Habitat Gardens Boardwalk Refreshed

After 30 years of use, the boardwalk through the Coastal Plain and Sandhills Habitat Gardens is being replaced! We are grateful to our supporters and members: without your dues and gifts for “general support” a project like this would not be possible.

Here is a chronological review of the boardwalk’s history, put together by Director of Horticulture Jim Ward:

- March 1984: plants rescued and brought to Garden to renovate the Coastal Plain savanna
- Late-1984: boardwalk constructed through Coastal Plain savanna
- Late 1985: upper ponds expanded into one larger pond and upper bridge constructed
- 1988: Sandhills portion of boardwalk constructed/completed

Spring Week Celebration: begins March 15

Join us for a wonderful week of programs . . .

Spring Flora, March 15 • Book Review: From Laurel Hill to Siler’s Bog, March 17 & 19 • Ephemerals, March 21 • Gardens & Gardening as Agents of Health & Wellness, March 22 • Spring in the Garden walk, March 22 • Springtime on Nature Trail Hill, March 23 • Ecological and Evolutionary Lessons of Spring, March 26 . . . and much more! See inside, pages 6–11.

This year’s Chapel Hill Spring Garden Tour will feature seven private gardens plus the Carolina Campus Community Garden, and the N.C. Botanical Garden. Visitors will enjoy plein air artists in several of the private gardens and a performance by the NC Opera here at the Garden. Tickets are $25 in advance and $30 the day of the Tour. Proceeds will help build our Children’s Wonder Garden! chapelhillgardentour.net

Wonder-ful News

Our Children’s Wonder Garden is growing! A full schematic plan was recently completed, and we have moved into the fundraising and construction design phases. The Wonder Garden is already engaging children and families, with its bird blind, jumping logs, digging places, pollinator garden, and more. Soon we will have a garden that is designed to provide even greater opportunities for children to explore, play, and experience the joy of closeness to nature. Our vision for the Children’s Wonder Garden is that it be a laboratory for learning that is instrumental in raising generations of children committed to stewardship of the natural world!

Key features of the design include a grass maze, a gathering circle, forest floor and tree canopy decks, a pond, a vegetable garden, giant bumblebee sculpture, accessible pathways, and much more. Jesse Turner, designer for the project, is a Durham-based landscape architect who, through his experience as Design Coordinator at the Natural Learning Initiative, has developed a unique specialty in the design of places for children. Previous projects include the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden at Duke

...continued on page 19 >>
Director’s Message

The Dancer and the Dance: *pattern and process*

This spring I am again teaching Conservation Biology to some 70 UNC undergraduates, including 15 who have signed up for an Honors Section. Here is an abstract of our theme for one week—also an excuse to insert poetry into this column!

My mother was an English teacher, which meant that lines of poetry were ever at hand in our house, ready to pop up in any conversation. Poetry became such a natural part of my language that now, many decades later, her favorite poems still come to mind. This week in class, the following lines from W. B. Yeats came to mind: “O Chestnut tree, great rooted blossomer,/ Are you the leaf, the blossom, or the bole?/ O body swayed to music, O brightening glance,/ How can we know the dancer from the dance?” You can’t have a dance unless there are dancers present—but you can’t have dancers unless there is a dance underway. The poem is especially fun for me because it begins with a chestnut tree.

These lines of poetry apply to the natural world, too. Nature is both things (dancers) and dynamic processes (the dance). We may be happy when we’ve successfully conserved the “things” (species, landforms, etc), but unless we also get the processes right, conservation can fail. To ensure the survival of populations of rare prairie plants at the Garden’s Penny’s Bend Nature Preserve, for instance, we do not only protect the plants growing there; we also preserve (or recreate) the periodic fires that sweep through the habitat.

I was recently asked to write a short essay tracing the influence of an important paper, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Ecological Society of America. A treasured moment of my career was meeting the author of that paper, Alex Watt—then in his 90s with silver hair and cane—in a Cambridge University coffee shop in the 1980s. By then, Watt’s 1947 paper had become a touchstone for me. He had simply and eloquently presented his case that wild nature is made up of individuals and patches of habitat of different ages linked by such processes as successional development, natural disturbances that reset the successional clock, dispersal, birth and death, and energy and materials flow. Watt transformed our view of vegetation from static habitat to a set of dynamic populations, ecological processes, and changing environments. This dynamic view gave us new purpose and brought us closer to understanding nature itself and, therefore, closer to doing a better job of conserving biodiversity. Watt’s paper had a compelling title too: “Pattern and Process in the Plant Community.” Pattern (the dancer) and process (the dance) has since become a mantra for ecologists.

Part of the thrill of the pattern and process perspective was that it confirmed an egalitarian view of species. Instead of asserting that ecosystems develop because some species are better adapted, the pattern and process perspective explains that all species are “best” in some set of circumstances and, owing to trade-offs, a species can’t be both a rapid colonizer when resources are high (after disturbance) and also a long-lived best competitor when resources are scarce (after they have been largely taken up into biomass during succession). Species play different roles, partly unique and partly overlapping. In other words, biodiversity is the raw material of ecosystem resilience—including the ability to adapt to environmental changes.

Conservation Biology students learn that we need to consider both the dancer and the dance to achieve a biologically diverse world in a time of great environmental change.
Botanical Garden Foundation NEWS

Meet Our New Board Members

At the end of 2013, six friends of the Garden were elected to the Botanical Garden Foundation (BGF) Board of Directors. BGF is the non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization that supports the North Carolina Botanical Garden, its mission, and its programs. The BGF members and Board of Directors raise more than 50 percent of the funds for operating expenses of the Garden.

Welcome aboard to the following new board members—

Betsy Bennett is former Director of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, which is now the most visited attraction in the state. Her vision and energy led to two extraordinary museum buildings in downtown Raleigh and a resurgence in natural science education. Betsy lives in Chapel Hill with her husband Walter Bennett.

Bob Broad, a New York native, received a BS in Business Administration from Syracuse University and spent his professional career in the hospitality industry. He worked for 20 years in corporate marketing and general administration before forming his own consulting and marketing firm. Bob has served on the boards of the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation and the Chapel Hill Public Library Foundation.

Chapel Hill native Greg Fitch, vice-president of Fitch Creations, manages marketing and gardens at Fearrington Village, Pittsboro. With a BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and MBA from Northwestern, Greg also earned a Certificate in Landscape Design from the New York Botanical Garden while living and working in New York. Greg’s parents, R.B. and Jenny Fitch, were early Garden supporters and Board members.

Jay Leutze is an attorney and author. His recent book, Stand Up That Mountain, has become a rallying cry for the protection of Appalachian landscapes and ecosystems. Jay, a Trustee of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, has become a leading advocate for the land trust movement. He lives in the mountains he works to protect.

Bill Ross is an environmental lawyer who served for eight years as secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. In recent years Bill has worked with the military and numerous organizations championing longleaf pine ecosystems in North Carolina and the Southeast. He lives in Chapel Hill with his wife Susan Gravely.

Jason York, a native of Burlington, NC, graduated from UNC-CH in economics, Phi Beta Kappa. He then served in the Air Force and earned an MBA from William & Mary. Jason joined BB&T in 2002 and is currently a Senior Vice President and Business Services Team Leader. He has served on Boards of several area nonprofits, including Friends of the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences.

...And New President

Tom Earnhardt, attorney/producer/writer, took the office of president of the BGF on January 1. A native of North Carolina, Tom lives in Raleigh with his wife, Dana Jennings. Their son Izaak attends UNC-CH and daughter Rachel attends Wesleyan University.

