

JCRaulstonArboretum

AT NC STATE UNIVERSITY

VOL. 6, No. 1

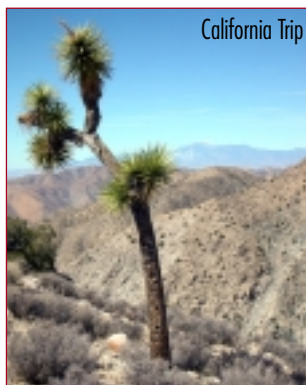
DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Traveling and Teaching

By Bob Lyons, Director

I was all set to write this installment of my newsletter note before taking a group to California.....and now having returned, I realize what a misjudgment that would've been! I've got lots to tell you about since the last issue, but let me start from the most recent. At this writing (mid-March), I find myself sitting on the plane heading from Dallas to Raleigh; it is the final leg on our trip home from seeing some spectacular sights in Southern California with 26 other JCRA Friends. Early mornings and late evenings sandwiched our travels to Joshua Tree National Park and the high desert; The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens; The Arboretum of Los Angeles County; Descanso Gardens; Hearst Castle; and The J. Paul Getty Museum and Gardens. Each host greeted us with enthusiasm and great hospitality, often embellishing guided tours with additional information and conveniences. We left with a renewed spirit of cooperation and new friends with whom we will likely collaborate in the future.

If I had to identify highlights from any of our stops, they would include the striking architecture of the Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) themselves and the views towards Mexico from 4,400 feet up at Joshua Tree National Park; the treks through towering camellia "trees" at Descanso; the outrageous flowering *Tabebuia* trees at The Arboretum of Los Angeles County; the floods of colors in the Huntington cactus gardens; the *Hardenbergia* vines at Hearst Castle; and the original van Gogh irises in the Getty art gallery. Of course, the group of tour participants and my accompanying staff made for a seamless coordination of travels and matchless camaraderie.....not to forget the expertise of travel coordinator **Judi Grainger** of Custom Travel in Raleigh! Please consider the



California Trip



Ruby C. McSwain Education Center

upcoming trip with **Todd Lasseigne** as he ventures off to some of the neatest nurseries and gardens in the Pacific Northwest. Remember, these trips double as fund raisers for the JCRA.....you'll have a great time and our mission is supported even further.

With all the news about travels, construction, and new garden developments, I didn't want the educational side of what we do to become overshadowed.....and the time is right to make sure you know. Truth is, we are becoming even more entrenched in involving students in the JCRA these days because of the arrival of two new Horticultural Science faculty members: Professors **Pat Lindsey** and **Anne Spafford**. Both have begun in earnest to make contributions to the planning and construction aspects of what we do: taking a look at how visitors orient themselves and designing and constructing new vine supports, a new entry from the old parking lot to the Klein-Pringle

White Garden, and a more pleasant and logical space near our east entry.

On the more unusual side of the educational spectrum, so to speak, an undergraduate group of NCSU engineers is busy designing a novel, automatic system to count and record our visitorship. It has been especially rewarding to work with this group of students whose knowledge of plants may be limited but whose expertise in electronics is exceptional, and that's what we need from them! More later.

We continue to engage what is called here the "ILE student," that is, the Internal Learning Experience student, who is enrolled in the Horticultural Science curriculum formally but is tracked into various aspects of JCRA operations, depending upon interests and needs. This semester (spring), we are lucky to have **Casey Kerley** and **Jon Roethling** working under staff in the areas of site maintenance/development and plant collections

Planning and planting for a better world.

management, respectively. These two join a growing list of "ILE alums" who have proven to be invaluable to us while profiting from a unique learning experience outside traditional classroom walls. While this job finds me working with more administrative matters each day, my roots are in teaching and I'm delighted to facilitate these experiences.

Our most prominent and formal involvement in outreach education, education for the professional masses, if you will, takes several forms. Most notably, the JCRA serves as a major site for the spring Turf and Landscape Field Days and the summer Bedding Plant and Landscape Field Days. Literally thousands of people visit and learn from us and our NCSU colleagues. Several staff members, including myself, regularly lecture to diverse clientele groups throughout the year. All in all, our audience numbered over 7,000 in 2001 alone.

On the staff front, I'd like to formally welcome **Anne Porter** to the development team of the JCRA to partner with **Donna Walker**. Anne is based in the Office of College Advancement but has been assigned to the JCRA by Executive Director **Keith Oakley**. She will continue to work with our donors and benefactors as well as bring new friends into the fold. Anne has already proven her skills by jumping into the Gala preparations and by assisting tremendously with the logistics of the trip to California.

On a more somber note, I'm disappointed to report the theft of a very important part of the JCRA.....our 1998 F-250 pickup truck. I generally don't like to air out dirty laundry in this letter, but this offense hit hard. Apparently with some knowledge of our buildings, thieves broke into the staff office building and went directly for the concealed truck keys and the keys to open the road access gate. Nothing else was bothered and they apparently wore gloves.....how clever! Well, bottom line at this writing, we will now figure a way to replace the truck. Sure, it was insured, but not for full replacement value. I hope that by the time you're reading this newsletter, this situation will have been resolved!

And now for a complete 180-degree turn in news, I'd like to reiterate and confirm the great programming relationship we've struck with our friends at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens. It is this simple.....we have agreed upon program reciprocity between our members; thus JCRA members may attend regular Duke Gardens educational programs at their members price, as may the members of Duke Gardens attend ours. Thank you **Chris Glenn** and **Alice LeDuc** (Duke Gardens) for coordinating this mutually beneficial relationship. Look for more JCRA member benefits being negotiated by Donna Walker to come in the future!

Finally, mark those calendars for our Grand Opening of the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center on September 20 & 21, 2002. The planning is going well and the program should be exceptional. Take a deep breath along with the rest of us and enjoy the open house festivities. You've all worked hard to get here!



JCRaulstonArboretum

AT NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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Todd Lasseigne — Assistant Director
Jason Burris — Student Assistant
Anne Calta — Horticultural Technician
Heather Chapman — Secretary
Nancy Doubrava — Interpretive Specialist
Frankie Fanelli — Volunteer Coordinator
Christopher Todd Glenn — Programs & Education Coordinator
Mitzi Hole — Research Technician
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Anne Porter — Assistant Director of Development
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Photographs by Nancy Doubrava, Frankie Fanelli, Christopher Todd Glenn,
Bryce Lane, Todd Lasseigne, Bob Lyons, and Denny Werner

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Prunus persica 'Corinthian White'

California trip participants



Pacific Northwest Adventureland

Join **Todd Lasseigne**, JCRA Assistant Director, on a reprise trip visiting fabulous nurseries and gardens of the Pacific Northwest U.S. and British Columbia, Canada. With an unlimited palette of plants available, this trip will allow even the most avid of plantsmen and gardeners to purchase plants and stock their nurseries and gardens with many newly introduced gems.

Dates: July 13-23, 2002 – Tour limited to 40 participants.

Cost: \$2,199.00 per person, double occupancy (includes airfare from Raleigh, NC and all other costs except meals and other items purchased by participants).

