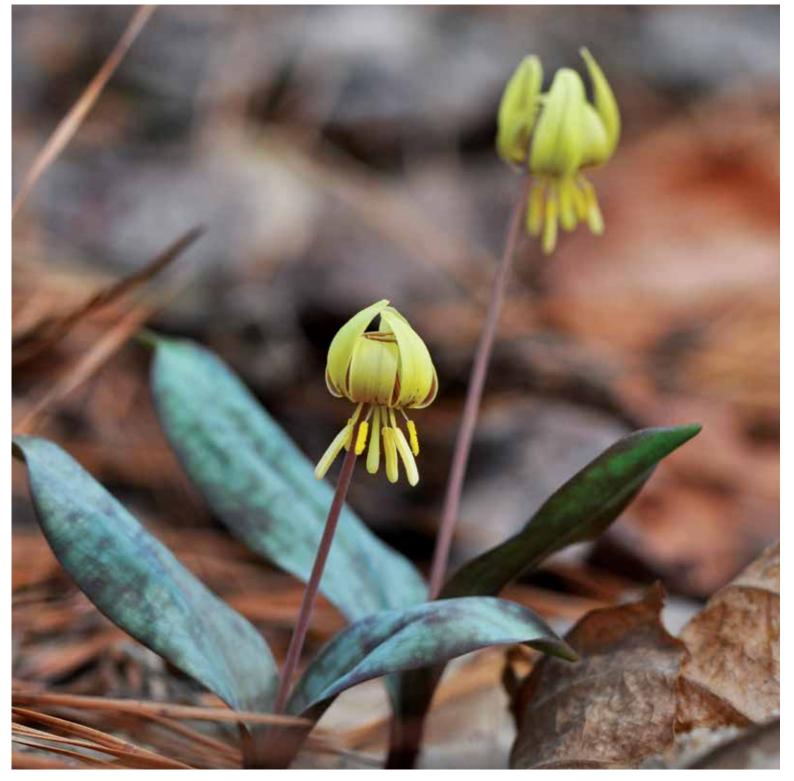


# CONSERVATION GARDENER

SPRING & SUMMER 2019 \$4.05



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

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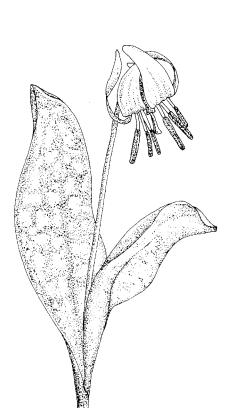
### Erythronium umbilicatum

Dimpled Trout Lily

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To inspire understanding, appreciation and conservation of plants and advance a sustainable relationship between people and nature.



### Land Rich, Cash Poor

BY DAMON WAITT, NCBG DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

It may surprise you to learn that your "Garden" membership is actually membership in the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc., a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports the Garden financially, provides for the association of members, and holds and protects land as a conservation land trust. The Foundation makes it possible for the Garden to conserve and steward over 1,100 acres of land in and around the Triangle.

Although the North Carolina Botanical Garden was initially established on 72 acres of Mason Farm woodlands in 1952 by the University's Board of Trustees, it wasn't until 1966 that the Garden opened its first public trails under the leadership of C. Ritchie Bell, a UNC botany department faculty member and the first director of the Garden. Without staff or resources, the early Garden was, as we say about ranching in Texas or farming in North Carolina... Land Rich, Cash Poor.

Enter William Lanier Hunt, a sharply dressed horticulturist with a double major in romance languages and botany from UNC-Chapel Hill and an eye for real estate. Hunt's land donation of 103 acres along Morgan Creek in 1961, followed by Nancy and Edward Gray's donation of eight acres in 1961, and the UNC Trustees' addition of 96 acres of Mason Farm in 1965, made the Garden even richer in land but did little to alleviate its cash flow woes.

To remedy the fiscal crisis, Hunt led the effort to form an organization that would provide financial support to the Garden and also serve as a land trust that could acquire land for conservation. In 1966, the Botanical Garden Foundation was incorporated and Hunt elected its first president. A year later, 291 individuals had joined by paying an annual due of \$2, and the Foundation finished 1967 with \$117.31 in its bank account.

Fast forward to 2019. The North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation membership has grown to over 3,600 members whose dues and gifts account for 35 percent of the Garden's \$3.2 million annual operating budget. The meager 1967 bank balance has grown to be a \$4.8 million permanent endowment that provides \$230,000 in investment income to the Garden each year. Land under Garden stewardship has grown from 72 to over 1,100 acres.

Land Rich, Cash Poor?

Absolutely. We would not want it any other way. It builds character and a strong work ethic. It makes us tenacious and lean and scrappy... and that is the kind of Garden and Foundation you can trust with your land.

Sincerely Yours,

thelet

William Lanier Hunt leads a tour of the Morgan Creek Gorge in the 1970s.





BOTANICAL

GARDEN

### North Carolina Botanical Garden

DAMON WAITT Director

LISA HICKS Business Office

STEPHEN KEITH Development

JOANNA MASSEY LELEKACS Education

JOHNNY RANDALL Conservation

DAN STERN Horticulture

ALAN WEAKLEY Herbarium

# North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation Officers

GREG FITCH President

MELISSA CAIN Vice President

CAREY DURHAM Treasurer

JENNY ROUTH Secretary

Conservation Gardener

JENNIFER PETERSON Managing Editor

The fall edition of the magazine was highly-praised for its practical advice for native plant gardening.



# We're all in this together

BY JENNIFER PETERSON, MANAGING EDITOR

The last edition of the *Conservation Gardener* was such a success! I received so many positive comments, and our readers seemed delighted to see numerous tips and tricks for growing a native plant landscape. I have to admit, as I developed the topics for this edition, I was worried I might not be able to reach that bar again. But, I'm so happy to say, I think this edition will be equally successful.

