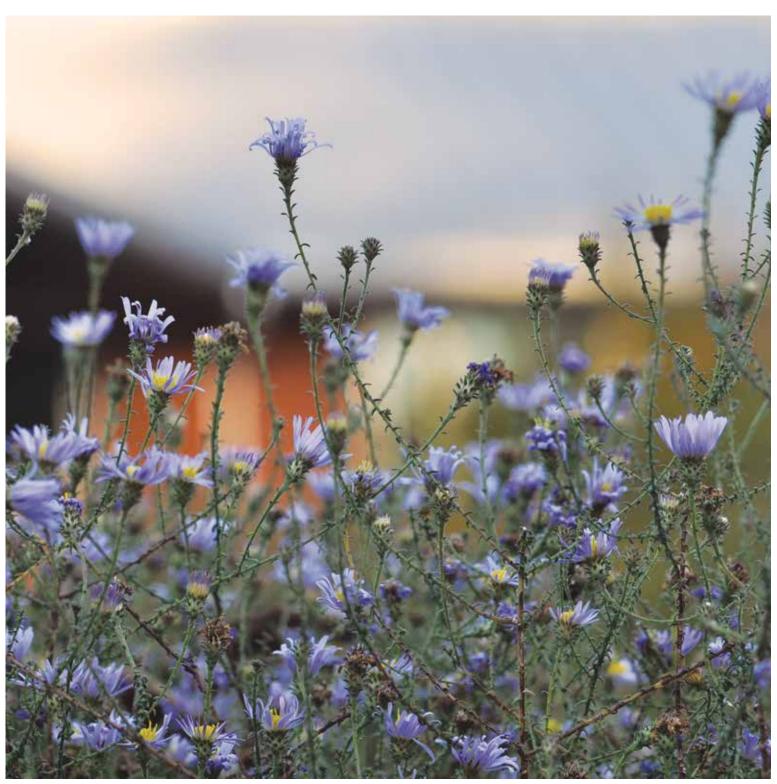


# CONSERVATION GARDENER

FALL/WINTER 2019/20 \$4 95



ON THE COVER

# Symphyotrichum walteri

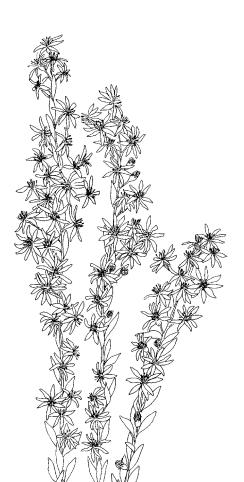
Walter's American-aster

Photo by Emily Oglesby

ILLUSTRATION

# Symphyotrichum concolor

Eastern silver aster



# IN THIS ISSUE

Planting Local in Your Yard 6 Staff Pick: Asters 11 More Native than Native 12 Rekindling Ancestral Connections 14 Conserving Cochrane 16 A Capitol Garden 18 Good Luck on Your Potluck 19



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

# Think Global, Act Local

BY DAMON WAITT, NCBG DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

Think Global, Act Local was one of the most famous slogans of the 1970s environmental movement, urging people to consider the health of the entire planet by taking action in their own communities. The slogan is attributed to a 1900s Scottish town planner named Patrick Geddes and encompasses his theories on town planning, which combined sensitivity to the environment with a sense of place. Today, the phrase does not quite capture the gravity of the situation we face.

We are living our lives in the middle of a mass extinction, predicted to be more devastating than the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. Scientists now estimate that 40 percent of insect species, including the pollinators that account for one in every three bites of food you take, are threatened with extinction, and just this May, a United Nations report on biodiversity made international news and put the world on notice that one million (one in four) species are facing extinction over the next few decades. This unprecedented loss of biodiversity and the habitat that sustains it should make you wonder if the local efforts you make at home

and in your community make a global difference when considering the big picture.

We are here to tell you they do. Nature can still be conserved, restored, and sustain human life. You can make a difference. You are making a difference—right here, right now by supporting the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

When you support the Garden, you are supporting...

- Connecting kids to nature in our Youth & Family Programs.
- Education of the next generation of conservationists and environmental stewards.
- Cures for plant blindness like the just released Wildflowers of the Atlantic Southeast field guide.
- Pollinators through our work on pollinator-friendly solar farms and a pollinator toolkit for North Carolina.
- Taxonomic research that leads to the discovery of new plant species.
- Seed banking of 45 endangered Southeastern plants as a last resort against extinction in the wild.

 Work to develop plant and seed resources for the restoration and rehabilitation of native plant communities.

When you support the Garden, you are supporting one of only 12 public gardens in the world internationally recognized and accredited as an Advanced Conservation Practitioner.

But we want you to do more.

We want you to be our advocates.

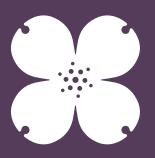
We want you to visit our new website at ncbg.unc.edu and dive deeply into all the amazing things we do so you can become the best possible ambassador for the Garden.

Finally, we want you to act on the "plant local" advice from the articles in this issue of Conservation Gardener so that, in the years to come, you will have made a difference in helping sow a brighter future.

Sincerely Yours,

The spicebush swallowtail caterpillar only feeds on the leaves of spicebush and sassafras. This is only one of many plant-animal relationships that rely on biodiversity. Photo by Mike Dunn





NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN

## North Carolina Botanical Garden

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# North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation Officers

GREG FITCH President MELISSA CAIN Vice President CAREY DURHAM Treasurer JENNY ROUTH Secretary

## Conservation Gardener



One of my favorite summer scenes has been Eastern swallowtail butterflies on my summer phlox (*Phlox paniculata*).

# Plant Local

BY JENNIFER PETERSON, MANAGING EDITOR

As those of you who have been reading Conservation Gardener for a while know, implementing a conservation garden at my own home is a work in progress. I am confident I will never fully finish this task, but I do delight in my successes along the way.

One success has been planting local. Much like shopping local and eating local, planting local makes a difference, and this is certainly a difference I can see. This summer has been filled with window moments (like NPR's driveway moments) when I or a family member pause a little longer to see the birds and pollinators our plant local efforts have brought. This issue of Conservation Gardener is about just that – Plant Local. I hope the articles in this edition, covering microclimates, ecotypes, Native American gardening, and more, inspire you to continue, or start, planting local.

In other news, I'd also like to share our new website with you! We have been working on this update for a long time, and I'm pleased to announce it's ready! Take a minute to visit our planting resources, upcoming classes and events, and so much more. I hope you like it as much as I do! Find it at **ncbg.unc.edu**!

The new website at ncbg.unc.edu.