Highlights of the trip will include:

- University of British Columbia Botanical Garden, Vancouver, BC
- VanDusen Botanical Garden, Vancouver, BC
- Bellevue Botanical Garden, Bellevue, WA
- South Seattle Community College Arboretum, Seattle, WA
- Carl S. English, Jr. Botanical Garden, Seattle, WA
- Wells-Medina Nursery, Medina, WA
- Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle, WA
- The Japanese Garden of Seattle, Seattle, WA
- Heronswood Nursery, Kingston, WA
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- Collector's Nursery, Battle Ground, WA
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- Greer Gardens, Eugene, OR
- Gossler Farms Nursery, Springfield, OR
- The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR
- Forestfarm, Williams, OR

For information or to make reservations, call **Judi Grainger** of Custom Travel at (919) 872-4420, or contact Todd (todd_lasseigne@ncsu.edu) for further details. Information is also posted on the JCRA Web site www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum.



Annual Endorsements

“Off the Cuff Comments”

Summaries of Casual Observations from the Field Staff – Summer 2001

By Bob Lyons, Director

First, an introduction.....the Annual Trials Area is located like a donut hole within the JCRA. It is one of the most transient garden features we have and generally undergoes a complete turnover twice per year. While you may have enjoyed and studied the plants in our trials in the past, I'm not sure all of our visitors have a full understanding of what goes on there. Like soldier rows, the beds housing these annuals are laid out straight, narrow, and in neat rectangular patterns. We specifically do this for ease of formal evaluation. Each row represents a species or cultivar which a seed company wishes to have evaluated in the Raleigh area; they are likely sending the same plant to other parts of the country for a similar evaluation. In this way, we get a better picture of geographic and climatic effects on new plants marketed by the players in the seed industry. However, I also take the liberty of putting out some “wild cards” each season, that is, some unusual plants I've received from a variety of sources. By the way, our plants are always labeled and I'm indebted to **Bernadette Clark** for the role she plays in our trials! Performance reports are published twice per year and are available on our Web site at www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum. I've included a listing of our “Top Ten” (13 since there was a tie) for the summer 2001 season, just in time for making some decisions for your own gardens, but the best thing to do is come and visit regularly and spot the best ones yourself.

Sometimes numbers don't tell the whole story. In the section below, you'll find summarized comments from those we recorded throughout the 2001 growing season.....a “between the lines” addition to the actual ratings we make. This list is not exhaustive since not all species received particular comments during the growing season. As in any evaluation program, there are winners and losers, at least for our area. Now you have to make up your own mind! The 2002 summer trials were planted April 25, 2002.

By the way, when you see a rating number referenced below, please know that “5” is our perfect score and “1” is all but dead!

Argyranthemums

From past experience, we have found that the heat of the Raleigh summer is no friend to these plants. Flowering generally declines and disappears completely soon after the spring temperatures warm up permanently; 2001 was no exception. However, of all cultivars

examined, 'Maggie' proved the best in returning to a "close to spring" form for floriferousness when cooler weather returned. An interesting note: we found the flowerless, dense clumps of foliage in midsummer to be attractive complements to the garden in spite of their lack of flowers.

Begonias

We are very excited about the growing potential of the 'Dragon Wing' begonia hybrid. It by far exceeded the performance of traditional wax begonias in early July and maintained that pace into September. It is truly a breakthrough in its group with, in our opinion, fabulous potential for landscape use in our climate.....pink or red, makes no difference. Satisfaction is almost guaranteed! By mid-August, another standout was 'Olympia Sprint White'. As usual, the tuberous begonias were the laggards for performance value in this climate, barely eking out any semblance of a respectable display.

Coleus

This year we went "off the boards" and brought in about 30 different sun coleus cultivars from one of our own state breeders/growers **Ralph Repp**. What a great move! Devoting an entire bed to these wild landscape ornamentals made for a spectacular display. Most grew vigorously and stood out boldly in the beds. What were some of our favorites? Try 'Pineapple Prince', 'Eclipse', 'Florida Sunrise', 'Marie', 'Inky Pink', and the strangely tight and linear 'Dragon's Claw'. The last one has an erect stature with narrow, fluted foliage that is a deep purplish red.....neat and unusual.

Cosmos

I really want to like *Cosmos* 'Cosmic Orange', but it is doing its best to deny me that pleasure! The early and late season averages for this cultivar were poor, leaving it with a dismal overall rating for the season. Fast to flower and fast to seed seem to characterize this cultivar, barely giving us a chance to enjoy its brilliant flowers and short stature.

Durantas

We placed this fascinating foliage-based plant out in a long border and did it ever attract attention. Its lovely green and cream leaves accented other garden colors, enhancing their visibility. *Duranta erecta* 'Golden Edge' is easy to propagate from cuttings and freely branches after pinching at planting. We like it despite its occasionally thorny stems!

Geraniums

The Raleigh summer can be tough on geraniums. Our plants were much improved this year, given the renewed attention we paid to deadheading and the assistance provided by Mother Nature's more agreeable weather.

Once again, the 'Fantasia' series surfaced over others, with all season averages from 4.1 to 4.4.....respectable indeed! If I had to mention some "runners up," I would include, 'Designer Hot Coral', 'Galleria Sunrise Improved', 'Maverick Light Salmon', and 'Maverick Pink'.

New Guinea Impatiens

Our New Guinea impatiens jumped to the forefront early in the season. By July 3, my personal notes indicated the 'Sonic' series to be real standouts. By the middle of August, we noted the seed-derived cultivars inferior to those that are vegetatively reproduced....generally speaking, the vegetatively propagated cultivars are more interesting. We are still raving about the cultivar 'Celebrette Light Coral'. This year we placed it in a long border where it received much more sun than we'd normally be comfortable with. It shined! Strong and diverse foliage colors, excellent flower display, and a uniformly mounded habit contributed to another excellent year for this cultivar. I recommend it highly!

Petunias

No surprise to anyone, 'Tidal Wave Silver' was a true standout in color and form. We heartily endorse this cultivar for its strong flowering ability and landscape coverage. One big surprise to us was the appearance of a new contender for 'Purple Wave'.....we noticed by midsummer that 'Trailing Purple' might just be the one to dethrone 'Purple Wave'. The numbers proved our visual observations right as the latter scored a Late Season Average of 4.6 and 'Purple Wave' came in at 4.1....we'll keep an eye on this rivalry! Other noteworthy cultivars were 'Ramblin Peach Glo', 'Misty Lilac Wave', and 'Surfinia Giant Purple'. And for the historical record.....I remember when the 'Fantasy' series was released and the initial show was great. Unfortunately, it had a tendency to fade away, even earlier than other cultivars.....same thing is still happening.

Portulacas

Oh, my, were the Yubies great or what? It was easy to overlook the somewhat bothersome behavior of afternoon flower closure when the colors were so electric. Strong growth throughout the season, prolific flower production, and high ornamental value were the obvious keys to the notoriety of this cultivar series. We hope these become popular and widely used....stop worrying about getting only a half day out of them. Their outstanding display makes up for their abbreviated show.

