



JCRaulstonArboretum

AT NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2012 – Vol. 16, No. 1

Words from the Director

Looking through the Windshield, but Checking the Rear View Mirror!

By Ted Bilderback, Director

What are the director's wishes for the future of the JCRA? This is a fair question since the same question is asked in discussions with all the members of the JCRA Board of Advisors. My memories quickly go back ten years to Bob Lyons, who worked diligently to get the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center, Bobby G. Wilder Visitor Center, and the JCRA Staff Building constructed. For Denny Werner, it was "all about the plants."

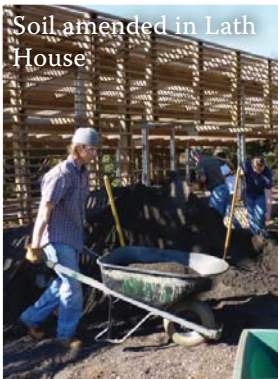
So what's up with Ted? It's got to be keeping the JCRA on the road, inside the white line on the right and the yellow line on the left. An appropriate example for being a road warrior and looking to the future was offered in the first sermon that I heard in 2012. The preacher talked about looking forward through the windshield and backward through the rear view mirror. He suggested that one should think toward the future and look to the past in about the same ratio as the size of the windshield compared to the rear view mirror.

In the last JCRA newsletter, I wrote about our new strategic plan and the four main goals: great gardens, outstanding educational programming, outstanding communications/public relations, and financial security. I saw myself closely tied to all of the strategic goals.

- Great Gardens: With a B.S. in biology/botany, an M.S. in botany/plant taxonomy, and a Ph.D. in horticulture, and as a teacher of plant ID courses as a graduate student, I became a plant geek, too.



Walls installed in Lath House



Soil amended in Lath House

- Outstanding Educational Programming: I was a teacher and was mentored by J. C. for ten years, and then a nursery Extension specialist for 23 years, so my job was educational programming.

- Communications and Public Relations: Taking the science to the nursery and green industry has been one of my passions for years.

- Financial Security: I see my niche as director at the JCRA in terms of finding funding for the Arboretum. My greatest goal as director is to obtain financial stability that will position the JCRA for a secure fiscal future.

The JCRA has taken a couple of financial hits since I became director. In 2009, \$72,000 in rental and event receipts was seized by the state in response to the budget crisis, plus there was lost income due to the downturn in the overall national economy. Then in 2011, the JCRA lost approximately \$50,000 in salary support associated with university budget cuts. These are all good reasons for my keen interest in increasing JCRA endowments.

One of my main priorities is to grow the JCRA's Endowment for Excellence. The endowment is an investment for the future financial stability that will ensure salaries for staff, provide resources to drive development of new garden projects and plant collections, and support daily operations.

Staff

Ted Bilderback, Ph.D.	Director
Mark Weathington	Assistant Director and Curator of Collections
Tim Alderton	Research Technician
Nancy Doubrava	Interpretive Specialist
Christopher Todd Glenn	Programs and Education Coordinator
Barbara Kennedy	Volunteer Coordinator
Faye Koonce	Facilities Coordinator
Ida McCullers	Housekeeper
Judy Morgan-Davis	Membership and Special Projects Coordinator
Elizabeth Overcash	Children's Program Coordinator
Anne M. Porter	Director of Development
Ann Swallow	Plant Records Assistant
Valerie Tyson	Plant Recorder

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www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum

Arboretum Open Daily
April–October – 8:00 AM–8:00 PM
November–March – 8:00 AM–5:00 PM

Bobby G. Wilder Visitor Center
Monday–Friday – 8:00 AM–5:00 PM
Saturday* – 10:00 AM–2:00 PM
Sunday* – 1:00 PM–4:00 PM

*Weekend hours are based on volunteer availability

Christopher Todd Glenn, Editor
chris_glenn@ncsu.edu

Photographs by Tim Alderton, Nancy Doubrava,
Christopher Todd Glenn, Annie Hibbs, Monica Hudak,
Becky Kirkland, Pat Korpik, Anitra Todd,
and Mark Weathington

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A Quick Look in the Rear View Mirror

Another strategy for creating a strong financial security is that “quick look” in the rear view mirror. With the assistance of all the staff, I have worked diligently to keep good records and an excellent tracking system that has allowed us to review past revenue and expenses—a critical tool for planning the future.

You might be surprised by what that “quick look” at our recent past revealed. The JCRA held 87 planned events that were attended by a total of nearly 4,700 people. We netted nearly \$130,000 from JCRA sponsored events:

- Gala in the Garden, the JCRA's main fund-raising event of the year and an annual favorite, was attended by nearly 500 festive-minded enthusiasts. Net proceeds from the 2012 Gala were approximately \$85,000.
- Half-day (and an Evening) Symposium held in February and the 35th Anniversary Symposium in September attracted more than 300 participants, with combined net proceeds of approximately \$18,000.
- News & Observer Birdhouse Competition, our best-attended event of the year, attracted 1,500 people.
- JCRA Plant Sale, held in conjunction with the Birdhouse Competition, netted more than \$14,000 and brought in 25 new and renewed memberships.

Workshops, children's programs, and other partnership events also kept the staff and volunteers very busy.

During fiscal year 2010–2011, the JCRA raised more than \$700,000—including memberships, major gifts to the Master Plan projects, event proceeds, and many other special gifts supporting programs like the JCRA Internship Program and Children's Program. This performance is pretty fantastic, and it was obviously only possible through the generous support of our donors, friends, sponsors, members, and volunteers who gave of their time, talents, and treasures. However, we know that we must meet this financial goal every year to survive.

A Look through the Windshield


Now make sure you have your seat belt buckled, as looking at the road through the windshield into 2012 looks quite exciting. Always a big deal at the JCRA is a new class of interns. I am proud of the JCRA Internship Program, and I look forward to introducing our 2012 class to our members and volunteers. The Friends of the Arboretum Lectures will again offer a full slate of fun with interesting topics and outstanding speakers. You will not want to miss the Plantsmen's Tours on the first or second Tuesday of each month as they will unveil wonderful visions into the private realms of many plants in the Arboretum's collections. Guests of all ages enjoy the imaginative and marvelous craftsmanship displayed in the 12th Annual Birdhouse Competition, to be held on April 13 and 14, as well as the JCRA Plant Sale. (Hint—members may attend the Friday evening preview sale and receive a 10% discount on their total purchase.) Of course, the big event, the Gala in the Garden, will be held on May 6. Frank Grainger is the 2012 honorary chair and Charlie Kidder is the 2012 event chair. I am sure that they will entertain us all with an extraordinary garden party! And last, but certainly not least, 2012 is off to a great start for the Children's Program, which features many new plant science programs for the whole family.

