

Friends of the JC Raulston Arboretum

# Newsletter

Fall 2015 – Vol. 18, No. 2



JC Raulston Arboretum

AT NC STATE UNIVERSITY



# Greetings from the JC Raulston Arboretum

By Mark Weathington,  
Director

J. C. Raulston signed his letters with the tagline, "Plan—and plant for a better world" and we've been trying to follow his example ever since. Innovative ideas, great enthusiasm, and

powerful passion can take you far but without a plan in place as a guide, you may not end up where you want to be. Gardeners have always been some of the best planners—putting a seed in the ground or planting a tree requires thinking about and anticipating the future.

Over the last eight years that I've been working at the JC Raulston Arboretum, we have completed a Master Plan and finished a complete revision of it. Those plans have guided the development of the gardens and grounds. We've touted many of our accomplishments from the Master Plan and continue to move forward utilizing the plan to make the Arboretum the best it can be. A new Pedestrian Entrance slated to begin this fall is the latest fulfillment of our planning.

We have also developed a Strategic Plan that has helped strengthen our education programming and financial stability. Based on that plan, we've added numerous hands-on workshops to give people the visceral learning experiences they want. We've developed date-night type events like the upcoming An Evening with the Plant Breeders where great plants, great food, and great wine and local beers are all to be had in a fun and relaxed atmosphere to increase our appeal to a wider audience.

Perhaps nothing we currently do focuses as much on the future as the youth programming that we have strengthened based on our Strategic Plan's goals. It has been estimated that nearly 85% of U.S. agricultural jobs over the next 25 years will be in the plant sciences but 80% of students applying to NC State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences want to be animal science majors. Our plan aims to help fill this soon-to-be-critical need by introducing children to the world of plants and horticulture.

This year saw full summer camps for all four weeks we held them, our first youth education intern, and a major grant-funded partnership to teach kids about horticulture and the natural world. We continue to be involved in the Horticultural Science Summer Institute which brings high schoolers to NC State University for a week-long exposure to the many facets of horticulture. Youth programming continues to grow as more and more schools and families seek out our great activities, tours, and family fun events.

Financially, our Strategic Plan has been bearing fruit as well. We have quite a few NC State Board of Governors approved naming opportunities in a range of giving

## Friends of the JC Raulston Arboretum Newsletter

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Christopher Todd Glenn, Editor  
chris\_glenn@ncsu.edu

Photographs by Tim Alderton, Susan Bailey, Robin Carlson, Laurie Cochran, Nancy Doubrava, Suzanne Edney, Christopher Todd Glenn, Lise Jenkins, Trish MacPherson, J. C. Raulston, Debra Singer-Harter, Jimmy Sumerell, and Mark Weathington

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### JC Raulston Arboretum

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

Ruby C. McSwain Education Center  
Monday–Friday – 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 AM–4:00 PM  
\*Weekend hours are based on volunteer availability

### Staff

Mark Weathington, Director  
Tim Alderton, Research Technician  
Arlene Calhoun, Volunteer and Membership Coordinator  
Elizabeth Chicas, Housekeeper  
Bernadette Clark, Bedding Plant Trials Coordinator  
Nancy Doubrava, Interpretive Specialist  
Kathy Field, Financial Accounts Coordinator  
Christopher Todd Glenn, Programs and Education Coordinator  
Faye Koonce, Facilities Coordinator  
Lizzi Lathers, Research Technician  
Sonia Murphy, Director of Development  
Elizabeth Overcash, Children's Program Coordinator  
Ann Swallow, Plant Records Assistant  
Valerie Tyson, Plant Recorder

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Bradley Holland, Ex Officio  
Sonia Murphy, Manager

levels. We have grown our membership significantly and continue to look for ways to offer our members value for their support. Our endowments have reached over \$1.6 million today and we have many long-time supporters who have committed to continuing their support through a planned gift.

It is now time for us to begin looking farther down the road. What will the JCRA look like in 20 years? What are our long-range goals and how do we get there? What needs do we anticipate our stakeholders having and how do we help fulfill those needs? Like planting an acorn for the shade it will one day supply, we are in the process of planning where we go from here. The long-range vision we articulate today will help guide us through the changing landscape of the future. Next year, 2016, marks our 40th anniversary. The JC Raulston Arboretum has made a significant impact on the health and well-being of our state and beyond in its first 40 years, I'm excited to have a part in planning and planting the next 40.

The JC Raulston Arboretum is dedicated to improving pathways and accessibility throughout the garden. Thank you Arbor Enterprises for your past in-kind help.



Mark Weathington, Ethan Guthrie, and Greg Paige traveled to England in June on a plant collection trip sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts.