Rudbeckias

You don't have to ask, this genus is one of my personal favorites! It is no surprise that I brought in a somewhat new cultivar to look at, 'Chim Chiminee', that was receiving a lot of attention in catalogs. Unfortunately, it didn't live up to my expectations. I'm delighted to see this native North American species used more and more but this cultivar

seems to have been released prematurely. The plants were hardly uniform in almost every respect. Colors were wildly variable, flower types ranged from the familiar flat-rayed and wide to the advertised narrow and almost tubular in appearance. I'm all for mixes but this batch showed way too much to be acceptable....send it back to the selection fields and come back later!

Salvias

By August 15, our *Salvia splendens* were declining fast. This was a disappointment, given that we employed judicious deadheading this year.

Verbenas

An interesting phenomenon popped up when comparing the entries here. The first half of the season accolades went to the 'Tapien' cultivars with their rating of 4.4. By the end of the season, performance flip-flopped when the 'Aztec' series jumped ahead. Bottom line, both are great series and represent the true stars of the genus. I'm afraid these ground cover types are all but knocking their upright cousins out of the competition for landscape performance.

Violas

It appears that violas are still better grown and marketed for winter color in the Raleigh area so far....their summer performance was indifferent at best, often bordering on completely unacceptable.

Zinnias

Hands down, the 'Profusion' zinnias looked excellent....again. I think this is a real breakthrough in zinnia breeding. To really put them to the test, we placed them immediately next to some traditional zinnias, which surely got powdery mildew, but the Profusions remained clean and sharp. Our periodic deadheading helped maintain their appearance, too. Highly recommended. Bring on more colors!

Odds & Ends

This year, some exceptional standouts included several vegetatively propagated plants. *Saccharum officinarum* 'Pele's Smoke' was notable and recommended. It's tight, erect stature, dusty purple color, controlled growth rate, and bold foliage made for a lovely specimen plant in the back border. It reached 6-8' tall easily but had strength and durability unlike other tall, grass-like ornamentals. *Pennisetum setaceum* 'Eaton Canyon' is a dwarf form of the very popular *P. setaceum* 'Rubrum'. 'Eaton Canyon' is about half the height and a nice alternative but it just didn't flower as much as its cousin. It also tended to be less full and dense....but we still liked it.

The Top Ten

This list shows the species/cultivars with the top 10 All Season Averages....since there were ties, the top 13 selections are listed. The plants with the very best scores are listed first, representing our best performers for the whole summer 2001 season!

Petunia 'Tidal Wave Hot Pink'	4.9
Petunia 'Tidal Wave Silver'	4.7
Petunia 'Ruffle Pink'	4.7
Impatiens (Double) 'Tioga Hot Pink'	4.7
Vinca '01BP19'	4.7
Impatiens (Trailing) 'Fanfare Fuchsia'	4.7
Vinca 'Blue Pearl'	4.6
Portulaca 'Yubi Summer Joy Deep Rose'	4.6
Petunia 'Double Wave Pink'	4.6
New Guinea Impatiens 'Super Sonic Scarlet'	4.6
New Guinea Impatiens 'Celebration Cherry Red'	4.6
Impatiens (Trailing) 'Fanfare Lavender'	4.6
Petunia 'Wave Misty Lilac'	4.6



Above: *Petunia* 'Tidal Wave Silver'



Above: *Impatiens hawkeri* 'Celebrette Light Coral', *Pennisetum setaceum* 'Eaton Canyon', *Saccharum officinarum* 'Pele's Smoke', and other plants in the Annual Display Bed.

“Hats’ Off” for Redbuds

By Todd Lasseigne, Assistant Director

Back during the summer of 2000, in preparation for the upcoming demolition phase of the West Arboretum at the JCRA, **Denny Werner**, Ph.D., (NCSU Professor of Horticulture) mentioned to me the idea of having the *Cercis* (redbud) collection budded by a nurseryman renowned for his ability to graft redbuds, **Harald Neubauer** of Hidden Hollow Nursery in Belvidere, TN. Although **Mitzi Hole** and I had already come up with several ideas on how to “save” the *Cercis* collection, I was eager to have as much redundancy built in as possible. (For those who do not remember, the JCRA holds the largest collection of *Cercis* taxa of any arboretum in the world.) Mitzi had propagated the entire collection from softwood cuttings back in the spring of 2000, and although some had not yet rooted, the results looked highly promising. We also had planned on transplanting some of the smaller plants directly to new locations that would be unaffected by the construction of the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center. This would still leave several *Cercis* taxa unaccounted for, should the cuttings not root. Therefore, I told Denny that I would be happy for him to contact Harald and see if he would be interested in working with us to preserve our collection. Of course, we would offer any additional budwood that he might desire for his own uses. The budwood was sent to Harald in August 2000.

Jumping forward to January 2002, Denny and I traveled to Belvidere to pick up our plants – some for Denny’s *Cercis* breeding program, and the remainder for the JCRA *Cercis* collection. Both Harald and his son **Alex Neubauer** greeted us and showed off the prized plants. Virtually all of the 20 or so taxa had been budded at nearly 100% success! Most of the plants had rocketed to 8-10’ tall, beautiful plants. After loading our huge bundles of *Cercis*, we were off, traveling back to NC. The JC Raulston Arboretum owes a special thanks to Harald for helping us preserve this important collection. Kudos on a job well done! ❁



Above: Alex (left) and Harald Neubauer (middle) and Todd Lasseigne (right) at Hidden Hollow Nursery in TN.

Sweet Potatoes for the Eyes

By Bob Lyons, Director

Stay tuned for the new “Sweet Caroline” series of ornamental sweet potatoes! Named specifically for their individual colors, these new releases are patent pending and represent the combined efforts of the NCSU sweet potato breeding team (**Craig Yenko** and **Ken Pecota**), Bodger Botanicals, and the JCRA. Ornamental sweet potatoes (*Ipomoea batatas*) are one of the hottest groups of landscape plant materials being used today. Perhaps best known by the cultivars ‘Blackie’, ‘Sulfur’ or ‘Marguerite’, and ‘Pink Frost’ or ‘Tricolor’, these plants have quickly dominated the tender perennial groundcover market. Just look around and you’ll see them somewhere for sure.

However, recognizing that they’ve got some drawbacks, like very rapid growth and large tuber size for container use, we looked for improved hybrids which have a more dense, controlled habit and reduced tuber size. Of course, it wouldn’t hurt to get a new color in there too! We believe that ‘Sweet Caroline Bright Green’, ‘Sweet Caroline Bronze’, ‘Sweet Caroline Green’, and ‘Sweet Caroline Purple’ all possess more desirable features suitable to both landscape use and container displays. ‘Sweet Caroline Bronze’ is particularly unique with its brassy, coppery foliage and deeper colored venation.....a color not previously available in this species.