Tom is a graduate of Davidson College and the UNC School of Law and has worked as an attorney in government, business, and private practice. In addition, he taught for more than 20 years at N.C. Central University School of Law.

An avid naturalist, Tom is a keen observer and photographer of the natural world. His outdoor and conservation-related travel and speaking engagements have taken him across North America, Europe, and Asia. Over the past ten years he has written and co-produced 60 episodes of “Exploring North Carolina”—a public television series nominated for five Emmy Awards and distributed to all North Carolina middle and high schools (thanks to a grant from the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust). He recently wrote a natural history of North Carolina titled Crossroads of the Natural World (UNC Press, 2013).

Tom Earnhardt has served on the Boards of major conservation organizations and was president of Friends of the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences (2009–2011). A recipient of numerous awards, including the Governor’s Awards for North Carolina Conservationist of the Year (1994) and the Order of the Longleaf Pine (2011), Tom brings dedication and enthusiasm to the work of promoting the Garden’s mission.

See Tom Earnhardt’s essay on p. 19 of this newsletter. And consider subscribing to the Garden’s blog—aroundthegarden.tumblr.com (a link can be found on most pages of our website)—where occasional writings by Tom Earnhardt, and others, are posted.

New BGF President Tom Earnhardt, right, with outgoing President Anne Lindsey, address members during the 2013 Annual Members Holiday Party in the Education Center.
Winter is a busy time for staff of the NCBG Horticulture Department. Curators are hard at work tidying the beds and habitat gardens, spreading mulch, and pulling winter weeds. Nursery staff are preparing the greenhouse and nursery for the cold months of January and February, taking dormant cuttings of shrubs and trees, and sowing seeds that require cold stratification. And in the Seed Program, I am diligently storing all of the seed collected over the course of the past year, as well as preparing thousands of seed packets for distribution through the annual Members’ Seed List and Wildflower of the Year Program.

Throughout the year we collect and clean seeds from hundreds of native species and temporarily store them in a low-humidity seed storage room. At the end of the year, all of this seed must be accessioned (given a unique identification number with associated collection information), put into airtight glass jars, labeled, and filed in the seed refrigerator for storage. This stored seed will have many uses: we’ll use it to grow plants here at the Garden and we will also send it to members, botanical gardens, and native plant nurseries, as well as professors and graduate students for use in their research.

Each winter we select about 50 species of native perennials, vines, grasses, and shrubs to be made available through our annual Members’ Seed List. Our goal is to promote “conservation through propagation” and to encourage the use of native species in the home garden. We choose species based on the amount of seed available, ease of propagation, and ability to tolerate dry storage (for example, you will never see Trillium seeds on our seed list because they typically do not survive dry storage). We try to select species for a variety of different growing conditions, and in addition to staples such as cardinal flower and columbine every year, we offer interesting and unusual species that are not widely available commercially. After we have made our selection, each seed envelope must be labeled and filled by hand. With over 2,500 seed envelopes to prepare, this is a time-consuming task! I am grateful for the assistance of our dedicated volunteers, who help me get this done in a timely manner. The packaged seed envelopes are kept in a sealed container in the Garden’s seed refrigerator, ready for distribution to hundreds of members once the seed list is mailed in February (you should have received yours by now; let us know if you did not).

And that’s not all! In addition to the thousands of seed packets for Members’ Seed List orders, another 3,000 envelopes must be filled with seed of the Wildflower of the Year (this year, hoary skullcap, Scutellaria incana var. punctata). Again, our wonderful volunteers are invaluable in handling this major task. Every winter, a common sight in the Totten Center is folks sitting around a large table, filling seed envelopes and gluing them to brochures.

Although the landscapes around the Garden appear to be resting during the cold winter months, and many native perennials are dormant, know that we are hard at work on our winter tasks and looking forward to another year of gardening and sharing native plants.
Birthday for a Biological Reserve

by Johnny Randall, NCBG Director of Conservation Programs

We tend to place special significance on thirtieth birthdays—the “big 3-O!” It’s the point in one’s life where genuine maturity is said to begin. Saying that the Mason Farm Biological Reserve is entering “maturity” at 30 is obviously absurd, since it contains some of the most mature and intact examples of certain Piedmont forest types. But it is an occasion to celebrate and reflect on Mason Farm—yesterday, today, and tomorrow (which is the title of my talk at the Garden on Sunday, March 16, at 2 pm at the opening reception of our Mason Farm art exhibit by Maria de Bruyn in the DeBerry Gallery).*

I’ll begin our peek into the past with the hunter-gatherer groups that roamed and then settled in what we now call the Morgan Creek Valley. The Finley Golf Course area is said to have been “continuously if not intensely” occupied for upwards of 10,000 years, based on artifacts collected by the UNC Research Laboratories of Archaeology. These kinship-based tribes abandoned the site in the early 1700s but until then grew maize, squash, and native grains in the fertile bottomlands along the creek.

Mark Morgan arrived on the scene in 1741 with a 9,000-acre land grant in-hand from the Earl of Granville. Morgan probably found abandoned “Indian fields” grown up in young sweetgums and reclaimed these for his own crops. The 800-acre Mason Farm became known as such when Mark Morgan’s great-granddaughter, Mary Elizabeth Morgan, married James Pleasant Mason in 1854. Mary Mason outlived her husband and daughters Mattie and Rena (who tragically died of typhoid fever), and had the forethought to deed the land to the University of North Carolina in 1894. She was following in the footsteps of her forbearers, who contributed considerable land for the location of the first state university.

From 1894 until 1935, the University leased the land to local farmers who grew corn and other crops in what was said to be the most fertile ground in Orange County. Mason Farm was then leased to the Soil Conservation Service in the 1940s for a plant testing nursery—the legacy of which we are reminded as we strive to control multiflora rose, Davurian buckthorn, Asian lesperaza, porcelain-berry, kudzu, tall fescue, and other invasive species.

Beginning in the 1950s, UNC Botany professors H.R. Totten, Al Radford, Ritchie Bell, Cliff Parks, and others, including Ms. Laurie Stewart (who became Laurie Radford), established native shrub gardens and other botanical research projects on the farm. It was the first Garden director, Ritchie Bell, who in 1971 encouraged University Trustees to officially set aside much of Mason Farm for botanical research. But it was through a resolution, submitted in 1984 to the University Trustees by professor Haven Wiley, that 367 acres were designated as the Mason Farm Biological Reserve.

Since those early days, profound regional landscape changes (e.g., urbanization and the construction of Jordan Lake) have transformed what was a vast mix of wildness and farmland into a highly constrained ribbon of ancient and successional forests. We are therefore tasked with carefully conserving and managing the wildland remnants and especially securing those lands that are vulnerable to development.

Fast forward to the present: we have worked over the last 15 years to convert the old agricultural fields to native plant meadows by collecting and planting seeds and seedlings, effectively speeding up the recovery process. Meadows are maintained by mowing or by prescribed fire, and we are opening some woodlands with select tree removal and prescribed fire. The intent is to have a diversity of habitats—ranging from open meadow to savanna, open woodland, and more closed forest. A diversity of habitats tends to facilitate a diversity of plants, animals, fungi, etc.

The future is uncertain but hopeful. We want to add more wildlands to the reserve and to continue managing for diversity and resilience. We added the University-owned 118-acre Parker property in 2012—a momentous event—which brings the total acreage of Mason Farm to 485 acres. And we are in contact with owners of underdeveloped wildlands adjacent to Mason Farm, who understand our mission but are not ready to enter into any agreements.