Something very special that is a must-add to your social calendars is the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the dedication of the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center complex. On September 21 and 22, great moments will be shared as we remember and celebrate with the entire cast of directors and interim directors of the JCRA. The only director who will be missing is J. C.—but we are fairly certain that he will be with us in spirit during this special celebration. The 10th Anniversary Celebration will actually be three events rolled into one. Along with Saturday's symposium-like presentations from the directors and interim directors, there will be a special dedication of the newly renovated Lath House along with a presentation by Tony Avent, first curator of the Lath House. This dedication will give the JCRA an opportunity to show our appreciation to Mitzi Hole and Mike Stallings for providing the major gift to make the renovation possible. It will also allow us

to thank Frank Harmon Architect, PA, for the fabulous architectural design, Johnson Concrete Co. for the donation of hard-scape materials, and to Paige Moody of Arbor Enterprises for the professional installation of the walls and accessible pathways. Again, everyone who contributed to the Raise the Roof Campaign, the Friends of the Arboretum, our Green Industry

partners, and alumni, please put this on your calendar and join us as we enjoy this important milestone celebration.

Thank you for taking this ongoing journey with us. The rear view look showed us outstanding accomplishments, and the front view look is even more dazzling. I am grateful for the many friends

who continue to give their advocacy and support. I challenge you to help us build a strong Endowment for Excellence to ensure that long after we are gone, the JC Raulston Arboretum will continue to be an exceptional place for research, education, and a welcoming green space for future generations. 

Horticulture

Plant Collecting in the Land of the Rising Sun

By Mark Weathington, Assistant Director and Curator of Collections

The JCRA has a long history of collaborating with the Japanese nursery industry. Years before coming to NC State, J. C. visited Japan, and he returned several more times after starting the Arboretum. The JCRA has continued to keep a close relationship with Japan by hosting visiting Japanese nurserymen and sending our staff to the Land of the Rising Sun to explore the incredibly diverse nurseries and to trade tips and techniques with the growers.

On my recent trip to Japan, I was interested in getting out in the wild and exploring some of the rich mountain diversity, which I had not previously had the opportunity to see. Accompanied by Arboretum friend and nurseryman Brian Upchurch and plantsman Bill Barnes, we took off for ten days to the Far East in November to explore the flora of this fascinating country.

The first leg of our trip took us to Gifu and Nagano prefectures, the site of the Japanese Alps and the 1998 winter Olympics. In addition to our host, Taka Kobayashi, we were accompanied by Seiju Yamaguchi. Yamaguchi-san has been collecting seed in China and Japan for nearly 50 years and although in his seventies, was always the first to clamber up a tree or cliff face to gather seed. Our primary objective was to collect seed of *Acer* (maple), *Enkianthus*, *Lindera* (spicebush), and deciduous *Rhododendron*. Yamaguchi-san seemed to know where every plant is located in Japan and would drive us straight to our destination for some quick

collecting, and then we'd jump back in the car to head to the next locale. He was determined to make sure we visited every spot, and he took us straight to very rare species that we would never have found on our own. Altogether, we collected 11 taxa of maple, seven of enkianthus, three of spicebush, and 11 of rhododendron, including nine deciduous species, along with seed from many other species of plants.

The views in these areas were simply astounding: high mountains covered in trees in all their autumn glory. We were in the area during the peak of the *momijigari* or maple-hunting season when people leave the cities to look at the brilliant fall color of the various maple species in the mountains. Japan's volcanic origin has caused many problems for the country over the centuries, but one benefit is the many hot springs in the mountains. The springs provided a welcome relief from the seed-cleaning chores that are part of every evening in the hotel on a plant-collecting trip. These traditional inns not only had excellent meals and wonderful hot springs, but also gave us a glimpse of traditional Japanese culture that we did not see during stays at more Western-style hotels. We slept on mats on the floor in rooms that often had no chairs and low tables. Flexibility exercises will definitely be a pre-trip preparation requirement before the next visit to Japan.

After a quick stop back in Kawaguchi City where we were able to visit more nurseries, we were back to the mountains, visiting Nikko in Tochigi prefecture, a location that J. C. visited as well. Along with the incredible plants we found in the



400-year-old *Cryptomeria* at the Tōshō-gū shrine



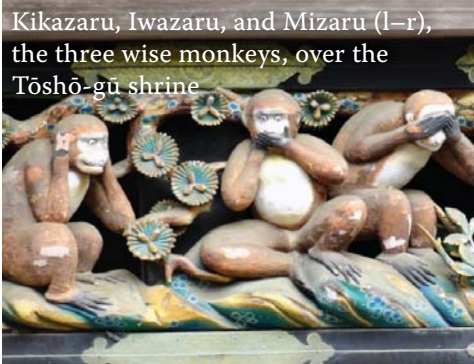
A Japanese nursery



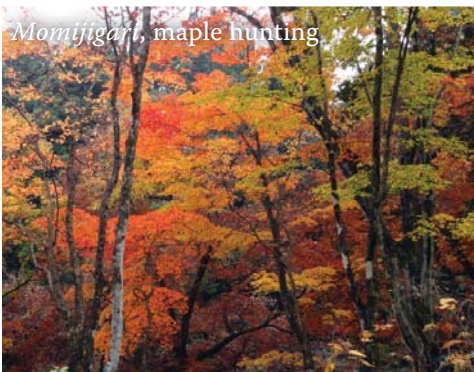
A Japanese nursery



Japanese Alps



Kikazaru, Iwazaru, and Mizaru (l-r), the three wise monkeys, over the Tōshō-gū shrine



Momijigari, maple hunting



Seiju Yamaguchi in *Cercidiphyllum magnificum*



Enkianthus perulatus



Mark Weathington, Taka Kobayashi, Brian Upchurch, Yuuji Suzuki, and Bill Barnes

mountains and the breath-taking display of color at the Nikko Botanical Garden, we visited the Tōshō-gū Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage site which is planted with 300-400-year-old *Cryptomeria japonica* and *Sciadopitys verticillata*. The size and majesty of these incredible trees was humbling and makes one realize that we need to be more aware of our role as stewards of the land, including preserving cultivated spaces for future generations. The Tōshō-gū Shrine is famous for the carving above the door of one of the buildings of the *sanzarū*; literally three monkeys, but more familiar to Westerners as the “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” monkeys. This carving dates to the 17th century and is the origin of this widely copied iconography. Another carving from the same period of a sleeping cat is less well known in the West, but is an important image in Japan, and is widely considered to be the basis for the realistic depictions of felines in other carvings and ceramics in Japan. This *nemuri-neko*, or sleeping cat, represents peace and healing and is considered a symbol of good fortune. I’m not sure that I believe in good luck tokens, but I did purchase a key chain from a monk with *nemuri-neko* on it for my daughter who will be turning 16 this year. Anything that can help ensure good fortune while driving is a worthwhile expense for her and everyone else on the road.

While we did not have as much time as I would have liked in either the mountains or in town, we did manage to squeeze in visits to some of the usual suspects. Included in our nursery visits was Chicory Nursery in Gifu prefecture, home to an amazing assortment of contorted and variegated plants. The young couple who run this business are always gracious and friendly. Garden Kinosato, the nursery operated by Yuuji Suzuki, who also accompanied us to Nikko, is another gem filled with incredible material, some of which came from the JCRA originally. It was nice to see the JCRA and NC State University well-represented at one wholesale nursery where both *Calycanthus ×raulstonii* ‘Hartlage Wine’ and *Hydrangea arborescens* ‘NCHA1’ Invincibelle™ Spirit were prominently displayed. In fact, Invincibelle™ Spirit seemed to be everywhere, which was especially entertaining because all of the advertising prominently featured Brian’s daughter in the photographs.