All four cultivars have been released for retail sales in 2002 but early signs of their popularity may create a short supply fast. We are very excited to partner with the NCSU sweet potato breeders and Bodger Botanicals to bring you these improved ornamental sweet potatoes! They have already been featured in *Fine Gardening* and as the front cover article in NC Cooperative Extension’s *Successful Gardener*. ❁



Above: ‘Sweet Caroline Bright Green’ (bottom left), ‘Sweet Caroline Bronze’ (top left), ‘Sweet Caroline Green’ (top right), and ‘Sweet Caroline Purple’ (bottom right)

Raulston Allspice

By Nancy Doubrava, Interpretive Specialist

This exciting, new hybrid from the JC Raulston Arboretum is celebrating its first spring with a new botanical name, \times *Sinocalycalycanthus raulstonii* 'Hartlage Wine', and common name, Raulston allspice. This unique intergeneric hybrid is the first successful cross between *Calycanthus floridus*, our native sweetshrub or Carolina allspice, and *Sinocalycanthus chinensis*, its rare Chinese counterpart.

The creation of the new genus, \times *Sinocalycalycanthus*, has an intriguing story. It all began within a few years following the first flowering of the parent, *S. chinensis* on the North American continent. *Sinocalycanthus chinensis* was first discovered in eastern China in Zhejiang Province in 1963. It was distributed from Shanghai Botanical Garden to the University of British Columbia (UBC) Botanical Garden, where it bloomed in 1984. Cuttings were obtained by J. C. Raulston, Ph.D., Director of the NCSU Arboretum from Gerald Straley, Ph.D., then curator of the Asian Collection at UBC Botanical Garden. By 1991, the plant at the NCSU Arboretum was thriving at nearly six feet tall.


One day while observing *C. floridus* in the Arboretum, it was noticed that although the flowers were very different, the fruits looked similar to those of *S. chinensis*. Was it possible that these two different genera might be able to be successfully crossed? **Richard Hartlage**, who was an undergraduate in Horticultural Science at NCSU working at the Arboretum, was asked to take on the project.

In 1991, under the direction of J. C. Raulston, Richard performed a series of reciprocal crosses between the two parents. Using *S. chinensis* as the female parent and *C. floridus* as the male, one seedpod was successfully produced with six seeds inside. After stratification (cold treatment) all of the seeds germinated readily. As the seedlings grew, only four survived, which were eventually transferred to field plots.

The four remaining plants continued to grow. It was soon realized that one of the plants had leaves with characteristics intermediate between the two parents. This was the first clue that the plant might be a new hybrid. Five more long years passed before this one amazing plant bloomed for the first time in the spring of 1996, with its unique wine-red flowers, thus confirming it was truly a new intergeneric hybrid.

In July 2001, a scientific paper published in HortScience (authors: Todd Lasseigne, Paul Fantz, J. C. Raulston, and Gerald Straley) officially validated the name as \times *Sinocalycalycanthus raulstonii* 'Hartlage Wine'. Following rules of botanical nomenclature, the new genus name was made from the first half of the female parent generic name and the second half of the male parent generic name, creating the tongue twister, \times *Sinocalycalycanthus*. The " \times " that precedes the new genus designates the intergeneric cross. The hybrid species name, "*raulstonii*," was given in honor of J. C. Raulston who directed the successful hybridization. The cultivar name, 'Hartlage Wine' was given in honor of Richard Hartlage's contribution to the project. 'Hartlage Wine' refers to any plants propagated and subsequently distributed from the original clone growing at the JC Raulston Arboretum.

Raulston allspice is a great choice for woodland to moderately sunny gardens. This robust, deciduous shrub grows best in part shade. You can also grow it in full sun if ample moisture is provided. In mid-spring, look for its absolutely beautiful, unique, 3-4" wide, maroon, wine-red flowers, each gently splashed with white in the center. This medium to large deciduous shrub has bold, medium-green foliage and subdued yellow fall color.

Currently, Raulston allspice is in the marketing phase as a JC Raulston Arboretum Selection™. Look for it to become available from commercial growers this year or next. **Tom Ranney**, Ph.D., at the Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center in Fletcher, NC, is continuing more hybridization work, including crosses with the western sweetshrub, *C. occidentalis*, a native of the Pacific Northwest. 

\times *Sinocalycalycanthus raulstonii* 'Hartlage Wine'



Journey to the Nation of Georgia

Part 1

By Todd Lasseigne, Assistant Director

It all started with an e-mail I received on February 21, 2001 from my good friend, **Tomasz Anisko**, Ph.D., Curator at Longwood Gardens. The subject heading for the e-mail simply read "Caucasus," and when I saw it, I knew that I was in trouble. Trouble, you ask? Yes, trouble! Having only been employed for six weeks at that point in time as the new JCRA Assistant Director, I knew before reading the e-mail that Tomasz was asking me to join him on an expedition. Furthermore, I knew that I would have to be able to justify, as well as locate funds for, a trip of this magnitude. I was already in the midst of planning a trip to Japan to speak to the Japanese Nursery Association (Saitama City Branch) in early June 2001, and this trip to the Caucasus was to follow very closely on the heels of my Japan trip. Clearly, **Bob Lyons** would have my head on a platter as soon as I mentioned this to him. Indeed, on opening Tomasz's e-mail, I found out that he was proposing that I join him and several other participants on a month-long expedition to explore the botanical riches of the nation of Georgia. A month, eh? Wow! This would take quite a bit of convincing, I knew.

Well, the fates must have been with me, because 1) the trip to Japan (subject of a future article) was secured financially through the generous support of **Mike Ishii** (Ishii Plants, Saitama City, Japan); and 2) I found out that **Robert Wright**, Ph.D., of Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg,

VA (a.k.a. Bob's former boss) was to participate on the Georgia expedition also. With these two items securely in hand, I was able to secure permission to join Tomasz on the Georgia expedition. Through Bob's help, the JCRA was then able to secure generous financial support of this expedition from several sources, including the North Carolina Association of Nurserymen (NCAN), **Bobby Ward** of Raleigh [with a corporate match of his gift from Carolina Power and Light (CP&L)], and **Chip Callaway** of Greensboro. With this, I was all set to go, or kind of. I later found out that 1) arranging a round-the-world flight, especially the leg from Tokyo, Japan to Tbilisi, Georgia, was much more involved than I had first realized; and 2) acquiring a visa for Georgia is not something that one should put off until the last minute.

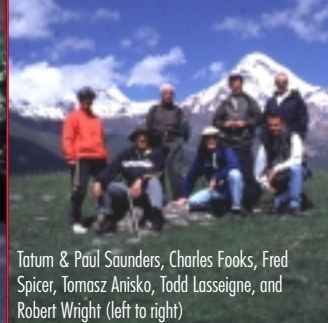
Some of you are probably asking the obvious question: "What are you talking about? Georgia is only four hours drive from Raleigh, after all." Well, yes, that is true, but this expedition would take me to the "other" Georgia — the Georgia that was formerly part of the U.S.S.R., or the "Republic of Georgia" as it is fashionable in the U.S. to call this nation. Perhaps a few introductory facts, along with the map included on this page, are in order to orient you to this fascinating but poorly known and little studied (from a Western viewpoint), part of the world.