Let’s celebrate the 30th birthday of the Mason Farm Biological Reserve! We recognize it as a special place: home to trees that lived alongside native peoples well before European settlement and to wild animals who survive in close proximity to the residential jungle. Let’s delight that we still find solace at our urban doorstep. ☀

*Watch this newsletter and our Facebook page for announcements of other events in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Mason Farm Biological Reserve.
Certificate Courses, Spring 2014 Semester

Full descriptions of these Certificate Courses are on our website—ncbg.unc.edu/calendar/  ☺=No prerequisites—open to all!

Native Plant Studies

Botany ☻
Olivia Lenahan, Horticultural Scientist
Sat., Mar 8, 22, 29, Apr 5; 9:15 am–1:15 pm
$140 ($125 NCBG members)

Spring Flora ☻
Milo Pyne, Plant Ecologist
Sat., Mar 15, Apr 5, 12, 26; 1:30–4:30 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members) [descr. on p. 7 >>]

Book Review: From Laurel Hill to Siler’s Bog by John Terres (Short Course ☻)
Johnny Randall, NCBG Director
Mar 17, 19, 21; 12 noon–1:00 pm
$15 ($10 NCBG members) [descr. on p. 7 >>]

Plant Communities of North Carolina ☻
Alan Weakley, Director, UNC Herbarium
Tues., Apr 1, 8, 15; 9:00 am–12:00 pm
April 22 field trip, 9:00 am–4:00 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members) [descr. on p. 7 >>]

Principles of Conservation Biology
Peter White, NCBG Director
Thurs., May 1, 8, 15, 22; 7:00–9:00 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members)

Local Trees ☻
Stefan Bloodworth, Curator; Sarah P. Duke Gardens
Sat., May 3, 10; 9:30 am–12:30 pm
$65 ($55 NCBG members) [descr. on p. 7 >>]

Plant Taxonomy
Milo Pyne, Plant Ecologist
Sund., March 30, April 13, May 4; 1:15–4:45 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members)

Flowering Plant Families
Olivia Lenahan, Horticultural Scientist
Sund., May 10, 17, 31, June 7; 1:00–4:00 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members)

Native Southeastern Medicinal Plants (Short Course ☻)
Ricky Bratz, Herbalist
Sun., May 18; 1:30–4:30 pm
$40 ($35 NCBG members) [descr. on p. 7 >>]

Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes ☻
Sam Tessel, Plant Ecologist
Sund., June 1, 8, 22, 29; 1:15–4:15 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members)

Plant Propagation (Short Course ☻)
Matt Gocke, NCBG Nursery/Greenhouse Mgr.
Sat., June 7, 1:30–4:30 pm
$40 ($35 NCBG members)

Summer Flora ☻
Milo Pyne, Plant Ecologist
Sat., June 21, 28, July 12, 19; 9:30 am–12:30 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members)

Botanical Art & Illustration

Pen & Ink
Kathy Schermer-Gramm, Professional Artist
Thurs., Mar 13, 20, 27, Apr 3; 12:30–4:45 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members)

Ephemerals (Short Course ☻)
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
Fri., Mar 21, 1:00–4:30 pm
$40 ($35 NCBG members) [descr. to right >>]

Nature Journaling Seasonal Continuum ☻
Jeannie Reese, Professional Artist
Sat., Mar 22, 1:00–4:30 pm
$40 ($35 NCBG members) [descr. to right >>]

Intermediate Watercolor for Illustrators
Kathy Schermer-Gramm, Professional Artist
Sund., Mar 23, 30, Apr 6, 13; 1:00–4:30 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members)

Master Class: Colored Pencil, Watercolor and Ink
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
Thurs., Apr 10, 17, 24, May 1; 1:00–4:00 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members)

Pen & Ink: Media Exploration
Kathy Schermer-Gramm, Professional Artist
Wednes., Apr 23, 30, May 7, 14; 1:00–4:30 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members)

Integrating Color Theory & Composition (Color Theory)
Patricia Savage, Professional Artist
Sund., Apr 27, May 4, 18, Jun 1; 1:15–4:45 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members)

New Beginning Gouache
Kate Lagley, Professional Artist
Sund., June 8, 15, 22, 29; 1:15–4:45 pm
$125 ($115 NCBG members)

Butterflies in Colored Pencil (Short Course ☻)
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
Sat., June 14; 1:00–4:30 pm
$40 ($35 NCBG members)

Ephemerals
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
Fri., Mar 21; 1:00–4:30 pm
Celebrate Spring! Students learn about native plants that flower in early spring and receive detailed instructions and demonstrations to complete a small drawing of an ephemeral plant species native to North Carolina. No supplies needed. Fee: $40 ($35 NCBG members)

Nature Journaling Seasonal Continuum
Jeannie Reese, Professional Artist
Sat., Mar 22; 1:00 – 4:30 pm
Celebrate Spring! Emerge as a writer/artist simultaneously with nature’s inspirational return to abundance. No art or writing experience is necessary for this workshop, but all levels of previous ability are welcome. Jeannie is constantly re-energizing the lessons and instruction to keep it fresh for new or returning students. Learn simple techniques and materials for starting a nature journal as a way to record thoughts, ideas, travel, garden notes, and everyday wonders. Fee: $40 ($35 NCBG members)

Robert Frost
Peter White, NCBG Director
Tues., May 27; 7:00–8:30 pm
In celebration of spring, we are bringing back Garden Director Peter White’s presentation on the natural history of Robert Frost’s poetry. This March marks the 140th anniversary of Frost’s birth! Combining three threads from his childhood—his mother’s poetry, summers on a Maine lake, and a love of nature—Peter introduces you to Robert Frost the natural historian who recognized many species of plants and animals on his daily walks, observed nature in detail, and wrote of the need for wilderness and conservation. Enjoy the science and the poetry of Robert Frost. Free, but please register online.

Butterflies in Colored Pencil
Linda Koffenberger, Professional Artist
Sat., June 14; 1:00–4:30 pm
This half-day short course is an introduction to drawing with colored pencils, using one of North Carolina’s many butterflies as the reference. Students are given step-by-step instruction to re-energizing the lessons and instruction to keep it fresh for new or returning students. Learn simple techniques and materials for starting a nature journal as a way to record thoughts, ideas, travel, garden notes, and everyday wonders. Fee: $40 ($35 NCBG members)

Registration is Online!
http://ncbg.unc.edu/calendar/
Click on Calendar & Registration to enter our secure registration site. Advance registration is required for all programs unless otherwise indicated.

Ephemerals
Photo courtesy of Philip Thomas

Nature Journaling Seasonal Continuum
Photo courtesy of Philip Thomas

Ephemerals
Botanical Art & Illustration

Art and Nature
Botany
Olivia Lenahan, Horticultural Scientist
Saturdays, Mar 8, 22, 29; Apr 5; 9:15 am–1:15 pm
This course is introductory in nature and is designed for a broad audience. It is a fundamental core course for students enrolled in either of the Garden’s certificate programs. It covers basic principles of botany including taxonomy, anatomy, morphology, and physiology. Class time is divided between lectures and examining dissecting samples. There are also opportunities for making observations of examples in the Garden. Fee: $140 ($125 NCBG members)

Spring Flora
Milo Pyne, Plant Ecologist
Saturdays, Mar 15, Apr 5, 12, 26; 1:30–4:30 pm
This course is intended for a broad audience, as well as for students who are enrolled in either of the Garden’s certificate programs. Field trips and exercises provide experience in the use of identification keys and recognition of plants in a natural setting. Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

Mason Farm Biological Reserve: Past, Present, and Future*
Johnny Randall, NCBG Director of Conservation Programs
Sunday, March 16, 2:00–3:00
Johnny Randall provides a peek into the past, a look at the present, and a glimpse into the future of the Garden’s Mason Farm Biological Reserve—30 years old! There will also be a reception following the talk in association with the opening of our Mason Farm art exhibit by Maria de Bruyn in the DeBerry Gallery (see p. 11). Free, but please register online.

