



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate use

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Make a difference for birds right in your own backyard

Chapel Hill, NC - The North Carolina Botanical Garden (NCBG) will host its annual Fall Plant Sale September 23 & 24, offering a wide selection of native perennial wildflowers, vines, shrubs and trees. In addition to live plants, NCBG will sell seeds and an intriguing array of gardening and natural history books and magazines.

The event begins with **Members' Night on Friday, September 23, 5–7:30 p.m.**, when members get first pick while enjoying refreshments and live music. Become a member of the Garden ahead of time or at the gate; details at ncbg.unc.edu.

The sale opens to non-members **Saturday morning, September 24, 9 a.m. to noon**. Garden members receive a 10 percent discount on plants both days.

The sale comes at the perfect time of year to add to your home landscape, as new plants will have time to establish their root systems before the growing season.

As part of the Garden's *Saving Our Birds* exhibition, this year's sale will highlight the perennials, shrubs, trees and grasses our native birds rely on for survival. The exhibit, running through December 16, aims to inspire awareness and understanding of native bird species through an educational exhibit and various events.

"Birds play an important role in North Carolina's ecosystems, but their populations are in decline," said Damon Waitt, NCBG Director. "By incorporating a few key native plants into your landscape, you can really make a difference for birds right in your own backyard."

The sale takes place near the James & Delight Allen Education Center at the North Carolina Botanical Garden, located off of the US 15-501/54 Bypass at Old Mason Farm Road.

The annual Fall Plant Sale is an important fundraiser for the North Carolina Botanical Garden. All profits from the sale are used to operate and improve the horticultural and conservation programs of the Garden.

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The NCBG, part of the University of North Carolina, is a 1,000-acre assemblage of display gardens and natural areas. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2016, the Garden is nationally known as a center for the study, display, interpretation and conservation of plants. Through its educational, recreational, therapeutic horticulture and research programs, it extends opportunities for connection with nature to people of all abilities and backgrounds. The Garden is open seven days a week and admission is free. Information at <http://ncbg.unc.edu>.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the nation's first public university, is a global higher education leader known for innovative teaching, research and public service. A member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, Carolina regularly ranks as the best value for academic quality in U.S. public higher education. Now in its third century, the University offers 77 bachelor's, 113 master's, 68 doctorate and seven professional degree programs through 14 schools and the College of Arts and Sciences. Every day, faculty – including two Nobel laureates – staff and students shape their teaching, research and public service to meet North Carolina's most pressing needs in every region and all 100 counties. Carolina's more than 308,000 alumni live in all 50 states and 150 countries. More than 167,000 live in North Carolina.