Georgia is an ancient nation dating back to circa 4th Century B.C. During its turbulent history, Georgia has been conquered and reborn time and again, surviving to the present day as an independent nation of strong and proud people. Although historically Georgia comprised a much larger geographical area than present maps indicate, currently the land area of Georgia equals nearly 27,000 square miles. The U.S. state of South





Tomasz Anisko, Otari Abdaladze, Marina Mosulishvili, Giorgi Nakhutsrashvili, and Maia Akhalkatsi (left to right)



Tatum & Paul Saunders, Charles Fooks, Fred Spicer, Tomasz Anisko, Todd Lasseigne, and Robert Wright (left to right)



Buxus colchica variations



Charles Fooks (left) and Tomasz Anisko (right) in a boxwood forest.



Tbilisi, Georgia

Carolina measures just over 30,000 square miles, in comparison. Nearly 5.5 million people call Georgia their home, and of these, about 1.5 million live in the capital city of Tbilisi. South Carolina has a population of 4 million. The U.S. state of Georgia is over twice as large as the nation of Georgia, for those who are in need of such facts.

Georgia is situated in easternmost Europe, at the crossroads between Europe and Asia. It sits between the Black and Caspian Seas, with the Black Sea forming its western boundary. To the north, and forming the border with Russia, run the Greater Caucasus Mountains, the highest mountain range in Europe, with Russia's Mount Elbrus towering to almost 18,500 feet above mean sea level (a.s.l.) as the highest peak. On the southern boundary of Georgia run the Lesser Caucasus Mountains. Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, respectively, border Georgia to the south from west to east. As Georgia lies between the two Caucasian mountain ranges, this region is often referred to as "the Transcaucasus" or "Transcaucasia." Both the Greater and Lesser Caucasus run roughly northwest to southeast. A transverse range, termed as either the Likhik Mountains or the Imeretian Elevation, connects the two Caucasian main ranges. As a result of not only the diverse meso-scale habitats arising throughout Georgia from such geophysical variability, the Imeretian Elevation also serves to effectively divide the country into two vastly differing regions – eastern and western. In ancient times, eastern Georgia was referred to as the kingdom of Iberia. This half of the country is markedly drier, with rainfall decreasing constantly as one travels eastward toward the border with Azerbaijan. In contrast, the western half of the country is drenched with ample rainfall, in some areas exceeding 100 inches per year. This western half of Georgia was known in historic times as the kingdom of Colchis – the place where Jason and his Argonauts sought the legendary Golden Fleece.

Why the protracted history and geography lesson? This is necessary, as I was to fully realize in my 30-day stay, because the geography and the history and the plants are all interconnected. When one encounters *Berberis iberica* (a rare endemic species of eastern Georgia) or *Rhamnus imeretina* (which the Hillier Manual calls "the most outstanding of the buckthorns") or *Hedera colchica* (the ivy we call "Persian," but not the Georgians, who call it "Colchic"), the plants reveal their geography. One caveat that I must add to this, however, is that "Iberia," which we know refers to the Iberian Peninsula of Europe (comprising Spain and Portugal), is, of course, not the same as the "Iberia" of Georgia. When I had first arrived, I was puzzled myself, imagining plants with disjunct geographic ranges between far eastern and far western Europe. To both

my satisfaction and disappointment, I came to learn that two points on the globe use this name, and as such, plants from these two regions can, quite independently, be named "iberica." Thus, *Iberis sempervirens*, the common candytuft, derives its generic name since it is native in both Spain and Portugal. *Berberis iberica*, *Euphorbia iberica*, and *Geranium ibericum*, however, are native only in Georgia. Confused? Good! This should put you on an equal footing as to my state of knowledge when I entered this unknown country last summer.

Why Georgia, then? Certainly other places around the globe would appear more interesting from the standpoint of introducing new ornamental plants into cultivation for North Carolina gardens, eh? Although you might think that a quick answer of "yes" would suffice, in actuality, you probably should not cast judgment so quickly. In the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, several regions share comparable climates and floras. We can all think of the similarities between our flora in the southeastern U.S. and that of southeastern Asia. To a degree, the Transcaucasian region also contains related elements. Genera such as *Staphylea* (the bladdernuts), *Osmanthus* (sweet olive), *Ostrya* (hophornbeam), *Carpinus* (hornbeam), and *Prunus* subgenus *Laurocerasus* (cherrylaurel), to mention only a few, all have species native in eastern North America, southeast Asia, Europe, and the Transcaucasus. [Eastern North America: *Staphylea trifolia*, *Osmanthus americanus*, *Ostrya virginiana*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, and *Prunus caroliniana*. Southeast Asia: *Staphylea bumalda* and other species, *Osmanthus fragrans* and many other species, *Carpinus japonica* and many other species, and *Prunus zippeliana* and others. Europe: *Staphylea pinnata*, *Osmanthus decorus*, *Ostrya carpinifolia*, *Carpinus betulus*, and *Prunus laurocerasus*. Transcaucasia: *Staphylea colchica*, *Osmanthus decorus*, *Ostrya carpinifolia*, *Carpinus betulus*, and *Prunus laurocerasus*.] Some plants, such as *Zelkova*, occur in Europe (*Zelkova abelicea*), the Transcaucasus (*Zelkova carpinifolia*), and southeastern Asia (*Zelkova serrata*, *Z. sinica*, and *Z. schneideriana*), but not in the U.S. Thus, I knew before I left Raleigh that I would find species analogs to our southeastern U.S. natives occurring on this trip. Furthermore, I knew that this area of the world had, until recently, been closed off to the West, due to Cold War politics and the Iron Curtain. Basically, Georgia was open, unexplored territory.

Through the initiatives of Tomasz, the essential professional contacts had already been made. Fluent in Russian, Tomasz had written a letter of introduction to Professor Giorgi Nakhutsrashvili, Director of the Georgian Institute of Botany in Tbilisi and a member of the Georgian

Academy of Sciences. Professor Nakhutsrashvili had approved our trip and made arrangements for us to be hosted and shown around the country by two highly competent botanists, **Maia Akhalkatsi**, Ph.D., and **Marina Mosulishvili**, Ph.D., (both of the Institute of Botany), as well as several other botanical scientists who would meet us at various points on the trip. The agenda had been set, and all the team members had to do was get there.

The primary “target species” for this trip was the Colchic boxwood, *Buxus colchica*, a “species” of which little germplasm had ever been introduced into Western cultivation. To this end, Tomasz recruited several members of the American Boxwood Society, including Maryland nurseryman **Charles Fooks**, owner of Woodland Nursery (Salisbury, MD); the husband-and-wife team of **Paul and Tatum Saunders**, of Saunders Brothers, Inc. (Piney River, VA); **Robert Wright**, Ph.D., who is actively involved in research assessing physiology of container production of boxwoods in the Horticulture Department at Virginia Tech University; and **Fred Spicer**, who worked for the Willowood and Frelinghuysen Arboreta (Morris County, NJ) and who participated in the National Boxwood Trials. (Paul Saunders is the coordinator for this relatively new program that evaluates boxwood taxa throughout the eastern U.S. The JC Raulston Arboretum is a participating institution in this program.) The “boxwood team supreme” (my moniker for the group) was thus assembled. However, since I initially knew little about boxwoods before this trip, I felt out of place at the start of the trip. Our expedition team was set with seven participants, a nice small crew that would allow us to access remote areas of Georgia without the aid of a 40-passenger bus.