Book Review: From Laurel Hill to Siler’s Bog, John Terres (Short Course)*
Johnny Randall, NCBG Director of Conservation Programs
Mar 17, 19 & 21; 12:00–1:00 pm
Celebrate Spring with us! From Laurel Hill to Siler’s Bog, originally published in 1969, presents scientific information as well as the association between a dedicated naturalist and the birds, mammals, and insects of our world. John Terres, noted author and former editor-in-chief of Audubon Magazine, spent nine years exploring the Garden’s Mason Farm Biological Reserve. His observations of the animal and plant life around him are recorded and organized around the cycle of a year from January through December. Students independently read this book and come together to discuss its impact. The third class will be a picnic at Mason Farm Biological Reserve. Fee: $15 ($10 NCBG members)

EcoMentoring Workshop: From Laurel Hill to Siler’s Bog: The Walking Adventure of a Naturalist
by John T. Terres with Charli Zipp

Ecological & Evolutionary Lessons of Spring
Peter White, NCBG Director
Wednesday, March 26, 12:00–1:00 pm
This is a “Lunch & Learn” presentation—please see description on p. 9! >>>>

Plant Communities of North Carolina
Alan Weakley, Director, UNC Herbarium
Tuesdays, Apr 1, 8, 15; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
April 22 field trip; 9:00 am–4:00 pm
This course is intended for a broad audience and introduces students to North Carolina’s rich diversity of plant communities. Variations in climate and soil types across the state as well as other factors have resulted in the creation of distinctive regions: subtropical maritime forests, salt marshes, longleaf pine savannas and sandhills, pocosins, oak-hickory forests, bottomland hardwoods, spruce-fir forests, rock outcrops and glades, relic prairies, and grasslands. This course explores the causes and history of North Carolina’s plant community diversity. Class sessions include nine hours of lecture and a full-day field trip. Fee: $125 ($115 NCBG members)

Communicating Environmental Education through Applied & Emotional Practices: a hands-on ecopedagogy workshop
Elizabeth Dickinson, UNC Assistant Professor of Communication, Kenan-Flagler Business School, Adjunct Faculty, Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology (CEE)
Saturday, April 12; 2:00–4:00 pm
In recognition of National Environmental Education Week, http://www.eeweek.org/eeweek, April 13–19, join us for this interactive, hands-on workshop. Dr. Elizabeth Dickinson will explain how to use applied, sensory, and emotional ecopedagogical tools in environmental education contexts. Many environmental education programs rely on methods that might not have a positive impact on learners; that is, they use “rational trappings”—overly focusing on reason, science, and intellect—which, in the absence of emotional connection, can alienate learners. In contrast, this workshop offers applied tools, examples, experiences, and discussions to show how educators and learners in any context can better promote emotional connections and environmental sustainability while enhancing human relationships. This session will engage the interests and experiences of educators and others to allow them to help learners create long-lasting emotional, sensory-based connections with nature. Free, but please register online.

Local Trees
Stefan Bloodworth, Curator, Blomquist Garden of Native Plants Sarah P Duke Gardens
Saturdays, May 3, 10; 9:30 am–12:30 pm
This 6-hour course is aimed for a broad audience, perfect for those just beginning their study of trees, or for recent transplants to the NC Piedmont who want to identify the trees in their backyard gardens and neighborhoods. We will spend time outdoors, walking in the Garden or on the Piedmont Nature Trails—learning common trees and how to identify them and understanding why they grow where they do. Fee: $65 ($55 NCBG members)

Native Southeastern Medicinal Plants
Ricky Bratz, Herbalist
Sunday, May 18, 1:30–4:30 pm
This course is intended for a broad audience. Participants explore the beauty of spring native southeastern medicinal plants through field identification. Using the extensive resources of the garden and the nearby woodland trails, students take in the abundant medicine that our local flora has to offer. Topics include field identification, ethical gathering and harvesting, history and lore of each plant, therapeutic and medicinal uses as well as preparations. Fee: $40 ($35 NCBG members)

The North American Orchid Conservation Center
Dennis Whigham, Senior Botanist Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
Thursday, June 5; 12:00–1:00 pm
This is a “Lunch & Learn” presentation—please see description on p. 9! >>>>

*Watch this newsletter and our website or Facebook page for announcements of other events in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Mason Farm Biological Reserve.

more programs on next page ...
Home Gardening Workshops

Composting Workshop
Muriel Williman, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Orange County Solid Waste Management  Wednesday, March 19; 3:00–4:30 pm
We are excited to have the Carolina Campus Community Garden (CCCG) as the learning laboratory for this workshop in our Home Gardening Series. Even if you think you know everything there is to know about compost, we promise you will learn something valuable at this workshop. Free but advance registration required. For directions to CCCG, http://ncbg.unc.edu/carolina-campus-community-garden/

Creating A Garden of Fragrance
Holly Shimuzu, Executive Director, U.S. Botanic Garden  Thursday, March 20, 2:00–4:00 pm
Join the N.C. Unit of The Herb Society of America and the North Carolina Botanic Garden for the fourth in a series of lectures on herbs and native plants featuring nationally recognized speakers. Holly Shimuzu has been Director of the U. S. Botanic Garden in Washington D.C. since 2000, was the first curator of the National Herb Garden there, and has worked in gardens in many parts of the world. She charts a plan for you to bring fragrant plants into your garden. Holly looks at the best fragrant plants, from roses to linden trees to veviter roots, as well as how to use and enjoy the fragrances. Variations and complexities of plant fragrances range according to the variety, season, and time of day and often have direct relationships to the plant’s pollinator. Holly will focus on the achievements of the ideal garden of fragrance. Fee: $10 (Free for Herb Society and NCBG members).

Get Ready for Summer: A Vegetable Gardening Workshop
Greta Lee, Certified Permaculture Instructor; and Claire Lorch, CCCG Garden Educator  Sunday, April 6; 1:30–3:00 pm
Get ready for summer! The Carolina Campus Community Garden (CCCG) is the learning laboratory for this workshop. We’ll cover what vegetables to plant for a summer garden; when to start planting; tips on trellising, staking and organic methods of pest control; and how to get a large harvest from a small space. Following the workshop, plan on staying to volunteer with the CCCG volunteer corp! Fee: $15 ($10 NCBG members; Free to UNC Students) For directions to CCCG: http://ncbg.unc.edu/carolina-campus-community-garden/

The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Water-wise Landscapers
Thursday, April 10; 12:00–1:00 pm  This is a “Lunch & Learn” presentation—please see description on page 9 >>>>
This short course is intended for a broad audience. Students learn fundamentals of vegetative propagation and techniques for propagating southeastern native plants by means of stem and root cuttings. Includes hands-on activities and a tour of the vegetative propagation facilities of NCBG. Fee: $40 ($35 NCBG members)

Cultivating a Backyard Medicine Garden
Ricky Bratz, Herbalist at Vital Bloom Botanicals, and Sarah Vroom, Worker-Owner at Bountiful Backyards  Saturday, April 26; 9:30am – 11:30 am
Planting a medicinal garden is one of the most effective ways to beautify and enhance your landscape while improving health. Plant herbs outside your door to use in making a tea or adding to your spring salads. From immune system boosters to seasonal allergy remedies, there is an amazing world of plants that can reduce common ailments and boost your overall energy—come learn about it with us! Join Bountiful Backyards and Vital Bloom Botanicals as we explore the Top Ten Easy-to-Grow medicinal plants for shade and sun and answer your questions. Participants will take home potted plants for their own gardens. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)