Conservation Gardener FALL/WINTER 2019/20

### WILDFLOWERS OF THE ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST

We are pleased Wildflowers of the Atlantic Southeast is now available, and even more pleased to share what a great resource it is! This handy, illustrated guide to more than 1,200 species of wildflowers of the Atlantic Southeast uses a simple key system based on flower color, petal arrangement, and leaf type. Users can quickly identify both common and rare species in the landscape. with this portable, easy-to-use photographic reference that can be taken into the field. All three authors are associated with the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

### AVAILABLE WHERE BOOKS ARE SOLD, INCLUDING OUR GARDEN SHOP!



# 2020: Year of the Wildflower

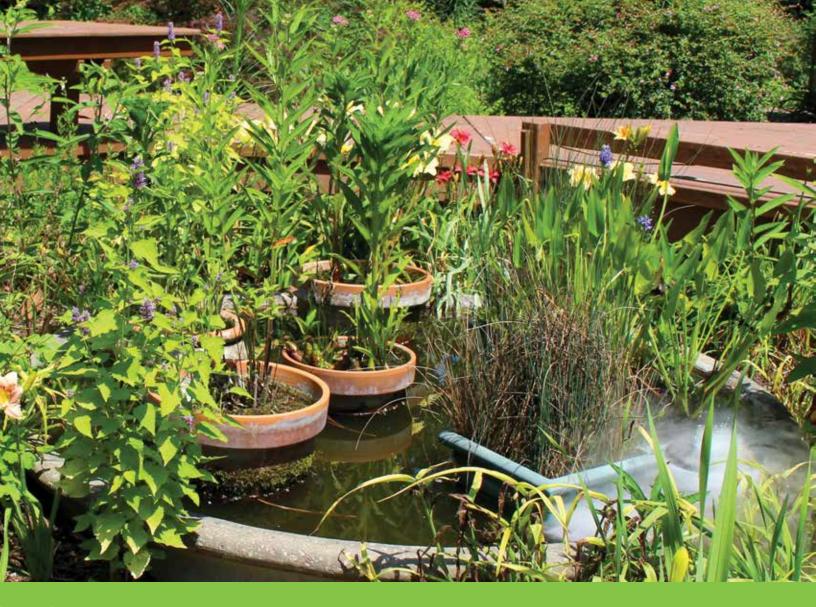


In January 2020, the North Carolina Botanical Garden will launch a four-season educational exhibit, titled Saving Our Wildflowers, paired with garden interpretation and a series of classes, workshops, lectures, hikes, tours, and events that will convey the importance of southeastern native wildflowers through science, culture, and conservation. The 2020: Year of the Wildflower exhibition will draw attention to the importance of wildflowers in the southeastern U.S. and will highlight the roles individuals, professionals, and groups can play in their conservation.

The exhibition will kick off with a lecture given by Tom Earnhardt, the writer, coproducer, and host of the UNC-TV's popular television program Exploring North Carolina, and the past president of the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation. Titled 2020 Vision: Seeing and Understanding the Power of Wildflowers and Native Plants in the Life of North Carolina, Earnhardt will take us on a journey through the state as he shares a vision of healing through the power of wildflowers and native plants. He will share how curing plant blindness can lead to reclaiming biodiversity in our neighborhoods, towns and the state, one lot at a time.

Stay tuned for more information about this upcoming exhibition, including the date for the kickoff lecture!

Tom Earnhardt, host of UNC-TV's popular television program Exploring North Carolina, will kick of our Year of the Wildflower exhibition with a lecture about curing plant blindness and reclaiming biodiversity through wildflowers.



# Planting Local in Your Yard

BY CATHERINE BOLLINGER

Members of the North Carolina Botanical Garden know the many benefits of landscaping with plants native to our region. Native plants are well-adapted to our growing conditions, which means they need fewer resources, such as water and fertilizer, to thrive. Perhaps one of the most important reasons to "plant local," is to provide food and shelter for native mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects displaced by rapid urbanization and increasing numbers of non-native invasive species in the southeastern United States.

Our region is known for its abundant, diverse array of native plants, which can make it a daunting task to figure out which local plant species are likely to do well in our home and business landscapes. However, clues from our local environments can point us to natives well-adapted for most any situation. The key is microenvironments.

#### What is a microenvironment?

Also known as a microhabitat, a microenvironment is a small, specific area in a landscape that differs in slight but measurable ways from adjacent areas. Variables that contribute to microenvironmental differences include the amount of light, moisture availability, and temperature.

For example, you've probably noticed that soils are drier at the tops of hills than at the bottoms, and that forests on north-facing slopes contain plants species you usually won't find on a west-facing sunny slope. Sandy, well-drained soils often support natives that differ from those growing in clay. Even one large tree in full summer foliage creates a microenvironment different from an adjacent sunny area.

# Eliminate invasive, non-native species to create healthy native microenvironments

Many landscapes may contain a variety of non-native invasive species that occupy areas in which native plants and animals should be flourishing. For example, English ivy often dominates significant parts of mature landscapes in older neighborhoods. It can be seen climbing up trees, overwhelming shrubs, and crowding out light and space where native wildflowers would naturally occur. By eradicating invasive non-native species from your landscape, you will create space for native species to flourish.

Choose native plants to suit your property's microenvironments If you live in a newer neighborhood, the plants in your landscape may not offer many hints about

You can also add new microenvironments, for example, by adding a water feature to your landscape. Every growing season, I fill a small, shallow pool with pots full of water-loving natives, such as swamp milkweed, pickerel weed, and even a few carnivorous pitcher plants. It doesn't take long for Cope's gray treefrogs and Eastern narrowmouthed toads to begin nighttime songs of amour. Numerous new frogs and toads soon emerge from the pond as tiny adults with stubby remnants of tadpole tails – a welcome increase in my local population of amphibian insect-eaters.

A home landscape featuring nativeenriched microenvironments In an effort to encourage landowners to create habitat for native birds on their properties, the New Hope Audubon Society, which serves



Woodcroft's Ivy League pictured from left: Casey Shuptrine, Bill Gardner, Mary Mace. In front, Leslie Fiddler. Absent: Irene Reville, Violette Blumenthal. Photo by Catherine Bollinger

microenvironments. However, by noting differences in topography and exposure on your land, you can choose native plants well suited to your local conditions. For example, the north side of your home will be shadier and probably a bit moister than the south side. Native plants that appreciate a shadier, moister habitat will likely thrive there. If your property is sloped, the top of the hill will support more droughttolerant plants, while the bottom may collect water during rains, making it an ideal area for a native rain garden. Chatham, Durham, and Orange counties in North Carolina, offers a Bird-Friendly Habitat Certification Program. In this program, for a fee, a team of experts will visit a property, assess its potential as wildlife habitat, and, as appropriate, offer suggestions for future improvements. Certification levels are silver, gold, and platinum, depending on how many criteria are met on a given property.