One of the true pleasures of visiting Japan is interacting with our excellent hosts, who do everything in their power to make us feel welcome. Taka Kobayashi, who runs an exceptionally successful nursery business in Japan, will drop everything to spend days taking us around to nurseries across the country, and each of the nurserymen we visit seems happy to have us poking through their treasures. The food we are served is always wonderful, although the chicken sushi on this trip was an experience I can probably live without trying again. Salmonella anyone? As a special treat, Taka arranged for us to have a farewell dinner of fugu or puffer fish, the famed and highly prized but potentially deadly poisonous delicacy. We ate every part of the fish, except thankfully the poisonous ones, from charred fins in hot sake to cold slivered skin in salad, and, of course, thinly sliced raw sashimi. During this extraordinary dinner, Akira Shibamichi, one of the most respected of Japanese nurserymen and a friend of J. C.’s from years ago, told me that he trusted the JCRA more than any other garden because we always tried to make sure we know the origin of the plants we display and promote. Other nurserymen in Japan that I have met have always echoed that sentiment and speak highly of all the JCRA folks that have visited in the past.

The goodwill, exchange of plant material, and transfer of knowledge has made the cooperation between the JCRA and the Japanese green industry a highly beneficial one that has spanned the years from J. C.’s early days at the Arboretum until today and will continue on into the future. Look to the garden in coming years to see the fruits of this collecting trip as we add new species to the collection and new selections to the garden to evaluate and ultimately distribute. ❁

Members Only Access

Your membership expiration date and the password needed to access the Members Only section on the Arboretum’s Web site is printed on page 20 near your address. When using it on the Web site, type the password in all lower case letters.

Plant Profile: *Gaillardia aestivalis* var. *winkleri* "Texas Fire Wheel"

By Tim Alderton, Research Technician

Always a knockout in the garden, *Gaillardia aestivalis* var. *winkleri* is a plant with identity issues. In the past classified as a variety of *Gaillardia lutea* or *G. lanceolata*, today it is often listed as a synonym of *Gaillardia aestivalis*, not giving it varietal status. I have written about this plant previously, but I continue to be amazed at how it grows. *Gaillardia aestivalis* var. *winkleri*, as we call it, is a stand-out in flowering and growth habit among others of the same species and genus. Its name may be somewhat sketchy; but in the garden it is anything but.

The typical species *Gaillardia aestivalis* is a sprawling annual or short-lived perennial that ranges from North Carolina, south to Florida, west to Texas and as far north as Illinois. There are three varieties of *Gaillardia aestivalis*: *G. aestivalis* var. *aestivalis* (a tap-rooted annual or short-lived perennial), *G. aestivalis* var. *flavovirens* (a rhizomatous perennial), and *G. aestivalis* var. *winkleri*. *G. aestivalis* var. *winkleri* is the best performer of the three. While both *G. aestivalis* var. *aestivalis* and *G. aestivalis* var. *flavovirens* have ray flowers that are the familiar yellow to gold, accented with burgundy at the base of the ray florets, *G. aestivalis* var. *winkleri* comes in cool white to pink and even light purple shades. This Texas native takes the heat and the drought of our summer here in North Carolina, and will flower from mid-May until late September or early October with only a brief interval or two in mid-summer when it takes a break. There were still blossoms in December 2011.


It is hard to believe that this vigorous garden grower requires federal listing as a species of concern. Endemic to only three counties, its native home is the sandhills of east Texas. Due to suppression of fire in that area, the woody layer outgrows the gaillardia and other herbaceous species, shading them out and preventing regeneration. Tree plantations and

forestry management have also hindered regeneration.

Here in the garden, it grows in some of the most inhospitable locations: the rooftop gardens, the Xeric Garden, and a large patch under the terrible sunny side of the water hog, *Quercus phellos*, in the Southall Garden. It does well in both clay and sandy soils and only requires decent drainage and sun. It can survive the worst of droughts, looking a little disheveled, but perking right up when water returns.

We grow a few different color forms in the garden, including one with very pale pink ray florets around yellow disk florets, and another with white ray florets touched with purple at the base surrounding a dark center of purple disk florets. A visitor favorite is a selection from the Stephen F. Austin State University Mast Arboretum called *Gaillardia aestivalis* var. *winkleri* 'Grape Sensation' with both purple ray and disk florets.

In 2009, I gave two small plants to a relative out on the N.C. coast to see how they would grow in the sandy coastal conditions. Their plants went from single-stem cuttings to 4'-wide patches in one summer. Since then, my relatives have divided the patches several times to spread them both around their yard and into a few neighbors' yards. Their *Gaillardia aestivalis* var. *winkleri* even outgrows and maybe outflowers the *Rosa* 'Radtko' (Double Knock Out®) next to which they are planted.

In general, a full-sun to partial-sun location in well-drained soil that is not too rich will result in hundreds of inflorescences throughout the summer. Looking for a heat- and drought-tolerant plant that can flower all summer? I think this should be one of your choices. Not always easy to find, but well worth the search, you should jump at the chance to grow your own *G. aestivalis* var. *winkleri* if the opportunity arises! You won't be disappointed. 



Planting the Seeds for Development

By Anne M. Porter, Director of Development

Is My Gift Really Making an Impact?

The answer is a resounding yes, of course. You have heard and read often enough from the director that each gift helps support the daily operations of the Arboretum—from salaries, to plant collections and research, to garden development and maintenance, and everything else in between. It takes well over \$400,000 for the Arboretum's operational budget, and this must be raised from private support every year. Last year, the JCRA received more than 3,000 gifts, and each gift, large or small, membership or special program gifts, contributed to the annual income that supported a carefully monitored budget.

In addition, new garden development and/or renovations required additional revenue over and above these annual expenses. In the last two years, major gifts from **Charles and Ethel Larus**, **Donald Moreland**, and **Mitzi Hole and Michael Stallings** made it possible to renovate and build the Japanese Garden and Lath House. Plus, the late Charles Larus and Donald Moreland both left sizable estate gifts that are now strengthening JCRA endowments.

Looking back to the Raise the Roof Campaign, (the initiative that was begun around 1992, with the culmination being

the dedication of the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center complex in September 2002), one can clearly see the impact of hundreds of dedicated and very generous donors and friends. The Ruby C. McSwain Education Center has made such an impact on the community and the Arboretum itself, and it only happened through the many gifts large and small (from \$1.2 million to \$100) from individual donors who recognized the importance and the long-range significance to the JC Raulston Arboretum.

So, is your gift really making an impact? I say yes, absolutely—I see the impact everyday—just like the thousands of people who visit the JCRA annually. These visitors bring their children, grandparents, friends, students, out-of-town relatives, and I know that they are richer for having this community resource and this beautiful Raleigh destination garden. I see the impact through the JCRA's partnerships with the Green Industry—one of North Carolina's largest economic industries and fourth in the country. I see the impact through the rich and varied plant materials that are being researched and trialed at the JCRA. And, I see the impact every time a child gets excited about the discovery of their green world.