Nature Play at Home: A Landscape Design for Children
Jesse Turner, PLA, Design Coordinator, Natural Learning Initiative, and Julie Murphy, Design Associate, Natural Learning Initiative  Saturday, May 17; 9:30–11:30 am
Join Natural Learning Initiative staff members Jesse Turner and Julie Murphy as they share “Nature Play at Home: A Guide for Boosting Children’s Healthy Development and Creativity.” Jesse and Julie will illustrate simple do-it-yourself projects that can keep kids busy from dawn to dusk, outside! “Nature Play at Home” is a publication created by the Natural Learning Initiative for the National Wildlife Federation in an effort to combat what Richard Louv (author of Last Child in the Woods) aptly describes as “Nature Deficit Disorder.” We will explore many ideas, including fort building, sensory gardens, balancing logs, fairy villages, grass mazes, mud play, and more. Jesse and Julie will show a brief presentation, hand out copies of “Nature Play at Home,” and work with participants to help figure out how everyone can add some “Vitamin G” (G = GreeN = Green) for young people at home. Fee includes take-home materials: $30 ($25 NCBG members)

Home Landscape Design
JoAnn Overton, Landscape Designer  Saturday, May 31, 9:30 am–12:30 pm
This workshop addresses the typical challenges of homeowners in this region. 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 the region frequently used in home landscapes. Specific topics will include analyzing the property for wind and sun orientation, functional flow, and treating special features of your landscape. Concepts of sight line, public and private areas, and “rooms” will be discussed. Fee: $35 ($30 NCBG members)

Tour of the Honey Beehive
Anne Cabell, Beekeeper  Sunday, June 1, 2:00–3:00 pm (rain date June 8)
This workshop takes place at the Carolina Campus Community Garden (CCCG), located off Cameron Avenue in Chapel Hill. Learn about one of the world’s most fascinating insects, bees, who are responsible for pollinating one-third of the world’s food and produce one of the sweetest treats around. We will explore a live hive with hobbyist beekeeper Anne Cabell, MPH. For all ages and free-of-charge! For directions to the CCCG and to confirm that the workshop will be held if weather is uncertain, see http://ncbg.unc.edu/carolina-campus-community-garden/

Plant Propagation
Matt Gocke, NCBG Nursery/Greenhouse Manager  Saturday, June 7, 1:30–4:30 pm
This short course is intended for a broad audience. Students learn fundamentals of vegetative propagation and techniques for propagating southeastern native plants by means of stem and root cuttings. Includes hands-on activities and a tour of the vegetative propagation facilities of NCBG. Fee: $40 ($35 NCBG members)

Botany of Gardening
Olivia Lenahan  June 14, 9:30–11:30 am
What makes a seed wake up and germinate? How are flowers pollinated and how are fruit formed? This workshop delves into the science of gardening as we journey through a growing season. Discussion and hands-on activities will cover seeds, flowers, fruits, vegetables, and the science behind gardening practices. This workshop is perfect for gardeners who want to have a better understanding of basic botany and aim to have a more prosperous gardening experience. Fee: $25 ($20 NCBG members)
Tai Chi in the Garden
Lisa Marcusson, Tai Chi Instructor and Dancer
Sundays, March 9, 16, 23, and April 6; 3:00–4:00 pm
A 4-week experience. Class starts with a gentle warm up, new movement instruction, and then practice and review. Lisa takes you through the first third of a classical Tai Chi form: simple, low-impact movement appropriate for all abilities. Class will be held outdoors when possible. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and flat, thin-soled shoes. Fee: $60 for the series ($55 NCBG members).

Gardens & Gardening as Agents of Health and Wellness: Past, Present, and Future
Jane Saiers, Horticultural Therapist, Organic Farmer
Saturday, March 22; 2:00–4:00 pm
Ralph Waldo Emerson spoke for many when he wrote that “all my hurts my garden spade can heal.” Gardens and gardening have been used to enhance health and wellness across cultures, places, and epochs, including our own, as illustrated by the burgeoning field of horticultural therapy in the U.S. and the growing green care/farming-for-health movement in Europe. The beneficial effects of gardens and gardening on emotional, mental, and physical health are grounded in spirituality and science. Come learn about the history of gardens and gardening in enhancing health and well-being, about innovative ways that gardens and gardening are being used to promote health around the world, and about exciting plans for future applications of gardening in wellness. The results of scientific studies on the effects of gardens and gardening on psychological and physiological function will be discussed. Participants will hear about the longstanding, nationally known horticultural therapy program at the Garden and tour the indoor and outdoor spaces devoted to the program. Finally, participants will start on their own, individualized plans for initiating or expanding work with plants as a way to enhance personal well-being. Free, but advance registration required.

In partnership with the American Horticultural Therapy Association (www.ahta.org) and in recognition of National Horticultural Therapy Week, which begins March 16.

The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Waterwise Landscapers
Patrick Davis, Sustainability Manager, OWASA
Thursday, April 10, 12:00–1:00 pm
Water—it’s a resource our community can’t take for granted, and it is essential for the health and vitality of our landscape. Patrick Davis provides an overview of water use in our community and the importance of water conservation. Seven key strategies of waterwise landscaping will be discussed—strategies that help achieve a beautiful, healthy landscape that needs minimal supplemental irrigation and that does not result in adverse runoff to our streams and lakes.

The North American Orchid Conservation Center
Peter White, NCBG Director
Garden Director Peter White explores the wonder of spring wildflowers in the eastern deciduous forest. We’ve all heard stories of plant adaptation—that a cactus has succulent stems and no true leaves in order to conserve water in the desert, for instance—but did you know that the special class of spring wildflowers called “spring ephemerals” tell an adaptational story just as dramatic, albeit one for our humid climate and the rhythm of temperature change? We’ll connect spring wildflowers with other big phenomena of the deciduous forest, fall color, and along the way we’ll meet the “backwards” plants that go about their leafing opposite to the seasons. Bring your favorite spring wildflower stories to share at the end of the talk.

Wildflower Ecology: A Step Beyond Identification
Tim Spira, plant ecologist, native plant gardener, hiker, and professor of botany at Clemson University, where he teaches field botany and plant ecology. Tim received a PhD in Botany from the University of California, Berkeley. Most recently, he is the author of the award-winning Wildflowers and Plant Communities of the Southern Appalachian Mountains and Piedmont (UNC Press, 2011). Tim and his spouse, Lisa Wagner, divide their time between Clemson, SC, and Asheville, NC, where they’ve transformed their lawns into meadows, shrub borders, and woodlands featuring native plants. Free, but please register online. Reception & book signing follows lecture.

Eveleyn McNeill Sims Native Plant Lecture
Wildflower Ecology: A Step Beyond Identification
Sunday, April 13, 2:30 pm
Tim Spira, ecologist/author
While it’s fun to know the names of wildflowers, it’s also satisfying to learn about the many interesting ways that plants adapt to their environments. In this presentation, Tim helps us learn to interpret common features of native plants. For example, have you ever wondered why flowers are so incredibly variable in size, color, shape, and fragrance? Why fruits change color as they age, and why some fruits are sweet and others are not? Seeking answers to such questions adds a powerful new dimension to your understanding and appreciation of wildflowers as well as another layer of fun!

