Hold the Date! “Flora of Virginia Weekend Celebration” Sept 13 & 14

Please hold the weekend of September 13 and 14 for a delightful opportunity to gather in celebration of the UNC Herbarium and the publication of *The Flora of Virginia* by Herbarium Director Alan Weakley and associates. Garden members, Friends of the UNC Herbarium, UNC students and alumni, students of nature, botanists, ecologists, conservationists, wildflower lovers, backyard gardeners—everyone interested in plant identification and just plain curious about what went into publication of the first flora for Virginia since the founding of our nation—should not miss this weekend! Events will include a social gathering, an open house at the Herbarium, and a lecture and book-signing.

Watch for detailed information in your next Newsletter and on the Garden’s website. You can also call or email ahead to let us know of your interest!

Remembering Ritchie Bell, 1921–2013

On March 6, 2013, the North Carolina Botanical Garden lost one of its most ardent friends, Dr. C. Ritchie Bell, founding director. A memorial for Dr. Bell was held just as this newsletter went to the printer, on April 10. Please see the remembrances by Director Peter White and Director of Development Charlotte Jones-Roe on pages 2 and 13 of this issue. If there is a story about Dr. Bell that you would like to share with us, please send us an email (lmcotter@unc.edu) with “Ritchie Bell” in the subject line.

Grant Helps Teachers Create Native Plant Gardens

The Garden has been awarded a $4800 grant from the Southeast Environmental Education Alliance to help teachers from Durham Public Schools (DPS) create native plant gardens. The grant enables us to partner this summer with the city of Durham Stormwater Services to offer a free four-day Earth Partnership for Schools Teacher Institute for teachers from Durham Public Schools. Upon completion of the institute, the teachers will receive $500 in plants to create gardens on their school grounds or at the DPS “Hub Farm,” a 30-acre farm and wilderness area where students will learn about agriculture and nature.

Healing & Hope in the News

The Healing & Hope Through Science program was in the news in late March. Check out this video! (Note that there is an ad you have to view first.) http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/video?id=9044901
Dr. C. Ritchie Bell, 1921–2013

On March 6, 2013, we learned that our inspirational and founding director, C. Ritchie Bell, 91, had died. Professor, scientist, enthusiastic promoter of wildflowers, teacher, mentor, unwavering defender of conservation—an avalanche of adjectives come to mind. When he retired in 1986, this Newsletter (Vol. 14, No. 5) carried the line, “No one who ever meets Ritchie will easily forget him.” That is as true for me as it is for those who knew him much longer than I did. His passion for plants and botany were blended with humor, forcefulness, and a flair for the dramatic. The same article said, “At times courtly in his manner, he was also a most irreverent character.” All true and just the tip of the iceberg of remembrance.

I write these words from the Totten Center on a late-March day. April 10, the date of Dr. Bell’s memorial celebration at the Garden, is the anniversary of his birth and a significant date for the Garden. A spring day for garden events, April 10 also was chosen as the day the Totten Center opened in 1976 and the day the Nature Trails (our first public offering) opened in 1966. If my sources are correct, Ritchie himself designed the Totten Center and oversaw its construction. He was a doer, and he loved working with the soil as much as he enjoyed lecturing on photosynthesis. At his retirement in 1986, he wrote, “my work at and for the Garden has not ended. I intend to earn my yellow ‘first year’ volunteer patch by next February—and then continue to work, in whatever ways seem most appropriate, through the whole series of volunteer patches” (Newsletter, Vol 14, No. 4).

There have been many changes since 1986. I remember the rotary phones we had back then and the Garden’s first computer, an IBM PC-XT. The Cattail Gate was a barbed-wire-topped chain-link gate across what was then a vehicle entrance, with parking separating the Totten Center and the Herb Garden. There was no welcoming sign and board walk into the Habitat Gardens. There were three unmatched, locked research greenhouses where the Carnivorous Plant Collection now resides. The staff, under the able guidance of Assistant Director Ken Moore, could fit around one table! We no longer hold those Labor Day Open House events, at which Ritchie worked the cider press, but we host other wonderful events that bring new people to the Garden.

Much has changed since then, but there is one thing I am most proud of—and I believe I speak not just for myself, but for staff, volunteers, and members too: we have kept alive, like then eternal flame of Olympic torches, the spirit, the essence that Ritchie Bell defined. I hope you will celebrate with me what Ritchie gave us to carry forward: a Garden about North Carolina wildflowers; about the relationship of our lives human life to a diverse, high quality environment; about the fundamental, unconditional goal of conservation; about the importance of experiencing nature and the joy of learning about it.

I see Ritchie leading a field trip in the mountains, leaning against a black locust tree and explaining to students, home gardeners, outdoors people, and wildflower enthusiasts, that it was on the tough wood of black locust that pioneer wagons rolled westward. Ritchie had that same hardness and durability and used it for the good of this garden. Our challenge now is to position the Garden in a way that will ensure that the spirit he nurtured, this distinctive and important botanical garden, now known the world over, will continue to burn strongly and be true in its heart to what Ritchie himself placed there.

See our website for more remembrances of C. Ritchie Bell: http://ncbg.unc.edu/cr-bell/
Join us under a waxing Carolina moon

CAROLINA MOONLIGHT GALA

May 18, 2013, 7 – 11 pm

Celebrating Sustainable Living

NOTICE:
Dues to Increase July 1

Late last year, the Board of the Botanical Garden Foundation approved a slight increase in dues/basic gift levels that will go into effect on July 1, 2013.

The new rates are as follows:

- Household (dual/family/partners): $75
- Individual: $50
- Teacher (pre-K–12): $30
- Senior (65+): $30
- Garden Associate (volunteer, staff): $30
- Student (full-time): $20
- Organization, basic: $100
- Organization, contributing: $1,000

Renew now at the old rates using the enclosed envelope!

Member benefits include discounts on classes, workshops, and plant and other Garden Shop purchases; plus the members’ seed list and free seeds in the spring—and more.

Picture This . . .

You, in garden-party-festive dress, walking through the Garden’s beautiful plant collections on a May evening . . . music, dancing, laughter fill the fragrant spring air . . . twinkling lights and a waxing moon complete the magical tableaux. You have now entered a special time and place, an enchanted evening—the Carolina Moonlight Gala!

Your entry to this fabulous evening? A ticket at $125 ($85 tax-deductible) gains you entry, and your added green bonus is that you will be supporting the North Carolina Botanical Garden. Buy your ticket on-line today: ncbg.unc.edu/carolinamoonlight/

Auctions — Online & Live . . .