Lynn Richardson, a recent recipient of platinum-level certification in Durham, NC, has been tending her home landscape for over 20 years. Lynn's yard features about two-thirds of an acre filled with tall native trees, a growing shrub layer, and a beautiful array of native wildflowers, many of which already grew on her property when she first moved in. Her lot slopes downhill, then up another, then down to an intermittent creek just off her property, resulting in a number of microenvironments that support naturally occurring and added native plants. She lives in an older subdivision called Woodcroft that is dominated by mature native trees and understory plants. Its 1984 covenants cite the need to "protect, maintain and enhance the conservation of the neighborhood's natural and scenic resources."

As is increasingly true throughout the southeastern United States, Lynn's neighborhood's greenways contain a multiplying number of non-native invasive plants that encroach on the natives. Lynn says she spends much of her yard maintenance time removing invasive non-natives that continually pop up. That effort has paid off spectacularly for her, as evidenced by the lush array of native spring ephemeral wildflowers that dominate the north slope of her lot leading to the intermittent stream. Her property line is clearly defined by where her wildflowers end and invasive Japanese stiltgrass begins.

Lynn teamed up with another Woodcroft resident. Leslie Fiddler. to co-chair their neighborhood's Eco-Friendly Landscape Committee (EFLC), which was created by Woodcroft's HOA board in February 2019, about a year after Leslie and Lynn began lobbying for native landscapes at HOA meetings. In June 2019, Lynn and Leslie presented a five-year plan to the board that envisions "a landscape that reflects Piedmont North Carolina's ecological heritage." As a result, in addition to the board's endorsement of the suggestion that Woodcroft's landscaping company emphasize native species for future plantings, several residents, who already were practicing responsible stewardship over the trails adjacent to their property, have teamed up with the co-chairs of the EFLC for several English-ivy-removal workdays. They call themselves The Ivy League.

Lynn and Leslie say they are fortunate

Left: Create a new microenvironment in your landscape by adding a small water feature. Photo by Catherine Bollinger



that their neighborhood's covenants recognize the value of the local native ecosystems in which they live. The work of their committee has allowed them to meet many more of their neighbors as they demonstrate the benefits of planting local, which often in mature neighborhoods like theirs, first involves removing invasive plants like English ivy and Japanese stiltgrass so that existing microenvironments can be re-vegetated by native plants suited to those areas.

Lynn writes a monthly column for Woodcroft's neighborhood email group in which she describes invasive non-native species to watch for, such as Bradford pear and Asian privet, and beautiful, beneficial natives worth planting, such as butterfly weed. Leslie, whose yard is also platinum-certified by the New Hope Audubon Society, routinely posts information on conservation gardening. Both Lynn and Leslie encourage their neighbors to consider enrolling in their local Audubon Bird-Friendly Certification Program.

Woodcroft's Eco-Friendly Landscape Committee is an example of the effectiveness of planting local. It demonstrates that any neighborhood can have a positive impact on its native ecosystems by bringing neighbors together to reclaim overgrown greenways and to apply lessons learned during those activities to home landscapes.

Planting local native species, especially those suited to a landscape's specific microenvironments, reduces maintenance costs to homeowners by decreasing the need

A sunny, well-drained microenvironment is a great site for a native pollinator garden. Photo by Catherine Bollinger



### A NEW GARDEN ETHIC

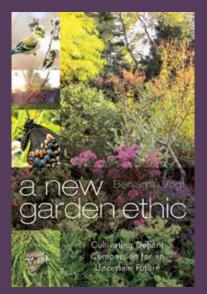
NOVEMBER 3; 2:30 - 3:30 P.M.

How and for whom we garden matters more than ever in light of mass extinction and climate change. Benjamin Vogt, author and owner of Monarch Gardens, will explore the rich

complexity of rethinking pretty through ecology, psychology, landscape design, and more. Book signing and reception follow lecture. Free, preregistration required.

This lecture topic is familiar to many of the Garden's members and friends. Please encourage those unfamiliar with this cause to attend by sharing this information or bringing them with you! Thank you!

DETAILS AT GO.UNC.EDU/ FITCHLECTURE



"Planting local...is a win for neighborhood environments and residents human, fourlegged, and winged." for fertilizers and water while simultaneously providing the high-quality habitat needed by native wildlife displaced by invasive non-native species and regional urbanization. It's a win for neighborhood environments and residents – human, four-legged, and winged.

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 piedmontgardener.com.



### Find plants for your garden at our Fall Plant Sale!

Choose from a wide variety of southeastern native wildflowers, shrubs, trees, vines, and ferns at our annual sale, in addition to an entirely new selection of donated books and native wildflower seeds.

### Members' Night:

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 4-7:30 P.M.

Members enjoy a special plant sale preview party with live music and refreshments. Non-members are welcome to become members at the door. Members receive a 10 percent discount on plant and Garden Shop purchases.

Public Sale: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 9 A.M.-3 P.M.



#### NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN

### **FINDING** SUITABLE PLANTS

Whether you are new to the idea of planting local or not, you might need a little help finding local plants to put in your garden. Here are a few resources to help you find the perfect plants for the spaces in your yard.

### To identify native plants appropriate to your spaces:

#### NCBG.UNC.EDU

Under the Plants tab, click on Resources for Gardeners.You'll find lists of plants and other useful information.

#### NCWILDFLOWER.ORG

The North Carolina Native Plant Society offers an information-packed website including an interactive table of native plants and their microenvironment requirements.

#### **NEWHOPEAUDUBON.ORG**

The New Hope Audubon Society's website offers native plant recommendations that will help you create improved habitat for native birds and other wildlife. From the Conservation tab, select Bird Friendly Habitat, then Native Plants.

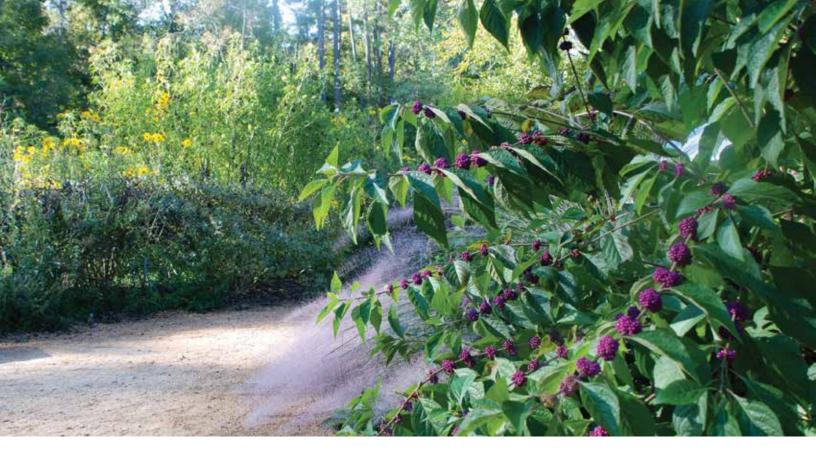
#### To purchase local plants:

Stop by the Garden's Daily Plant Sale (open March - December), our Spring Native Plant Sale at the beginning of May, or our Fall Plant Sale the last weekend in September.