May's Gala in the Garden celebrated the opening of the new Finley-Nottingham Rose Garden.



Five summer student interns, Rachel Burress, Danielle Smith, Bryan Byers, Taylor Leesnitzer, and Eddie Henderson (left-right), helped us out this summer.



Raulston Blooms! was a big success with over 1,000 visitors enjoying a lovely spring day at the JCRA.



# Collecting Magnolia and Aucuba in Asia

By Mark Weathington,  
Director

The JCRA led a trip to Asia last fall with a focus on collecting magnolias in Taiwan and aucuba in China. I was accompanied

by the exceptionally knowledgeable Greg Paige, curator of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory and Arboretum in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Ethan Kauffman, director of Moore Farms Botanical Garden in Lake City, South Carolina, both of whom were a great asset on the trip. The expedition was funded in part by grants from the Magnolia Society International and the North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association.

I had been to Taiwan previously and collected one (*Magnolia compressa*) of the two native magnolias and I had my sights set on the second species, *M. kachirachirai*. Armed with location data from a colleague at the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute (TFRI), we set off around the southern tip of Taiwan through a lush landscape in search of this sub-tropical species. Despite very accurate GPS and map information, we could not track down the endangered *M. kachirachirai* although a large, dead tree seemed like a possible candidate. The scattered populations of *M. kachirachirai* make finding it somewhat of a needle-in-a-haystack situation and we were ultimately forced to abandon the search.

We had better luck finding *M. compressa*, although in several instances insects had gotten to the seed before we did. We collected seed both in southwestern Ilan County at about 5,300' elevation where I had seen the plant before in 2008 and 2009, and at low elevation on Dasyueshan or Great Snow Mountain in Taichung County. While visiting with our colleague Chen in Taipei at the TFRI, we collected the southern form of *M. compressa*, known as var. *lanyuense* from Lanyu Island, which TFRI had growing in their botanic garden. It is doubtful that this is truly different from the species, but it will be interesting to grow them out side by side.

The magnolia seedlings, which are growing like gangbusters in the JCRA greenhouse, thanks to the excellent care of Lizzi Lathers, will be distributed to the other North American Plant

Collections Consortium (NAPCC) *Magnolia* collection holders in the South and on the West Coast where they will perform best. The NAPCC program is dedicated to conserving collections in botanic gardens, raising curatorial standards, and helping to expand access to collections for researchers.

After navigating the plant inspection hurdles and shipping off the Taiwan collections, we said goodbye to Greg who needed to get back to North Carolina and continued on to Sichuan, China, for aucuba. We were especially interested in checking out *Aucuba chinensis* and *A. omeiensis* which are synonymous in the Flora of China, but are very different in cultivation.

As Ethan and I hiked down Emeishan—one of the five sacred mountains in China—I managed to take a wrong turn and we hiked quite a bit farther than planned, about 24 of the 29 miles of the famed Pilgrim's Path. We collected several different forms of aucuba on Emeishan and my confusion is only heightened at this point. Based on my previous knowledge, I would say we collected *A. albopunctifolia*, *A. himalaica*, *A. chinensis*, *A. obcordata*, and *A. omeiensis*, but it is also possible we collected only the extremely variable *A. chinensis*. The one constant was that the supposedly invalid *A. omeiensis* was much different than any other plant we saw, with exceptionally thick and large foliage on tall shrubs, and it grew more than 1,000' lower than the other aucuba we encountered. Interestingly it grew in a relatively narrow band at around 4,000' where it was quite abundant, but we never encountered it higher or lower than this range.

Hopefully as our seedlings grow out, we can cut through some of the confusion in this genus and select some plants that have value for N.C. nurserymen. Plans are in place to begin working with Tom Ranney, Ph.D., on aucuba to figure out what we have and to develop hardy, beautiful selections for North Carolina landscapes.

If you would like to help support future collecting expeditions, please contact Sonia Murphy, director of development, at (919) 513-0637 or [sonia\\_murphy@ncsu.edu](mailto:sonia_murphy@ncsu.edu).



# Sending Seed around the World

By Mark Weathington,  
Director

As members, you already know all about the JC Raulston Arboretum's Friends of the Arboretum Annual Plant Distribution.

(Don't forget to mark your calendar for this year's giveaway on October 3!) You likely have purchased plants from the Arboretum. You may even be aware that the JCRA distributes plants to N.C. nurserymen and other botanical gardens or that high level members get special Connoisseur Plants. But did you know the JCRA sends seed around the world?