Providing you, the readers, ideas for your own yard is my favorite aspect of the *Conservation Gardener*. I am pleased to tell you this edition is once again chock full of things you can do.

This edition is all about land trusts—and how you can help. Land trusts work to conserve land through ownership or by holding conservation easements. They ensure land remains in a natural state and prevent future development on the site. You can read more about land trusts and our very own land trust, the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation, in an article by Johnny Randall and Jim Pick on page 12.

Land trusts are an effective way to protect land, but sometimes, the amount of land protected can seem like a drop in the bucket in the face of rapid urbanization and other threats. Conservation is a big task, and as Catherine Bollinger's article on page 6 points out, we're all in this together. You have the power to assist with land conservation by creating a landscape of native plants. Native animals and native plants have evolved to help each other out, and local animals rely on the availability of native plants. Refer to the list on page 10 to find suggested native plants for your yard that will mean the world to the birds and other wildlife living there.

We've also fit in a few more suggestions for you. We are once again offering Wildflower of the Year seeds. See the facing page for more information about this year's selection, *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* (narrow-leaf mountain-mint). Chris Liloia, NCBG habitat gardens curator, offers up another Staff Pick for plant combinations that work well together on page 11. And Janna Starr, NCBG facilities and events manager, has tips for making sure your next event is environmentally-friendly on page 16.

As big as the threats to the environment and conservation can be, it is nice to know the things we do ourselves really do mean a lot. Just ask the wildlife in your yard.



As a member, you are entitled to eight free seed packets! Learn about our new Members' Seed Pack and order your seeds at:

NCBG.UNC.EDU/2019\_SEEDPACK



### Meet the 2019 Wildflower of the Year

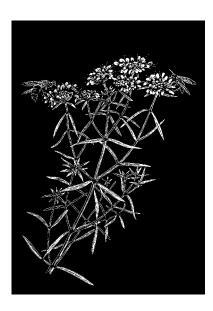
BY HEATHER SUMMER. NCBG COLLECTIONS MANAGER & SEED PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Pycnanthemum tenuifolium (narrow-leaf mountain-mint) is a wonderful member of the mint family (Lamiaceae). Native throughout the central and eastern United States, it can be found in dry, open rocky woods, prairies, fields, and roadsides. Versatile and easy to grow, this tough little perennial is at home in a variety of conditions from moist to dry soils and full sun to partial shade.

Beginning in mid-summer, narrow-leaf mountain-mint explodes with prolific small but showy white flowers borne at the top of the stems. These flowers are full of nectar and attract an incredibly diverse mix of beneficial insects and native pollinator species including bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, beetles, and moths. The diminutive but nectar-rich flowers last well through the end of summer, making this long-blooming insect magnet a must-have for any pollinator garden.

As its name implies, narrow-leaf mountain-mint has thin, needle-like leaves that give the plant a delicate, fine-textured appearance. These skinny leaves have a mild, minty scent and can be used in herbal teas. It has been reported that the Cherokee used parts of this plant to treat a variety of maladies from fever and colds to upset stomach. It has

also been suggested that the crushed leaves of narrow-leaf mountainmint can be rubbed on your skin as a natural mosquito repellent. The aromatic leaves make this species resistant to deer and rabbit herbivory.



Unlike other mints that have a tendency to spread aggressively, this species is fairly well-behaved and typically maintains a compact, mounding form throughout the year. It combines long lasting structure with graceful airiness, and its persistent form pairs well later in the season with the sometimes floppy

fall-blooming asters and grasses. In fact, as attractive as this species is in the heat of summer, it is perhaps even more attractive in the late fall and into winter when the dark gray seed heads offer a striking contrast to the fading yellow foliage beneath them. These seed heads persist on the plant long after its leaves have dropped, providing spectacular winter interest, especially on frosty mornings.

For a Wildflower of the Year brochure and packet of narrow-leaf mountainmint seeds, send a stamped, self-addressed, business envelope with attention to NCWFOY 2019 to North Carolina Botanical Garden, UNC—Chapel Hill, CB 3375, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375.

The North Carolina Botanical Garden and the Garden Club of North Carolina work together to promote the use of native plants in home gardens. Each year since 1982, a showy native perennial has been chosen and seeds of that wildflower are distributed to interested gardeners. To view a list of the past North Carolina Wildflowers of the Year, visit the Garden's website: ncbg. unc.edu/north-carolina-wildflower-of-the-year.







### Keeping our Promises

BY CAIHERINE BOLLINGER

I think of land trusts as expressions of our commitment to the natural world. They are promises made by society to protect special places for future generations, and also, for many land trusts, to protect biodiversity. Unless we expand our commitment, those little islands of protected biodiversity will not survive.

Animals and even plants travel; they do not acknowledge human-defined boundaries. Many species are blocked from completing their life cycles when developments surround their habitat and leave no natural travel corridors to allow movement in and out. Land trusts surrounded by urban development and non-native plant landscapes will inevitably decline in quality through disruptions in temperature and water regimes, displacement by invasive plant and animal species, and the lack of nearby native habitat areas needed by species that routinely range farther than the geographic confines of a preserve.

Those of us concerned about the preservation of plant and animal diversity can help land trusts by donating our time and money to their efforts. As plant and animal extinction

rates continue to rise alarmingly, it is clear that land trusts alone will not protect our planet from world-changing biodiversity loss. Fortunately, public attitudes about landscaping with native plants appear to be changing.

### A growing national real estate trend

As humanity's impacts on species extinction rates and climate change become increasingly clear, forwardthinking urban and suburban land developers across the country are changing the landscape designs of their developments to reflect the fact that the natural world surrounds and supports us and needs to be reintegrated into our everyday lives to preserve biodiversity. More and more real estate developers are featuring regional native ecosystems in their landscape designs. However, some developers try to take shortcuts, often referred to as "greenwashing."

these former agricultural acres were replanted with original native prairie and wetland species. The resulting transformation is not only beautiful: native wildlife long absent has also returned in abundance. Human residents enjoy lower landscape maintenance costs and a spectacular living environment. This native landscaping trend is growing across the country, including North Carolina.

