



## NEWS

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Contact: Jennie Klahre  
RLF Communications  
(336) 553-1708  
[jklahre@rlfcommunications.com](mailto:jklahre@rlfcommunications.com)

### NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN TO CELEBRATE FOURTH ANNUAL NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY MAY 11, 2012

*American Public Gardens Association Partners With Rain Bird  
To Promote Environmental Preservation And Economic Resource Conservation*

**CHAPEL HILL, NC (February 20, 2012)** – [The North Carolina Botanical Garden](#) in Chapel Hill, N.C. 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, 2012. In a partnership between the [American Public Gardens Association](#) (APGA) 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,” said Peter White, North Carolina Botanical Garden director. “We look forward to a successful weekend of events and activities at the North Carolina Botanical Garden, a learning laboratory and natural treasure at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.”

The North Carolina Botanical Garden will host activities Thursday, May 10 through Sunday, May 13 in conjunction with National Public Gardens Day. The events include:

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Thursday, May 10

- **Nature Tales: Storytime in the Garden**, 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at the Garden  
Bring your young children (ages 2-5 with an adult) to the Garden to listen to nature stories at the Storyteller's Chair and enjoy hands-on explorations and activities based on the theme "Terrific Trees." *There is a \$5 fee per family and **advance registration is required.***

Friday, May 11

- **Springtime Picnic and Tour**, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the [Coker Arboretum](#)  
Bring a picnic and take a relaxed lunch hour at the Coker Arboretum. Tour guides will be available to 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*—the colorfully illustrated book that tells how William C. Coker transformed a boggy pasture into a treasured Chapel Hill garden.
- **Vegetable Tasting**, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the [Carolina Campus Community Garden](#)  
Taste organically grown spring greens including radish, collards, mustard, bok choy, kale, lettuce and Chinese cabbage. Then take a guided tour through this volunteer-run community garden that offers University employees fresh produce.
- **A Public Garden Celebration**, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the newly landscaped hillside embraced by the LEED Platinum Education Center at the Garden  
View the spring displays of diverse and exciting plants native to the Southeast, enjoy light refreshments and celebrate the proclamation of May 11 as National Public Gardens Day. Brief comments from Garden Director Peter White and others will be followed by music from the Franklin Street Traditional Jazz Band.

Saturday, May 12

- **Guided Tour**, 10 a.m. at the Garden  
Embark on a 60-minute guided tour that takes guests through an array of plants native to North Carolina, including Venus flytraps, sundews, wildflowers and orchids. Learn about the Garden's important role in promoting native plants and conservation.

Sunday, May 13

- **Mother's Day Walk**, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at [Mason Farm Biological Reserve](#)  
Take your mother or a friend for a turn around the Mason Farm's "old farm trail," which winds through 260 years of cultural and natural history. Naturalist Ed Harrison will point out wildflowers and discuss the Garden's diversity and conservation efforts. *There is a \$10 fee (\$5 for NCBG members) and **advance registration is required.***

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National Public Gardens Day is supported by a local, regional and national awareness education campaign that includes broadcast public service announcements, media partnerships, local and national spokespeople, online contests and media tours all focused on improving environmental sustainability through plant, water and wildlife preservation.

“Public gardens nationwide are committed to engaging and educating people about the importance of plant and water conservation in local communities,” said Casey Sclar, interim executive director of the APGA. “And National Public Gardens Day is a great culmination of these efforts to communicate the importance of green spaces that make up our surroundings and eco-system.”

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

#### **ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN**

The North Carolina Botanical Garden, which was founded more than 40 years ago, is a 1000-acre assemblage of display gardens and natural areas. It is nationally known as a center for the study, display, interpretation and conservation of plants. As part of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Garden houses an outdoor laboratory and classroom that supports University teaching and research. It also offers varied public opportunities for learning and recreation. Garden staff members administer several sites, including the 75-acre Display Gardens, Education Center and Nature Trails at the south edge of the UNC campus; the Coker Arboretum, Coker Pinetum and Battle Park in the heart of the campus; the UNC Herbarium on campus; and the 367-acre Mason Farm Biological Reserve nearby. The North Carolina Botanical Garden has received more than 20 awards for its dedication to public service and conservation efforts. <http://ncbg.unc.edu>.

#### **ABOUT RAIN BIRD**

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

#### **ABOUT AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION**

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

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