In 2011, the JC Raulston Arboretum kicked off a formal *index semina* program funded in part by a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. *Index semina* is simply Latin for "seed list" and the JCRA collections have benefited over the years from other institutions' lists. We decided that while we have always tried to accommodate requests from other gardens, it was high time for us to formalize our program. *Index semina* are sent around the world to other public gardens and botanical research institutions listing seed that has been collected either from the wild or from cultivated material. Requests for seed from the JCRA list can be made online in late winter and the seed is sent off to the four corners of the globe.

Our initial list in 2011 included seed from 55 different plants. The 2015 list was up to 290 selections collected from the grounds of the JCRA. Seed is collected, cleaned, and stored in a specially outfitted refrigerator by a few dedicated volunteers. The volunteers have already begun collecting for next year's seed list. Recipients of the seed use the resulting plants for display in public gardens, research projects, and botanical study. The program is just one of the many ways the JCRA has a positive impact around the globe.

Mary Leonhardi, Ilene Holmes, and Cathy Isaza clean seed



Ilene Holmes places seed in a refrigerator for long-term storage





# JCRA Web Site: A Fresh New Look

By Christopher Todd Glenn, Programs and Education Coordinator

The JC Raulston Arboretum launched its fourth Web site in early

2014 after more than a year of planning and coding. We approached the project with the goal of improving the site so visitors can find the information they need quicker. The site's style is clean and bold and is our first to be designed for use on smaller devices such as smartphones and tablets.

As a result, the new site is our biggest update ever and includes many exciting features. Some of the highlights include:

- › Memorable and easily spelled URL
- › Responsive design for easy reading on all devices (smartphones, tablets, laptops, and desktops)
- › Bolder design
- › Bigger photographs
- › Created with HTML5 and CSS3, the latest Web standards
- › Accessible by all with improved accessibility for people with disabilities

- › Automatic, nightly updates for majority of site content
- › Re-organized, simplified, and easier to use navigation menu featuring drop-down selections
- › Each page includes an aside on the right featuring items of interest to all visitors
- › Easy-to-use search form and more information in Our Plants (formerly Current Plantings)
- › Single photograph collection with an easy-to-use search form
- › Videos now hosted on YouTube (subscribe to our channel so you don't miss the latest additions)
- › Improved rental section now with availability calendar and online request form
- › Online program registration now available
- › No members-only password

We're not done with the site yet. In fact, we'll probably never be done. Look for numerous improvements over the

coming months as we're always making improvements. Have an idea or a suggestion for the site, send it to Chris Glenn at [chris\\_glenn@ncsu.edu](mailto:chris_glenn@ncsu.edu).

Unlike the JCRA's grounds, the Web site is open all day every day for you to learn from and enjoy. Visit us at <http://jcra.ncsu.edu>. It's your one-stop portal to everything you need to know about the Arboretum and its collections.

## Our Plants

Want to know more about the plants in the Arboretum's collection? Use Our Plants located in the Horticulture section to search through our plant records on the Web site. You'll find important details about the plants, including their age, size history, and other accession details along with photographs of the plants and maps showing where they're planted.



# September Events

<b>Tuesday</b> <b>1</b>	<b>Plantsmen's Tour</b> "Amber Waves" Mark Weathington, Director	9:00 AM 6:00 PM \$
<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>1, 8, 15,</b> <b>22, and 29</b>	<b>Introduction to Plant Identification: The Path to Successful Gardening</b> Bryce Lane, NC State University	6:00 PM \$ ✂
<b>Sundays</b> <b>6, 13, 20,</b> <b>and 27</b>	<b>Arboretum Guided Tour</b> Volunteer Tour Docent	2:00 PM
<b>Thursday</b> <b>10</b>	<b>Friends of the Arboretum Lecture</b> "Show and Tell" Graduate Students and JCRA Members	7:30 PM \$
<b>Thursday</b> <b>17</b>	<b>Day Tripping to Plant Delights Nursery and Juniper Level Botanic Garden</b> Tony Avent, Owner	8:15 AM \$ ✂
<b>Saturday</b> <b>19 and 26</b>	<b>Drawing in Nature III: Botanical Illustration with Watercolor</b> Preston Montague, Landscape Designer and Botanical Illustrator	9:00 AM \$ ✂