### Fearrington Village in Pittsboro, North Carolina

The current president of the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation is Greg Fitch, vice president of Fearrington Village (www.fearrington.com), a long-standing residential community in Chatham County that continues to grow. In part because of Mr. Fitch's support of and interest in native plants, his development "has been shifting almost exclusively towards natives in our plantings."



A new development at Fearrington Village uses minimal sod and landscaping plants are exclusively native. Photo by Fearrington Village

Greenwashers advertise their developments as environmentally friendly but do not actually build communities that recreate or preserve native ecosytems.

### Prairie Crossing in Grayslake, Illinois

A well-known example of a development designed to embrace the native ecology of its geographic region is Prairie Crossing (prairiecrossing. com). Described as a "widely acclaimed conservation community,"

Additionally, the community has added a native wildflower garden and recently received certification from the New Hope chapter of the Audubon Society as a bird-friendly community.

### Real estate value of landscaping with natives

Steven I. Apfelbaum, founder and chairman of Applied Ecological Services (AES) and its associated nursery, Taylor Creek Restoration Nursery in Wisconsin, is a leader in designing with and growing native

plants for large-scale real estate projects, now annually supporting over 700 projects all over the United States. As demand for large quantities of native plants has grown, so has the nursery, which now occupies hundreds of acres of production and has around eight acres of sophisticated greenhouses and a one-acre building used for cleaning and storing seed. This commercial operation now annually produces three to five million potted native plants and tens of thousands of pounds of seed representing between 300-400 species.

AES often partners with regional experts to help them collect needed native seed from the wild. Currently, North Carolina Botanical Garden staff are working with AES to provide wild-collected seed for a forward-thinking development in eastern North Carolina.

Apfelbaum says the massive uptick in demand for native plants for large-scale landscaping projects is driven by an increasing awareness of and concern for healthy native ecosystems, a growing appreciation for the beauty of native plants, and an increased appreciation of the durability and reduced maintenance costs of native landscapes.

In one example of cost-savings, Apfelbaum notes that in the Chicago area, sod installations average about \$12,000 per acre, whereas "even the most diverse native grassland or wetland or oak savanna plantings cost between \$1,000 and \$5,500 per acre." Additional financial savings accrue from vastly reduced operation and maintenance costs. In the Chicago area, Apfelbaum notes that 22 mowings per year cost several thousand dollars or more per acre - not including costs for fertilizer, aeration, weed control, etc. Established native grasslands, wetlands, and savannas in the same region entail yearly maintenance costs in the range of \$30 to \$50 per acre to a high of \$200 per acre.

In the Chicago area, Apfelbaum reports that native landscapes increase real estate values. In the Midwest, "a single sizable tree in a yard typically adds

Left: North Carolina First Lady Kristin Cooper and Heather Starck, former executive director of Audubon North Carolina, now vice president of grassroots capacity-building at the National Audubon Society, plant a native plant garden at the Executive Mansion. Photo by Jeremy M. Lange

"Native landscapes are beautiful and vastly easier and cheaper to maintain than lawns and other non-native plantings."

10 percent more to the value of a home lot. You can add another 20-30 percent if the lot is adjacent to open space. And if the open space is restored [to natives], discerning conservation buyers pay even more." Real estate trends in the southeastern United States are similar. Native landscapes are beautiful and vastly easier and cheaper to maintain than lawns and other non-native plantings.

Given the increasingly critical need to protect native species, their obvious beauty and real estate value, and their maintenance ease, more and more property owners are honoring their commitment to the environment by adding native plants to their private and public landscapes. I call such additions promise gardens.

#### What is a promise garden?

A promise garden is any grouping of native plants on public or private property that is cohesive enough to provide food and shelter to native insects and animals struggling in North Carolina's rapidly urbanizing landscape. A grouping of several native fruit-producing shrubs favored by birds and other animals is a promise garden. A native plant pollinator garden is a promise garden that provides habitat for insects such as our many native bee species that are often ground-nesters and do not fly long distances. Pollinator promise gardens also feed insect predators and provide seeds for hungry native animals. A grouping of native canopy trees such as oaks, hickories, tulip poplars, and red maples will feed the caterpillars of hundreds of species of butterflies and moths, which in turn are the food required by nesting birds feeding their hatchlings. For smaller landscapes, native understory trees will also feed an array of insect and animal species while enhancing landscape appeal with flowers and colorful fall foliage.

#### Pollinator gardens at the residences of North Carolina's Governor

My favorite recent examples of promise

gardens on public property are the pollinator gardens that North Carolina's First Lady, Kristin Cooper, installed on the grounds of the Executive Mansion in Raleigh and on the grounds of the Governor's Western Residence in Asheville. The Executive Mansion native pollinator garden was planted and dedicated in 2017 and was a collaboration between the First Lady and members of Audubon North Carolina. Mrs. Cooper was so pleased with the results that she asked Audubon North Carolina to aid in the design and installation of a second native pollinator garden on the grounds of the Governor's Western Residence last year. The North Carolina Botanical Garden is proud to note that both of these gardens were designed and installed by a local landscaper who received his training in native plant landscaping at the Garden.

### Tips for adding a promise garden to your property

If you would like to install a promise garden of native plants on your property, resources to help you with plant choices and design are increasingly available. A great place to start is the North Carolina Botanical Garden website (ncbg.unc.edu). Consult the options under the Plants & Gardening tab for lists of native plants organized by site requirements, recommended sources for native plants, and an important list of non-native, invasive plants that you should remove from your property if possible. Another great online resource is the New Hope Audubon Society website (newhopeaudubon.org). Under the Conservation tab, consult the Bird Friendly Certification option for details on that program, along with suggested lists of native plants, invasive plants to avoid, and design tips for creating bird-friendly habitat. The North Carolina Native Plant Society website (ncwildflower.org) is another online resource jam-packed with useful information on native plants and how to garden with them successfully. Examples of widely adapted native plants appear on page 10.



