 10:00 am–1:00 pm**

Kid’s, get to know your camera! Learn techniques and then practice in the Garden taking photographs of the incredible things in nature. This workshop is geared toward youths aged 8–15, and will accommodate simpler cameras as well as advanced models. The goal is to examine the potential of any camera, and to demonstrate different approaches that can make photography interesting. See if you can capture some of the secrets of the Garden! Bring sun protection and a camera.

Al Denelsbeck (http://wading-in.net) has been pursuing photography for over 25 years, with emphasis on nature and wildlife. He stresses that photography is not about equipment but about approach—anyone can tackle it with enough dedication. Al has also worked in wildlife rehabilitation and rescue, and is an amateur naturalist.

**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 . . .

- 7 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

Camp brochure, registration info, and FAQs on our website: ncbg.unc.edu/nature-explorers-summer-camp/

**Exhibits**

**In the Eleanor Smith Pegg Exhibit Hall . . .**

**Plant This, Not That! on display through May 2012**

Six talented artists, in collaboration with our Conservation staff, have created a series of exhibit panels explaining problems associated with invasive plant species in our landscape and providing examples of beautiful native plants that can be used in our gardens instead.

**Haiku in the Breeze**  
**June 16 – July 30**

_This is my letter to the world,/That never wrote to me... —Emily Dickenson_

A good haiku is a brief letter to the world, a few words that capture something simple and important. Taking inspiration from the Weathergrams of Lloyd Reynolds (http://bit.ly/weathergram), we will hang 30 or more haiku in the Garden. Each haiku will be hand-written on a strip of plain brown paper and hung from trees and branches. Read these classic and contemporary haiku as they flutter in the breeze, then write your own in response and hang it up to join others. We are grateful to the North Carolina Haiku Society (http://nc-haiku.org/) for partnering with us to offer this interactive exhibit.

**Coming up this fall!**

**The 24th Annual Sculpture in the Garden**

**September 29 – December 16, 2012**
When we think of wildflowers and ferns, visions of cove hardwood forests in the Smokies, or lovely coastal plain wetlands, come to mind. The UNC Herbarium certainly has many plants collected in these botanical hotspots. However, some habitat descriptions are a bit different: “mortal of rock wall at Black Mountain United Methodist Church [North Carolina],” or “growing in brick wall, kept moist by air conditioner drip, on Ursulines Avenue, French Quarter, New Orleans [Louisiana],” or “crevices of sidewalks and bases of brick walls in Charleston [South Carolina].” Clearly these plants are city slickers!

In 2004 I encountered my first “wall plant,” Cymbalaria muralis (Kenilworth-ivy), growing in the mortared cracks of the ancient city walls of Bergamo in the foothills of the Italian Alps. Even the plant’s specific epithet, “muralis,” refers to its wall habitat! This lovely wildflower has purple blossoms resembling diminutive snapdragons. Given its European roots, I was surprised to encounter it again on a churchyard brick wall in Buncombe County, NC, in 2009. I wasn’t the first to note Cymbalaria’s presence in North Carolina: Dan Pittillo reported it in Henderson County in 1998, and Derick Poindexter found it in Alleghany County in 2006.

Cymbalaria is not unique in its love for old walls. While visiting New Orleans, my teenage daughter Rose asked, “Why does our hotel have ferns growing out of the walls?” Closer examination (and subsequent collection for an herbarium specimen) revealed that it was Pteris vittata, ladder brake. Alan Weakley includes “Old walls with lime mortar; native of e. Asia,” in his description of this species in the “Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States.”

I added a third wall plant to my personal list this past January when I found a small plant with weak, watery stems and minute flowers on old brick walls in Savannah, GA. I collected a clump and pressed it in the city guidebook that my husband carried. When I returned to the Herbarium, I showed it to Curator Alan Weakley. While he could not immediately recall the plant’s scientific name, he dug into his prodigious memory and came up with “artillery weed.” A quick check of his “Flora” revealed “Pilea microphylla (L.) Liebmann. Old rock and brick walls, urban areas.” The description continues: “Although listed by Radford, Ahles and Bell [Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas, 1968] as ‘a weed in and around greenhouses, not established as part of our flora,’ this species is well-established and weedy in Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA.”