Find a list of other native plant sources on our website at:

#### **GO.UNC.EDU/NATIVEPLANTSOURCES**





# Path to Successful Gardening

BY AMANDA MIXON, FORMER NCBG COURTYARD GARDEN CURATOR

What looks like bare ground often isn't, especially here at the Garden.

Different than a public park or playground, where mulched areas are the appropriate places to play or picnic or rest, all bed areas here in the Garden exist to support plant life. Any area of the botanical garden that is not a path is alive and is critical to our mission to inspire understanding, appreciation, and conservation of plants and to advance a sustainable relationship between people and nature.

Obviously, paths are important to provide a way to move through a garden without trampling the plants or making a mess. You may not know soil compaction is just as detrimental to a garden. Our Garden, and probably yours as well, exists as an oasis in a world of increasing development. These relatively tiny parcels of land support a tremendously significant amount of life, from large to small to microscopic, especially if the plants are native. Native plants are the food source and host site for all of our local fauna, including all our local pollinators. In fact, some native plants are the only existing host sites for many particular species of animals.

And every plant relies on soil.

The soil is a living thing, host and home to millions of microorganisms. Ultimately, soil is the very foundation of the air we breathe and the source of all the nutrients needed to support plant life, which then in turn support animal life.

Soil compaction reduces the soil's ability to sustain life. Imagine a piece of bread which you flatten with your hand. There is no way to re-fluff that bread. All porosity (the pockets of air) where things live is lost.

Foot traffic can also be a method by which certain soil pathogens and fungi are spread throughout other areas of the garden or even travelling on shoes back home with you.

Please enjoy yourselves and explore our garden – and your own – with your feet on the paths.



Fall Retreat: Yoga & Art Journaling in the Garden Saturday, November 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join us for a relaxing, restorative half-day retreat focused on yoga and art journaling. Enjoy the beautiful fall landscape of the Garden while experiencing gentle yoga, art journaling, and mindfulness sessions with skilled instructors. For participants 18 years of age or older, and registration is required. \$60

GO.UNC.EDU/FALLRETREAT



# Staff Pick: Asters for Every Region

BY CHRIS LILOIA, HABITAT GARDENS CURATOF

Purple fall asters are great for late season color and they continue to provide nectar, and pollen as the days shorten. We have you covered from the mountains to the coast with these three great choices for the garden.

#### Top right: Common Blue Wood Aster,

*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*, is frequent in the North Carolina mountains, less common throughout the rest of the state, and abundant further north. It appreciates rich soil and tolerates more shade than the others.

#### Middle right: Large-flower American-aster,

*Symphyotrichum grandiflorum*, has large dark purple flowers and a sprawling habit. You're most likely to encounter this aster on dry roadsides in the piedmont or inner coastal plain.

#### Bottom right: Walter's American-aster,

*Symphyotrichum walteri*, can be found in the sandhills and coastal plain. Tiny leaves and abundant flowers give it a distinctive appearance.

















# More Native than Native

EMMA YORK MARZOLF, NCBG CONSERVATION GROWER

A native plant is one that grows in a specific natural region, ecosystem, or habitat and was not originally introduced by humans. Over thousands of years, they have evolved and formed close relationships with other organisms in their environment. For decades, humans have been disrupting these relationships by destroying habitat, fragmenting landscapes, and degrading what is left. As we learn more about the interactions between species within an ecosystem and how important each player is to the overall health of the environment, we have come to understand the value of native plants.

You see them in your local garden center, in the city park down the street, and they're being used in habitat restoration projects all across the United States. They are all advertised as "native plants," but native to where? A particular native species or group of species can be found in different regions of the United States. For example, Asclepias tuberosa (butterfly milkweed) can be found in much of the Central and Eastern United States.We can confidently say that a population of butterfly milkweed in Wisconsin is exposed to very different growing conditions than a population in Georgia. By passing on genes that allow for survival in a specific location, plants become adapted to their local environment. This adaptation can be exhibited by the variation in characteristics like leaf appearance, plant height, and flowering time. Even though these plants are the same species and can look very similar, they can have different genetic profiles or genotypes.

Sourcing local genotypes for habitat restoration is important to ensure

project success. Plants with non-local genotypes used in restoration may not thrive in environments with even small differences in temperature, dryer/wetter soils, sunlight, or a combination of several factors. These changes can lead to plants that have reduced flowering, have low seed production, or poorly establish. The possibility of these plants passing along genes not suited for survival can lead to poor establishment, eventually reducing or completely eliminating the introduced plants. In turn, that becomes a poor investment.

Another concern of using non-local genotypes is the possibility of those individuals outcompeting the local population. The concept of *weak genes* being passed down and leading to poor adaptation can also be applied to that of *aggressive genes* being passed down and leading to invasion and exclusion of other plants.

The concept that individuals or populations of a species can vary between those found in Wisconsin and those in Georgia may be somewhat obvious, but differences can also be found in species within smaller geographic ranges. Species that have a wide distribution (like butterfly milkweed) vary in characteristics.

It is also important to consider genetic diversity when sourcing native plant material. Inbreeding can lower the fitness of populations, but collecting seeds from several populations within an ecoregion can create genetic diversity.

Diversifying the species currently available and diversifying our seed sources help us avoid potentially serious consequences. Native seed mixes are widely used in restoring native ground cover habitat; however, the species diversity of these mixes is very low. Not only is the number of available species low, the choice in ecotype is minimal. Often times seed mixes will include a suite of native plant species with ecotypes from different states. The goal of habitat restoration is to return the land to its original ecological structure and function. If the goal of a restoration project is to establish an ecosystem of native species, we need to strive towards using plant materials as local to the tobe restored location as possible.

Here at the North Carolina Botanical Garden, we aim to do just that. This June, we began our Native Plant Materials Development Program. We have been collecting native seed from many different populations within the different ecoregions of North Carolina. Along with increasing the genetic diversity of our plant materials, we also set out to increase the diversity of species from which we collect, targeting species not commonly grown for restoration. Our goal is to propagate these local seeds at Mason Farm Biological Reserve and provide local stakeholders with ecotype appropriate seed and a diverse selection of species for restoration projects.

Want to know how you can contribuite to planting local? As a home gardener, you can plant local by learning what ecoregion you live in and what plants are native to that area. When purchasing plants at the garden center, inquire over the origin of the stock to ensure that represents an appropriate ecotype. You can also get involved with the Native Plant Materials Development Program by volunteering at the Garden.





# Rekindling Ancestral Connections

BY EMILY OGLESBY, NCBG COMMUNICATIONS & EXHIBITS COORDINATOR

Anyone who has felt the mouthpuckering astringency of an unripe persimmon knows there's an art to harvesting wild native foods.