Improve the biodiversity in your backyard with native plants from NCBG and other local vendors. Enjoy our food truck village, an environmental fair, tours, and more! ncbg.unc.edu/native-plant-sale

SATURDAY, MAY 4; FESTIVAL 3-7 P.M., PLANT SALE STARTS AT 2 P.M.



#### A more promising future

As more homeowners add native habitat promise gardens to their properties and the real estate industry increasingly recognizes the monetary and aesthetic values of native plant landscaping, our land trusts will no longer be islands surrounded by concrete, asphalt, and biologically inert non-native grass lawns. Preserve managers will be able to spend less time and money fighting intrusions by non-native invasive species because surrounding properties will be planted with native species adapted to local ecosystems. Water runoff and pollution contamination will be less worrisome, because surrounding native-plant-dominated properties will capture and hold excess rainwater far better than impervious surfaces and lawns, and they will not require chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, or other costly maintenance regimes. Best of all, these same features of native landscapes will also benefit the health and well-being of those who live on those native-plant-dominated properties. In keeping our promise to preserve species diversity through land trusts and promise gardens, we protect the health of our planet – now and for future generations.

A professional writer and editor for nearly 40 years, Catherine Bollinger enjoys writing about native plants most of all. Since 2011, she has been blogging about her favorite subjects at www.piedmontgardener.com. This spring, she'll be teaching a class at the Garden, "Capturing Nature in Words."

"In keeping our promise to preserve species diversity through land trusts and promise gardens, we protect the health of our planet – now and for future generations."

Audubon North Carolina has helped the state's First Family plant pollinator gardens at both the Executive Mansion and the Western Residence, shown below. Photo by Jeremy M. Lange



#### **SUGGESTED NATIVE PLANTS FOR YOUR YARD**



Ilex opaca Photo by Richard and Teresa Ware

American holly
sun/part shade, average moisture



Juniperus virginiana Photo **Eastern red cedar**sun, dry to average moisture



Cornus florida Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie Flowering dogwood shade/part shade, dry to moist soil



Oxydendrum arboreum Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie
Sourwood
sun/part shade, average moisture



Prunus serotina Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie

Black cherry
sun/part shade/shade, dry to moist soil



Amelanchier arborea **Downy serviceberry**sun/part shade, average-moist soil



Hamamelis virginiana American witch hazel sun/part shade/shade, average-moist



Lindera benzoin
Northern spicebush
sun/part shade, average-moist soil



Vaccinium spp. Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie
Native blueberries
sun/part shade, dry to moist soil



Viburnum spp.
Native viburnums
sun/part shade/shade, average-moist



Callicarpa americana American beautyberry sun/part shade, average moisture



Lonicera sempervirens Coral honeysuckle sun/part shade, average moisture



Bignonia capreolata Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie

Cross vine
sun/part shade, average moisture



Asclepias incarnata
Swamp milkweed
sun/part shade, moist/wet soil



Echinacea purpurea
Purple coneflower
sun, average moisture



Vernonia noveboracensis Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie Ironweed sun/part shade, average-moist/wet soil



Helianthus angustifolius **Swamp sunflower** sun, average-moist/wet soil



Stokesia laevis Stokes' aster sun/part shade, average-moist soil



Lobelia cardinalis
Cardinal flower
sun/part shade, average-moist/wet soil



Muhlenbergia capillaris Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie Hairgrass sun, dry-average, well-drained soil



Schizachyrium scoparium var. scoparium Common little bluestem sun, dry soil



### Staff Pick: Plant a Trout Lily, Feed a Bee

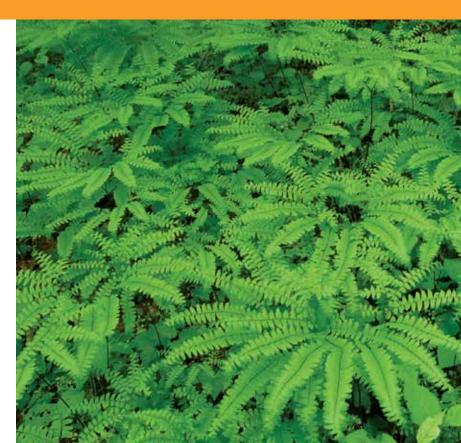


BY CHRIS LILOIA, HABITAT GARDENS CURATOR

Now is the time to enjoy North Carolina's earliest spring wildflowers like *Claytonia virginica* (eastern spring beauty), *Sanguinaria canadensis* (bloodroot), and *Erythronium umbilicatum* (dimpled trout lily).

Beginning in late February or early March, yellow carpets of dimpled trout lily blooms are cheerful in the woods and the garden. The flowers open only when the sun is out and the weather is relatively warm. Not coincidentally, this is when early spring pollinators are active. By the time the trees are fully leafed out and the canopy closes in May, the trout lilies will have finished setting seed and gone quite dormant.

In the garden, they work well with ferns like *Adiantum pedatum* (northern maidenhair), which fill the space left empty when the trout lilies go dormant. Both appreciate average to moist organic soils in the shade.







## The North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation Land Trust

JOHNNY RANDALL, NCBG DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION, AND JIM PICK, CHAIR OF THE NCBGF CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Every day, the United States loses over 4,000 acres of land to development, according to the Land Trust Alliance – 325 per day here in North Carolina. For many people, these sobering statistics are an abstraction. It's hard to grasp the enormity of the loss or perceive how one person can help make a difference. Supporting groups working to protect conservation lands, including the North Carolina Botanical Garden and North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation (NCBGF), is one way to start.