What makes old brick walls so attractive to Pteris, Cymbalaria, and Pilea? They love calcium! Lime mortar is composed of lime (calcium oxide or calcium hydroxide) mixed with sand and water. Lime mortar is an ancient building material and was employed as early as the 4th Century B.C.E. by Greeks and Romans. Why old walls and not new walls? Masonry structures settle over time. These small movements break the weakest part of the wall—the mortar—and these microcracks offer spores and seeds hospitable places to germinate. Most modern walls and buildings are constructed with cement rather than lime mortar because it is easier to use. However, lime mortar is more porous than cement, and it wicks dampness in the wall to the surface where it can evaporate. This “breathability” of lime mortar not only helps prevent damage to the bricks, but also makes a hospitable damp microenvironment for the plants. Old lime mortar walls provide an interesting but not unique example of how human activity can create an environment that mimics one the plant has evolved to seek: presumably the mortar provides the same niche as a calcium-rich limestone outcrop.

If you see me “up against the wall,” peering through a handheld, with a plant press nearby, I may be collecting other wall plants that I have yet to check off my personal list: Pteris multifida (spider brake), Adiantum capillus-veneris (Venus’-hair fern), Asplenium resiliens (black spleenwort), Cyrtomium falcatum (Asian net-veined holly fern), or Cyrtomium fortunei var. fortunei (Fortune’s net-veined holly fern). Look for them and their compatriots on an old wall near you.

References
The North Carolina Botanical Garden Land Ethic

by Johnny Randall, Associate Director for Natural Areas and Conservation Programs

The modern concept of a land ethic was introduced by Aldo Leopold in “A Sand County Almanac” (1949). I say “modern” because many historic cultures certainly held some version of a land ethic. But it was Leopold who helped to define this concept for our time. To encapsulate his essay, many use the following passage: “A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.” By “land ethic” Leopold did not mean dirt or some parcel of real estate. He was speaking about the soil and its incalculable number of microorganisms, wildflowers, grasses, trees, insects, amphibians, and other critters—all living things—which we now call an ecosystem.

I recently participated in “A Contemporary Land Ethic Conversation” forum at Duke University that was sponsored by the Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) and the Society of American Foresters. Other invited panelists included Kevin Brice (TLC), Norm Christensen (Duke University), Hervey McIver (The Nature Conservancy, TNC), and Bill Ross (moderator and Secretary of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, retired). Being invited was especially gratifying because it was an acknowledgement of the Garden (and the Botanical Garden Foundation, BGF) as a legitimate land conservation entity, something that at times goes unrecognized.

Each panelist was given time to introduce their organization’s mission, land ethic, and management approach. It should be of no surprise that a strong common thread ran through all of our organizations. TNC’s global reach encompasses more than 119 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers; it operates more than 100 marine conservation projects, and has assets of over $5.64 billion. TLC’s reach is regional, but the organization owns or holds conservation easements on nearly 15,000 acres. North Carolina Botanical Garden plus BGF lands total approximately 1,000 acres.

Let me quickly add that our holdings protect some of the most species-rich areas of the Piedmont, perhaps the best examples of bottomland hardwood and basic oak-hickory forests in the state, and virtually all of the rare plants in Orange County. (Note that there are other land conservation groups in our area such as the Eno River Association, NC Plant Conservation Program, Orange County Lands Legacy Program, and NC State Parks.) Please visit our website under the “About” tab for more information on our mission, vision, and core values (located in our Strategic Plan), within which our land ethic is deeply imbedded.

One particular common thread among all three organizations is the realization that conservation lands must be managed—some more, some less. Nature once worked best when left alone, but our modern world has so carved up ecosystems into various sized fragments, altered natural processes such as flooding and fire, and introduced invasive species, that land managers must now intervene. Interventions include dam removal, stream resurrection from culverts, farmland rehabilitation, prescribed fire, and rare plant and animal species reintroduction—to name just a few.