The expertise required to spot a sweetas-candy persimmon or harvest cattail fronds for mattress filling has existed for countless generations in Native communities. But as work has moved indoors and onto computers – as even farming has become mechanized – interest in plants has waned.

Tracie Locklear, a natural products researcher at North Carolina Central University and member of the Lumbee and Coharie Tribes, wanted to bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and an increasingly disconnected modern lifestyle. "I wanted to go back," she says. "As country kids, during the summers we would work in the fields. In my family, we'd pick peas and corn and cucumbers and watermelons, and there was this rich lifestyle that I didn't feel our children still had access to."

Locklear began talking to elders in North Carolina Native communities and found there was significant interest in delving into their connections with the land – their memories of wild food plants, native medicinal plants, and old recipes and traditions. Inspired, she started the North Carolina Native Ethnobotany Project (NCNEP) last year in collaboration with Jillian de Gezelle, ethnobotanist at North Carolina State University, Randi Byrd, community engagement coordinator at the UNC American Indian Center, and community advisory board members from participating tribes. Project volunteers conduct focus groups and interviews with community elders about their memories and knowledge of native plants, collect plant specimens for cataloging, and return knowledge back to communities through workshops.

What was initially meant to be a pilot project with a few North Carolina tribes – the Coharie, Waccamaw Siouan, and Haliwa-Saponi – has sparked new community projects and a forthcoming Left: The new healing green space in the Waccamaw-Siouan community provides a place for intergenerational bonding around plants. Photo by Darlene Graham Right top: The ripe persimmons in this box are the ones with a pinkish/blueish cast and wrinkled skin. The ones that look bright and fresh are actually still unripe! Right bottom: Randi Byrd of UNC's American Indian Center collects seeds for a future garden of Native American plants. Photo by Darlene Graham

book highlighting around 70 species of plants those communities want to regain access to and restore to their landscapes and gardens.

"It's brought us back into contact with our native plants that our people have used," says Darlene Graham, NCNEP community advisory board member and active member of the Waccamaw Siouan tribe. Native plants like black walnut, wild cherry, American persimmon, sassafras, and elderberry, and culturally significant introduced species like sorghum, black-eyed peas, and collards. All have a rich history in Native communities.

Randi Byrd scanned roadsides for the tell-tale black clusters of elderberry fruit on her way to Buckhead, home of the Waccamaw Siouan community. She collected some berries from plants she spotted. Sure enough, community members had been looking for some - excitement around elderberry has been building. Elderberry (Sambucus *canadensis*) is a native shrub that produces big clusters of white flowers in late spring that give way to fruits some consider a superfood for their immune-boosting properties - high levels of Vitamin C, flavonoids, and anthocyanins. Hands-on workshops creating elderberry syrup with the fruits and additional aromatic spices have been a big hit. And the proof is in the pudding: Byrd hasn't gotten a cold once since she began her daily elderberry syrup regimen.

In the Haliwa-Saponi community in northeastern North Carolina, Linwood Watson has seen a renewed interest in the American persimmon trees (*Diospyros virginiana*) that pepper the tribe's land. Watson is a member of the Haliwa-Saponi tribe and serves on the NCNEP community advisory board. "You can sense a lot more interest in letting the young people know the tree is there – making sure they know how the fruit of the tree will come off, knowing the proper time to harvest and prepare it," he says. "You've got to be connected to the seasons – it makes you appreciate the whole process much more." Baking a persimmon-nut loaf (in the style of banana bread) silenced skeptics. "People were like, 'I knew you could eat it, but I didn't know you could fashion it into something that good!'" says Watson.

The project has inspired community members in the Waccamaw Siouan tribe to build a healing green space that will feature native plants and herbs used traditionally by their elders and serve as a social, educational, and productive resource for the community.

But the intangible results may be more significant: the process of coming together around food, natural heritage, and a shared history has been a source of joy and healing. As they meet for talking circles about plants, discussions have brought back childhood memories to elders. "Their faces just lit up: 'Oh yeah, we used that! I remember!'" says Graham. "The project has brought us together through intergenerational gatherings, talking circles. Elders have been able to teach the young people; that's brought a lot of joy to them."

Byrd says she's seen a change in mentality within the participating communities: a different way of seeing the world, a rekindling of the way their ancestors saw their natural resources. Participants are asking, "How can we let nature work with and for us, and how can we work with and for nature?" And they're finding an increased appreciation for the beauty of what's already here – the rich biodiversity of native plant communities.

The project raises universal questions about what it means to live in harmony with the environment. As Watson puts it, "We still have these natural gifts. What can we learn from them as their stewards; what can we demand of ourselves as their caretakers?"

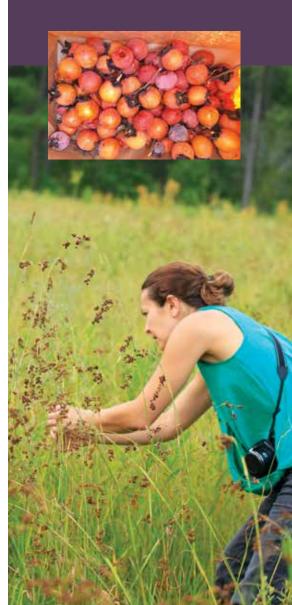
### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NC NATIVE ETHNOBOTANY PROJECT

### NCNATIVEETHNOBOTANY.ORG

Read more about these Native American plants:

Bamboo briar (Smilax sp.) Black walnut (Juglans nigra) Cattails (Typha latifolia) Devil's walkingstick (Aralia spinosa) Stargrass (Aletris farinose) Wax myrtle (Morella cerifera) ...and more!

And find recipes for cattail cornbread and persimmon-date cookies!





# Saving Cochrane Property

### GREG FITCH, PRESIDENT, NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION

The North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation, the support organization for the Garden, expanded the scope of habitats it protects in July when it purchased a beautiful forested hillside on the boundary of North Carolina Botanical Garden nature preserves.

Called the Cochrane property, it borders the Parker Preserve to the north, Mason Farm Biological Reserve to the east, and the Laurel Hill Nature Preserve to the west, and it provides an increased buffer against inevitable development. Trails through the property will provide access to the Garden's established trails leading to Mason Farm, and adjacent parking makes this a convenient alternate entrance. This enhances the public's enjoyment of all the Garden has to offer.

The Garden received administration of the Parker property in 2012 and created the Parker Preserve. The Parker property was donated to the university in 1976, because, in Athena Parker's words:"We are trying to impress on people that this is an important piece of land. And that we want to help the university further its conservation effort. The natural beauty is something that should continue to be appreciated."

Sadly, Bill Parker passed away in 1997, followed by Athena Parker in 2002, but their land conservation wishes were ultimately realized. It was at a small memorial service for Mrs. Parker in the Paul Green Cabin at the Garden that Johnny Randall and former NCBG development director Charlotte Jones-Roe met Shirley Cochrane. There Mrs. Cochrane, a Chapel Hill native, relished the 1960s folk songs that celebrated the spirit of Bill and Athena Parker, and they learned of her fond memories for both individuals. They also learned of her adjacent property and its natural value.We stayed in general contact with the Cochrane family, and hoped to conserve their property, if and when

they ever decided to sell. After Mrs. Cochrane's death in 2015, we pursued land purchase in earnest.