Please share with us why you support the JCRA and what you believe its impacts are.

The director and staff of the JCRA pledge

to be good stewards of your gifts, so please let us know how we can do a better job of communicating the information that is important to you. Your gifts really do make an important impact on the JCRA, and we sincerely thank you for your continued advocacy and support.

2012 Gala in the Garden



Gala in the Garden
JCRaulstonArboretum
MAY 6, 2012 AT NC STATE UNIVERSITY

May 6, 2012, will mark the 20th Gala in the Garden, and the JCRA's main fund-raising event of the year. The Gala provides critical unrestricted funds that support daily operations, staff salaries, research and development of plant collections, garden maintenance, and so much more.

Frank Grainger is the 2012 honorary chair and **Charlie Kidder** is the event chair—proving that a Gala is not just for “girls.” Men definitely enjoy the challenge of the silent auction and the thrill of being high bidder—not to mention the garden cocktails and cuisine.

This Gala will again be a celebration of spring, but it will also be a celebration of the 125th birthday of NC State University (1887) and the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act (1862). Both of these milestone events are directly linked to development of the JC Raulston Arboretum and to the important research, teaching, and extension that make the JCRA great.

Please save this date and join us for fabulous fun, food, friends, an extraordinary botanical and non-botanical silent auction. And, yes, there will be birthday cake!

If you would like more information on sponsorship opportunities, donating to the auction, or general event information, please contact **Anne Porter** at (919) 513-3826 or anne_porter@ncsu.edu or visit <http://www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum/gala/>.



2012 Gala Committee

Honorary Chair

Frank Grainger

Event Chair

Charlie Kidder

Committee

Jill Adams
Jennifer Bernabi
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Kathy Deal
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Sylvia Redwine
Jere Stevens
Mark Weathington
Chris Wessel
Jackie Wynne
Helen Yoest

Honorary Member

Susan Woodson


10th Anniversary Celebration: Save-the-date—September 21 and 22, 2012

Please mark your calendars and help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center complex.

It's hard to believe that nearly ten years ago, donors, friends, volunteers, faculty, and staff were enjoying the dedication of the new, long-awaited education center, visitor center, and staff building. This was the culmination of the Raise the Roof Campaign—that was overwhelmingly supported by many friends of the Arboretum.

On Friday, September 21, 2012, the weekend will begin with the dedication of the Lath House—generously made possible through a major gift by Mitzi Hole and Michael Stallings; an in-kind gift of design work by **Frank Harmon Architect, PA**; and other gracious gifts of products or services by **Johnson Concrete Co.** and **Paige Moody** of Arbor Enterprises. Following a dinner that evening, **Tony Avent** (first curator of the JCRA Lath House) will be the evening's keynote speaker.

The weekend festivities will continue with Saturday's lineup of all the past JCRA directors and interim directors, who have been given the opportunity to talk about any subject that appeals to them. So get ready for a truly remarkable day with **Bryce Lane, Bob Lyons, Kim Powell, Denny Werner, and Ted Bilderback** as host for the event.

Please join us on September 21 and 22. Help celebrate this 10th anniversary milestone and find out what great things will be happening over the next ten years. 

In Special Memory Michelle Morgan Avent (Oct. 31, 1956–February 12, 2012)

*A beloved wife, a treasured friend,
A special smile, that knew no end.
A kind word, a gentle way,
Heaven's sweet garden,
Welcomed a new angel today.
—anonymous*



Read Tony's tribute on Plant Delights Nursery's Web site at <http://www.plantdelights.com/February/products/879/>.

Ruby C. McSwain Education Center, 2002



Ruby C. McSwain Education Center, 2008



Membership Makes a Difference

By Judy Morgan-Davis, Membership and Special Projects Coordinator, and Anne M. Porter, Director of Development

Many thanks to members who responded to our early renewal appeal in late October. We were pleased to offer the opportunity to renew or extend memberships at the 2011 rates through December 31 of 2011. Approximately 6% of our current membership took advantage of the savings, and most of these members made a commitment to supporting the Arboretum by renewing for more than one year. Early renewals save time and resources, so we thank you and the planet thanks you! We appreciate your continued investment in the JCRA. New membership rates, as well as new benefits for members, are outlined on our Web site, but please feel free to contact me, Judy, at (919) 513-0264 or jvmorgan@ncsu.edu if you have any questions.

Also new this year, we will be hosting two New Member Welcome Days. We held our first member welcome prior to the Friends of the Arboretum Lecture on March 15. New members were invited to mingle, meet the staff, and enjoy refreshments. All members were invited to attend and help our newest friends feel welcome. The second New Member Welcome Day will take place directly after the Annual Plant Distribution on October 6.

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact **Judy Morgan-Davis** at (919) 513-0264 or jvmorgan@ncsu.edu.

Members Making News

The JC Raulston Arboretum is extremely fortunate to have so many talented friends and donors. If you are a “member making news” or know of one, please let us know so that we can share it with our arboretum friends.

Helen Yoest has a new book soon to be published. *50 Ways to Garden With Confidence*, a very appropriate title, as this book is all about Helen’s passion about her personal garden and her personal gardening philosophy—spreading the good word that anyone can and should garden

with confidence. It is especially exciting to know that in a world driven by publisher’s demands, Helen has written a book that she wanted to write. Congratulations, Helen! We know this is sure to be the first of many. (For more information, visit <http://gardeningwithconfidence.com/blog/> plus see Helen’s story in the Members Corner section.)



Helen Yoest and her daughter, Lara Rose

At the 2012 North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association’s Green & Growin’ Show, a number of our members received awards. We are so proud of you all, so keep up the great work!

- **Tom Gilmore, Hayden Beatty, and Jim Patterson** all received the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award
- **Doug Chapman** received the D. S. Copeland Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Hoffman Nursery** received the NCNLA Nursery Grower of the Year Award
- **A. B. Parker** received the Oakland Award
- **Daniel Casey** received the Bill Wilder Outstanding Young Nursery Professional Award.
- **Tiffany Wells** received the Libby Wilder Award
- **Danny Lauderdale** received the Kim Powell Outstanding Contributions to the Horticulture Industry Award
- **Edward Synder**, Green Leaf Services, received the Jerry Ragland Outstanding Young Landscaper Award

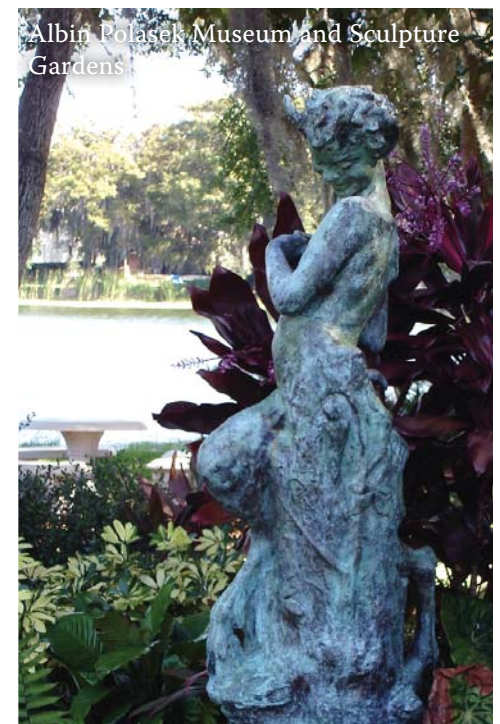
Members’ Corner

Featuring pictures, stories, and testimonials from JCRA members.