The Garden’s guiding management principles are (1) to allow and encourage the function of natural processes to the greatest extent possible; (2) to rehabilitate sites of impaired ecological function (e.g., through invasive plant control); (3) to actively manage areas that can benefit from human intervention (e.g., with prescribed fire); and (4) to maintain habitat diversity by retaining a mix of woodlands and early successional habitats. Through these management principles, we demonstrate our actions that help to conserve “the land” in our corner of the world.
We hope you noticed our “Spring Appeal” in your mailbox—beautiful photos of Garden programs and people. Thank you for renewing your membership and supporting the Garden with contributions.

Conservation Fund
Jay Charles Corum
Charlotte Jones-Roe & Chuck Roe
Christopher J. Moses
Ashley É. L. & John B Wilson Jr.

Forest Theatre
Heather N. Ramsey

General Operating Fund
Katharine Lee Reid

Herb Garden Endowment
Charlotte Jones-Roe & Chuck Roe
Herbarium Endowment
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Healing & Hope
Through Science
Marcia Loudon
Kathleen MacQueen

Horticultural Therapy
Alzheimer’s Foundation of America
Marie A. Coucoulas
Linda R. Douglas
Charlotte Jones-Roe & Chuck Roe
Patrice McDermott

Mason Farm Reserve
Christopher J. Moses
Lyna J. Rogers

Natural Areas Endowment
Isaac Louis Jaben
Hanson & Betsy June Malpass

Sculpture in the Garden
Deborah Ann Cohen

Stillhouse Bottom
Noel & Shelby C. Dunivant

GARDEN CLUBS
Durham Council of Garden Clubs
Lady Slipper Garden Club of Raleigh
Red Springs Garden Club

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS
Joan Anderson—for Joyce & Tom Stirling
Patricia H. Iglehart—for Pat Mian
Anne H. Lindsey & C. Ritchie Bell—for Vicky Brawley & Alan Grier
Stacey Lutkoski

HABITAT GARDENS
Patricia M. Skelly
Patricia Rousselle
Mary Lewis & Harriet Wall Martin
Charlotte A. Jones-Roe
Deborah M. Hock
Carol Jane Hazard

IN MEMORY OF
Charlotte Abbatte
for the Education Center
Thelma Boyd
Deborah M. Hock
Presley M. Wagoner
Carol Jane Hazard

Kathryn R. Bream
for Herb Garden Endowment & for General Support . . .
J. Bruce Ballentine
Maryanne & Michael Berube
Karen Bethune
Gay Brashear
Anne D. Fogelman
Marcella T. Grendler
Carole Jane Hazard
Deborah M. Hock
Charlotte A. Jones-Roe
Michael F. Kvilighan
Harriet Wall Martin
Mary Lewis & Abner Potter III
Patricia Rousselle
Patricia M. Skelly
Priscilla P. Sprunt
Josephine W. Stipe
Presley M. Wagoner
Charles & Laura M. Warren
Ralph Mayo Warren & Barbara Wade Warren
Barbara K. Wendell

IN HONOR OF
Tom & Margaret Scott
Thad & Patricia C. Beyle
Ann M. & Winslow R. Briggs
Charles & Tina Cleland
Fred G. Edson
Paul D. & Patricia K. Fullagar
Barbara & Robert B. Hanes
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Jane Meade
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Chloe K. P. Scott
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Jonathan D. Scott
Peter K. & Cynthia Y. Scott
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Jeffrey Beam
Sarah Pullen Logan
C. Ritchie Bell
Phillip M. Rury

Richard & Robin Brice
Charlotte Jones-Roe, for the Education Center
Bill & Betty Garwood
Charlotte Jones-Roe, for the Education Center
Cotton & Mary Hinton
Charlotte Jones-Roe, for the Education Center

Helen M. Miller
Helen L. Miller

IN KIND GIFTS
Anne H. Wilson
Anne D. Fogelman
Carolyn B. Goldfinch
Marcella T. Grendler
Carole Jane Hazard
Shaw Hipsher & Nicole Taylor
Deborah M. Hock
Judith C. P. Lilley
Harriet Wall Martin
Kay Cox & Steve Mills
Jody Pagan
Rolffs & Helga Pinkerton
Timothy & Judy H. Taft
Presley M. Wagoner
Barbara K. Wendell

Leaving a Legacy
If you would like to speak with someone about making a special gift to the Garden, call Charlotte Jones-Roe at 919-962-9458 or UNC’s gift planning experts at 800-994-8803.