The 13-acre parcel was purchased from the Shirley G. Cochrane Trust and directly abuts the 125-acre Parker Preserve. It is fitting that the lands of neighbors Shirley Cochrane and Bill and Athena Parker are conserved, and that their love of forests and wildlands will forever be honored.

With a sales price of \$725,000, the Cochrane property was no easy task to finance! The Foundation sold several residential parcels it had received over the years and had held for investment purposes. Proceeds were dedicated exclusively to this purchase (former Foundation president Bill Bracey of Franklin Street Realty listed and sold both parcels so we knew we were in good hands). Generous contributions also came from Orange County, the Town of Chapel Hill, private donations,



### SEPTEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 8

Our annual outdoor sculpture exhibition unites the work of North Carolina artists with the curated landscapes of the Garden. Free and open to the public. NCBG.UNC.EDU/SCULPTURE

#### PREVIEW PARTY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 4:30-6:30 P.M.

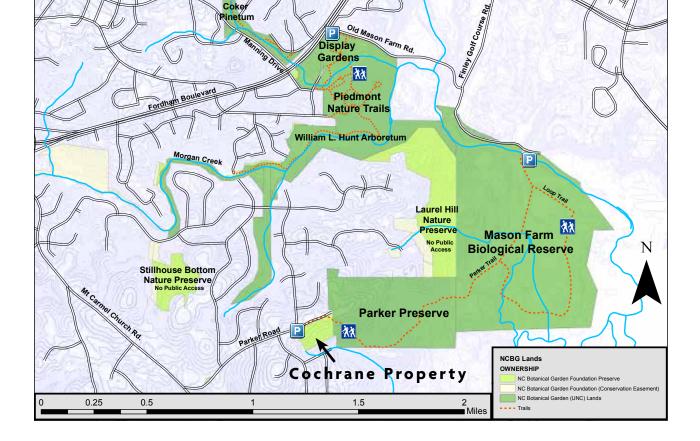
Meet the artists, vote for the People's Choice Award (announced in October), make early purchases, and enjoy beverages and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets: \$30 per person.

### PUBLIC OPENING, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1-5 P.M.

Tour the exhibit, enjoy refreshments, and vote for the People's Choice Award. Free and open to the public.







and a substantial grant from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

The Cochrane property is ranked exceptional by the NC Natural Heritage Program. Acquiring the Cochrane property extends contiguous natural areas the Garden administers, and protects an extraordinarily intact mature basic dry oak-hickory forest that extends through Mason Farm and the North Carolina Botanical Garden display gardens. On an even bigger scale, these lands, along with nearly 200 acres of nearby undeveloped private land holdings, make up a significant wildlife corridor associated with the 42,000-acree Jordan Lake Gameland.

Jim Pick, chair of the Foundation's conservation committee, said, "The success of this acquisition is the result of many years of persistence and hard work on the part of its key driver, Johnny Randall." And in fact, there were setbacks and delays over the years but Randall, NCBG's director of conservation programs, just kept moving ahead, ever optimistic and unbowed.

Some Garden supporters may be unaware the Foundation not only financially supports the Garden but serves as a land trust on its behalf. In fact, in the Foundation's founding Articles of Incorporation, its mission 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." Including Cochrane, the Foundation now holds 112 acres of nature preserve, and 199 acres of conservation easements.

The additional land will also provide an area in which to continue scientific studies of the flora and fauna that inhabit the tract. UNC classes in environmental literature and geography have already conducted tree inventory studies, and more projects are planned.



Johnny Randall, Greg Fitch, and Jenny Routh after the Foundation officially gained ownership of the Cochrane property.



In gardening, there's nothing more frustrating than making the same mistake twice. One essential tool is a guided journal to help track your successes and lessons learned. In the Garden Shop, we have several journal options to help you observe, track, and connect with your garden. Consider our one-year, five-year, or our observers home journal to help you discover the potential of your space.





NCBG's satellite garden in Washington, DC. Below: NCBG staff install the garden at the U. S. Botanic Garden.

# NCBG Plants a Capitol Garden

The North Carolina Botanical Garden is honored to be one of 20 public gardens nationwide selected to create a demonstration garden in the U.S. Botanic Garden's *Gardens Across America* exhibit, which runs through October 1.

A team traveled up to Washington D.C. in May with a truck full of North Carolina Piedmont native plants to create the garden, which focuses on gardening for biodiversity—planting local and providing food and shelter for wildlife throughout the year.

The garden emphasizes using native plants and creating habitat gardens for local wildlife. The garden includes information about leaving dried stems and seed heads through the winter and features wattle fences as an artistic way to provide habitat for insects.

The Gardens Across America exhibit features vignettes from a selection of gardens across the country, highlighting the diversity and beauty of the more than 600 public gardens in the United States. From rare and endangered plants to historic estates and modern oases, the exhibit showcases the collections and stories of gardens throughout the grounds. These gardens reflect their local communities and the amazing diversity found in the plant kingdom. The displays include signature plants and visual elements to provide visitors with a deeper understanding of the gardens' plants, styles, origins, regional characteristics, and missions.



# Good Luck on Your Potluck! 6 Steps to Success

BY JANNA STARR, NCBG FACILITIES AND EVENTS MANAGER

The North Carolina Botanical Garden is most known for our plants, but did you know we are also famous for our potlucks? When I started working at the Garden, I was absolutely blown away at my first NCBG potluck. Deviled eggs (topped with violets and bacon!), quinoa salad, roasted chicken, scalloped potatoes. I was in heaven. Not only is the food delicious, but our potlucks are low waste and environmentally conscious!

Here are some steps to ensure your next potluck is successful and green!

- 1. Incorporate reusable dishes and glassware. If you have to use disposable products, use compostable dishes and make sure to hire a compost hauler to take the compost after the event.
- 2. Use linens instead of plastic tablecloths, and enhance your event with natural decorations.
- **3.** For food, use locally-sourced ingredients when possible and avoid buying those pre-packaged, processed items.
- 4. Don't have time to cook for the event? Cut up some fruit or veggies, grab a jar of olives, or make an arrangement of cheeses.
- 5. Include food labels so those who have food allergies or limitations know what's in the dish, and always note vegetarian, vegan, and local options.
- 6. Send guests home with leftovers to prevent any food from going to the landfill, and then bask in the glory of your green potluck.



Garden staff cleaning up after a potluck, an eagerly anticipated staff tradition.