<b>Saturday</b> <b>19</b>	<b>North American Rock Garden Society (Piedmont Chapter) Lecture</b> "Deep-rooted Wisdom: Stories from Generations of Gardeners" Jenks Farmer, Plantsman	10:00 AM \$
<b>Saturday</b> <b>19</b>	<b>Landscape Potential III: Designing for Songbirds with Shrubs and Trees</b> Preston Montague, Landscape Designer and Botanical Illustrator	1:00 PM \$ ✂
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>23</b>	<b>School's Out! *</b>	9:00 AM \$ ✂
<b>Thu.–Wed.</b> <b>24–30</b>	<b>Take a Child Outside Week *</b>	8:00 AM+ \$
<b>Saturday</b> <b>26</b>	<b>Girl Scout Program*</b> Brownies: Bug-Out	1:00 PM \$ ✂
<b>Sat. and Sun.</b> <b>26 and 27</b>	<b>Pi Alpha Xi Fall Plant Sale</b>	8:00 AM+ 10:00 AM+



**Take a Child Outside Week**  
**Thursday–Wednesday, September 24–30, 2015 – 8:00 AM–5:00 PM**

Each day will bring a new activity for all ages. Come for one day or every day of the week! Help your child develop a better understanding and appreciation of the environment in which they live by bringing them to the JC Raulston Arboretum.



**Introduction to Plant Identification: The Path to Successful Gardening**  
**Bryce Lane, NC State University**  
**Tuesdays, September 1–October 6, 2015 – 6:00 PM–8:00 PM**  
**Saturday, October 6, 2015 - 9:00 AM–12:00 PM**

This class will equip you with the basics of plant identification, allowing you to enhance your plant identification skills.

\* = Children's program  
+ = Start time, drop in anytime  
\$ = Fee charged, members receive discount  
✂ = Registration required



# October Events

<b>Friday</b> <b>2</b>	<b>An Evening with the Plant Breeders</b> A Behind-the-scenes Look at How Better Plants Are Created	5:30 PM \$ ✍
<b>Saturday</b> <b>3</b>	<b>Friends of the Arboretum Annual Plant Distribution</b>	9:00 AM
<b>Sat.–Sun.</b> <b>3–4</b>	<b>Garden Conservancy's Open Days</b>	9:00 AM+ 12:00 PM+ \$
<b>Sundays</b> <b>4, 11, 18,</b> <b>and 25</b>	<b>Arboretum Guided Tour</b> Volunteer Tour Docent	2:00 PM
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>6</b>	<b>Plantsmen's Tour</b> "Deadly Beauties" Mark Weathington, Director	1:00 PM \$
<b>Tue. and Sat.</b> <b>6 and 10</b>	<b>Introduction to Plant Identification: The Path to Successful Gardening</b> Bryce Lane, NC State University	6:00 PM 9:00 AM \$ ✍

<b>Thursday</b> <b>8</b>	<b>Friends of the Arboretum Lecture</b> "Spoons, Spiders, and Other Spectacular Mums: Explore the 13 Classes of Chrysanthemums" Joan Matthews, President, Central Carolina Chrysanthemum Society	7:30 PM \$
<b>Saturday</b> <b>10</b>	<b>Girl Scout Program*</b> Daisies: Flower Garden Friendships	10:00 AM \$ ✍
<b>Thursday</b> <b>15</b>	<b>Day Tripping to Reynolda House and Gardens</b>	8:00 AM \$ ✍
<b>Saturday</b> <b>17</b>	<b>Landscape Potential IV: Improving Curb Appeal through Foundation Planting</b> Preston Montague, Landscape Designer and Botanical Illustrator	9:00 AM \$ ✍
<b>Saturday</b> <b>31</b>	<b>North American Rock Garden Society (Piedmont Chapter) Lecture</b> "A Plantsman's Pick: Best New Plants from European Nurseries" Jimi Blake, Hunting Brook Gardens	10:00 AM \$



**Garden Conservancy's Open Days**  
**"The Sandy Side of Raleigh"**  
**Saturday, October 3, 2015 – 9:00 AM–5:00 PM**  
**Sunday, October 4, 2015 – 12:00 PM–5:00 PM**

This year's Open Days tour features five fabulous gardens in Raleigh, Gardner, Apex, Holly Springs, and Fuquay-Varina.



**An Evening with the Plant Breeders**  
**Friday, October 2, 2015 – 5:30 PM–10:00 PM**

Go behind the scenes with nationally recognized plantsmen who create, promote, and grow the hottest new ornamental plants. Enjoy their stories and discover the criteria and methods they're using to introduce beautiful, noninvasive, stress-tolerant, pest-tolerant, and adaptable plants.