MATCHING GIFTS
Bank of America—matching the gift of Barbara & Dale E. Koch
Delta Airlines—matching the gift of Kathryn M. & Robert L. Anderson IV
GlaxoSmithKline—matching the gift of Antonia Maria Valakas & Thomas Golding
Merk Partnership for Giving—matching the gift of Patricia H. Iglehart
Milbank—matching the gift of Carmen Hooker Odom
Pfizer, Inc.—matching the gift of P. Scott & Victoria M. Boutin
Reinhold Family Foundation Inc.—matching the gift of Cotton Paul Bryan
Wells Fargo Co.—matching the gifts of Alexander F. Thompson III

IN KIND GIFTS
Margaret P. Parker—coffee maker
Jimmy John’s of Chapel Hill—sandwich platters for Healing and Hope Through Science advisory board meeting
Ed Preston—telescope for youth educational programs

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Spring came early to the Coker Arboretum this year. The yellow jessamine on the arbor and dogwoods were in full bloom on March 16 when this photograph was taken.
**Staff Notes**

**Education Center Landscape Getting T.L.C.**

Early this year, our Horticulture Department hired **Amanda Mixon (aka “Mixon”)** to fill the newly created Education Center Landscape Curator position. While many people were considered for this position, Mixon clearly stood out from the rest, based on her three years as Coker Arboretum Assistant Curator, working alongside Curator Margo MacIntyre. Before coming to the Garden, Mixon worked as an independent landscape designer, gardener, and farmer. She has a degree in Landscape Architecture from Mississippi State University. Mixon’s stellar work ethic and landscape design experience are just what’s needed to nurture the one-year old Education Center landscape plantings and bring exuberantly to life a landscape vision equal to our LEED Platinum Education Center.

Garden Director **Peter White** was an invited speaker at the National Institute of Mathematical Biology in Knoxville, TN, on February 13, and spoke on the role of natural disturbances in the earth’s carbon cycle. He hosted an induction ceremony for Epsilon Eta, the nation’s first honor society for environmental science, on February 17. He spoke about sustainable water practice at the Garden to the ACC Leadership Institute on February 18. Peter attended a reception for the Eve Carson Scholarship on March 1. He lectured on climate change and gardens for the Climate LEAP Institute on March 17 and gave a lecture on “A Theory of Natural Disturbance” for the Botany Department of the University of Georgia on March 19. And finally, Peter attended the Board meeting of UNC’s Institute for the Environment on April 13, at the Garden.

Herbarium Curator **Alan Weakley** traveled to Alabama in March. There he gave seminars at Jacksonville State University and Birmingham Southern College, met with students at both schools, met at Samford University with faculty members of universities that are part of the Alabama Herbarium Consortium, and taught a half-day class on “Discoveries in the Southeastern Flora” and a full-day class on “Plant Taxonomy” at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, as part of their “Certificate in Native Plant Studies” program. The five-day Alabama trip was capped by a visit to the Bibb County Glades, one of the most important rare plant conservation sites in the southeastern United States.

Herbarium Assistant Curator **Carol Ann McCormick** visited the Field Museum Herbarium in Chicago in March to research Mary Agnes Stump Taylor, a bryologist for whom the fern *Hymenophyllum tayloriae* is named. McCormick will be collaborating with the Field Museum to identify and label some of Mrs. Taylor’s fern specimens from South Carolina.

Elisha Taylor, Coordinator for Children’s & Family Education, recently completed the NC Environmental Education Certification Program. The program is administered by the NC Office of Environmental Education, and recognizes professional development in environmental education and acknowledges educators committed to environmental stewardship. Elisha completed over 200 hours of instructional workshops, field experiences, teaching, and a community project. For her project, Elisha partnered with New Hope Audubon Society to design and construct a bird garden, complete with bird blind, feeders, and native plantings for food and cover, in the new children’s Wonder Garden here at NCBG. Congratulations Elisha!

In February, Natural Science Educator **Grant Parkins** attended an Exhibiting Skills workshop at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in Pasadena, CA. During the workshop, botanical garden educators from across the country learned to create plant-based exhibits for their visitors.