In addition to all the fun and magic, your ticket entitles you to enjoy delectable food and drink and to make last-minute bids on the wonderful variety of items in this year’s online silent auction: great restaurant dining, expert-led local natural adventures, landscape consultations, plants (individual & collections) for your garden, paintings, massage, yoga lessons, antique prints, special botanical books, and much more. Browsing opened on April 15; bidding begins on May 4: ncbg.unc.edu/carolinamoonlight/

Your ticket also entitles you to be a part of our first-ever live auction led by auctioneer Gary Phillips, right in the Education Center lobby. Enjoy the fun of jamming with other bidders and vying for that outstanding sculpture . . . that beach vacation in a private home . . . that trip abroad . . . that unusual plant . . . and more!

Sponsorships . . .

Presented by the Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc., the Gala raises funds for the Botanical Garden’s conservation mission and programs. Sponsors in particular can push this fundraising event to much higher levels. If you wish to learn more about becoming a Gala Sponsor and the attendant benefits . . . or if you know of a person or organization that might want to participate as a Gala Sponsor: (1) contact Stephen Rich, stevearich@bellsouth.net, 919-923-6900, (2) go to ncbg.unc.edu/carolinamoonlight/ and see the Sponsorships box, with links to downloadable info and forms.

Celebrating Sustainable Living

COMING UP THIS FALL!

Sculpture in the Garden

The 25th Annual Sculpture in the Garden will run from September 21 to December 8, 2013 {Preview Party, September 20, 5:30 pm}

. . . more information in the next issue of this newsletter!
Banking on Climate Change

by Johnny Randall, Director of Conservation Programs

Sea level rise, high temperature extremes, and increased storm frequency and intensity are already impacting Atlantic coastal ecosystems as a result of climate change. Sea level rise is perhaps the most long-term of the threats: it is occurring at a rate of up to 0.25 inch per year according to the 2011 analyses of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; that is nearly 2 feet (and over 0.5 meter) by the turn of the next century. Please see the adjoining map for reference.

It is sobering, then, to examine the elevation of North Carolina’s outer coastal plain, where thousands of acres will be affected by inundation, changes in tidal flow patterns, altered sediment transport, shoreline erosion, landward migration of tidal waters, changes in tidal amplitude, and habitat loss for plant and animal species.

Coastal fringe ecosystems can potentially migrate inland, as they no doubt did in the previous interglacial sea level rise of 120,000 years ago. But the current pace of climate change is far greater than in times past, and many biologists predict we will see unprecedented extinctions.

Successful plant migration can occur, but it takes time and depends on reproductive output, available habitat, victorious competition, and subsequent establishment. In modern times, however, we can facilitate this process by the collection and storage of native plant seeds for use in active restoration programs.

Seed collection and storage is standard conservation practice for regional, national, and international organizations such as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank (City of New York), Center for Plant Conservation, Seeds of Success (U.S. Bureau of Land Management), Plant Materials Development Program and U.S. Forest Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture), Millennium Seed Bank (Kew, England) . . . and the North Carolina Botanical Garden seed bank, which cooperates with every one of the above organizations.

Many studies show that a considerable advantage is obtained when locally adapted seed (ecotypes) and regionally appropriate native plants are used in reintroduction projects. Success is also enhanced if multiple collections of a species are made across its range, capturing the genetic diversity of the foundation seed needed for restoration projects.

All of the above is a long prelude to explain why the New England Wild Flower Society, Mid-Atlantic Seed Bank, and the North Carolina Botanical Garden have co-written a grant proposal to collect, “bank,” and provide seed for formative projects and programs, in response to the challenges of climate change and sea level rise, along the Atlantic seaboard from Maine to South Carolina. This ambitious project will target species in plant communities that are both vulnerable and adaptable in the face of climate-related sea level rise. Dominant and keystone species from these vulnerable communities will be collected, with the goal of ensuring that the resources necessary to restore the plant community matrix—within which other plant community and animal species affiliates might then establish—are available.

Note that the above project description is highly condensed because of the space limitations of this newsletter! The fundamental concept to take home, however, is that to collect and “bank” (i.e., put into long-term storage) seeds is a tried-and-true method for successful restoration projects. And thus, the North Carolina Botanical Garden is “banking on” sea level rise and on the seeds that can weather the storm. Stay tuned.
Shady Native Gardens
Saturday, June 8, 1:00–2:30 pm   Olivia Lenahan, Horticultural Scientist
This is a perfect workshop for a hot summer day! We will begin in the classroom with a discussion of natives that enjoy the shade, and follow with a walk-about in the Garden. An informational plant list will be provided. Fee: $30 ($25 NCBG members)

Creating a Pollinator Garden: A Hands-On Workshop
Tuesday, June 25, 1:00–4:00 pm
Grant Parkins, NCBG Natural Science Educator
See description on p. 7 under “A National Pollinator Week Celebration.”

Growing Tomatoes!
Sunday, June 2, 2:00–3:30 pm
Al Cooke, Chatham County NC Cooperative Extension Agent, Ret.
A workshop at the Carolina Campus Community Garden (CCCG): the University's garden that offers produce to low-income workers . . .

Southeastern Native Perennials Walk-and-Talk
Saturday, July 27, 9:00–11:00 am   Chris Liloia, NCBG Curator
Looking for some new plant ideas? Ready to learn about gardening with perennials? Come enjoy a morning in the Garden as we walk and talk about native perennial plants. We’ll use the Garden around us as a starting point to learn some new plants and explore topics like growing requirements as well as dividing, transplanting, and care of sun and shade perennials. We’ll make the coffee, you bring the questions. Fee: $25 ($20 NCBG members)

Home Landscape Design
Saturday, Aug 3, 9:30 am–12:30 pm   JoAnn Overton, Landscape Designer
This workshop addresses the typical challenges of homeowners in this area. Participants learn how to approach a landscape design project, how to implement a plan with sustainable materials and finally, you will be given a list of native plants of this area frequently used in home landscapes. Specific topics will include analyzing the property for wind and sun orientation, a functional flow, and treating special features of your landscape. The concepts of sight line, public and private areas and “rooms” will be discussed. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)

Mother’s Day Walk at Mason Farm
Sunday, May 12, 2:00–4:30 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)

Penny’s Bend Wild Blue Indigo Hike
Saturday, May 18, 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. Note: 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. Wear sturdy hiking footwear and bring a walking stick and water.

Honey Beehive Tour
Sunday, June 23, 2:00–3:00 pm   Anne Cabell, Hobbyist Beekeeper
See description on p. 7 under “A National Pollinator Week Celebration”

Summer Wildflower and Pollination Tour
Saturday, June 29, 10:00–11:00 am, rain or shine   Tour guide TBA
See description on p. 7 under “A National Pollinator Week Celebration”

And Coming Up in the Fall . . .