From Cindy Heinlein, JCRA Volunteer and Member since 1998

My husband and I vacationed in Orlando, Florida, this October, and we didn’t visit a single amusement park! Instead, we explored the art museums and gardens in the area. We came across a delightful small museum house and sculpture garden in Winter Park. Our JCRA membership allowed us to enjoy this beautiful space at no charge.

The Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens is set in a residential neighborhood and borders on one of the many lakes in the area. The sculptor’s home, a small art museum, and the gardens are included in the admission. We met some great garden volunteers, most of whom were local Master Gardeners as well. They help maintain and continue to develop the gardens which surround the works of Albin Polasek and some of his students. The setting is so peaceful, the sculptor’s work is beautiful, and his story is interesting. It’s not far from the Harry P. Leu Gardens, so make a day of it if you’re in the area.



Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens

From Cheryl Kearns, JCRA Volunteer, Board Member, and Member since 1999

Ignorance really is bliss sometimes. As a newcomer twenty years ago to a climate three zones warmer, I became a member of the JCRA and attended my first Friends of the Arboretum Annual Plant Distribution. All that I inherited with my new home were a few azaleas; three tomatoes; and a lot of pines, sweetgum trees, honeysuckle, and—my cross to bear—poison ivy. I needed a lot of plants!

Among my first grab was a *Leucothoe axillaris*. All I knew when I got home was that the cheat sheet said it needed shade, so I yanked out yards of honeysuckle and stuck it in under some pines on one of the highest points of our property, thinking it would fill in a gap and provide an evergreen I could enjoy from my kitchen window. It has, but it's taken rather longer than I imagined. It was some time later that I did a little research on *Leucothoe* and read that it should have plenty of moisture. To look at it now, you would

think that spot was swampy, not the dry, almost sandy soil it sits in.


I was better armed with knowledge from reading when I bought *L. fontanesiana* 'Girard's Rainbow', which likes similar conditions. I planted that where soil is heavier and holds moisture better, across from the front door where I relished seeing its lovely foliage and dainty racemes. Pointedly, it was placed across from a spigot where a hose is constantly available and got plenty of watering and TLC. Ironically, it has been even slower to mature to noticeable size and flower than the first child. Go figure. Sometimes it just doesn't pay to count on the plants having read the book!

From Helen Yoest, JCRA Volunteer, Board Member, and Member since 2003

50 Ways to Garden With Confidence: Each of us brings a unique quality to everything we do. While garden types are definable—cottage, formal, contemporary—your personal style will make your garden unique. There are some gardens that make me feel

like I'm in the pit of a well-orchestrated symphony, with each instrument—a flower, a shrub, a tree, an accent—insignificant on its own, but lyrical within the arrangement. These gardens may not be expensive. But they are thoughtfully arranged, with each addition carefully considered. The rhythm, the scale, the color echo: it all works well together. Nothing dominates or upstages the other important players.

Considering the garden as a whole allows it to sing. Knowing what makes a garden work, what makes it sing, begins with understanding the elements of a garden. You can give your garden a voice once the use and placement of various elements—an arbor, a trellis, a bench—are understood.

My new book is designed to give you insight on the basics of adding and arranging the components of your garden. The confidence you'll gain in knowing how to add design features, while developing your own personal style, will help take your garden to the levels seen in the fantastic gardens that inspired you to begin your own work of art. 

Giving with Trust ... a Charitable Trust That Is!

By Sonia Murphy, Director of Gift Planning, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NC State University

Trusts have become common words of the estate planning language, and not just among attorneys. Most people have heard of trusts and at the very least know snippets about their uses. For our purposes, we'll talk about charitable remainder unitrusts (CRTs). What are the benefits of giving to your favorite charity through a trust, and who should consider a CRT?

The Way It Works

Mrs. Daffodil can no longer travel to California to enjoy her beach condo and decides to donate it through a trust. With her attorney, she creates the charitable remainder trust document to transfer the deed of her condo to the trust. The trust document states that the condo will be sold to provide Mrs. Daffodil with an annual income, and, at her passing,

the leftover funds in the trust (called "remainder") will be used to support an existing endowment at the JC Raulston Arboretum. She may also choose to create a new endowment.

What's Great about a CRT?

A CRT presents many advantages. First, it provides Mrs. Daffodil with an income tax deduction. Mrs. Daffodil made her gift when she transferred her condo to the trust and receives her deduction that same year. Second, she receives payments back from the trust that can help boost her yearly income. Third, most of what is in the trust will not be included in her estate when the IRS determines how much (if any) Federal estate tax is owed. Finally, the assets in the CRT will "skip" probate.


What to be Careful About

A gift transferred to a CRT is irrevocable. Any assets transferred cannot be taken

back out of the trust; you should carefully make your decision by taking into account how the gift will impact your current and future situation. And you should always consult your estate planning attorney.

Where to Get Help

Please contact me at (919) 513-0637 or sonia_murphy@ncsu.edu for a free, no-obligation conversation about the process, the tax implications, and a variety of different options. I'm here to help you make the best decision for your family and for your favorite organization—like the JCRA.

For more information on this or other giving opportunities, please call or e-mail **Anne Porter** at (919) 513-3826 or anne_porter@ncsu.edu or visit <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/advancement/>. 

A Year in Review

The JC Raulston Arboretum is pleased to present the 2011 Annual Report, recognizing our donors, members, and volunteers. We extend a sincere thank you to all the individuals and organizations that supported the JCRA in 2011. Your support makes possible the continued growth and development of our gardens, plant collections, and educational programs. Plants and gardening nurture the human spirit and enhance our quality of life. We are honored that you have chosen to support this special arboretum as it continues to fulfill its mission of excellence in research, teaching, and public outreach.

Membership Makes a Difference

Through annual membership gifts, these Friends of the Arboretum support: a community resource garden that is free and open to the public every day of the year; a research garden that supports one of North Carolina's most valuable industries; and horticultural programs and classes that enrich the educational experiences for everyone. Sincere thanks to each and every member!

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Gifts of Membership

These friends of the Arboretum gave the distinctive gift of membership to friends, colleagues, and loved ones. Thanks for giving the gift of a JCRA membership—a gift that keeps on giving all year!

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Legacy and Estate Gifts

Legacy ... what is left behind through the actions of a lifetime. While we mourn the passing of special friends, we celebrate their lives and are sincerely grateful for their legacy gifts that benefit the JC Raulston Arboretum.