Laura Cotterman, Publications and Publicity Coordinator, attended the spring meeting of the membership of the NC Association of Environmental Education Centers, March 9, at the W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir in Wilkesboro.

Johnny Randall, Associate Director of Natural Areas and Conservation Programs, attended the NC Exotic Pest Plant Council annual meeting at the NC Arboretum in Asheville on February 24–25. On February 27 he gave the “Plant This, Not That” exhibit opening presentation at the Garden titled (you guessed it) “Plant
This, Not That.” On March 6 Johnny gave a presentation on the Garden’s conservation programs at the Rare Plant Discussion Group, which was hosted by the Garden. On March 8 he gave a revolving presentation titled “Rare Plant Conservation and Your Ecological Address” at the Culbreth Middle School “Science Day.” Johnny and other Morgan Creek Valley Alliance members organized a Morgan Creek clean up on March 17 in association with the Haw River Assembly Clean-Up-A-Thon. They collected and hauled out over 200 lbs. of garbage (mostly plastic bottles) from the floodplain of Morgan Creek near the Mason Farm Biological Reserve. On March 22 Johnny was a speaker at a land ethic forum at Duke University (see article on p. 11 for more about this event.)

Johnny Randall and Conservation Ecologist Mike Kunz attended the Association of Southeastern Biologists annual meeting in Athens, GA, on April 4–6, where Johnny chaired the North Carolina Botanical Garden Award committee and Mike served as a committee member. He and Mike also attended the Center for Plant Conservation annual meeting at the Rancho Santa Anna Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA, on April 17–24, where they presented on the Garden’s ongoing rare plant recovery work.

Gardening Questions Answered!

by Wendy Wenck, Mercer Reeves Hubbard Herb Garden Curator

A woman enters the Education Center and approaches the Green Gardener Desk. Two volunteers there are discussing the description of a plant and comparing it with the images that one has found online. The visitor says, “Could you help me identify this plant I found growing in my yard?” So begins another session at the Garden’s weekday Plant Clinic.

Monday through Friday, 12 to 2 pm, trained volunteers are available to answer gardening and plant-related questions. Plant, insect, and disease identification are popular topics. Soil preparation, weed management, and what to plant that will create an effective screen also bring in many people. While novice gardeners have questions about virtually everything to do with plants, more experienced gardeners often ask questions that call for research. Garden staff are sometimes consulted on questions that require special expertise.

Two groups of volunteers regularly sign up for shifts. There are the Orange County Master Gardeners, who are affiliated with N.C. State’s Cooperative Extension Service. They go through a special training program in horticulture and then qualify by passing an exam. There are also the Green Gardeners, who have been trained by staff of the N.C. Botanical Garden. These volunteers sign up for a five-week training program that covers the philosophy and mission of the Garden, as well as sustainable gardening practices in North Carolina. At the completion of the training program, volunteers take a competency test. One of the most rewarding experiences as a Master Gardener or Green Gardener volunteer is that of helping a novice gardener succeed with a new endeavor.

Whether you are planting your first vegetable garden or a new home landscape, identifying a pest or seeking to control an invasive exotic plant, you’ll likely find the friendly assistance of the Green Gardeners and Master Gardener volunteers invaluable. If you are interested in becoming a Green Gardener volunteer, contact us by email (volunteersncbg@unc.edu) or call (919-962-0522). Inquiries about becoming a Master Gardener volunteer should be directed to Orange County Extension Agent Carl Matyac: Carl_matyac@ncsu.edu or 919-245-2050.
Membership Dues!!

Wondering when your membership is up for renewal? Look right above your name & address on this newsletter.

French explorer-botanist Andre Michaux paid a visit to the Garden on March 7 to entertain an audience of nearly 100 people with stories of his travels in eighteenth-century America. Here he speaks with Botanical Garden Foundation president Anne Lindsey. (Charlie Williams was present as well!)

Be sure to check out all the new events and programs coming up for May, June, and July . . . inside this newsletter!

Indian paintbrush (Castilleja coccinea) in our new Piedmont Habitat Garden, which occupies the corridor formerly used by Laurel Hill Road!

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.