The United States has an incredible collection of national parks, monuments, forests, and wildlife refuges; states have their own parks and forests; and the North Carolina Plant Conservation Program holds over 14,000 acres in 25 preserves throughout the state, with more on the way, solely for protecting land that supports the state's rarest plants. These public lands

are vulnerable, however, because they are ultimately controlled by elected officials and political appointees. Many historical safeguards of our public lands are now in jeopardy due to weakened and reversed protections from oil and gas exploration, mining, and logging.

The vulnerability of public lands means our best hope for conservation may be on private lands. The Nature Conservancy, for example, owns nearly two million acres in the US and holds over three million acres in conservation easements. Other private land trusts around the country hold over 57 million acres for conservation in perpetuity, either through ownership or by holding conservation easements. Within North Carolina, 25 land trusts protect approximately 1.5 million acres, and although small, the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation owns

128 acres of conservation land and 199 acres of conservation easements.

The first statement in the 1967 NCBGF Articles of Incorporation is "to receive funds, and to hold lands, regardless of geographic location, for the use of the North Carolina Botanical Garden in carrying out its objectives of conservation, scientific investigation, teaching, public service and public recreation." In other words, NCBGF's formative directive was to serve as a land trust.

NCBGF is the third oldest land trust in the state after the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (founded in 1883) and the Eno River Association (founded in 1966). The "regardless of geographic location" clause in the Articles allowed the Foundation to receive lands anywhere at a time when land trusts were few and far between, and these Left: A tree at Stillhouse Bottom Nature Preserve. Land donations from Duke Power and private citizens helped create the 17-acre preserve in the mid-1980s, along with five acres from conservation easements. The preserve became a State Dedicated Nature Preserve in 2002.

Right, Top: The North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation (NCBGF) held several special events to raise funds to buy Stillhouse Bottom Nature Preserve. Right, Middle: NCBGF president Anne Lindsey, Charlotte Jones-Roe, and Johnny Randall signed paperwork in 2007 to add six acres, the Joslin Slope, to Stillhouse Bottom Nature Preserve.

Right, Bottom: Stillhouse Bottom Nature Preserve. Photo by David Blevins

more distant lands were transferred to an appropriate land trust once they were established.

Today the Laurel Hill and the Stillhouse Bottom Nature Preserves (at 99 acres) represent ecologically exceptional lands held by NCBGF for biological diversity protection, and the Morgan Creek Preserve, owned by the Town of Chapel Hill, is the largest conservation easement at 92 acres. And NCBGF is in the process of adding another ecologically exceptional 13-acre parcel, with help from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Orange County, private donations, and the Town of Chapel Hill.

Many states have funding programs for land conservation purchases and tax incentives for conservation easement donations. North Carolina led the way for tax credits back in 1983. Landowners who donated a conservation easement or conservation property to a qualified land trust could claim an income tax credit

(as opposed to a tax deduction) equal to 25 percent of the fair market value, which helped conserve approximately 250,000 acres of natural areas and farms throughout the state.

This enormous land conservation incentive was repealed in 2013 by the North Carolina General Assembly, so landowners can no longer claim this state income tax credit. Movement is afoot by many local land trusts to encourage the state legislature to reinstate this successful program, which provided tremendous public benefits for protecting air and water quality, wildlife habitat, and working farms.

Over 150 years ago, Henry David Thoreau said that "in Wildness is the preservation of the World." Since Thoreau's time, wildness in the continental US has been whittled to a near vanishing point. To prevent further decline, we can support our land trusts through donations of funds, land contributions, and by donating conservation easements.

### **SUPPORT**YOUR LOCAL LAND TRUST



To learn more about how you can support the North Carolina Botanical Garden's conservation efforts, see the Garden's website and/or contact Stephen Keith @ 919-962-9458 or Stephen.Keith@unc.edu. The North Carolina Botanical Garden manages several conservation and natural area properties, including Battle Park, the Coker Pinetum, Penny's Bend, the Piedmont Nature Trails, Mason Farm Biological Reserve, and Stillhouse Bottom. To support the immediate conservation needs of the Garden, including land management, restoration, and outright land purchase, you can make a gift designated to the Botanical Garden Conservation fund (525239) or online at

Find your local land trust through the nationwide Land Trust Alliance (landtrustalliance.org) or the statewide Conservation Trust for North Carolin (ctnc.org). Find information from either site on the tax benefits available for land or conservation easement donations.

### **CONSERVATION**EASEMENT

A conservation easement is a voluntary and legally binding agreement between a land owner and a land trust that places permanent conservation protection on a parcel of land.







### Going, Going, Gone: The Fight against Grassland Loss

BY EMILY OGLESBY, NCBG COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Before sprawling suburbs and strip malls, before cultivated fields of tobacco and cotton, the southeastern United States was home not just to dense forests of oaks and pines but also hundreds of millions of acres of open grasslands.

Bison grazed on native canes in river valleys kept open by industrious beavers. Fire swept through savannas dotted with longleaf pines, clearing away competition to allow a rich spread of herbaceous plants to flourish.

More types of grasslands exist in the Southeast than in all of the Great Plains and Midwest: glades with sparse annual grasses and herbs over shallow topsoil; marshes with grasses and sedges standing resilient above the water; balds on mountaintops in the Appalachians, relics of the alpine tundra of the last Ice Age; bogs, fens, sandbars, barrens, prairies.

Each is a biodiversity hotspot, home to a wide variety of plants and animals – 60 percent of southeastern native plants require or prefer grasslands. Grasslands perform critical ecosystem services, reducing topsoil erosion, improving water quality, and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

But only a tiny fraction of the historical range of grasslands remains. Cleared for towns and farms from the earliest days of European settlement, encroached upon by surrounding forests as humans began to suppress the natural fires that kept the trees at bay, or altered beyond recognition by changes to drainage and land use, the survival of these natural wonders hangs in the balance.