Donald Moreland

Endowments

An endowment is a lasting legacy. A special thanks to these donors for their foresight and generosity. Contributing to an endowment is a long-term investment that provides financial stability for the Arboretum year after year. For more information on how you can create an endowment to benefit the JC Raulston Arboretum, please contact Anne Porter at (919) 513-3826.

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Internship Program

These special donors have invested in our students and in the future of the JCRA. Internships are a win-win opportunity for everyone. Thank you for contributing to this sound investment!

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The summer 2011 interns: John Suggs, Doug Barnes, Josh Fulford, Kyndal Payne, and Amanda Wilkins (left to right)

Our New Children's Program

March 2011 marked the launch of the JCRA Children's Program, and these Arboretum friends made gifts specifically to be used to grow and promote this exciting new program. Children are our future, and they will be ones who carry on the care, advocacy, and support of the JC Raulston Arboretum.

Al-Iman School
Anonymous donors
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Other Gifts to the Arboretum

Heartfelt thanks to these donors who gave special gifts to the Arboretum over and above membership.

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Corporate matching gift programs are a great way to optimize individual gifts to the JCRA. We sincerely appreciate the generosity of the corporations that sponsor these programs and the donors who make the initial gift to benefit the Arboretum

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Gifts in Honor

These special people and organizations were honored by gifts to the JCRA from the friends, family, and colleagues listed.

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Sara Booth

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Bob Davis and Judy Morgan-
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Honored by
Boiling Springs Lakes Garden
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Gifts in Memory

Memorial gifts support the Arboretum while paying tribute to family and friends. The following people were remembered with a gift in 2011. Heartfelt thanks to the listed donors who honored their loved ones and colleagues in this way.

Helen Archer

Remembered by
Michael and Barbara Archer

Marguerite Rose Tyson Balsinger

Remembered by
Catherine Maxwell and Ben
Fewel

Jane and Vic Bell, Jr.

Remembered by
Bell Family Foundation

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Remembered by
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Ann Suggs

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Elaine Swaim

Remembered by
Old Salem Garden Club
Susan Pfefferkorn

Georgia Clancey Theys

Remembered by
Warren and Judy Sturm

Aat Zevenhuizen

Remembered by
Margaret Williams

Western North Carolina Nursery Trip

September 7–9, 2012 (Friday–Sunday)

Western North Carolina is home to cool mountain air, stunning vistas, and some of the Southeast's most gifted and passionate nurserymen. From prized orchids, to dwarf conifers, rare Japanese maples, and stunning native plants, get the insiders' tour as a VIP guest.

Three days, six nurseries, thousands of stunning plants—join Mark Weathington, the JCRA's assistant director and curator of collections, on a long weekend that will change your gardening perspective.

Visit

Appledorn Landscape Nursery – Specializing in evergreen and dwarf conifers, Appledorn was home to an acclaimed miniature railroad complete with tiny living landscape.

Meadowbrook Nursery/We-Du Natives – Native azaleas, rhododendron, and mountain laurel headline an extensive list

of southeastern plants in a 20 acre park-like setting complete with trails and a lovely lake.

B. B. Barns Garden Center – Western North Carolina's largest selection of orchids and much, much more. B. B. Barns is a favorite shopping and plant education destination for serious gardeners from three states.

Nichols Nursery – Rare Japanese maples are the passion of the Nichols family. See more than a 100 hard-to-find species grown on site at their East Flat Rock nursery.

Mountain Meadows Nursery – Unusual evergreens, dwarf conifers, and miniature hosta are all grown on-site at this extraordinary 30 year old farm.

Western North Carolina Farmers Market (including Jesse Israel and Sons Nursery) – Legendary Asheville growers with a devoted clientele that crosses state lines to buy their top-performing plants.

For more information, call (919) 513-7005 or visit the JCRA's Web site at <http://www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum/>.

Gift-in-kind Donors

Support through in-kind gifts is vital to the success of our events, especially the Gala in the Garden and the JCRA Plant Sale. They also provide services and plant materials that keep the Arboretum beautiful for everyone.

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 My Girlfriend's Closet
 Nature's Art by Susan Aldworth
 Brian and Lou Rave Nichol
 Keith and Dayle Oakley
 Odora Designs
 Pacific Organics
 The Peanut Roaster
 Pennington Seed Co.
 Plantworks Nursery
 John and Charlotte Presley
 Quail Ridge Books & Music
 Jacqueline Quinn
 Martha Ramirez
 Redwine's Landscaping & Special Events
 Robert and Elizabeth Rehm
 Sandy Reid
 Rey's Restaurant
 Michelle Rose and Steven Wasleski
 James and Gwen Schultz
 Nancy Simonsen
 Sixpence Accents
 Richard and Jere Stevens
 Ellen Stoltzfus
 Juan Gro Horticulture
 Symmetry Financial
 Twentynine Design
 Under the Oaks
 Vrb Photography
 Bobby Ward and Roy Dicks
 Westmoore Pottery
 David White and Janine LeBlanc
 Bobby Wilder
 Randy and Susan Woodson
 Earl Woodbridge
 Words & Wires
 Johnny and Jacqueline Wynne
 Louise and Carl Zorowski

Benefit Providers

Sincere thanks to these generous businesses and organizations that help strengthen the JCRA membership program by offering special discounts and benefits to all current members of the JC Raulston Arboretum. (Please visit the JCRA Web site for more details about these membership benefits.)

Atlantic Avenue Orchid & Garden Center
 Better Tree Care Associates
 Campbell Road Nursery

Fairview Greenhouses and Garden Center
 Garden Supply Company
 Gardening With Confidence

Homewood Nursery & Garden Center
 Indigo Marsh Nursery
 Lasting Impressions
 Lendonwood Gardens

Long Hill Bed and Breakfast
 Lynn van Dokkum Photography
 Mountain View Nursery
 Neomonde Deli
 Norwood Road Garden

Oakmont Nursery
 Outdoor Images
 Ragazzi's of Cary
 Sarah P. Duke Gardens
 WaterWise Garden Design

2011 Gala in the Garden Sponsors

The Gala in the Garden is the Arboretum's signature fund-raising event held each year on the first Sunday in May. Thank you, 2011 Gala in the Garden sponsors, for making this event a huge success.

<p>Diamond North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association</p> <p>Platinum Bayer Advanced Pender Nursery</p> <p>Gold A. E. Finley Foundation Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance</p>	<p>Silver Ted and Linda Bilderback The Brickman Group Allen and Anne Clapp The Fire Place Hawksridge Farms Hoffman Nursery Wallace and Jeanette Hyde Jerry and Nina Jackson Frances Meadows Taylor's Nursery Bobby Wilder Worthington Farms Johnny and Jacqueline Wynne</p>	<p>Bronze BB&T Insurance Services Bland Landscaping Donnie and Phyllis Brookshire Tommy Bunn William and Dorothy Burns College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Albert Cooke and Daphne Hill Gilmore Plant and Bulb Co. Frank and Judi Grainger The Hamlin Cos. Debbie Hamrick and Ed Gaines Harold and Patsy Hopfenberg</p>	<p>Jere's Landscaping Johnson Nursery Corp. Julia Kornegay and Alfredo Escobar LanArc The Lundy Fetterman Family Foundation Robert Lyons Panther Creek Nursery Anne Porter Redwine's Plantscaping & Special Events Sampson Nursery Russell and Anthea Tate</p>	<p>Walt and Kathleen Thompson Bobby Ward and Roy Dicks Laura Willer and David Huffstetler Randy and Susan Woodson Wyatt-Quarles Seed Co.</p>
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Volunteers

As we ponder the number of incredible hours our volunteers devote to the Arboretum, we also think about the many skills they possess. We naturally assume gardening is one of them, but we have volunteers with construction, landscape design, floral arrangement, public speaking, and many other skills that they share with us. With their varied strengths and commitment, our volunteers play a key role in making the JCRA a shining star in our area. We thank them for all they do.