Although I had not previously been a boxwood aficionado, I became highly intrigued with this “Colchic” boxwood as soon as we first saw it, which was on our very first outing when we journeyed north from Tbilisi to a nearby small village called Navdaraant Kari on June 9, 2001. Not only was I amazed by the huge diversity in leaf shape, size, and color, but I was also surprised to see how successfully the plants were reproducing. All plants consisted of shrubs that had been hacked back, since cut boughs are used in Georgia for “Palm Sunday” services. The Navdaraant Kari population was located near an ancient church dating back many centuries. In fact, we were told by Maia and Marina that all *Buxus colchica* populations east of the Likhis Mountains are regarded as consisting solely of naturalized populations that have taken centuries to form reproducing stands. (To the unknowing, you would think that they were truly native.) Evidently, *Buxus colchica* occurs in a truly “native” state only in the western half of Georgia, in so-called “Colchic forests,” named so because of their high proportion of evergreen woody species and overall high diversity. One thing that was immediately clear to Tomasz, Charles, and myself (the only members of the team present at this point) was that “*Buxus colchica*” was no different than *B. sempervirens*. Leaf morphology, plant habit, and even the fruits were identical to those of the commonly grown *B. sempervirens*. However, the habitats in which we found these plants began to show promise for

introducing germplasm with entirely different physiological tolerances to environmental stresses.

Later, in Tbilisi in the herbarium of the Institute of Botany, Tomasz sought out and found specimens of yet another species of boxwood, *Buxus hyrcanum* — the Hyrcanian boxwood, a native of forests occurring near the southwestern and southern coast of the Caspian Sea of northern Iran and southeastern Azerbaijan. Even this boxwood, too, looked exactly like *B. sempervirens*. Oh, sure, there were some herbarium specimens that had much larger leaves just as we had found in *B. colchica*, but the variation was so high that if one were to mix up these specimens and place them before even the more astute boxwood expert, they would be virtually impossible to tell apart. At this point, my mind immediately went back to Raleigh, to the JC Raulston Arboretum’s boxwood collection, and specifically to our plant labeled as *Buxus himalayensis*, the Himalayan boxwood. I had thought all along that our plants must be mislabeled, since they appeared exactly as *B. sempervirens*. One theory does exist that could explain this rather confusing situation, however. That is, in the geologic past, a great sea, the Tethys Sea, once ran from the present-day Gulf of Mexico and Mediterranean Sea all the way to eastern Asia, which was possible before Africa, Arabia, and India were connected to the Eurasian continental plate and when North America was connected to Europe. The Tethyan theory suggests that the modern-day floras of the southeastern U.S., southern Europe, the Transcaucasian belt, including both the Colchic and Hyrcanian regions, and the grand arc of the Himalayas all the way to China and Japan once existed as a contiguous palaeoflora. (This would include remnant related floras of the western U.S. and northeastern Mexico.) This larger flora was later disrupted over the eons when the continents split apart, and as the interior regions of the continents (e.g., Asia and North America, in particular) dried out due to changes in rainfall patterns induced by newly formed mountain ranges (e.g., the Rockies of North America, and the Himalayas). Thus, a once-contiguous species could have been split into several relatively isolated populations; e.g., moving eastward: *Buxus sempervirens* of southern Europe; *B. colchica* of the western Black Sea region; *B. hyrcanum* of the southern Caspian Sea region; and *B. himalayensis* of Himalayan forests. One could almost draw a line from east to west using these plants. This is just one theory, but it does pose interesting questions for the plant geographer in us.

Thus, with this all in mind, started my expedition to Georgia, an expedition like none I had been on before. From the minute I stepped off the plane at the Tbilisi airport, an early morning with a brisk, cold wind blowing, to the day the expedition team journeyed back cross-country to Tbilisi to fly out the next day, I was enthralled with Georgia — its history, its people, its beauty, and of course, its plants. Cast aside any preconceived notions you may have of this place, as like our own nation, there is more to Georgia than meets the eye. Join me next issue as I’ll discuss some of the many wonderful plants, places, and people that were encountered on this journey around the world.

Calendar of Events

For more information concerning any of the Arboretum's events listed below, please call (919) 515-3132 or visit our Web site at <www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum>.

"Horticultural Photography....Exposed"

May 31, 2002 (Friday) – 7:00 PM

\$15.00 for members – \$45.00 for non-members (JCRA membership included)

3712 Bostian Hall

An example-based presentation with technical aspects of photography de-emphasized and getting desired results emphasized.

Friends of the Arboretum Lecture

June 20, 2002 (Thursday) – 7:30 PM

"More 'Round the World Travels"

Todd Lasseigne, JCRA Assistant Director

Free for members – \$5.00 for non-members

3127 Bostian Hall

Visit other parts of the globe vicariously through Todd as he showcases vignettes from his recent travels in Japan (both 2001 and 2002), the U.K., and the southern U.S. Learn more about what's happening in the world of new plants, and see not only present, but also future acquisitions that are sure to make you salivate with envy.

Plantsmen's Tour*** – Free

"Exploring the JCRA Perennial Border"

June 27, 2002 (Thursday) – 5:30 PM

Special Evening Time

For 20 years now, the Perennial Border at the JC Raulston Arboretum has served as a beacon for exploring gardening potentials using herbaceous plants in our southern gardens and landscapes. Join Todd Lasseigne on a tour focusing on these herbaceous gems, full of color, texture, boldness, and beauty.

El Festival del Jardín***

July 14, 2002 (Sunday) – 12:00 PM-4:00 PM

Adults – \$3.00, children 6-12 – \$1.00, and children under 6 – free

Did you miss this new event last year? Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 14, 2002 from 12:00 PM until 4:00 PM and join the fun.

Created to target the Hispanic community and

their friends. Join us for food, music, children's activities, and more throughout the afternoon. Come with old friends and meet new ones. Practice your Spanish or pick up a phrase or two – our world is getting smaller every day. ¡Hasta luego!

Plantsmen's Tour*** – Free

"Mighty Oaks for Raleigh, the City of Oaks"

July 25, 2002 (Thursday) – 5:30 PM

Special Evening Time

Raleigh is known as the "city of oaks," and what better topic to explore using the diverse collections of the JCRA. Comprising plants ranging from tall deciduous and evergreen trees to more shrubby plants, *Quercus* (the oaks) is recognized throughout the eastern U.S. for their important roles as shade trees in our cities. Join Todd Lasseigne and explore the great diversity of native and non-native oaks (and other relatives) that are thriving in the JCRA collections.

Special Friends of the Arboretum Lecture Cosponsored with the International Aroid Society

July 27, 2002 (Saturday) – 7:30 PM

"Aroid Thrills and Tropical Frills – Tropical Plants for Temperate Gardens"

John Banta

Free for JCRA and International Aroid Society members – \$5.00 for non-members

Ruby C. McSwain Education Center, JCRA

Plant explorer and hybridizer, "Jungle John" Banta will discuss new aroids and tropical plants potentially suitable for zone 7. John Banta is a phenomenal plantsman who has explored almost every continent in search of new and interesting plants. When he isn't traveling the globe, he is hybridizing plants in his garden in south Florida. Over the last 3 decades, John has brought into cultivation a number of plants from his travels and his own hybridizing program.