Tim Spira is a plant ecologist, native plant gardener, hiker, and professor of botany at Clemson University, where he teaches field botany and plant ecology. Tim received a PhD in Botany from the University of California, Berkeley. Most recently, he is the author of the award-winning Wildflowers and Plant Communities of the Southern Appalachian Mountains and Piedmont (UNC Press, 2011). Tim and his spouse, Lisa Wagner, divide their time between Clemson, SC, and Asheville, NC, where they’ve transformed their lawns into meadows, shrub borders, and woodlands featuring native plants. Free, but please register online. Reception & book signing follows lecture.
**Hikes & Tours**

Spring in the Garden Walk  
**Saturday, Mar 22 10:00–11:00 am**  
Join us for a special tour of the North Carolina Botanical Garden. On this 60-minute walk, you will experience spring and the beauty of plants native to North Carolina. Discover a longleaf pine forest, a wet savanna, and a mountain bog in our different Habitat Gardens. Learn about native wildflowers for the home landscape in our Perennial Border, and finish up with a look at some of NC’s most unique plants in our Carnivorous Plant Collection—Venus flytraps, pitcher plants, sundews, native orchids. Tour begins in the Pegg Exhibit Hall of the Education Center. Free, but please register online.

Springtime on Nature Trail Hill  
**Carol Ann McCormick, Botanist**  
**Sunday, March 23 1:00–3:00 pm**  
Explore a Piedmont hardwood forest with Carol Ann McCormick and find signs of spring: our earliest spring wildflowers, such as spring beauties, wild ginger, and trout lily. Easy pace; some steps and uphill walking. Children welcome; please leave pets at home. Fee: $15 per family ($12 for NCBG members).

Green Building of the LEED Platinum Education Center  
**Saturday, April 12 1:00–2:00 pm**  
In recognition of National Environmental Education Week (http://www.eeweek.org/ee-week), April 13–19, join us for a free behind-the-scenes tour of North Carolina’s first state-owned LEED Platinum building. One of the most environmentally friendly buildings in the Southeast, the Garden’s Education Center provides a unique opportunity to learn about green building practices. On this 45-minute tour, you will learn about the Education Center’s energy conservation, renewable energy use, stormwater management systems, and site-appropriate landscaping. Begins in the Pegg Exhibit Hall of the Center. Free, but space is limited, so please register online.

Mother’s Day Walk at Mason Farm  
**Ed Harrison, Naturalist**  
**Sunday, May 11 2:00–4:30 pm**  
Take your mother for a turn around the Mason Farm Biological Reserve’s “old farm trail,” which travels through 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. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring walking stick, insect repellent, and water. Meeting place confirmed after registration. Fee $15 ($12 NCBG members).

Penny’s Bend Wild Blue Indigo Hike  
**Ed Harrison, Naturalist**  
**Saturday, May 17 9:30 am–1:00 pm**  
Enjoy 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: $15 ($12 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, insect repellant, and water.*

Pollination Tour of the Garden  
**Saturday, June 21 10:00–11:00 am, rain/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 Display 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.

Explore Morgan Creek! Family Hike  
**ages 6 & up with adult**  
**Saturday, May 3 1:00–3:00 pm**  
Discover the amazing world of aquatic insects and other water critters the best way possible: by getting wet! We’ll enjoy a late-spring hike along the Piedmont Nature Trails to Morgan Creek where we will explore stream habitat and collect/release crayfish, dragonfly nymphs, and more! Learn how these creatures survive in their aquatic home and the importance of indicator species to determine the health of the creek. Wear clothes and closed-toed shoes for hiking and getting wet! *This is a family program; parents/caregivers must remain with their child at all times.* Fee per child: $10 ($9 NCBG members)

**Nature Tales: Storytime in the Garden**  
**ages 3–5 with adult**  
**Thursdays, 10:00–10:45 am**  
Join us on alternate Thursday mornings to listen to nature-themed books and enjoy hands-on explorations in the gardens. Program is held rain or shine. Space is limited. No more than 3 children per adult, please!  
May 8 – Who Lives in a Pond?  
May 22 - Bird Bonanza  
Jun 5 – Green Thumbs  
Jun 19 – Animal Signs  
Jul 3 – Flower Power  
Jul 17 – Terrific Trees  
Jul 31 – Flutter by Butterfly!  
Aug 14 – Fairy Tales  
Fee per child: $3.50 ($3 NCBG members)

**Nature Explorers Summer Camp 2014**  
*Registration is now open and exclusively online: ncbg.unc.edu/nature-explorers-summer-camp/*  
Nature Explorers Summer Camps offer children ages 4–12 an exciting opportunity for natural science learning and fun on 10+ acres at the North Carolina Botanical Garden.  
- Exploring North Carolina’s native gardens, forests, ponds, and streams  
- Hands-on activities, hikes, games, puppet shows, and crafts  
- Small group sizes with experienced educators  

**GARDEN SAFARI (ages 4–5):** June 9–13, June 16–20, June 23–27, Aug 4–8; 9:00 am–12:00 pm  
**WILD ADVENTURE (ages 6–7):** July 7–11, 8:30 am–3:30 pm  
**THE ART OF NATURE (ages 7–12):** July 14–18, 9:00 am–12:00 pm  
**YOUNG NATURALISTS (ages 8–10):** July 21–25, 8:30 am–3:30 pm  

Advance registration is required for all programs unless otherwise indicated!  
http://ncbg.unc.edu/calendar/  

**Explore Morgan Creek! Family Hike (ages 6 & up with adult)**  
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Discover the amazing world of aquatic insects and other water critters the best way possible: by getting wet! We’ll enjoy a late-spring hike along the Piedmont Nature Trails to Morgan Creek where we will explore stream habitat and collect/release crayfish, dragonfly nymphs, and more! Learn how these creatures survive in their aquatic home and the importance of indicator species to determine the health of the creek. Wear clothes and closed-toed shoes for hiking and getting wet! This is a family program; parents/caregivers must remain with their child at all times. Fee per child: $10 ($9 NCBG members)
**Art at the Garden**

**showing in the DeBerry Gallery . . .**

**March 4—April 29, 2014**

**The Wondrous World of Mason Farm Biological Reserve**

**photographs by Maria de Bruyn**

An exhibition of photographs showing the inherent and fascinating beauty of flora and fauna across seasons at the Reserve.

**Reception with the artist: March 16, 3:00–4:30 pm**

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**May 1—June 30, 2014**

**Overlapping Images of Nature**

**paintings by Trena McNabb**

**Reception with the artist: May 4, 2:00–4:00 pm**

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**Children's Programs**

**Sweet Peas (ages 3–4 with a parent)**

**Wednesdays, 10:00–11:00 am  Educator: Maria Hitt**

Share a morning of discovery with your growing “sweet pea” and nurture their natural curiosity for the world around them. Each class will focus on a different nature theme and may include stories, songs, mini-hikes, crafts, and puppets. **No strollers or non-registered siblings, please.**

- 3/12 – Windy Weather
- 3/26 – Sing a Froggy Song
- 4/9 – Seed Surprise

**Fee: $10 ($8 NCBG members) per child/adult pair**

**Blues: Preschoolers Exploring Nature (ages 4–5)**

**Tuesdays, Mar 18–Apr 29 (6 sessions; no class 4/1); 1:30–3:30 pm  Educator: Elisha Taylor**

Learning comes naturally for 4 & 5 year-olds during this popular, fun-filled series that fosters a sense of wonder for the natural world through hands-on activities, nature hikes, stories, crafts, and group play. Preschoolers will “dig in” to the children's vegetable garden, dip in the pond for tadpoles, observe birds up-close, and more. Healthy snack provided. Homeschoolers welcome! **Fee: $105 ($95 NCBG members)**