Native Seed Propagation
Heather Summer, NCBG Seed Program Coordinator & Matt Gocke, NCBG Nursery Manager
Oct 19, 9:30 am–12:30 pm
This course is intended for a broad audience. Students learn seed propagation techniques for native perennials and woody plants. Topics include seed collection methods, post-collection handling, cleaning equipment and techniques, seed storage, seed sowing techniques, sowing media, cultural requirements of seedlings, and dormancy requirements. Fee: $40 ($35 NCBG members)

more programs on next page . . .
Certificate Courses, Summer—Fall Semester

Full descriptions of these Certificate Courses on our website (ncbg.unc.edu/classes-workshops/) 😊=No prerequisites—open to all!

Registration Procedure!
Register online through our website: ncbg.unc.edu. Use the dropdown menu under the Education & Events tab. The yellow Register Now button posted with all programs will take you to our secure registration site. Advance registration is required for all programs unless otherwise indicated.

Native Plant Studies

Book Review: Walden by Henry David Thoreau (SHORT COURSE) 😊
Peter White, nCBG Director
Thursday, July 11, 7:00–8:30 pm

Soil Ecology 😊
Nicolete Cagle, Ecologist
Saturdays, Aug 3, 10, 17, 24; 1:00–4:00 pm

Botany 😊
Olivia Lenahan, Horticultural Scientist
Aug 10, 17, 24, 31; 9:15 am–1:15 pm

Applied Conservation Biology
Johnny Randall, nCBG Director of Conservation
Thursdays, Sep 5, 12, 19, 26, Oct 3, 10; 3:00–5:00 pm

Pollination 😊
Anne Lindsey, Botanist
Saturdays, Sep 7, 14, 21, Oct 5; 9:00 am–noon

Introduction to Mushrooms (SHORT COURSE) 😊
Rytas Vilgalys, Dept. of Biology Duke University
Saturday, Sep 14, 9:30 am–4:00 pm

Native Edible & Medicinal Trees of the NC Piedmont 😊
Kim Calhoun, Herbalist & Wild Food Enthusiast
Tuesdays, Sep 17, 24, Oct 1, 8; 1:00–4:00 pm

Plant Taxonomy
Milo Pyne, Plant Ecologist
Sundays, Oct 6, 13, 20, Nov 3; 1:30–4:30 pm

Lichens (SHORT COURSE) 😊
Eimy Rivas Plata, Lichenologist
Saturday, Oct 12, 9:30 am–4:30 pm

Book Review: Wilderness and the American Mind by Roderick Nash (SHORT COURSE) 😊
Peter White, nCBG Director
Thursday, Oct 17, 7:00–8:30 pm

Dendrology 😊
Steph Jeffries, Forest Ecologist
Wednesdays, Oct 23, 30, Nov 6, 13; 9:30 am–12:30 pm (inclement weather: Nov 20)

Native Seed Propagation (SHORT COURSE) 😊
Heather Summer, nCBG Seed Program Coordinator & Matt Gocke, nCBG Nursery Manager
Oct 19, 9:30 am–12:30 pm

Flowering Plant Families
Olivia Lenahan, Horticultural Scientist
Saturdays, Nov 2, 9, 16, 23; 9:30 am–12:30 pm

Botanical Art & Illustration

Drawing for People Who Think They Can’t Draw (SHORT COURSE) 😊
Emma Skurnick, Professional Artist
Saturday, Aug 10, 1:00–4:30 pm

Beginning Drawing 😊
Emma Skurnick, Professional Artist
Wednesdays, Aug 21, 28, Sep 4, 11; 9:30 am–1:00 pm

Introduction to Botanical Art & Illustration (SHORT COURSE) 😊
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
Aug 24, 1:00–4:30 pm

Beginning Watercolor
Maryann Roper, Professional Artist
Tuesdays, Sep 3, 10, 17, 24; 1:00–4:30 pm

Intermediate Drawing
Kathy Shermer-Gramm, Professional Artist
Sep 7, 14, 21, 28; 1:00–4:30 pm

How to Safely Use Photographs in a Painting (NEW SHORT COURSE) 😊
Patricia Savage, Professional Artist
Saturday, Sep 8, 1:15–4:45 pm

Advanced Watercolor
Maryann Roper, Professional Artist
Mondays, Sep 9, 16, 23, 30; 1:00–4:30 pm

Field Sketching 😊
Emma Skurnick, Professional Artist
Monday Oct 7, 14, 21, 28; 1:00–4:30 pm

Intermediate Watercolor Techniques
Emma Skurnick, Professional Artist
Tuesdays, Oct 8, 15, 22, 29; 9:30–1:00 pm

Beginning Colored Pencil
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
Wednesdays, Oct 9, 16, 23, 30; 1:00–4:30 pm

What’s in Your Tube of Paint (NEW SHORT COURSE) 😊
Patricia Savage, Professional Artist
Sunday, Oct 27, 1:15–4:45 pm

Lichen: Science & Art 😊
Eimy Rivas Plata, Lichenologist & Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
Saturday, Nov 2, 9:00 am–4:00 pm & Sunday, Nov 3, 1:15–4:45 pm

Nature Journaling Seasonal Continuum
Jeannine Reese, Professional Artist
Session I: Sunday, Oct 20, 1:15–4:45 pm
Session II: Monday, Nov 4, 1:00–4:30 pm take one or both sessions!

Plein Air
TBA—see update online.

Composition 😊
Patricia Savage, Professional Artist
Sundays, Nov 3, 10, 17, 24; 1:15–4:45 pm

Pen & Ink
Emma Skurnick, Professional Artist
Tuesdays, Nov 5, 12, 19, 26; 9:30 am–1:00 pm

Intermediate Colored Pencil
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
Saturdays, Nov 9, 16, 23, Dec 7; 1:00–4:30 pm

Did you Know? you don’t need to be enrolled in a certificate program to take courses that are marked as 😊 (no prerequisites). Learn more about our two certificate programs on our website: http://ncbg.unc.edu/certificate-programs/
A National Pollinator Week Celebration!

Six years ago the U.S. Senate’s unanimous approval and designation of a week in June as “National Pollinator Week” marked an important step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Pollinator Week has now grown into an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles. Join us for the following educational events in celebration of our pollinators . . . Register on our website (see p. 6).