The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI), founded in 2017 as part of Austin Peay State University in Tennessee, aims to reverse the trends of grassland loss through an arsenal of wide-reaching strategies: serving a leadership role in research and monitoring efforts for southeastern grasslands; providing expert consulting services to everyone from federal agencies to private landowners in natural community

Left: A wet meadow dominated by grasses and sedges at Mason Farm Biological Reserve.
Right: Castilleja coccinea (Indian paintbrush) at Mason Farm Biological

inventory, management, and preserve design; creating educational resources for the public; and working with donors to offer a diverse range of grants to counter the lack of funding for southeastern grassland conservation.

The task is daunting, starting from zero: we still don't know where all the grasslands were, what species they contained, and how many have been lost. With over 99 percent loss of some types of grasslands, the few remnants that persist are mostly lucky accidents – here a sunny stretch of roadside, there a powerline right-of-way.

SGI has a plan to make the most of what's left. Taking it upon themselves to advocate for and implement the necessary research, they have laid out strategies for grassland conservation: preserve the precious few "old-growth" grassland remnants through acquisition and easements; restore grasslands by

thinning forests in historically open areas; recreate lost grasslands by planting locally adapted seeds; and educate the public through citizen science initiatives, volunteer programs, documentaries, online materials, and more.

The North Carolina Botanical Garden partners with SGI on research and grants and is a designated SGI hub and seed bank. Herbarium director Alan Weakley serves as the chair of SGI's Scientific Advisory Committee to help identify urgent conservation needs.

The SGI tagline encapsulates the urgency of the situation: "25 years will be too late." Together we're racing against time – against the disappearance of the few remaining grasslands, against the resulting decline in wildlife populations, against the loss of the Southeast's precious and unique natural heritage.



### THE SOUTHEASTERN GRASSLANDS INITIATIVE:

CHARTING A NEW COURSE FOR CONSERVATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

APRIL 7; 2:30-3:30 P.M., RECEPTION FOLLOWING

Many of our favorite native wildflowers are species adapted to open, sunny, grassy habitats, and while we use some of these plants horticulturally, their native stocks have dwindled. Grassland loss is the single greatest conservation issue currently facing eastern North American biodiversity. Southern grasslands are nearly extinct and the species that depend on them are fading fast. Join Dwayne Estes of the Southern Grasslands Initiative at Austin Peay University for a fascinating and stereotype-shattering tour of North Carolina's natural landscapes just a few hundred years ago: bison, prairies, and sun-loving wildflowers. What are the challenges facing these landscapes and how can we restore them?

DETAILS AT GO.UNC.EDU/SIMSLECTURE





### **Greening Your Event**

BY JANNA STARR, NCBG FACILITIES AND EVENTS MANAGER

Events tend to use a lot of resources and produce overwhelming amounts of waste. But good news: they don't have to! Whether it's a family reunion, neighborhood gathering, work conference, or any other special occasion, events can be sustainable and have a minimal environmental impact with just a bit of planning and intentionality.

Here at the Garden, we host an array of events and rentals in our various spaces. We have implemented a series of green event policies to ensure our events support our mission of advancing a sustainable relationship between people and nature. Whether it's a wedding or a work retreat, event users here are required to use only reusable or compostable

service-ware (cutlery, cups, plates), follow our zero waste requirement (meaning no materials go to a landfill), follow green decorations policies, serve food and drinks in bulk, and prohibit use of disposable plastic water bottles and food wrappers.

You might think groups who use our event space would be hesitant about our strict green policies, but we have found people want to be green and are encouraged by our green event requirements. It just takes a little guidance, education, and reinforcement to help those who rent our spaces make sustainable decisions when possible. Follow the tips below to make your next event green.

	TRY TO:	TRY NOT TO:
waste	Send digital invitations Use ceramic or other reusable dishes and cutlery Properly mark waste bins (landfill, recycling, and compost) Use natural or reusable decorations (native floral arrangements, linen tablecloths, paper banners, reusable vases and jars, leaf confetti)	Send paper invitations Use disposable, single-use dishes, and cutlery Only make garbage bins available (so even recyclable or compostable items end up in the trash) Use disposable decorations (balloons, traditional confetti, glitter, streamers, plastic table covers, silly string, non-native or invasive flower displays)
food	Purchase food and drinks in bulk Serve locally sourced, seasonal menu items Provide vegetarian options Donate extra food or send it home with guests	Purchase individually packaged or shrink-wrapped food and drinks (includes disposable water bottles)
energy	Encourage guests to walk, bike, or use public transit or ride-sharing options  Use biodiesel generators or solar-powered equipment when necessary  Take advantage of daylight hours to avoid using artificial lighting  Hire an acoustic band	Require guests to drive themselves Use gas-powered generators



### The BGF becomes the NCBGF

BY GREG FITCH, NCBGF PRESIDENT

You can probably recall names of organizations that either made you want to learn more or failed to grab your attention. The name an entity selects for itself is so important—it is often the very first piece of information you get about the organization, and you may repeat that name a lot over time.

The name of the Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc. (BGF) dates to 1966 when both the BGF and the Garden were founded by William L. Hunt. The BGF may have been the first nonprofit in the country to support a public garden, so a more descriptive name may have been deemed unnecessary at that time. But starting in the 1990s, the outside world started to change.

Other nonprofits were founded whose name included the words "botanical garden foundation." In our region alone, Moore Farms, Lewis Ginter, and Daniel Stowe created charities named in such a fashion. By comparison, our name started to seem a bit unhelpful, prompting questions like: Which garden do we support? Do we support more than one garden? And what is the exact nature of this relationship?