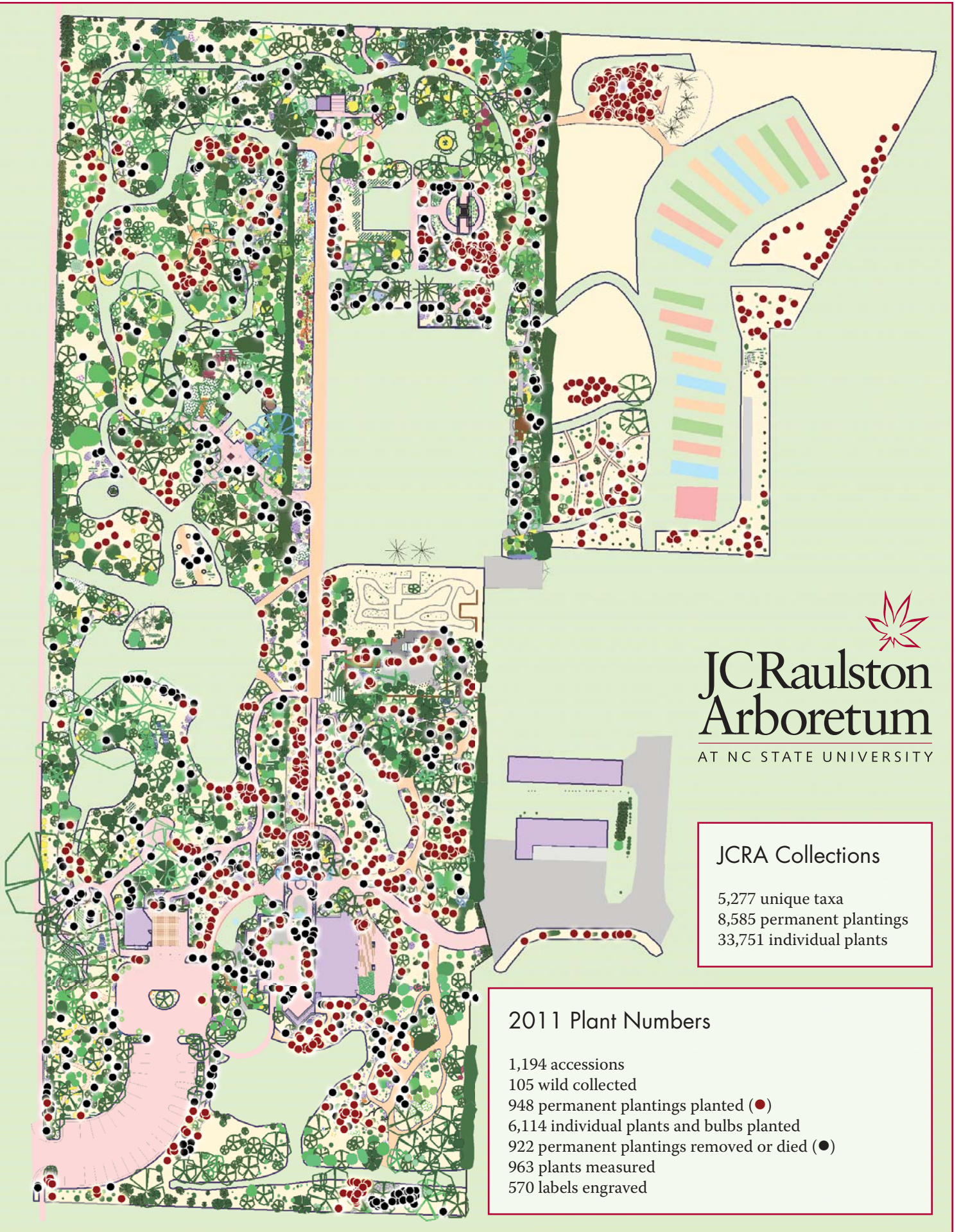
Volunteer Hours – January–December 2011

Our volunteers gave over 8,000 hours of their time in 2011. Their efforts have made the Arboretum a showplace in the community.

<p>200+ Hours Mary Edith Alexander Charles Heatherly Annie Hibbs Dick and Melanie Kelley</p> <p>100+ Hours Jayme Bednarczyk and Philip Abbott Laurie Cochran Vivian Finkelstein Jerome and Linda Glenn Marilyn Golightly Beth Jimenez Charles Kidder Patricia Korpik Anita Kuehne and Bill Swint Richard and Amelia Lane Linda Larkins Patricia MacPherson Laddie and Edna Munger John Pelosi James Schlitt Bobby Wilder</p> <p>40+ Hours Rosanna Adams Jeanne Andrus Angelia Beasley Harriet Bellerjeau Judy Bradyhouse Mark Bruno Jared Chauncey Anne Clapp Sherman Criner Colin Daniels Cathy DeWitt Dennis Drehmel David and Catherine Duch Suzanne Edney Jeffrey Evans Michael Ferrell Roland Flory Sonya Fox Liza Gettles Susan Grayson Judy Belle Halgren Ilene Holmes Monica Hudak</p>	<p>Margaret Jordan Cheryl Kearns Malissa Kilpatrick Rudolf and Friederike Machilek Jean Mitchell Bob Davis and Judy Morgan-Davis Elaine Pace Richard Pearson and Joan Robertson Mike Pittman Charlotte Presley Martha Ramirez John Schott Nancy Simonsen Ann Swallow Walt and Kathleen Thompson Betsy Viall Dee Welker Ralph Whisnant David White Dora Zia</p> <p>Other Contributions of Hours Judy Allen Linda Anderson Alexandra Balaban Carol Barmann Debbie Beach Lisa Bohlen-Admire Vandy Bradow Elizabeth Bridges Regan Brown Tom and Marie Bumgarner Claude and Mary Caldwell Lynn Canada George Carey Erin Champion Beth Cleveland Derrick Cleveland Monika Coleman Bridgitte Crawford Linda Crocker Cynthia Cromwell Kathy Crosby Patricia Cross Genelle Dail Ellen Darst Joseph Kyle Davis</p>	<p>Graham Dean Maureen Donini Sylvia Drew C. J. Dykes and Bryar Cogle Don Edwards Eric Eibelheuser Mary Lou Eycke Wayne Friedrich Josh Fulford Jens Geratz Bill Gernon Elizabeth Guzynski Korki Hanemann Judy Harmon Gail Harris Barbara Harvey Cynthia Heinlein Mitzi Hole Marty Howard Gail Ingram David Josephus Sheila Kellogg Jennette King Anne Lamberti Maggie Larson Rebecca Lee Cindy Levey Wayne Love</p>	<p>Robert Mackintosh Sarah Marano Kathryn Marlow Alison Martin Colin McCarty Mary McCormick Diane McDaniel Alberta McKay Thearon and Vanette McKinney Guy Meilleur Rita Mercer Yvonne Millichip Frank Moore Sandy Morgan Kevin Murray Robert Nichols, III Jacquie Ossi Lauren Ossi Irene Palmer Irina Palumbo Ginny Parker Lara Rose Philbrook Tylila Pickham Rebecca Pledger Glenda Potter Katie Pound Jacqueline Quinn Katherine Raj</p>	<p>Kathe Rauch Cynthia Rayno Alexandra Reid Judy Ryan May Saleh Dianne Schaffer Mary Lou Shanklin Stanley Shieh Jacob Spurgin Kaitlyn Stubblefield John Suggs Ellen Sullivan Christine Thomson Anitra Todd Laura Turas Lisa Vargues Kevin Wang Jay Warfield Patricia Westphal Elisabeth Wheeler Lynn Wilhelm Amanda Wilkins Carol Williams Erica Winston Qian Wu Helen Yoest</p>
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Volunteer leaders