### FOREST THEATRE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6; 2-4 P.M.

Enjoy performances paying tribute to the legacy of the theatre and participate in the conversation about the theatre's future. Performers include Playmakers Repertory Company, Paperhand Puppet Intervention, Pauper Players, Company Carolina, and more!

As we look to the next 100 years of Forest Theatre, the Garden is working with campus and community partners including PlayMakers Repertory Company, University of North Carolina's Department of Dramatic Art, Arts Everywhere, Carolina Performing Arts, and the town of Chapel Hill to sustain Koch's dream of outdoor performances.

You can help! For information about supporting this project, contact Stephen Keith, interim director of development, at Stephen.Keith@unc.edu or 919-962-9458.



MONTHLY GIFT

You can sustain the Garden each month by establishing a recurring gift via your credit card. See the options on the Garden's giving page at giving.unc.edu/gift/bot, or contact Stephen Keith at 919-962-9458.

# Support Local Conservation and Biodiversity

BY STEPHEN KEITH, NCBG DEVELOPMENT

Many respected organizations strive to protect, preserve, and restore the environment. And there are many organizations that promote outdoor education, children's programming, and experiential learning initiatives.Your local botanical garden encompasses all these goals, and serves as a regional botanical research center that not only teaches University students, but also trains environmental professionals and citizen scientists. As climate change and loss of biodiversity is discussed at the international, national, and regional level, know that your local botanical garden is at the forefront of these issues and developing techniques and methods to educate the public, as well as the restoration and preservation of natural communities.

With your support of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, you are benefitting an organization on the frontlines of environmental resurgence. Thanks to the supporters and members of the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation, the Garden's recent fiscal year (July 2018 – July 2019) was successful. Thank you for collectively sustaining the Garden and its many programs.

Two of the largest gifts to support the Garden's operations came from the estate of former North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation board members and Garden volunteers. Estate gifts from **Bet & Sandy McClamroch** and **Pat Aulik** arrived at the Garden this year. Along with a gift from the **Julia E. Irwin Charitable Lead Annuity Trust**, these planned gifts provided important resources for the Garden's operation and allowed the garden staff to continue to manage and highlight inspiring plant displays and exhibits.

It takes many people to reach all the conservation and biodiversity-focused garden goals.We are thankful for over 45 individuals and foundations that provided funding to purchase the Cochrane property, an important tract of mesic hardwood forest adjacent to the Parker Preserve and Mason Farm Biological Reserve. These gifts served as important community support of the successful application to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for state funding. Contributions from Orange County and the Town of Chapel Hill were also essential to this project. The Kelly-Webb Trust named a new expendable fund to benefit the Coker Arboretum. The Jim Webb Tree Care Fund helps the Coker Arboretum have resources to care for existing trees, remove hazardous trees, and purchase new trees for the collection. Stewart Parker learned about the facility renovation needs of Koch Memorial Forest Theatre, in order to benefit the performing arts community. At the eve of the centennial celebration (see info on page 19), Stewart issued a challenge match to the community to raise funds for a feasibility study and conceptual design of UNC's iconic outdoor stone amphitheater. With Stewart's leadership giving, the Garden is collaboratively working on a feasibility study with several UNC departments to review the facility for capital and programmatic enhancements.

A relatively new program, event hosts are individuals who give direct support to specific garden events, which allows the specific event to have more resources, which in turn helps the Garden reach its mission and impact a larger audience. Event hosts have a strong impact on the Garden's ability to host engaging signature events. A record 18 event hosts supported the 2019 Carolina Moonlight Garden Party, which raised over \$43,000. A big thanks to Vikram Rao and Susan Henning for once again serving as Longleaf sponsor event hosts for this year's Sculpture in the Garden exhibit. Folks can still serve as event hosts in the Garden's fall programming. Contact me for more information on how you can participate.

Continued on page 22



Guests enjoy the Garden's carnivorous plant beds during our Pitchers & Pitchers event in June.

### Thank you for choosing to honor friends and family through a gift to the North Carolina Botanical Garden! Tribute Gifts below were received from January 23 to August 7, 2019.

### **IN HONOR OF**

Brie G. Arthur Laurel Hills Garden Club, for Educational Outreach

Avi Benaim Brian R. Lang, for Art and Educational Exhibits

**Bill Bracey** Eric and Laurie Van Loon

Marian Campbell Raleigh Garden Club

**Coker Arboretum Volunteers** Ken Moore and Kathy Buck, for Coker Arboretum Expendable

Arthur St. Clair DeBerry, on the occasion of his 90th birthday Jim and Aud Ackerman John Bell and Judy Whisnant Kani Hurow Andrew McDaniel and Mollie Prescott-McDaniel Anne R. Wade, for Battle Park Endowment

Ann and Bob DeMaine Lori Bernstein and Doug Merrill

**Muriel Y. Easterling** Barbara L. Nettesheim

Allison Essen Beth and Ken Boycher, for Wildflower Program

Steven G. Feingold Linda Campbell and Art Feingold, for Battle Park Endowment

**R.B. Fitch, Jr.** Employees of Fitch Creations, Inc., for NCBG's Garden Entry Landscape Fund

Marcella Grendler Charlotte Jones-Roe and Chuck Roe, for Horticulture Fund

**Eugene Floyd Hamer Jr.** Christine and Gerald Bell

Jim and Pam Heavner Shannon Kennedy and Alan Stephenson, for Forest Theatre Restoration Fund

Wesley Huppert, on the occasion of his 3rd birthday Sarah and David Huppert

Charlotte A. Jones-Roe, on the occasion of her retirement Marcella Grendler, for NCBG Student Intern Fund Lynn Knauff Joanna Massey Lelekacs and Bill Lelekacs Peg Parker, for NCBG Student Intern Fund

**Jenne Kendziora** Stephen and Barb Burlingame

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Harriet and D.G. Martin Grier and Louise Martin

Ken Moore Stephen L. Keith and Lisa C. Glover, for NCBG Student Intern Fund

Joe and Pam Morris William and Jan Truitt

David B. Moss Angie G. Hall, for Coker Arboretum Endowment

NCBG Development Staff Charlotte Jones-Roe and Chuck Roe, for Botanical Garden Development Capacity Fund

North Carolina Botanical Garden Staff Charlotte Jones-Roe and Chuck Roe

Geoffrey A. Neal Ken Moore and Kathy Buck, for Coker Arboretum Expendable Fund

Gail Norwood and Michael Lefaive, on the occasion of their marriage Nina and Milton Forsyth Sharon and David Perry Laurel and Gary Roberts Linda and Raymond Smith, for Horticultural Therapy Program

Bill and Chris Piscitello Charlotte Jones-Roe and Chuck Roe, for Coker Arboretum Expendable Fund

Johnny Randall John and Christy Mack, *for Conservation Endowment* Karl and Christianna Kanoy