An auction featuring some plants from John's collection will follow the lecture. His talk is just one part of a weekend event focused around aroids and tropical plants. For more information about the "Aroid Thrills and Tropical Frills" summer extravaganza, please visit the International Aroid Society's Web site, <www.aroid.org>.

Plantsmen's Tour*** – Free

"Returning to the Re-opened West Arboretum"

August 28, 2002 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM

After a wait of nearly 2 years, the western half of the JCRA is open again for viewing. Join Todd Lasseigne on a tour of the plants that remained in place, as well as those that were transplanted and salvaged from the construction phase of the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center. Investigate the Southwestern Garden, Asian Valley, 'Fantasy' crepe myrtle, and other plant beds, to learn about the diverse range of plants growing in the former West Arboretum.

Plantsmen's Tour*** – Free

"Future Gardens Around the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center"

September 18, 2002 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM

Building on this week's celebration of the dedication of the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center, join Todd Lasseigne to view and discuss some of the future gardens to be designed and planted atop and around this long-awaited keystone building for the JCRA.

Friends of the Arboretum Lecture

October 11, 2002 (Friday) – 7:30 PM

Free for members – \$5.00 for non-members


Ruby C. McSwain Education Center, JCRA

Details to follow in the next newsletter and on the JCRA Web site.

Annual Plant Distribution***

October 12, 2002 (Saturday)

Details to follow in the next newsletter and on the JCRA Web site.

***Location information will be announced later due to construction concerns. 

If you are member of the Friends of the JC Raulston Arboretum, we now have a reciprocal agreement with the Sarah P. Duke Gardens. You are entitled to their member's rate if you attend any educational program they offer. Just present your JCRA membership card and they will honor it.

Developing News

By Donna Walker, Development Associate

Gala in the Garden

As we send this newsletter to the printers, the Gala in the Garden 2002 committee is taking a well-earned break from all the hard work that went into the preparation of the very successful Gala in the Garden. We'll include details and pictures in our next newsletter.

Spread the Word

Want to be a part of spreading the word about the JCRA? Try adding a mention to your e-mail signature. How about:

Jane Doe
Member — JC Raulston Arboretum

And if you get an inquiry, send their name, etc. to me. Easy enough?

Trade Show

The North Carolina Association Nurserymen's Green & Growin' trade show held in January 2002 in Winston-Salem was a huge success for the JCRA. Our staff traveled to Winston-Salem loaded with displays, tables, plants, and the new T-shirts and sweatshirts.

The trade show is also a fundraiser for the JCRA since many of the booth exhibitors are eager to sell the contents of their booth, whether it be plants or other gardening materials. For several years, the NCAN folks have shown their support of the JCRA by allowing us to ask the exhibitors to donate to the Arboretum the proceeds received from that sale. We were so pleased to receive almost \$4,800.00 in donations to the JCRA general fund. Our thanks go to the NCAN board and members, **Bev and Ron Gelvin** and the staff at NCAN, the exhibitors who so generously made the donations, and the purchasers of the booth contents, who got some amazing deals!

This is a time when the staff gets away to meet old friends and make new ones; introduce new plants; sell (a lot of) T-shirts, sweatshirts, license tags, and pins; and have a great time in Winston-Salem. We all look forward to the summer trade show.

Bricks

At this writing, the workmen have begun the placement of the engraved bricks in certain areas around the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center. Hundreds of these bricks have been donated and everyone is eagerly looking forward to seeing their bricks in place. Many bricks will be

located immediately outside the main entrance of the building and the remainder will be placed on the rooftop garden. Didn't get around to getting that brick? There's still time. Call us at the office at (919) 515-3132 or (919) 513-3826. We'll send you a form and for a small donation of \$100.00, you join the many other supporters of the JCRA building campaign.

Chairs

An additional fundraiser that is coming to fruition is the naming of the folding chairs to be used in the auditorium/classroom area of the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center. A plaque honoring those who have donated a chair will be placed in the center. Interested? Call us at the numbers above. For a donation of \$250.00, a chair will be named in your honor.

Naming Opportunities

There's still time to take advantage of a naming opportunity at the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center. Here's the list of those available.

Perennial Border	\$500,000.00
Entrance Pavilion and Gift Shop	\$350,000.00
Horticultural Field Laboratory Shop & Offices	\$300,000.00
Horticultural Offices and Work Station	\$250,000.00
Parking Area Garden	\$100,000.00
Roof Terrace	\$100,000.00
Catering Kitchen	\$50,000.00
Volunteer Room	\$50,000.00
Quilted Wood Reception Desk	\$25,000.00



Above: Anne M. Porter is the new development liaison between the JCRA and NC State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Development and Foundations Office. Please call Anne at (919) 513-3463 or e-mail at <anne_porter@ncsu.edu> if you have any questions about JCRA naming opportunities or other Arboretum support.

Also, anyone giving to the building fund in the categories of Oak Grove (\$10,000.00) and Magnolia Grove (\$5,000.00) will be recognized on a plaque to be displayed in the Education Center. Those giving in the Spruce Grove (\$1,000.00) and Dogwood Grove (\$500.00) categories will be honored in a ledger of donors.

And don't forget to put September 20 and 21, 2002 on your calendar. This is the date of the dedication for the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center. We've all worked hard for this building. Please try to be with us to celebrate this event.

We'd like to have all these naming opportunities filled by the dedication. Be a part of this wonderful celebration by becoming a sponsor of one of the above areas. Call Donna at (919) 513-3826 or Anne Porter at (919) 513-3463. Let's talk!

Stock Donations

And speaking of gifts, we just received the following information.

New Stock Transfer Agent

We've changed stock transfer agents to maximize your gift through lower sales commissions. If you are thinking about making a stock gift to the JCRA or NC State University, please call **Donna Walker** at (919) 513-3826; **Anne Porter** at (919) 513-3463; or **Wendy Brown**, Gift Administrator, at (919) 515-9089 to receive your new transfer instructions.

Why Make a Gift With Appreciated Stock?

- You will totally avoid capital gains tax on the shares transferred — a great way to get those low basis shares out of your account at no tax cost.
- Your charitable income tax deduction will be based on the high/low average price on the date of your gift not on what you paid for the stock.
- Using stock does not use any of your available cash leaving it available to repurchase the stock or for other uses.

Other Helpful Information

Please ask your broker to note on the transfer that the shares are coming from you so we may promptly credit you with the gift.

Please call **Wendy Brown** (919) 515-9089 or **Joan DeBruin** (919) 515-9076 when you give the order to your broker to make the transfer and let them know the following:

- number of shares being transferred
- name of securities being transferred
- brokerage firm making the transfer
- how you want the proceeds used



The Ruby C. McSwain Education Center Dedication

JCRA Members Preview

The special Members Preview event is on Friday, September 20, 2002, and will feature a BBQ dinner graciously sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Nurserymen (NCAN).