The internet has only amplified these

questions. For example, charity review websites are hugely influential with many donors; they start with a general cause in mind and then review charities within that space on sites like Guide Star and Charity Navigator. These sites not only provide information and assign ratings on various effectiveness criteria, but allow one to compare nonprofits against each other. Again, the nonspecific nature of the BGF name made the donor work harder to learn what we do. Some didn't bother.

Here's another reason for the name change. We're totally aligned with the institution we support, so repeating the Garden's name in our name affirms this close connection and, consciously or not, says we act as one, moving in the same direction.

Of course, we are a separate organization, managed by an independent board of directors, and that latitude allows us to provide services to the Garden it could not easily provide on its own, such as holding lands for conservation, receiving individual donations, holding the Garden's endowment funds, and more. It's a great partnership.

So in the spring 2018 board meeting, the BGF's board of directors unanimously voted to approve changing the organization's name to the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc. We think this simple act of adding the words "North Carolina" to the front of our name clarifies our mission and opens new doors for the Garden. The NC Secretary of State's office approved the change, and you'll see the new name more and more as we update various print and digital media.

So please welcome the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc. into the world! You can still call it the BGF if you want - it's the same organization, with the same bylaws, governance structure, and mission. It just got a little bit better.

Greg Fitch President, North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc.

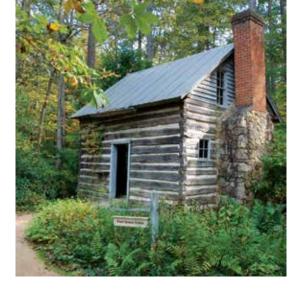


Delve deeper! Bringing Nature Home, Gardening Revolution, and Planting in a Post-Wild World explore native plant gardening and landscape design and will help you turn your yard into a mini-land-trust or promise garden. Available now at the Garden Shop! Members receive a 10 percent discount.

NCBG.UNC.EDU/RECOMMENDED-BOOKS



The Paul Green Cabin has sat in the Garden's Mountain Habitat since 1992. Below: Green assembled the cabin in his backyard and used it as a refuge for writing.



### Paul Green: Playwright, Activist, Naturalist

BY ANGELICA EDWARDS, NCBG COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

A humble log cabin sits quietly in the foliage of the Garden, patiently waiting for a visitor. Vines cling along one of its walls, swallowing it, trying unsuccessfully to make it one with the forest.

Paul Green's Cabin, named after the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, civil rights activist, and UNC-Chapel Hill professor, provided a refuge for Green to write and experience nature's serenity.

Green grew up on a cotton farm in the Cape Fear River Basin, which he called the "Valley." He studied drama and philosophy at UNC-CH before serving in WWI, and later returned to finish his education and subsequently teach at the University.

The cabin, previously located near Greenwood Road in Chapel Hill, found its way to its current home after the cochairs of the Paul Green Preservation Task Force, Sally Vilas and Rhoda Wynn, led efforts to relocate it. The Garden dedicated the cabin on April 12, 1992.

The Paul Green Cabin serves as an ethnobotanical exhibit. Ethnobotany studies the relationships between plants and culture. Green wrote about Southern people frequently, and much of his work consisted of plant references. He often consulted the botanists at UNC-CH to learn more about plants to portray them accurately.

Green's daughter, Betsy Green Moyer, compiled his entries about herbal remedies and folklore from *Paul Green's Workbook: An Alphabet of Reminiscence*, and combined them with photographs to create *Paul Green's Plant Book: An Alphabet of Flowers & Folklore*. The descriptive



plant book reveals Green's vast knowledge of North Carolina's flora and fauna.

The botanical influences in his life become apparent in multiple forms of his writing, including his personal letters. Laurence Avery, former chairman of the English department at UNC-CH, wrote *A Southern Life*, a series of annotated letters written by Paul Green.

In one entry, Green wrote to his daughter Betsy and his son-in-law

William Moyer about his vegetable garden in the autumn of 1969. He discussed maintaining an old road in a woodland a few miles from his home. "To go there for us is like going to church," Green wrote."...it is a great relief from such *ex nihilo nihil non fit*," (Latin for nothing is made of nothing).

His experiences growing up on a Southern farm not only influenced the way he viewed nature but also the plight of the Southern people. In addition to writing "The Lost Colony," Green won a Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1927 for "Abraham's Bosom," a play depicting the lives of black North Carolinians. In 1941, he worked with Richard Wright to create the drama "Native Son," which received positive reception for the racial themes it explored.

To learn more about Green, visitors are intived to attend the Paul Green Foundation's "Meet Paul Green: Playwright, Activist, Naturalist," to commemorate the playwright on March 31 at the Garden. Join the Paul Green Foundation for a dramatization of Paul Green's life and work, presented by Playmakers Repertory Company actors Kathryn Hunter Williams and Ray Dooley. The performance will be followed by tours of the cabin where Green wrote for 26 years.

### Spring in Coker Arboretum

As Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "The earth laughs in flowers." Earth laughs tremendously in all the Garden's locations each spring, and especially at Coker Arboretum. We hope these photos bring a smile to your face, too.









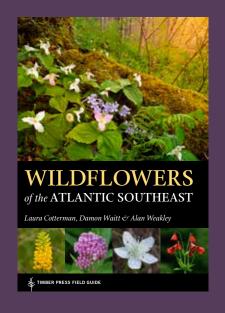
### **WILDFLOWERS** OF THE ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST

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A handy, illustrated guide to more than 1,200 species of wildflowers of the Atlantic Southeast. Through a simple key system based on flower color, petal arrangement, and leaf type, users are guided to the identification of both common and rare species in the landscape. A portable, easy-to-use photographic reference that can be taken into the field. All three authors are associated with the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

JOIN US FOR A BOOK SIGNING ON JULY 2





At her retirement celebration, Charlotte Jones-Roe received the Flora Caroliniana Award, an honor bestowed upon only six people over the past several decades. This award is given for continuing enthusiasm and service to the preservation, restoration, and appreciation of the natural world around us.