LaVerne Reitz Clara C. Reitz and Maxwell Nottke

**David Robert** Mary Clara Capel

**Elizabeth Russo** Nidia T. Scharlock

**Fran Whaley** Rose Whaley

**Roy A. Williams** R. Michael Childs

### IN MEMORY OF

LeNeve H. Adams Ann and Bill Borden

George C. Allen Tony and Margaret Clark

Annie Alley Shannon L. Alley

Howard K. Ammerman Paul and Anita Farel, for Carolina Campus Community Garden

Thomas B. Battle E. Todd and Charlotte Robbins, for Battle Park Endowment

**Thad L. Beyle** Pat Beyle, for Master Plan Visitor Education Center

Louis and Albert Blue Roberta J. Blue, for Educational Outreach

**Linda Brichford** Barbara G. Kanoy

Jane F. Brinkley Sarah Brinkley, for Mason Farm Endowment

Melinda K. Brock Eunice M. Brock and Samuel H. Magill, for Melinda Kellner Brock Terrace and Battle Park Endowment

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**Cecile Champagne** Elizabeth Malcolm and Greg Moon, *for Mason Farm Endowment* 

William C. "Uncle Will" Coker Katherine C. Kehoe

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Robert Crossman Gail and Mike Jacobs

**Mary Alice Dorton** Nina G. Wallace Elizabeth A. Dutton

Claire W. Gilbert, for Horticultural Therapy Program

Mary McKee Felton Charlotte Jones-Roe and Chuck Roe, for The Mary McKee Felton Herbarium Internship Endowment

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Priscilla Freeman Alan and Maxine Stern, for Living Plant Fund

**Rob Gardner** Rufus M. Dalton Grace M. Wells

**Jim Harper** Edna G. Suggs

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**Ed and Mary Hayes Holmes** Nancy and Norman Johnson

Mercer Reeves Hubbard Marcia E. Herman-Giddens and Douglas G. Berg

Freda Hamilton Hughes Char and Wayne Thomman

Virginia (Ginny) Hope Jones David and Whitney Jones

Mary Coker Joslin and William Joslin Charlotte Jones-Roe and Chuck Roe Nell Joslin, for Coker Arboretum Endowment

Caitlin Kennedy Kelly Mildred G. Kelly

**Fred O. Kiger** Freddie Kiger, for Battle Park Endowment

J. Kimball King Stephen L. Keith and Lisa C. Glover, for Forest Theatre Restoration Fund

**Jack R. Lamm** Allan and Susan Eure, for Conservation Endowment

Daniel Larson Christopher K. Delaney, for Mason Farm Biological Reserve Jim Gasecki

Harriet C. Laskey Joel I. Laskey

Roy E. Martin Stephen L. Keith and Lisa C. Glover Howard and Katherine Whitehead, for Educational Outreach

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Harold C. Pollard Louise B. Pollard, for Battle Park Endowment William S. Powell Virginia W. Powell

Joel Rhein Barbara B. Lazarus

Clifford A. Rinehart Sue Tolleson-Rinehart

Nancy H. Robinson Barbara R. Tepperman, for Herb Garden Endowment

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**Doreen Rose** Austin and Jessica Rose

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Thomas A. Sharp Tyrrell C. Sharp

C. Dixon Spangler, Jr. Ione and John Lee

Barbara L. Stiles Charlotte Jones-Roe and Chuck Roe, for Battle Park Endowment

Jane Talbot Robert and Andrea Stark

Louise and Banks Talley Julie G. McVav

**Marian Elaine Studebaker Thomas** Anne F. Harris

**David Nathan Thompson** Charles and Pat Thompson, for Coker Arboretum Endowment

Henry R. Totten Barbara B. Ellis

Ana Traywick Ingeborg H. Jelley Bettina Patterson Include the North Carolina Botanical

Garden in your will or estate plans. Contact Stephen Keith at 919-962-9458 or Stephen.Keith@unc.edu for more details.

#### Bernice S. Wade

Charlotte Jones-Roe and Chuck Roe, for Battle Park Endowment Nancy and David Stewart, for Battle Park Expendable Deborah J. Taylor, for Battle Park Endowment

Zoe and Campbell Wells

Jordan Scepanski and Lea Wells

Judy Fickle Williams Jim and Mary Jo Fickle

#### Continued from page 20

Individual and directed donations continue to keep the Garden growing. This is the largest source of donations for the Garden and annually accounts for approximately 15% of the Garden's annual budget. End of fiscal year donations from the Helen R Buck Foundation, David & Laurie Joslin, Muriel Easterling, Charles Taft, Ryan Willis, and many others, ensured the Garden remains on solid financial ground.

As you consider ways to benefit your local botanical garden, find out if your company provides matching gifts or take advantage of monthly giving options. James Joslin and Beth Hahn leveraged their donation with a company match from **GSK** to double the impact of their annual gift. Monthly giving

Coker Arboretum in autumn.

is another way you can make a larger annual gift, by breaking it into monthly portions. You can establish a monthly gift by following the prompts on the Garden's giving page, at giving.unc.edu/gift/bot, or contact me if you have questions.

Thank you for ensuring your local botanical garden continues to meet its amibitious goals of conservation and biodiversity preservation. Your support is essential to the Garden, the region, the nation, and the whole planet.

> Stephen Keith Stephen.Keith@unc.edu (919) 962-9458

### LEAVE A **LEGACY**

# THANK YOU, CORPORATE PARTNERS!

Corporate Partners are businesses who support the North Carolina Botanical Garden year-round by sponsoring the full year of signature events. Thanks to our 2019 Corporate Partners for their commitment to the Garden's success. If you would like to become a Corporate Partner, please contact Stephen Keith at 919-962-9458.





### NATURAL AREA STEWARD

Mesur.io.

### HABITAT SUSTAINERS





### GARDEN SUPPORTERS





### EDIBLE CAMPUS GARDEN APP



Edible Campus UNC, a program of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, incorporates edible, medicinal, and pollinator-firendly plants in garden beds throughout the UNC-Chapel Hill campus. All produce in most of the garden beds is free for passersby to pick. The exception is the main garden by Davis Library. The produce grown there is designated for the campus food pantry.

Edible Campus has released a new app to help users find produce to pick and to discover how to prepare those fruits and veggies.

Find the app at GO.UNC.EDU/EDIBLECAMPUSMAP

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 14 Sculpture in the Garden Preview Party

September 15-December 8 Sculpture in the Garden

> September 27 & 28 Fall Plant Sale

October 6 Forest Theatre 100th Anniversary Celebration

> October 25 BOOtanical

November 3 Jenny Elder Fitch Memorial Lecture with Bengamin Vogt

November 9 Fall Retreat: Yoga & Art Journaling in the Garden

November 15 NC Botanical Garden Foundation Membership Meeting

December 6 Winter in the Garden Member Party & Preview Night

> December 7 Winter in the Garden Holiday Festival

For more information: ncbg.unc.edu



### North Carolina Botanical Garden

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