\* = Children's program  
+ = Start time, drop in anytime  
\$ = Fee charged, members receive discount  
✍ = Registration required



# November Events

**Tuesday 3** **Day Tripping to the Carl Alwin Schenck Memorial Forest** 8:40 AM  
 \$  
 Glenn Catts, Ph.D. ✎

**Tuesday 3** **Plantsmen's Tour** 1:00 PM  
 \$  
 "Woody Lilies"  
 Mark Weathington, Director

**Sat.-Tue. 7-17** **Discover Cuba— Gardens, Culture, History, Art, and Music** Full

**Saturday 7** **Girl Scout Program\*** 10:00 AM  
 \$  
 Cadettes: Tree-iffic Trees ✎

**Wednesday 11** **School's Out!\*** 9:00 AM  
 \$  
 ✎

**Thursday 12** **Friends of the Arboretum Lecture** 7:30 PM  
 \$  
 "Apples from the 'Seed' to the Table"  
 Mike Parker, Ph.D., NC State University

**Saturday 21** **North American Rock Garden Society (Piedmont Chapter) Lecture** 10:00 AM  
 \$  
 "Rock Garden Nation"  
 Panayoti Kelaidis, Denver Botanic Gardens

For more information or to register, please visit <http://jcra.ncsu.edu/events/calendar/>. Have questions? Please call (919) 513-7011 for children's programs, otherwise, call (919) 513-7005.



**School's Out!\***  
**Wednesday, November 11, 2015 – 9:00 AM**

Are your students out of school with nothing to do? Let them spend the day with us at the Arboretum for a School's Out! drop-off program. Students need to bring a lunch and snack.

Appropriate for six to ten year olds.



**Day Tripping to the Carl Alwin Schenck Memorial Forest**  
**Glenn Catts, Ph.D., NC State University**  
**Tuesday, November 3, 2015 – 8:40 AM**

Come learn how Schenck Forest is used as a teaching laboratory at NC State University where students study forestry, botany, ecology, and soil science. This is a great way to learn about this 25-acre site where you can see birds, plants, and wildlife along trails open to the public—all in city limits. Eat lunch nearby and return for the 1:00 PM Plantsmen's Tour.

\* = Children's program  
 + = Start time, drop in anytime  
 \$ = Fee charged, members receive discount  
 ✎ = Registration required



# December Events

**Tuesday 1** **Plantsmen's Tour** 1:00 PM  
 "Prickly Pretties" \$  
 Mark Weathington, Director

**Tuesday 1** **Holiday Wreath Workshops** 1:00 PM  
 Christopher Todd Glenn, Programs and 4:00 PM  
 Education Coordinator \$  
 ✂

**Thursday 3** **Friends of the Arboretum Lecture** 7:30 PM  
 "Poinsettia: A 200-year Journey from \$  
 Gangly Mexican Shrub to Christmas  
 Icon"  
 James E. Faust, Clemson University



**Poinsettia Open House**  
**Sponsored by NC State Floriculture and the JC Raulston Arboretum**  
**Sunday, December 6, 2015 – 12:00 PM–5:00 PM**

NC State Floriculture is part of a national poinsettia program that tests poinsettia cultivars to determine which ones are best for consumers and for producers. You will have a chance to see these cultivars yourself and vote for your favorites. Approximately one hundred different cultivars of poinsettias—including numerous new experimental cultivars—will be on display. Enjoy poinsettia gardens and decorated poinsettias. Help us decide which poinsettias are North Carolina's favorites by voting for your favorite poinsettias.

**Sunday 6** **Poinsettia Open House** 12:00 PM+  
 Sponsored by NC State Floriculture and  
 the JC Raulston Arboretum

For more information or to register, please visit <http://jcra.ncsu.edu/events/calendar/>. Have questions? Please call (919) 513-7011 for children's programs, otherwise, call (919) 513-7005.

## Celebrating Our 40th Anniversary in 2016

Look for exciting anniversary events throughout 2016.