Honey Beehive Tour
Sunday, June 23, 2:00–3:00 pm (inclement weather: July 14)
Anne Cabell, Hobbyist Beekeeper
Come to the Carolina Campus Community Garden (CCCG) in Chapel Hill to learn about one of the world’s most fascinating insects. Bees are responsible for pollinating one-third of the world’s food and produce one of the sweetest treats around. We will explore a real live hive! This workshop is open to all ages and free-of-charge. For directions to the CCCG and to confirm that the workshop will be held if weather is uncertain, check the website: http://uncgarden.web.unc.edu/

Creating a Pollinator Garden: a hands-on workshop
Tuesday, June 25, 1:00–4:00 pm
Grant Parkins, NCBG Natural Science Educator
With relatively little effort and expense, your garden can be transformed into a paradise for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators. This workshop will introduce you to some common pollinators and strategies for bringing them to your garden. Learn how to analyze your garden site, choose appropriate plants, and maintain a pollinator garden. You will also receive plant lists, step-by-step instructions, and other resources to get started on your own pollinator garden. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)

Summer Wildflowers and Pollinators Tour
June 29, 10:00–11:00 am, rain or shine  Tour guide TBA
In observance of National Pollinator Week, we are offering a 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 the Display Gardens includes an up-close look at our new pollinator garden, and will highlight various plants that attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other native pollinators. You’ll receive tips and resources to turn your home landscape into a pollinator garden. Free, but advance registration is required.

“Bee, I’m Expecting You”
—a poetry reading
Sunday, June 30, 3:00–4:30 pm  Jeffery Beam, poet
It’s said that bees are responsible for pollinating every third bite of food we eat! Poet Jeffrey Beam will be reading from his work and also poems from ancient Egypt, Sylvia Plath, Virgil, Pablo Neruda, and others . . . as well as sharing bee folklore and some of his art-song cycle collaboration with Lee Hoiby based on his “Life of the Bee” poems. Fee: $10 ($5 NCBG members)

Expressive Arts Journaling Workshop
Bev Dyer, Professional Artist, Nurse
Saturday, June 22, 10:00 am–noon
A journal is a fun, creative tool and provides a safe place for you to explore and grow. Creativity in any form is healing, can boost our immune system, relieve stress, and increase our “good” brain chemicals. Join Beverly Dyer to explore mixed media journaling and discover the many ways to live an art-journaling lifestyle: daily journaling, sketchbook journaling, inspirational collage, travel journaling, event journaling, and of course nature journaling! No experience needed—just a willingness to be in the moment and express yourself. Your journal can be private or shared with the group. Fee: $30 ($25 NCBG members)

more programs on next page . . . >>
Advance registration is required for all programs unless otherwise indicated! See page 6.

**Lunchtime Series**

*bring your lunch and join us for a free lecture!*

–Free but registration required–

**The Rarest Plants of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program**

Friday, May 10, 12:00–1:00 pm

*National Public Gardens Day*

Laura Gadd, Botanist with the NC Natural Heritage Program

Find out about North Carolina’s rarest and endemic plant species from across the state and what we know about them. Laura Gadd will also review the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program’s methodology and what they do to track these rare species of plants.

**From Walden Pond to Mason Farm—Thoreau and the “Wild”**

Friday, July 12, noon — Lunchtime Series—bring your lunch!

Philip F. Gura Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture, UNC Department of American Studies

Join us for a discussion of Thoreau’s search for the “wild” and his discovery of it even in the already domesticated landscape of Concord, Massachusetts. His lesson, for us, is that if we truly know nature, we live surrounded by wildness, even here in Chapel Hill. Free, but please register online.

**Capturing Nature in Words**

Saturday, July 13, 10 – 12 noon

Catherine Bollinger, Writer, Editor, & Avid Gardener

Whether you are a bird or butterfly watcher, gardener, nature trail hiker, or other outdoor enthusiast, you can enrich and memorialize your experiences by describing them in words. Fiction writers can also enhance their prose by paying more attention to the natural environments of the worlds they describe. This workshop takes advantage of the gardens and trails to practice observation skills and brief writing exercises. Participants learn how to add specificity to their accounts of the natural world by honing their observation skills and using all their senses to translate sensory information into vivid prose. Catherine Bollinger has been a technical writer and editor for thirty years, and an avid gardener and amateur naturalist in the Piedmont region of North Carolina for over 45 years. Since 2011, she has been blogging as “Piedmont Gardener” about the gardens and native landscape of her 5-acre yard in Chatham County (www.piedmontgardener.com). Fee: $30 ($25 NCBG members).

**Thoreau’s Adventure with WitchHazel—a walk-and-talk**

Sunday, July 14, 3:00–4:00 pm

Peter White, NCBG Director

Henry David Thoreau had great curiosity about the plants and animals that he would meet on his daily jaunts around Concord, Massachusetts. His journal is a remarkable record of his observations and thoughts. He liked to investigate and experiment, too. Reading that our native witch hazel had explosively dehisced fruits (that is, when ready to disperse their seeds, the capsules explode suddenly), he collected some and placed them in a pan on his stove at his Walden Pond cabin. On this walk, we will hunt the native witch hazel, talk about its natural history, and tell the rest of the story about Thoreau. Fee: $10 ($5 NCBG members)
**Lectures & Book Signings**

**Down the Wild Cape Fear: A River Journey through the Heart of North Carolina**

Wednesday, June 12, 7:00–8:30 pm  Philip Gerard, Author

Join us for this fascinating presentation describing adventures on the Cape Fear River, North Carolina’s most important river system. Here’s what one reviewer said about Philip Gerard’s new book, *Down the Wild Cape Fear* (UNC Press, March 2013):

“If you’ve ever fallen in love with a lake, river, or stretch of shore, you’ll enjoy this trip down the Cape Fear with Philip Gerard. Between the characters he meets, the historical tales, the beautifully described natural encounters, and the river-running adventures, it’s as varied and engaging as a long day spent drifting downstream.”  —Jan DeBlieu.

Free, but advance registration required (see p. 6).

**Life and Spirit of a Kyoto Garden**

May 19, 2:00–4:00 pm  Norris Johnson, UNC-Chapel Hill Professor Emeritus, Anthropology

Tenryu-ji: The Life and Spirit of a Kyoto Garden (2012, Stonebridge Press) is Professor Johnson’s book on the life history and aesthetics of a Zen Buddhist temple garden in Kyôto, Japan. His presentation places experience of that garden within a spiritual/cultural/aesthetic context, with emphasis on people-garden relationships. In particular, an emphasis on garden stones with plants urges a sustainable style of gardening. He illustrates and interprets this idea of garden through examples from Japanese animistic conceptions of and ritualized behaviors toward stones, both naturally occurring and placed by people. Professor Johnson speaks to the vital importance to humanity of the idea of garden itself. A suggested reading guide will be provided.

Free but advance registration required (see p. 6).