**Blazing-Stars: Afterschool Nature Club (ages 6–8)**

**Thursdays, Mar 20–May 1 (6 sessions; no class 4/3), 3:30–5:00 pm  Educator: Elisha Taylor**

Join us for this afterschool series designed for kids interested in learning more about nature and science first-hand. Explore the natural cycles that turn the world around! We'll investigate animal, plant, water, and rock cycles through explorations in the garden and trails, games, and art projects. This program offers an exciting complement to your child's science education and an opportunity to get outside. Homeschoolers welcome! **Fee: $80 ($72 NCBG members)**

**Nature Painting for Kids:**

**Signs of Spring (ages 7–11)**

**Saturdays, Mar 22 & 29, 10:00 am–12:00 pm (2 sessions)  Educator: Annie Nashold**

Explore the garden for emerging life, and play at painting what we see! Student artists will paint outdoors, using watercolor, while capturing the signs of spring. In the classroom, we will take our garden images and have fun creating a painting expressing the spirit of the changing season. **Fee: $40 ($36 NCBG members), includes all art supplies.**

**Nature Painting for Kids: Flower Power (ages 7–11)**

**Saturdays, Apr 26 & May 3; 10 am - 12 pm (2 sessions)  Educator: Annie Nashold**

Join us as we discover the wondrous world of flowers! Student artists will paint in the garden, using watercolor, while observing the uniqueness of their blooms. Notes will be made from observing their color, shape, and form. Students will then create a painting that reveals the spirit and character of their flower. **Fee: $40 ($36 NCBG members), includes all art supplies.**

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A Special Invitation . . .

Members are invited to train as **docents** for the upcoming Following in the Bartrams’ Footsteps exhibition. If you enjoy botany, gardening, botanical illustration, and nature exploration and are curious to know 18th-century perspectives on these subjects, join us for docent training this spring. Interested? Please contact Nancy Easterling or Cricket Taylor at 919-962-0522.
A Developing Garden notes from Charlotte Jones-Roe, Director of Development


A new area in which thoughtful members have helped us this year is in what may be called “Capacity Building.” Generous contributions by Florence and Jim Peacock and Peg Parker will help build our development and fundraising program. The Garden will be in a better position to participate in UNC’s upcoming campaign and raise funds to support the Garden’s needs and aspirations. We are very fortunate to have members with such foresight and confidence, and we plan to put their investments to good use.

Eunice Brock has completed her generous gift to Battle Park for construction of a stone terrace and gathering area. Later this year, the Melinda Kellner Brock Terrace will provide a place where classes may gather, or where parents and children may enjoy sounds and sights of the stream and the forest. Battle Park has received many gifts since our last newsletter. Expendable gifts such as those by Jim and Delight Allen and Ken Moore and Kathy Buck will help fund an intern position to assist with care of the forest and trails. Sandy Thompson, Bradford and Cheryl Briner, Elston and Mike Miles, David and Lallie Godschalk, Robert Segal, Dianna Steele, Tim Kuhn, Ed and Nancy Preston, Eunice Brock and Sam McGill, Noel and Shelby Dunivant, Harriet and D.G. Martin, Patricia McAnany, David Robert, Steven and Susan Skolsky, and many others gave to build the Battle Park Endowment, a fund to help make sure Battle Park will always have the care it needs. Charles and Karen Goss made their gift for Forest Theatre, the historic stone amphitheater in Battle Park.

A part of the Garden revered by students, alumni, and other visitors is Coker Arboretum. With trail repairs coming along in our campus arboretum, watch for exciting new plantings near the DeBerry Overlook in the coming year. An outpouring of gifts to grow the Coker Arboretum Endowment at the end of the year included generous additions from Nolan Lovins, Walter and Claudia Fort Heath, and Reymunda Hernandez. Others adding to the permanent fund included Carol Basnight and William Watts, David and Lallie Godschalk, Josie Patton, Cathleen and J.T. Whitted, John and Pat Evans, B.P. Watson, Mary and William Joyner, Ed and Nancy Preston, Sara and G.J. Wilds, and many others. The Coker Arboretum endowment contributes much-needed funds for Arboretum care.

Sandy Thompson has continued his support for the Education Center, with another generous gift for the porch he sponsored in memory of his mother, Helene Willingham Thompson.

The Garden has again received funds from the Center for Plant Conservation to continue our work on the rarest plants of our region. A generous check from Syngenta will allow our Conservation Program to make great progress this year. Scottie and David Neal have contributed to the Conservation Fund to help with a wide range of projects in our Conservation Garden.

Anne F. Harris sent in a generous contribution to the UNC Herbarium to help with current expenses. E. Reid Bahnson was among other recent “Friends of the UNC Herbarium.” Becky and Munroe Cobey made several large gifts since our last newsletter: a generous addition to the Jim Todd Living Plant Fund honoring Becky’s father and a sponsorship gift for Sculpture in the Garden. Jane Brown and Judi Brown also supported Sculpture in the Garden with their gifts. Barbara Roth made a contribution to help us landscape our Fordham Boulevard soundwall with native plants. Lynn Richardson and W. H. Craft contributed to build the
Thank you to all who support the Garden, especially to the many whose membership dues and gifts were received in the period from November 9, 2013 to January 28, 2014.

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.

**Gifts**

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Volunteers: Save the Date!
The Garden EMMYS
A lunch at the Garden recognizing and appreciating our award-winning Volunteers.
Thursday April 24, 11:30 am–1:30 pm
Congratulations to Sally Haskett, HTR!

Sally Haskett, Horticultural Therapist at the Garden, has received the credential HTR, Horticultural Therapist Registered, from the American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA). HTR is the highest level of registration currently available in the field of horticultural therapy. The designation signifies that professional competencies have been achieved based on standardized academic requirements and professional training. AHTA is the only organization that recognizes and registers horticultural therapists through a voluntary professional registration program.

The Garden’s Horticultural Therapy program has been in existence since 1978, through the effort and will of several dedicated individuals, including current Director of Education Nancy Easterling. Horticultural Therapist Sally Haskett joined the staff in 2009 with the opening of the Education Center. Horticultural therapy programs have increased to seven weekly sessions, both on and off site, with periodic trainings and classes.

Horticultural therapy is based on the principle that connection to nature has the power to heal the body, mind, and spirit. For Sally, the process of becoming a registered horticultural therapist has been both a professional and a personal journey of connection to others, through plants and nature. “This is highly rewarding work. I am honored to represent the Garden through this role.”

Sally supervises all horticultural therapy interns and volunteers. “Interns and volunteers are the lifeblood of the Garden, and nowhere is this more evident than the horticultural therapy program. Our clients benefit greatly from their presence, while interns receive crucial hands-on experience through our programs.” The HTR designation will allow Sally to supervise interns working toward registration with AHTA.

For more information about the program, volunteering, or internships, please contact Sally at haskett@email.unc.edu.

Director Peter White hosted the spring Induction Ceremony of Epsilon Eta, the honor society for environmental science students at UNC-CH, on February 21 at the Garden. He attended an event at Duke University to honor E.O. Wilson on February 8. Andrea Stewart, an undergraduate mentored by Stephen Keith and Peter, won the UNC-CH Geography Department’s Innovation Award for her research on the invasive species of our natural trails.