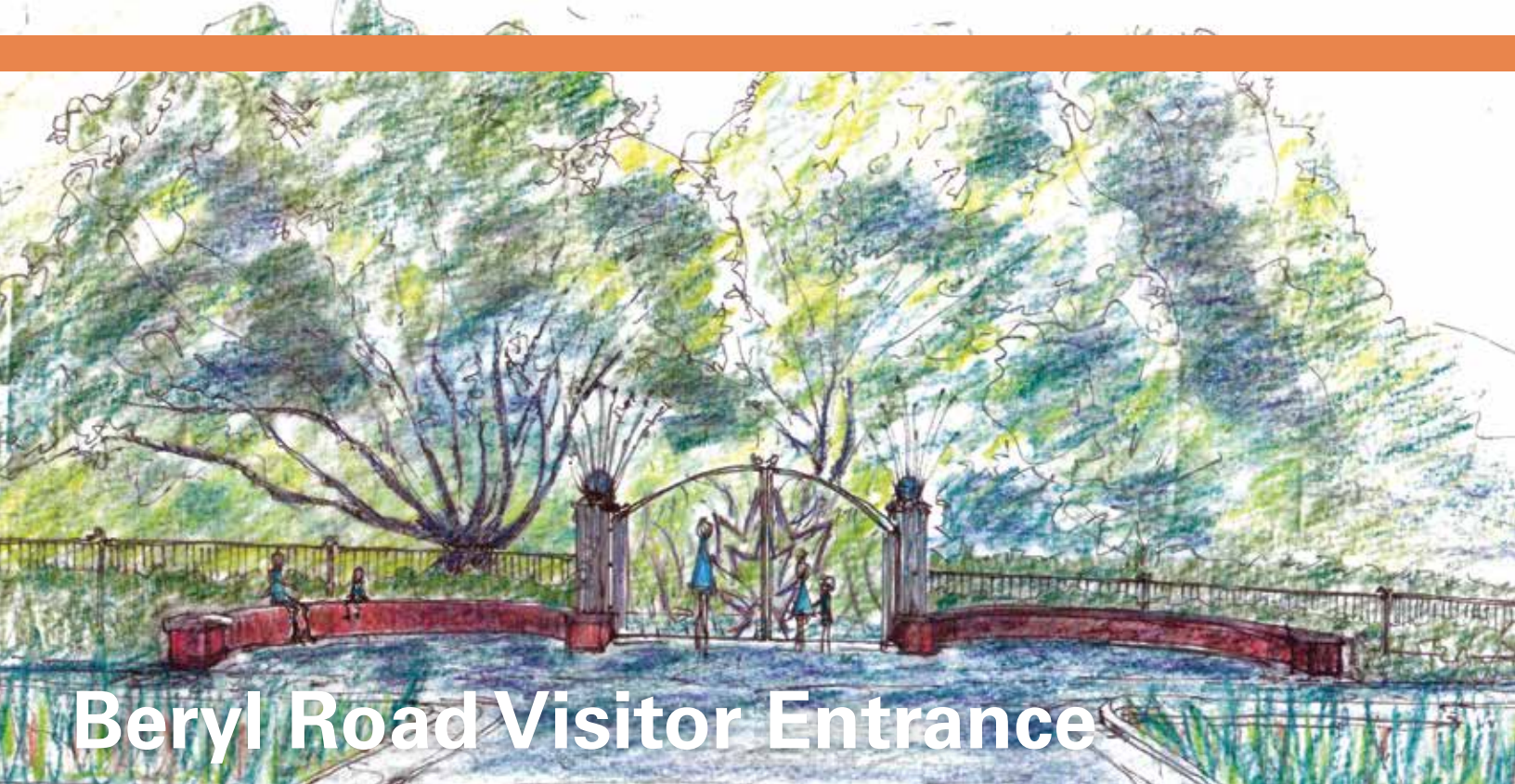


**Holiday Wreath Workshops**  
**Christopher Todd Glenn, Programs and Education Coordinator**  
**Tuesday, December 1 – 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM**

Decorate your home for the holidays with a designer wreath you made at the JC Raulston Arboretum. Hands-on instruction will be provided and all participants will learn to make and will create a wreath of their own to take home.

The deadline to qualify for Connoisseur Plants is December 31, 2015. Your membership must be at Sponsor level or above.

- \* = Children's program
- + = Start time, drop in anytime
- \$ = Fee charged, members receive discount
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# Beryl Road Visitor Entrance

By Harriet Bellerjeau,  
Master Plan  
Committee

Plans for the JC  
Raulston Arboretum at NC State  
University's new

pedestrian entrance on Beryl Road are really taking shape. Visitors to the JCRA will soon make their way past extended wall benches and between two 6' wide decorative gates. From here, they will proceed along an entrance walk under the shady overhang of two enormous heritage live oaks to the Bobby G. Wilder Visitor Center.

Early last spring Chip Calloway, Callaway & Associates, visited the JCRA to share preliminary thoughts with Mark Weathington, director, and some of the Master Plan committee members. As the Master Plan committee pushes into its eighth year of comprehensive planning, they are developing the final drawings to bring the exciting new entrance to fruition.