**The Physical Fitness of Leaves: Science for All of Us**

Sunday, July 21, 2:30–3:30 pm  Steve Vogele, James B. Duke Professor of Biology, Emeritus

Professor Steve Vogele, author of *The Life of a Leaf* (2012, University of Chicago Press), will describe in word and hands-on opportunities how a leaf manages its world and how this tells us a lot about how we manage—or ought to manage—our own. Every organism must contend with its immediate physical environment, a world that both limits what organisms can do and offers innumerable opportunities for evolving fascinating ways of challenging those limits. Professor Vogele will explain these interactions, examining through the example of the leaf the extraordinary designs that enable life to adapt to its physical world. He will provide food for thought and tools for a new way of seeing the beauty and simplicity of the science of life. Free but advance registration required (see p. 6).

**Art at the Garden**

**In the DeBerry Gallery . . .**

May 1–June 30, 2013

**Patterns in Nature**

selected works by members of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators

Artist’s Reception Sunday, June 2, 2–4 pm

*Claire McAulay Miller*

**July 3–August 28, 2013**

**Local Color**

selected works by alumni of our Certificate in Botanical Art & Illustration Program

Artist’s Reception Sunday, July 7, 2–4 pm

more programs on next page . . .>>
Nature Explorers Summer Camp 2013

**a few spaces still available in . . .**

**Junior Naturalists: for ages 8–10**

July 22–26; 8:30 am–3:30 pm (after-care available)

Whether your child is interested in birds, bugs, or plants, this is the camp for kids who love nature! Campers spend the week honing their naturalist skills and developing an understanding of ecology and interrelationships. Sweep net for insects in the meadow, conduct water quality tests at Morgan Creek, bird-watch at the bird blind, learn wild uses of plants, and keep a nature journal. Guest naturalists and field trips will enrich our nature study and fun. Fee: $300 ($270 NCBG members). Register Online!

ncbg.unc.edu/nature-explorers-summer-camp/

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**Nature Tales: Storytime in the Garden** (ages 3–5 w/ adult)

Thursdays, May 2 – Aug 8; 10:00 - 10:45 am

Join us Thursday mornings to listen to nature-themed books and enjoy hands-on explorations in the gardens. Program is held rain or shine. Fee, per child, per session: $3.50 ($3 NCBG members). No more than 3 children per adult, please! Here are our themes for each Thursday:

- May 2 – Who Lives in a Pond?
- May 9 – Animal Mommies
- May 16 - Bird Bonanza
- May 23 – Seed Surprise
- May 30 – Colors of the Rainbow
- Jun 6 – Flower Power
- Jun 13 – Animal Daddies
- Jun 20 – Home Sweet Home
- Jun 27 – Terrific Trees
- Jul 11 – Fairy Tales
- Jul 18 – Crazy Caterpillars
- Jul 25 – Hide & Seek
- Aug 1 – Itsy Bitsy Spider
- Aug 8 – Swim Hop Crawl

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**Staff Notes**

Many thanks to UNC student **Annie Holmes**, who served as Environmental Education Intern with Children’s and Family Programs this spring. Annie enthusiastically helped to prepare and co-lead multiple sessions of our preschool classes, afterschool nature club series, and family workshops. She also helped to develop teaching materials and care for the Children’s Wonder Garden and vegetable garden.

Annie’s experience in her own words:

*I was ecstatic when I discovered a UNC APPLES service-learning internship opportunity to work with children outdoors at the Botanical Garden. As someone who grew up climbing trees and digging through gardens, I have found that being outdoors is not only essential to my happiness, but also to my education. This led me to begin studying ecopsychology in relation to children and the impacts of decreased contact with nature. As the Environmental Education Intern here at the Garden, I have found exactly what I was looking for! I have observed how children learn through hands-on interactions with nature, gained personal knowledge about the environment, and acquired invaluable teaching experience (which, of course, means many laughs). Through my current studies as a junior psychology major, I hope to continue to focus on the link between outdoor play and childhood education. Although I am not quite certain what my future will hold, I cannot wait to continue my efforts in this field.*

Habitat Gardens Curator **Chris Liloia** presented on “southeastern native perennial gardening” to the Orange County Master Gardeners on March 28 and to EPA staff, as part of their Earth Week activities, on April 23.

**Peter White** helped lead a climate change workshop for high school students with Climate LEAP on February 16 at the Garden. On February 20, he welcomed Dr. Zifa Deng, a visiting scholar from Nantong University in China. Dr. Deng was especially attracted by conservation activities at the Garden and will be with us for six months. Dr. White participated in the review of the Curriculum in the Environment and Ecology that is underway at UNC. He hosted Dr. John Parker, retired director of the Cambridge Botanic Garden, England, for a tour on March 12. He participated in a public reading of Aldo Leopold’s essay “The Good Oak” at the Coker Arboretum on April 21, as part of the North Carolina Science Festival.

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As you read this, Spring will have already unleashed everything she has and there have more than likely already been some days in the eighties, though hopefully without too much in the way of humidity. The daffodils are a memory, the little bulbs resting under protective cover from their once dormant perennial neighbors. Quinces are thickets of criss-crossed shrubbery, and magnolias are providing generous shade along the edges of the central lawn. The Coker Arboretum has been a fixture on the UNC campus for over a century, and I’m proud to be a part of its current team of caretakers. I’ll take advantage of this space to talk a bit about some details that make the Arboretum such a special place to be, regardless of the time of year one may choose to visit.

I was reminded this week of a conversation I had with the father of last summer’s DeBerry intern. This gentleman asked me which tree in the Arboretum was my favorite. I paused for a minute, then replied that it had to be the sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) that sits in the middle of our largest green space, which we call the “Central Lawn.” It seemed like a natural choice at the time. The open, wide crown and sturdy trunk are very close to the image I see when I close my eyes and think “tree.” Our sweetgum is quite special, I believe, as it was planted in an open, sunny location and allowed to be a real tree. In forest environments, sweetgum trees are often crowded in with pines, poplars, hickories, the occasional oak, smaller maples, sourwoods. There, sweetgum strategy is to grow up with little in the way of side branches—not enough elbow room to grow elbows!

In the Arboretum, our sweetgum (one of several, but this is the prettiest by far) has a wide mulched ring and almost no competition for space. Its closest neighbors, two overcup oaks (*Quercus lyrata*), are believed to be older than the Arboretum and are magnificent trees in their own right. Over the last 60 or 70 years, this tree has matured into an excellent specimen and provides more than its share of shade as temperatures inflate.

I can say all this now, as our tree has lost nearly all of its “gumballs” for the year. We have raked underneath to collect these spiky nuisances no less than seven times since winter started! We have composted at least 50 five-gallon buckets of gumballs thus far. I had not considered this aspect of the maintenance this plant requires each year in our public garden. I’m not sure if I would have a different answer today, as another several buckets are loaded into the back of the truck. Probably not, it’s still an awesome tree.