On September 27, 2013, Director of Conservation Programs Johnny Randall gave a presentation at the Friends of Plant Conservation annual meeting in Wake Forest, NC, on “Penny’s Bend Nature Preserve Conservation and Management.” He gave the Auburn University Department of Biology seminar on December 6 on “North Carolina Botanical Garden Conservation Programs.” Johnny attended the NC-Invasive Plant Council annual meeting on March 4–5, where he presented on “Birds and Invasive Plant Dispersal.” Johnny was a presenter and panelist at the February 17 Lake Forest Association meeting on the Health of Eastwood Lake, co-hosted by the Town of Chapel Hill Stormwater Management. On February 18 Johnny presented to the Sandhills Turf and Ornamental Conference in Carthage, NC, on “Invasive Plant Control and Best Management Practices.” And on February 21, he spoke and was a panelist at the Parks for Life meeting, sponsored by the Triangle J Council of Governments, where he discussed the use of native plants and removing invasive species.

The North Carolina Botanical Garden and the City of Durham Stormwater Services invite teams of educators to join the EARTH PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOLS. A week-long institute, July 7–11, 2014, will train teams of teachers to create rain gardens, native plant gardens, or restored natural habitats on school grounds. Applications will be accepted through April 15 and can be found on the Garden’s website: ncbg.unc.edu/pages/22/. For more information, please contact Grant Parkins, Natural Science Educator: parkins@unc.edu, 919-962-2887.
Death of a Laurel
by Alan Weakley, Director, UNC Herbarium

As I write this, it is a warmish day in early February, 17° above average. Yet last week saw the coldest temperatures in the Triangle in several decades (5° F)! Yesterday while cooking I walked outside to get a few bay leaves from the bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) growing in a warm niche against the west side of the house. One glance told me that the 5-degree day last week had probably dealt a mortal blow to this tree, which had thrived for over a decade, supplying me a super-abundance of bay leaves. Perhaps it will surprise me in the spring and re-sprout from the base? (I can hope.) This got me thinking again about climate in general, climate change, rare weather events, time, plant distributions, and human psychology.

Bay laurel is not a native; it comes from the Mediterranean and isn’t well adapted to cold (the broadleaf evergreen physiognomy is distinctly a warm temperate, subtropical, and tropical adaptation). Most horticultural literature lists it as suitable for Plant Hardiness Zones 8–11, and in the Triangle we are mapped as Zone 7b, just a tad too “hardiness-demanding” for *Laurus nobilis*.

The death of a bay laurel is a reminder that it is the rare extreme event that largely determines plant distributions. Plants do not respond much to averages and statistics. A plant does not say (pardon the anthropomorphism), “I really prefer an annual average temperature of 52 degrees Fahrenheit, and the last few years have been averaging 55 degrees, so I think I’ll just die.” January 30, 2014 was the moment of truth for my bay laurel, after a decade of lucky breaks from the climate cops. It was climatic enforcement by extreme: “You, *Laurus nobilis*, do not belong here on a granite hilltop in northern Chatham County, in Plant Hardiness Zone 7b (not 8a), and your physiological abilities to withstand freezing have been exceeded.” It only had to happen once.

So what about the native plants? How many of them were killed? Only spring will tell, but, almost certainly, none. Why? Because they’ve seen it all before, at least evolutionarily. They’re tough—meaning, if they grow here naturally, they can (as species at least) withstand all the extremes that have been thrown at them for centuries or longer. Native annual herbs exist as seeds at this season: remarkable little time capsules that can withstand remarkable extremes. Perennials are underground as rhizomes, crowns, bulbs, or tubers, insulated by earth and time-tested as “perennating organs.” Long-lived woody plants have even literally seen it all before, and worse: the trees on our land lived through January 21, 1985, when the Triangle area experienced minus 9 degrees Fahrenheit—a whole 14 degrees colder than last week.

But extremes as well as averages change. Scientific analyses of climate clearly show that change is occurring, that human activities are primary causes, that the global climate is complex, that averages have shifted significantly, and that extreme events will be more extreme and more frequent. Consider mangroves in Florida: recent research shows them moving north, spared from the once-a-decade (or even less frequent) freezes that previously prevented their spread northward. The Tunbridge Fern (*Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*) occurs in North America only along Rocky Bottom Creek in Pickens County, South Carolina; but an extended drought has apparently extirpated it from the North American flora. Only slowly, as an extreme event occurs or fails to occur for decades, will plants move.

In 50 years, will North Carolina have fewer trilliums and more bluestem? More palms and fewer firs? More lawns and fewer forests? More *Lonicera japonica* and less *Lonicera sempervirens*? Let us not rest on our *Laurus nobilis*. We have work to do for this world and its future.
Children’s Wonder Garden . . .
cont’d from p. 1

Gardens and the Green Play Yard at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Many thanks to those who have already offered support for the Children’s Wonder Garden; we hope you will join them! We are especially pleased that the Chapel Hill Garden Club will be donating funds raised through their 2014 Spring Garden Tour (see p. 1). If you would like more information, please contact Nancy Easterling, Director of Education, or Elisha Taylor, Manager of Children’s and Family Programs.

Winter Orchids
by Tom Earnhardt, President, Botanical Garden Foundation

Many North Carolinians, including me, grew up thinking of orchids as tropical flowers found only in hothouses. They were the big purple flowers given for proms and special occasions. I was in college when it first registered that some of the wildflowers I had encountered in the North Carolina mountains—pink and yellow lady slippers, ladies tresses, and even rattlesnake plantain—are in fact orchids. I have now come to appreciate that North Carolina is a temperate hotspot for orchids (plants in the family Orchidaceae), with some 60 species known from the mountains to the coast. During the coldest winter months, however, only one native orchid stands out.

I do a lot of walking on Piedmont trails during the winter. In old deciduous forests, especially near creeks (for instance, on the Garden’s Piedmont Nature Trails), I see the leaves of *Tipularia discolor*, the crane-fly orchid. From November through February, these shiny, crinkly leaves—green on top and reddish purple underneath—poke through thick layers of fallen oak and hickory leaves. With no leaves on hardwood trees to block the sunlight, this orchid does its “photosynthesis thing” throughout the winter. Crane-fly orchid leaves seem totally immune to freezing temperatures and were not even fazed by the single-digits of this January. Garden Director Peter White has informed me that *Tipularia* is one of our few “backwards” plants, collecting sunlight when other plants don’t compete.

In spring, those crane-fly orchid leaves wither and disappear. Then, from late July through August, tiny orchid flowers—greenish with a hint of purple—appear on slender stems in the same place the leaves sprouted in winter. The flowering stem, about the diameter of a pencil lead and 12 to 18 inches tall, is pretty inconspicuous but worth finding. Locate crane-fly orchid leaves in winter, and you will find the delicate flowers in late summer. This is my kind of orchid!

Winter Orchids
by Tom Earnhardt, President, Botanical Garden Foundation

How to know if your Dues are Due?

Check your membership renewal month & year, posted above your name and address. Use enclosed envelope to renew! THANKS!

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Wondering what to get that gardener who has everything?

◊ Purchase some of our Ollas pots! Save time, water and money using clay pot irrigation.

◊ New colors, sizes, and styles of Foxgloves are also in stock. Enjoy barehanded sensitivity when planting, potting, and weeding. These garden gloves are remarkably comfortable, durable and washable!

◊ And don’t miss our Plant Pavilion, offering a wide and ever-changing selection of native plants and seeds!

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Garden Hours

Weekdays Year-round: 8 am – 5 pm
Weekends through May 2014: 9 am – 5 pm
Weekends June–Aug 2014: 9 am – 6 pm
Sundays: 1 pm – 5 pm

Consult our website for holiday closings