The committee is joined by the Office of the University Architect in coordinating the design elements to include the brick

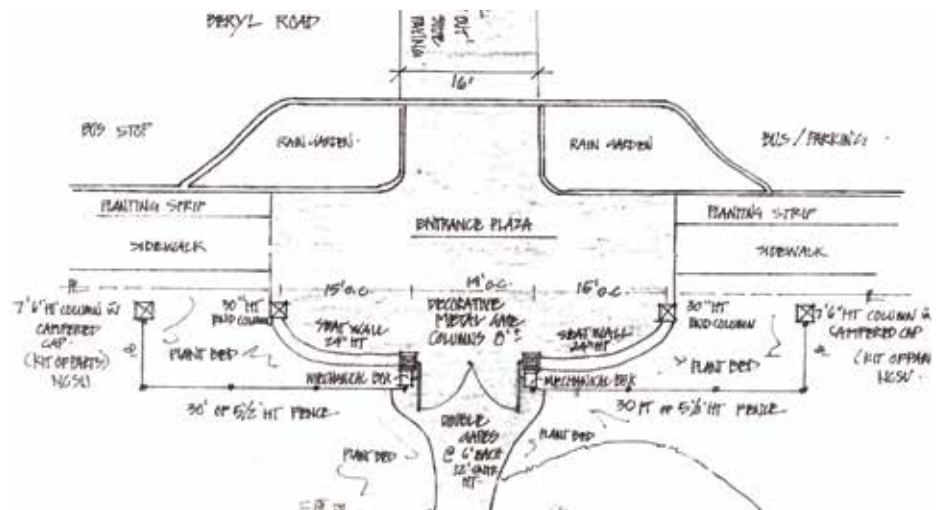
columns and wrought iron fencing which will tie into the entrance area along Beryl Road (as a separately funded and ongoing project). They are providing details for two street-side rain gardens which will enhance the entrance aesthetically and speak to the JCRA's educational component of our mission.

Through the assistance of NC State, we are approaching the City of Raleigh to include our new entrance in their plans for upgrades to Beryl Road. As of this

writing, we are asking for considerations to include an enhanced crosswalk, striping for parking, and bus stop locations.

The Master Plan committee has designed the new entrance area to accommodate bus drop offs and pickups in its size, shape, and provision of paved areas and benches. Both street and decorative lighting, generous areas for plants, accessibility, and a wow factor are all included in the design package.

Stay tuned for more developments!





# Can You Name Your Great Grandparents?

By Sonia Murphy,  
Director of  
Development

At a recent conference, a speaker asked a group of 600 attendees

who could tell him the names of their four grandparents. About 100 people raised their hands. Then he asked who could name all eight of their great grandparents. Only two people raised their hands. The speaker replied, "Within two generations after our passing, most people will not remember who we were or what we stood for!" A "legacy gift" to a charity, he said, can ensure that our beliefs, values, and our names continue forever.

Our inspirational J. C. Raulston is one of the cherished few who will be remembered by family, friends, and colleagues for years to come. His dream of an arboretum, his work, his character, and his many gifts to the world of horticulture inspire us to do more.

What about the rest of us?

When I walk into the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center and see the

buzzing activities taking place, I am reminded of what Ruby McSwain and the many other supporters set in motion by donating to the construction of the center. They believed in the value of connecting people with plants and trusted the JC Raulston Arboretum to awaken the gardener in each of us. Thanks to their

gifts, volunteers, members, faculty, and staff come together each week and champion J. C.'s dream, his values, his vision.

**Debbie Boone**

Gifts come in as many shapes and sizes as plants yet they all provide opportunities. So before considering what you may or may not be able to contribute, think about this ...

- › What do you want to be remembered for?
- › Which values will your philanthropy awaken in our next generations?
- › What will your legacy be?

*Chairs with a View* by Thomas Sayer sculpture marking Ruby C. McSwain Education Center footprint in 1993



## Legacy Gifts

At the JC Raulston Arboretum, legacy gifts can range from a \$25,000 endowment to \$1 million to name the Ellipse. Your legacy gift may be funded through a codicil to your will or through gifts of cash or appreciated assets, such as real estate and securities. These gifts can also provide you and your family with lifetime income, charitable deductions, and reduced estate taxes. For information, contact Sonia Murphy at (919) 513-0637 or [sonia\\_murphy@ncsu.edu](mailto:sonia_murphy@ncsu.edu).



# Members Making News

By Nancy Doubrava, Interpretive Specialist, and Christopher Todd Glenn, Programs and Education Coordinator

We're fortunate to have many talented friends and donors. Here's just a few.

## New U.S. National Arboretum Director

Richard Olsen, Ph.D., has been appointed as the new director of the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. He was a research geneticist and lead scientist in the Floral and Nursery Plant Research Unit. Richard has an undergraduate and doctorate degree from NC State, and has been a long-standing supporter of the JCRA, as a student, an intern, and as a member of the Board of Advisors.

## England/Chelsea Work Study Student Selected

JCRA 2014 student intern, Lauren Browning (top photograph), was the proud recipient of the Department of Horticultural Science's England/Chelsea Work Study Endowment this summer. Lauren was recently hired as a greenhouse grower for the Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department.