And raking is great exercise, right? ▼

![Coker Arboretum's "specimen" sweetgum tree, with it's two overcup oak neighbors flanking from behind, in early spring—after gumball raking.](image)
The UNC Herbarium has received 84 hand-me-down herbarium cases from our friends and colleagues at Harvard University’s Gray Herbarium. Harvard is “compactorizing” their collection and is letting go of hundreds of cases that were custom made for them in the early twentieth century.

Your standard, garden-variety herbarium case is not an easy item to move around. At 7 feet tall, 2.5 feet wide, and 2 feet deep, these large metal boxes are partitioned inside by sturdy metal dividers, creating two columns of thirteen “cubbies.” The herbarium cabinet is designed to safely store hundreds of plant specimens and protect them from marauding insects, accidental leaks, light, physical damage, and changes in humidity and temperature. A professional mover (or professional wrestler, even) might look askance at one, unclear on how to get a grip on something so large, heavy, and awkward.

These Harvard cabinets hail from another era. Made of a heavier gauge of steel than that used in modern herbarium cabinets, each weighs in at 305 pounds. On his arrival in Chapel Hill last month with a full trailer of cases (13 tons’ worth), the truck-driver expressed his pleasure that there aren’t major hills between Cambridge and Chapel Hill!

So, what will we do with 84 new-old cases? First of all, put them on the ground floor! The cases will be used in additional first-floor space in Coker Hall, recently and generously allocated to us by the UNC Biology Department. They will replace a series of glass-fronted wooden cases of poor archival quality, so that important collections of algae, fungi, and vascular plants will be more securely stored. They will also allow us to unpack overcrowded specimens: in parts of the current collection, specimens, some dating from the 1820s, are so tightly squeezed into their cubbies that they are easily damaged when taken out of or put back into cabinets. The new cabinets will also allow the ongoing accession of important new collections documenting rare plant populations, new species, changes in phenology, the naturalization of exotic species, range changes, DNA sequencing—and all the other uses to which we put herbarium specimens.

And used they are! Mosses, lichens, and fungi have been the subject of Mellon Foundation and National Science Foundation (NSF) grants to support their digitization, a process in which each specimen and its label is photographed, label data is transcribed into an aggregated (multi-institutional) database, and collecting locality is geo-referenced (often using optical character recognition and crowd-sourcing). Digitization allows greater scientific use of the collection and broadens online access by the interested public. Our historically extremely important fungus collection is currently being digitized with support from the NSF, and we just received word that digitization of the algal collection will be funded under a separate NSF project.

Without additional space in Coker Hall and the Harvard cases, the ongoing modernization of the UNC Herbarium collection would not have been fiscally or physically feasible. So, old cases are given new life to house old and new specimens for old and new uses! We joke that the handles of the Harvard cases could probably be swabbed to recover the DNA of past Gray Herbarium curators and botanical luminaries such as Asa Gray and M.L. Fernald. If they time-traveled to 2013, wouldn’t they be amazed by twenty-first-century tools for herbarium curation and research?

Haiku in the Breeze June 1–July 14

Welcome back this interactive haiku outdoor exhibit that encourages visitors to write and display their own poetry.

A good haiku is like a text message 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 in the Garden 30 or more haiku created by members of the North Carolina Haiku Society. Each haiku is 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 haiku in response and hang with others.
A Developing Garden notes from Charlotte Jones-Rae, Director of Development

Everyone who ever went on a hike or attended a class with C. Ritchie Bell can recall emphatic statements that Dr. Bell interjected to focus the attention of his students. One of my favorites was his reply to the rhetorical question, “Why do we need plants?” His answer went something like this: “If you don’t need to eat, and you don’t need to breathe, or drink, or wear clothes or live in a house, well then, you don’t need plants!” Dr. Bell got the point across quickly and dramatically that plants are the basis for life as we know it, and everyone needs to understand and appreciate plants and their function in our environment if we know what’s good for us! Though the science of botany has been eclipsed in the modern academic landscape, Ritchie Bell’s message has as much validity today as when I first heard him make the statement nearly forty years ago. We ignore plants and their importance at our own peril.

Ritchie Bell’s animated teaching style and passion for wildflowers breathed life into the North Carolina Botanical Garden envisioned by his mentors, Professors W. C. Coker and H.R. Totten. According to one story, Botany Department Chair John N. Couch assigned the fledgling North Carolina Botanical Garden to Ritchie Bell to give him an outlet for his boundless energy and to keep him out of trouble! Our founding director had a way of charming and mesmerizing people in his wildflower classes, converting casual interest to passionate commitment as he shared his lifelong passion for plants. Without his amazing ability to interest people in plants and in the Garden, his wisdom in trusting Superintendent Ken Moore to build the Garden on a vision and a shoestring, and his willingness to attempt the seemingly impossible, the young North Carolina Botanical Garden would never have survived its germination. We will miss Ritchie’s energy, his colorful aphorisms, and his much-expressed pleasure at seeing the Garden grow and thrive in the next generation.

With Ritchie Bell’s passing on March 6, it seemed appropriate to dedicate our Spring Appeal to our founding director. We hope you enjoy Kay Shelburne’s illustration of Sarracenia x “Ritchie Bell” and Dr. Larry Mellchamp’s description of this dramatic plant: “It reminded Rob (Gardner) and me of Ritchie: tall, sturdy and handsome—a real show stopper.” As always, the Garden’s mission and reach exceed our state funding, so thanks to everyone who supports the work of the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

Just when we wonder how we can pay our bills, help arrives from an unexpected source! Last year, we learned that Bill Joslin had left yet another trust with the Garden’s name on it. This year, we received notice of payouts from the Julia E. Irwin Charitable Lead Annuity Trust. Our member Julie Irwin, UNC Botany MA 1975, had been invited to list her favorite cause when her mother Julia updated her annuity trust. This February we received three years of payments plus interest, and in March we received a generous unrestricted contribution for 2013. To be remembered this way, and for eight more years to come, is incredibly helpful to the Garden and we are very grateful to mother and daughter.

We are especially appreciative of those who paid their dues and made additional gifts to help where the need is greatest, including Debbie Hill, Jennifer Parker, and the Parker Foundation, Gale Unterberg, The Alben F. Bates & Clara G. Bates Foundation, Nolan Delano Lovins, D.G. and Harriet Martin, Claire Christopher, Charles and Anne Norwood, John and Lale Burk, Cotton and May Martin Bryan, Gloria Blythe, Claire and Hudnall Christopher, Ellen and Will Gaddy, Cynthia Madden, Joel Mattox and Karen Perizzolo, Kathleen Shapley-Quinn, Evelyn McNeill Sims, and Peter and Carolyn White.