### A Growing Garden

BY STEPHEN KEITH, NCBG INTERIM DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Spring is a time of rejuvenation, new growth, and hope. In the cold and wet winter months, our native plant collections appear dormant. But underneath the soil, plants are actively preparing for the flush of growth as soon as warmer temperatures and longer daylight cycles arrive.

Parallel to nature's winter rhythms, the Garden is quietly preparing for another stimulating year. Thanks to the support of NCBGF membership gifts and multiple welcomed gifts to the general fund, we continue to meet our conservation mission each day.

Many of you made 2018 year-end gifts to support the Garden and its programs and natural areas. Thank you for keeping the Garden strong. This year ended on a high note with the culmination of major project funding and the creation of a new endowment.

Over the last year, the NCBGF board has undertaken the enhancement of the Garden's main entrance on Old Mason Farm Road.

Honorary director **Arthur DeBerry** first initiated the idea of an entryway project that would entail a new sign, a reimagined landscape, and an overall design to intrigue and welcome visitors. With a rousing planning session led by board member Chip Calloway followed by a challenge match commitment by honorary board member Marcella Grendler, the NCBGF board decided to make this project a reality. Thanks to the participation of the whole board, we surpassed the project's funding goal of \$150,000. A huge thanks for the leadership gifts of **Greg Fitch**, Harriet Martin, James Joslin, Brie Arthur, Bob Broad, Jenny Routh, Anne Harris, Florence Peacock, and Scottie Neill. Keep an eye on the progress of our entryway project in the months ahead, which will serve as this board's legacy.

In December, we also celebrated the 44 years of dedicated service of Charlotte Jones-Roe, the Garden's director of development for the last 25 years. Charlotte served the Garden's conservation mission through many roles in her long career here, and she

was passionate about ensuring the Garden has the resources to sustain its many plant collections, programs, and natural areas.

Many people stopped by the Garden in the latter part of the year to wish Charlotte well in her next endeavors. She is the last of the early employees to retire and has made countless friends and supporters over the years. Numerous folks provided gifts to benefit the general operations of the Garden or to establish the new NCBG Student Intern Fund in Charlotte's honor. General support gifts for "where the need is greatest" and student intern funding to train the next generation of conservation personnel were of particular interest to Charlotte. A special thanks to **Cindy** and Tom Cook, Claire Christopher, and Marcella Grendler for providing the lead funds to create this new NCBG Student Intern Fund, which will allow students to gain experience and further their botanical education while working at the Garden.

Thank you for continuing Charlotte's legacy to guarantee that the Garden flourishes now and into the future. Once the NCBG student intern endowment is complete and fully vested, watch for stories about the experiences of our student interns as they serve the public and preserve the conservation lands of the Garden.

This is a pivotal time in the life of the Garden. As we enter spring and start anew, we need your involvement. There are myriad programs and opportunities to participate in the Garden's mission. Enjoy our plant collections, natural areas, and public programs, and know that your dues, gifts, and contributions are essential to our success and deeply appreciated.



Arthur and Mignon DeBerry. Arthur initiated the idea of a new entryway to the Garden, including a new sign, reimagined landscape, and an overall design to intrigue and welcome visitors.

#### Thank you for choosing to honor friends and family through a gift to the North Carolina Botanical Garden!

Tribute Gifts below were received from July 16, 2018 to January 22, 2019.

#### IN HONOR OF

**Nick Adams** 

Mary F. Flanagan

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Kevin Slep and Alison Adcock, for Conservation Fund

James Allison

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**Donna Benson** 

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David and Susan Bollinger

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**Eunice M. Brock** 

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Employees of Fitch Creations, for Garden Entrance Landscape Fund

Ken and Laura Frazier

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Lawrence Goldrich

Daryl Raskin

Sally and Harry Gooder For their years of devotion to the North Carolina Botanical Garden and

Caroline Gooder

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or Stephen.Keith@unc.edu for more

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for Wonder Connection

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Susan H. Ensign
Lars Schoultz and Jane Volland, for Battle Park Endowment
Ann Rogers Wade, for Battle Park Endowment
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Jane Carter Walker

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Judy and Gilbert White

**David Whittington** 

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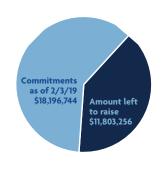
David and Miriam Bryant

Noah Rouse Wilson Jr. Allison Essen

Rouse and Susan Wilson

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The North Carolina Botanical Garden is a department of UNC-Chapel Hill. You can support the Garden and participate in Carolina's fundraising campaign. We have reached over 60 percent of our \$30 million campaign goal. The priorities of our campaign include several capital projects, such as the entryway landscape, greenhouse renovation, Forest Theatre enhancement, and Children's Wonder Garden construction. We are also working to increase annual giving, complete several endowments, increase compelling interpretation throughout our spaces, and plan for the future Plant Biodiversity Research Center. For more information about the Garden's campaign, contact Stephen Keith at 919-962-9458.





the
CAMPAIGN
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Third Saturday of each month, March - October

Tours begin at 11 a.m. and last for 1-2 hours. Meet in the gathering circle on the south side of the Arboretum, next to the arbor along Cameron Avenue.



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April 7
Evelyn McNeill Sims
Native Plant Lecture

May 4
Native Plant
Sale & Festival

May 13-19
National Public Gardens Week

June 1 **Carolina Moonlight Garden Party** 

September 14

Sculpture in the Garden
Preview Party

September 27 & 28 Fall Plant Sale

October 25 **BOOtanical** 

November 3
Jenny Elder Fitch
Memorial Lecture

December 6 & 7
Winter in the Garden
Holiday Festival

For more information: ncbg.unc.edu/2019-events



#### North Carolina Botanical Garden

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