JC Raulston Arboretum

AT NC STATE UNIVERSITY

JCRA Collections

- 5,277 unique taxa
- 8,585 permanent plantings
- 33,751 individual plants

2011 Plant Numbers

- 1,194 accessions
- 105 wild collected
- 948 permanent plantings planted (●)
- 6,114 individual plants and bulbs planted
- 922 permanent plantings removed or died (●)
- 963 plants measured
- 570 labels engraved

Volunteer News

By Barbara Kennedy, Volunteer Coordinator

I would like to recognize a special group of volunteers who have been organizing the various events we have for our volunteers. The volunteer event planners (we call them VEPs) successfully planned and set up our best annual holiday party yet. Nearly 100 volunteers and their guests enjoyed an evening of good food and friendship. Thank you, VEPs.

Another group of volunteers has been working diligently to construct, repair, and renovate the many little, and big, things that need attention. Whether it is repairing a mail box, constructing frames for display, or painting the Necessary, we are eternally grateful to our construction team for all they do.

New Volunteers

Whatever your talent, we have a place for you among our volunteers. If you enjoy meeting people, digging in the dirt, or helping with data entry, stop by and learn about our volunteer opportunities.

We welcome our new volunteers below:

Doug Barnes – Gardening
Jared Chauncey – Propagation Support
Suzanne Cooper – Gardening
Cyndy Cromwell – Gardening
Don Edwards – Gardening
Eric Eibelheuser – Gardening
Marilyn Fleming – Winter Garden
Judy Belle Halgren – Visitor Center
Korki Hanemann – Gardening
Ann Howell – Visitor Center
Gail Ingram – Gardening
Glenda Potter – Gardening
Becky Rosser – Gardening
Sharon Short – Winter Garden
Rob Thornton – Construction
Lisa Vargues – Gardening
Amanda Wilkins – Lecture Support
Yue Zeng – Gardening

Volunteers at Work and Play

Volunteers **Tim Hinton** and **Sheila Kellogg** at the JCRA Plant Sale are about to choose the plants they want to buy for their gardens.



Volunteers try to decide which plants they would like to take home at the volunteer plant swap.




Every fall, our volunteers help set up plants for our annual Friends of the Arboretum Annual Plant Distribution. Here, they take a break from the morning's work.



After working hard at the Gala in the Garden, **Martha Ramirez**, **Jennette King**, and **Alisa Lycof-Hinton** take a break and enjoy the rest.



Two of our long-time volunteers, **Charlie Kidder** and **Annie Hibbs**, enjoy getting together at our Pot Luck Dinner. 



Happy Birthday, JC Raulston Arboretum

By Panayoti Kelaidis, Senior Curator and Director of Outreach, Denver Botanic Garden

Bigger is not always better when it comes to public gardening. The JC Raulston Arboretum is admittedly small: ten acres, with less than a dozen staff. I doubt that any public garden in the last 35 years has exerted *half* the ingenuity, influence, or charm than this hearty band of merry gardeners. Serious gardeners across America have made the pilgrimage (in my case half a dozen times) to visit this extraordinary collection of rare trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants arranged in a series of enchanting gardens.

Why is this garden so special? The plantsmen here have followed the lead of their namesake, J. C. Raulston himself, who was not only a great designer with plants, but probably the keenest plantsman in North America who always sought out the best cultivars, the most unique species, and combined them with great flair in just the right spot. The garden is enormously dynamic, changing constantly. Most importantly, the staff here have always shared both germplasm and knowledge widely.

I took part in a symposium (“Horticultural Madness”) this past weekend celebrating the 35th anniversary of this gem of a garden. I could


practically feel the benign spirit of J. C. hovering over us those magical days—his humor, his genius, his radiant warmth seem to imbue the proceedings from start to finish. Let me share a few highlights from this wonderful weekend of Southern hospitality and good fun.

I suspect a good third of the Arboretum has been transformed since my last visit less than a decade ago. There is a magnificent new classroom and administrative building, new entrance, and many new gardens including the wonderful Xeric Garden and Scree Garden full of western U.S. treasures.

Everyone thinks of visiting the South in spring ... and it’s true that magnolias and azaleas do make for great eye candy then. May I recommend late summer and fall as well? The spectacular display of late summer native asters, grasses, and the beginning hints of fall color are every bit as entrancing as spring’s brash colors, and there are bulbs galore flowering this time of year. I have a special weakness for *Lycoris*, and this one was *everywhere!*

Kudzu is perhaps the most famous introduced plant in the South. Leave it to the JC Raulston Arboretum to include a fabulous hanging curtain of *variegated* kudzu on the patio of their new building (just the sort of witty thing you would expect from J. C. himself!).

Of course, you expect the folks there to have the latest and the greatest cultivars of everything. I was astonished to see masses of a spectacular deep purple blanket flower, which it turns out is quite rare in nature. It’s impossible to imagine visiting this place and not coming away with dozens (if not hundreds) of must-haves for your garden. Alas, I only have room to share a few of these with you now. This coming weekend, they are providing thousands of rare plants for their members in the famous fall “giveaway” that draws hundreds of plant experts from the entire East Coast. It’s not too late to join them!

I have been enormously privileged to have known J. C. Raulston for nearly fifteen years, and now to have watched his legacy thrive for almost that long, maintaining his powerful vision and taking it to new heights. As much as I was enchanted with the plants, the gardens, and the new buildings at the site, the powerful team of workers who put on the symposium (and their many wonderful volunteers) really impressed me most. Teamwork and good humor, teamed with plantsmanship, is the secret of great botanic gardens. None are better than the JC Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh. Make sure to put it on your short list to visit! 

From Digging Into Denver Botanic Garden, September 27, 2011.