A related fund we always like to see grow is the Garden’s fledgling unrestricted General Endowment. Special thanks to Linda Norris, Mark Little, Elizabeth Moore, and Dan Pittillo for their investment in the future.

We always encourage our members to pay their dues and then consider a gift to their favorite area or collection. As you will see from the Gift List, the Garden has received many designated gifts since the last Newsletter. I’d like to mention especially generous gifts for Coker Arboretum from Dixie and Rus Happgood, for Mason Farm Biological Reserve from our friends in the New Hope Audubon Society and from Bill Leuchtenburg. Noel and Shelby Dunivant made their gifts to help build the Mason Farm Biological Reserve Endowment.

The Garden’s Conservation staff carries out the mission as it relates to rare plants and natural areas. A generous grant from the Center for Plant Conservation will assist with collection and propagation of seeds of some of our region’s rarest plant species. Among the other contributions to the Conservation Fund were those from Patricia Bissett and Marion and Victor Schoenbach. Board member Sandy Thompson not only made a gift for the Education Center; he sent in a very generous expendable gift to

continued on next page >>
help with operating expenses and for Battle Park. Others making especially generous gifts for the Education Center were Linda Koffenberger, Tim Kuhn, and John Robert Staelin.

Inspiring children and students of all ages to appreciate nature is an important goal here at the Garden. With encouragement from Garden Tour Guide Paula LaPoint, the Central North Carolina Mineral Club made another substantial contribution toward the Nature Explorers scholarship fund to make sure young naturalists will have an opportunity to attend this engaging summer program.

Educational Outreach and the Children's Wonder Garden have recently received generous contributions from Nell and C.L. Morton, Jim and Jan Dean, Katherine Harrison, Marcia Kennedy, June and Michael Clendenin, Creative Food Ingredients, Mel and Phyllis Snyder and the Snyder Watchorn Foundation.

The GlaxoSmithKline Ribbon of Hope grant is proving immensely helpful to Healing and Hope Through Science. Others who made especially generous gifts for this program that brings science education and experiences with nature to hospitalized children were Julia Sprunt Grumbles and Eleanor Bisbee.

Coker Arboretum, the campus garden known and loved by UNC alumni, continues to receive gifts to build its Endowment. Bill Joslin’s estate gift was soon followed by a bequest from Norman Kellar, UNC ’37. Mr. Kellar had not visited Chapel Hill from his home in upstate New York in many years, but his annual support continued and his legacy gift is much appreciated. Others making generous gifts for the Arboretum recently included Nolan Lovins, Lallie and Dave Godschalk, Hank Rodenburg, Ken Moore, John Bryan Simmons, Claude Edward Teague III, and David Robert. Cathleen and Turner Whitted had their gift for the Arboretum Endowment matched by Microsoft. The Coker Arboretum Endowment, initiated by gifts from Arthur DeBerry and Mary and Bill Joslin nearly fifteen years ago, has grown to more than $600,000. In the years to come, we hope UNC alumni, Garden members, and everyone who has enjoyed this peaceful sanctuary in the heart of the campus will contribute to this permanent fund so that the Coker Arboretum will always have the care and support it needs and deserves.

The Friends of UNC Herbarium have a new friend: after years of volunteer work in many other Garden areas, Muriel Easterling decided to ride the bus to Coker Hall and assist with the digitization of the Herbarium’s vast collection of specimens. A recent gift of 84 herbarium cases from the Harvard’s Gray Herbarium is much appreciated (see p. 12), but the shipping cost required to take advantage of this opportunity depleted the budget for equipment and supplies. Upon learning that Assistant Curator Carol Ann McCormick’s computer was nearing total collapse, Muriel made a special gift to purchase a replacement. Others who made generous expendable contributions in recent months include Ann Harris, Julia and Michael McVaugh, Henry Cotter, Ken Moore, and Elizabeth Ley and many more in memory of Ritchie Bell.

Battle Park, the Garden’s on-campus forest, continues to attract general support as well as gifts to build the Battle Park Endowment. Sandy Thompson’s gift will allow the Garden to hire a student intern for Battle Park this summer. Especially generous gifts to build the Battle Park Endowment include those from Merrell Ramick, Jim and Delight Allen, Lallie and Dave Godschalk, Elston and Mike Miles, Robert Segal, Mike Mathers and Sandra Brooks-Mathers, Nancy Haigwood and Andy McNiece, Tim Kuhn, Jeff and Cheryl Prather, David Robert, Luther Black, Ann and Lex Alexander, Alexander and Courtney Toledo, Barbara Stiles and Bernice Stiles Wade, Charles Glover, Danny Glover, Mary Coker Joslin, Stephen Keith and Lisa Glover, Harriet and D.G. Martin, Moyna Monroe, Elizabeth Moore, Steven and Susan Skolsky, Aubrey and Jeannette Tolley, and many others. The Battle Park Endowment has grown to more than $100,000 and we hope UNC alumni, neighbors, and others will make building this permanent fund a priority in the years to come.

Forest Theatre, UNC’s beautiful stone amphitheatre, is nestled in Battle Park and managed by the Garden. Recent gifts for Forest Theatre’s care include those from Heather Ramsey, Paul Finkel, and Caryl Price. Recent contributions for the restoration of Forest Theatre include gifts from Tanner and Supremea Goli Hock, Scott Parker, and Ernest Yelton.

The Garden’s first endowment was a permanent fund started by our herb volunteers with proceeds from their sales plus generous contributions from the late John Reeves and other friends and relatives of the herb garden’s founding volunteer, Mercer Reeves Hubbard. The endowment for this popular collection recently received additions from Marie Coucoulas and Ann Buzenberg.

The Living Plant Fund, designated for purchase and installation of specimen plants throughout the Garden, receives gifts large and small during the year. Among the members who have made especially generous gifts for plants since the last Newsletter are D.J. Wilson and Alan and Maxine Stern.

As this Newsletter goes to press, we are saying farewell to Garden members Holden and Patty Thorp. Because of Chancellor Thorp’s interest and support, the Carolina Campus Community Garden was able to hire Claire Lorch as manager and continue to educate students and provide needed fresh produce for low-income University employees and their families. We wish the Thorps well and thank them for all they have done.

With gratitude to all of our members and friends whose many contributions make it possible for the Garden to accomplish its mission.
Thank you to all who support the Garden, especially to the many whose membership dues and gifts were received in the period from December 21, 2012 to March 22, 2013.