## Master Gardeners Radio Show

Getting Dirty with Master Gardeners, a radio show focused on gardening, is the only radio show in the country produced entirely by Master Gardeners. Harold Johnson is the host and is a frequent contributor. Listeners may find a list of stations and archived shows at <http://gettingdirtyradioshow.org>.

## New Leadership at the Chicago Botanic Garden

Andrew Bunting accepted a position as the Chicago Botanic Garden's assistant director and director of plant collections. He's responsible for directing the content and curation of their permanent plant collection. Previously, he was the curator at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College.

## New Gardening Book

Foraging is hot right now, but did you know there are berries in your own back yard that you can eat? Learn more in Helen Yoest's new book titled *Good Berry, Bad Berry: Finding and Identifying the Most Common Wild Berries of North America*.

Have news to share? Let us hear it from you. Send your update to Arlene Calhoun at [arlene\\_calhoun@ncsu.edu](mailto:arlene_calhoun@ncsu.edu).

Harold Johnson



Andrew Bunting



Helen Yoest



# So, It *Is* About the Plants

By Arlene Calhoun,  
Volunteer and  
Membership  
Coordinator

My original idea  
for this piece was  
one that showed  
the deep roots of  
our Connoisseur

Plants program—an article chock full of pictures fully illustrating the process from collection through propagation and all the dedicated people that make it possible.

It didn't take long from me to realize the conversation was much broader than the one I started as I talked with long-time members, volunteers, and JCRA staff about the Connoisseur Plants in their gardens. It is *about* the plants—all of the plants.

The exact details of *how* a plant was acquired may have waned over time, but the *where* was clear and not forgotten—Connoisseur Plants, Annual Plant Distribution, propagation workshops, the plant buggy, or from J. C. personally—just a few of the ways the Arboretum's unusual plants have found their way into our members' gardens. Our members' need for these special plants aligns perfectly with the Arboretum's spirit of sharing.

I couldn't really tell which held the greater significance for the folks I spoke

with—nurturing a seed, cutting, or small plant to maturity or having a beautiful plant in their garden that still isn't widely available to most home gardeners. Either way, both are pretty wonderful and serve to cultivate our mission: introduce, display, and promote plants that diversify the landscape.

Enjoy the accompanying photographs shared by our members (page 10, too). I hope they inspire you to take full advantage of each opportunity to add Arboretum plants to your garden. And bear in mind, many start from cuttings and are nurtured by Arboretum staff, summer interns, and volunteers. From our capable hands to yours—it *is* about the plants.

Laurie Cochran's *Cornus elliptica* 'First Choice'



## Mark Your Calendars

### Members Pre-order Plant Sale

September 2015

### Annual Plant Distribution

Saturday, October 3, 2015

9:00 AM

### Connoisseur Plants Program\*

December 31, 2015

### Propagation Workshops

Winter and Late Spring 2016

\*To qualify for Connoisseur Plants, membership must be at Sponsor level or above on December 31, 2015, to receive plants in March 2016. Qualifying members should expect their catalog via e-mail in January 2016. To learn more, visit <http://jcra.ncsu.edu/connoisseur-plants/> or call Arlene Calhoun (919) 513-7004



# When We Need It Planted ... They Do Come

By Arlene Calhoun,  
Volunteer and  
Membership  
Coordinator

Yearly, our wonderful volunteers plant over 700 different perennials, annuals, and tender perennials in the Color Trials. The performance of each plant is then carefully evaluated by staff each week.

The Color Trials area at the JC Raulston Arboretum is an official All-America Selections (AAS) testing site for new cultivars of bedding plants, flowers, and cool-season plants in North America. AAS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to testing new cultivars.

Find out more at <http://jcra.ncsu.edu/color-trials/>. And be sure to visit and watch the progression of color. It is a sight to see.

The Finely-Nottingham Rose Garden is planted and looking great. The wet spring caused a delay in planting, but thanks to our Master Planning committee, JCRA volunteers, staff, and former interns, the new garden was planted in time to be celebrated at this year's Gala in the Garden.

Come have a look. You'll be amazed by the volunteer's accomplishments.

Volunteers plant the Color Trials



Trish MacPherson's *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Tansu'



Suzanne Edney's *Aucuba japonica* (USNA #4)



  
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# Friends of the Arboretum Annual Plant Distribution

**Saturday, October 3, 2015**  
**9:00 AM**

**An Evening with the Plant Breeders**  
**Friday, October 2, 2015**  
**5:30 PM–10:00 PM**

Go behind the scenes with nationally recognized plantsmen who create, promote, and grow the hottest new ornamental plants the night before the giveaway at the JC Raulston Arboretum.