



**PRESS RELEASE**

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For immediate use

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## **Annual Evelyn McNeill Sims Native Plant Lecture Explores Designing Native Plant Gardens**

Chapel Hill –On Sunday, April 2 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. the North Carolina Botanical Garden will host plant ecologist Lisa Wagner for the Garden’s annual Evelyn McNeill Sims Native Plant Lecture, *Designing with Native Plants: A Naturalistic Approach*. Wagner will discuss creating sustainable and enjoyable gardens with native plants and how an ecologically balanced, natural garden can provide sustenance for you and the other inhabitants of your site.

Lisa Wagner served as director of education at the South Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson University for over two decades. She leads frequent presentations and classes on topics such as gardening for nature, creating a native woodland garden and native plants for pollinators. A plant ecologist by background (Ph.D. in Botany, UC Berkeley), she is involved with neighborhood greening efforts, sustainable gardening and naturalistic garden design. Her blog, Natural Gardening ([www.naturalgardening.blogspot.com](http://www.naturalgardening.blogspot.com)), reflects her observations about gardening and the natural world.

*This event is free, but advance registration is requested. To register, please go to:*  
<http://go.unc.edu/Sd7c4>

Every spring the Garden offers the Evelyn McNeill Sims lecture focusing on native plants and their conservation and ecology. The lecture series was initiated in 2000 with a gift from Botanical Garden Foundation Board member Nancy Preston in honor of her mother, Evelyn McNeill Sims.

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The North Carolina Botanical Garden, part of the University of North Carolina, is a 1,000-acre assemblage of display gardens and natural areas. The Garden celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016 and 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 Tuesday through Sunday and admission is free. Information at [ncbg.unc.edu](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.