GENERAL SUPPORT

Anne Adams
Daniel & Kelly Adler
Srinath & Marci Alapati
William Jackson Alphonst
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Miao-Fang Lin
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Nicholas Plummer
John W. Pelosi
Jesse P. Perry
Merrill Petrow
Dianne & Jeff Petus
Kristen Diana Phend
Martha B. Moncorff
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Thank You to Epsilon Eta!

On March 6, Epsilon Eta, UNC-Chapel Hill’s Environmental Science Honors Society, hosted another fundraiser to build the Fred and Virginia Houk Sustainability Internship. Epsilon Eta members invited faculty and staff to join them at Qdoba Mexican Grill in Chapel Hill, and the restaurant donated a portion of the evening’s proceeds. Best of all, the occasion provided a chance for Virginia Houk and our first Houk Sustainability Intern Mat Smead to meet in person.

“Epsilon Eta has developed a partnership with NCBG over the past few years, with faculty/staff advisors Peter White and Stephen Keith,” says Epsilon Eta President (2012-13) Travis Courtney. “With the Fred and Virginia Houk Sustainability fund, Epsilon Eta found a great way to contribute to student involvement with the Garden and sustainability. . . . We believe it’s also important to have students and NCBG staff and board members interact more in social settings to share stories and learn, . . . building community and raising money for student internships, all in the name of sustainability and conservation at UNC and the Garden.”

Matt Smead says: “It was wonderful to get the opportunity to meet Virginia Houck and thank her in person for the generosity her family has shown me and the Garden. The internship was made possible by their continued support, and I think it’s really innovative that they’re fostering a program that will transform the grounds and Education Center into tools for learning about green building and alternative energy. I’m really excited to see that the internship program is continuing to grow and develop through the Garden’s collaboration with Epsilon Eta.

Thanks to Travis Courtney and others in the group for taking initiative and organizing this event to support the Garden’s sustainability internship.”

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**Legacy Gifts**

**William Joslin**, for Coker Arboretum Endowment & General Support

**Norman Kellar**, for Coker Arboretum Endowment

**Julia E. Irwin Charitable Lead Annuity Trust**

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**Leave 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.
You’ve Heard of “Speed Dating”?  
Well, Now There’s “Weed Dating!”

Seventeen people (not including staff and volunteers) attended the first-ever Weed Dating event at the Carolina Campus Community Garden. Participants chopped and turned compost, cleared and amended beds, spread mulch, weeded and planted arugula, spinach, chard, collards, parsley, and kale seedlings. There was time for conversation, eating hummus, veggies, and sweet potato chocolate chip bread . . . and for making plans to come back to the garden again! (Many thanks to photographers: Linden Thayer and Jessica Kennedy.)

On February 16 Johnny Randall, Director of Conservation Programs, attended and presented at the Georgia Native Plant Society annual meeting in Atlanta on “Fall Color: When, Where, Why, and Wow!” On February 19–20 he attended the NC-Invasive Plant Council annual meeting (Wilmington), for which he serves as a founding board member (for 14 years). He participated in the Culbreth Middle School Science Day on February 28, at which he taught winter tree identification. Johnny and Conservation Ecologist Mike Kunz attended the annual NC Rare Plant Discussion Group at the NC Zoological Park on March 5 and participated on a rare plant sales discussion panel. Johnny oversaw a Morgan Creek Valley Alliance waterway clean-up on March 23 in association with Chapel Hill’s annual Clean-Up-A-Thon; 250 pounds of trash were collected (most of which consisted of plastic bottles). And on April 3–6 Johnny and Mike Kunz attended the annual Center for Plant Conservation annual meeting in Austin, TX, where Johnny led a discussion on rare plant commercialization and Mike provided a Conservation Department update from the Garden.
We Need You . . . Volunteer!

Consider becoming a Green Gardener Volunteer with us. We will offer training soon for this special group of volunteers (date & time TBA). After completing training, Green Gardener Volunteers take turns working at the Green Gardener Reference Desk in our Education Center, from 12:00–2:00 pm on weekdays during the growing season.

We’d also love to have you join the Reception Ambassador team. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity where you can learn all about the Garden and meet & greet visitors, this option is for you! And we have other opportunities too. Please contact Barbara Wendell, Volunteer Coordinator: volunteerncbg@unc.edu (919-962-0522). And take a look at: ncbg.unc.edu/become-a-volunteer/

We appreciate our Volunteers: thank you so very much!

Déjà vu! The Garden found itself once more under construction late this winter—we are excited that our stormwater management system was completed in March. Amanda Mixon and other horticulture staff are now hard at work on replanting these bioretention basins, which require plant species that can take both inundation and drought. Come by this summer to see what’s up!

Facility Rentals at the Garden

The North Carolina Botanical Garden publishes this newsletter four times a year.

Editor & Layout Laura Cotterman
Photography Laura Cotterman, Jessica Kennedy, Geoffrey Neal, Johnny Randall, Linden Thayer, Barbara Tyroler, Peter White
Illustrations Sandra Brooks-Mathers, Dot Wilbur-Brooks, and antique illustrations

FPO--
FSC & Recycled Logos HERE!

Celebrate the relationship between humans and nature

through the integration of indoor and outdoor spaces. Open breezeways, comfortable porches, natural light in every room, beautiful native plant landscaping, and educational exhibits inform, delight, and invite visitors into the gardens and nature trails. Host your next GREEN meeting, wedding or special event in our LEED Platinum Certified Education Center!

For more information about rates and availability, contact Lauren Davis at laurende@unc.edu or 919.537.3819
How to tell if your Dues are Due . . .
Please check your membership renewal date, posted above your name & address. Use the enclosed envelope to renew! It costs $ + time for us to send reminder postcards. Thanks!

What’s New in the Garden Shop?
- Bamboo growpots featuring delicious, fragrant herbs;
- Butterfly, bumblebee, and ladybug puppets, artwork, and jewelry;
- Gardening gloves, whirligigs, seeds, and
- Lots of plants for your garden.

Come celebrate Spring at the Garden Shop!

Inside this issue . . .
- Remembering Ritchie Bell
- Herbarium Cases on the Move
- A Tree Stands in Coker Aboretum
- Banking on Climate Change
- CAROLINA MOONLIGHT GALA!
- Lots of summer workshops, lectures, hikes
- Fall Semester Certificate classes
- Weed Dating
... and more!

Garden Hours
Weekdays Year-round: 8 am – 5 pm
Weekends through May 2013
Saturdays 9 am – 5 pm
Sundays 1 pm – 5 pm

Weekends June–August 2013
Saturdays 9 am – 6 pm
Sundays 1 pm – 6 pm

Consult our website for holiday closings