Also featured is a special lecture by **David Creech**, Ph.D., Director of the Mast Arboretum and professor at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX. David Creech's research has focused on blueberry germplasm evaluation, rabbiteye blueberry nutrition and culture, endangered plants conservation and reintroduction, and CAD/GIS applications in urban horticulture. The SFASU Mast Arboretum is a 10-acre living garden laboratory for students in forestry, biology, and horticulture, as well as the public.

Registration begins at 5:30 PM. Lecture seating inside the auditorium is limited. "Chair passes" will be distributed that night to the first 100 people to register. There will be sound speakers set up outside, so that everyone will be able to hear the lecture. The dinner and fellowship time begins at 6:00 PM, followed by the lecture at 7:30 PM.

Dedication Ceremony

Saturday, September 21, 2002, is the day that everyone will celebrate the completion of the long awaited, much anticipated, and well-deserved Ruby C. McSwain Education Center. It has been a dream of so many for so long, and at last it is complete.

Registration begins at 8:00 AM with a continental breakfast buffet. The dedication program begins at 9:00 AM, then, at approximately 10:30 AM, there will be individual mini dedications of named areas. Friends and families are all invited to participate in these dedications and enjoy the rest of the day at the Arboretum and the new Ruby C. McSwain Education Center.

Special Note

Invitations will be mailed to all current members of the JCRA, but everyone is invited to the Saturday event. If you have any questions or want more information, please call **Donna Walker** at (919) 513-3826 or **Anne Porter** at (919) 513-3463.

Volunteer News

By Frankie Fanelli, Volunteer Coordinator

Oh how the seasons come and go taking our favorite flowers while leaving us with a promise of new ones to take their place! It is sad to see the fabulously colored tulips and the intoxicating fragrant viburnums diminish. Fortunately, JCRA volunteers are here every season, year after year sharing their time, talents, and friendship with the staff and each other. This steady dedication, especially now when so much change is upon us, keeps the Arboretum on track.

JCRA Volunteers do work hard but you can be assured fun is not far behind! I have made a special effort in this issue to give thanks (not sure if I can ever give enough) and recognition to those non-gardening groups that give and give on a regular basis but may not always be featured. Some of these tasks are not the most desirable, however, they are absolutely necessary to support the efforts of the JCRA! In addition, I have made a point of mentioning a few of the fun activities so that you get the total picture.

You too can become part of the JCRA volunteer force. It takes a minimum of 30 hours of your time each year. For details, please contact me at (919) 515-3132 or <frankie_fanelli@ncsu.edu>. Read on to see what you are missing!

Volunteers at Work...

The Plant Patrol

Keeping up with a plant collection of 6,000 plus taxa as well as keeping labels in place is a massive effort and a never-ending task. This is a two-track process led by **Val Tyson**, Plant Recorder, and **Nancy Doubrava**, Interpretive Specialist. Val has overall responsibility for labeling and mapping with **Tom Bumgarner**, Labeling Curator, who coordinates the labeling task. The Tuesday labeling and maps crew includes **Patrice Cooke**, **Carolyn Fagan**, **Margaret Jordan**, **Laddie Munger**, **Bill Satterwhite**, **John Schott**, and **Dora Zia**. Recently, this group has been reviewing all of the bulbs coming up, helping to "clean up" the *Narcissus* collection. **Judy Morgan-Davis** and **Carolyn Lewis** have begun helping with the mapping and inventory task on other weekdays. Also working with Val on a weekly basis is **Ann Stellings** who enters plant data information.

Nancy oversees the engraving of the permanent labels making sure that all of the information is complete and accurate. This goes way beyond just the plant name. Every week **Virg Birkin**, **Judy Elson**, and **Bob Roth** work their magic with the computer making the permanent labels and nametags.



Above left: The labelers and mappers — Carolyn Fagan, Tom Bumgarner, and Bill Satterwhite (left to right). Volunteers Patrice Cooke, Margaret Jordan, Laddie Munger, and Dora Zia are not shown.

Above right: The engravers — Virg Birkin (standing) and Judy Elson (sitting). Volunteer Bob Roth is not shown.

These two groups put in over 1,500 volunteer hours a year keeping the garden mapped and labeled! Take special notice of the labels the next time you visit. A special thanks to these dedicated volunteers for their commitment week after week, month after month, and yes for many this has been a year after year endeavor!

Jeanette Redmond has been updating the Winter Garden maps with Co-curator, **Doris Huneycutt**. We will miss Jeanette and wish her well as she leaves behind North Carolina and turns another of life's pages. Thank you for contributing your time and talents to the JCRA!

Stick'em, Stack'em, and Send'em

These are the unsung volunteers who file into that dark, dank classroom at the Arboretum on very short notice to get all of the JCRA mailings out to you — including this newsletter. A thank you to everyone that has popped in to help. A special thanks goes to those that seem to always find the hours to pitch in time after time: **Dale Allen**, **Dollie Glaum**, **Kathleen Glenister**, **Noel Griffin**, **Laddie Munger**, **Mary Peters**, and **Bee Weddington**. I also know that whoever is staffing the Volunteer Office gets involved by calling for volunteers, pushing boxes around, and helping with the mailing itself: **Mary Edith Alexander**, **Colin Daniels**, **Carolyn Fagan**, **Viv Finkelstein**, **Jean Mitchell**, **Edna Munger**, **Elaine Pace**, **Beth Parks**, **Dee Welker**, and **Dora Zia**.

The Visitor Center?

The Entrance Arbor and Visitor Center that stood for 20 some years is now gone. Over the years many volunteers have kept it clean, planted, watered, and maintained! Most recently, **Sharon Mackey** assisted by **Barbara Kennedy**, took care of these responsibilities. **Kathleen Thompson** and Sharon faithfully tackled the tasks for over two years as well! Thank you, ladies! All continue to volunteer in various areas.

Volunteer Coordinators & Curators

Susan Andrews — Winter Garden Co-curator

Pam Baggett — Entry Garden Curator

Alicia Berry — Water Garden Curator

Harvey Bumgardner — Finley-Nottingham Rose Garden Co-curator

Tom Bumgarner — Labeling Curator

Claude and Mary Caldwell — JCRA Archives Co-curators

Anne Calt — Aquatic Gardens Co-curator

Susan Cheatham — Klein-Pringle White Garden Curator

Anne Clapp — Finley-Nottingham Rose Garden Co-curator

CJ Dykes — Wisteria Garden and Vines Curator

Edith Eddleman — Perennial Borders Curator

Wendy Elliot — Butterfly Garden Curator

Frankie Fanelli — Paradise Garden Curator

Doris Huneycutt — Winter Garden Co-curator

Amelia Lane — Mixed Border Curator

Pat McCracken — Magnolia Collection Curator

Patrick Pitzer — Aquatic Gardens Co-curator

Bob Roth — Lath House Curator

Bill Satterwhite — Bluebird Houses Curator

Dick and Judith Tyler — Winter Garden Co-curators

Helleborus × hybridus in the Paradise Garden

A Walk in the Winter Garden

This February event was a delightful opportunity for showing off the Arboretum in what is thought to be a slow time in the world of plants! The event's focus was the Winter Garden, co-curated by **Doris Huneycutt and Dick and Judith Tyler**. In addition, the Winter Garden team of gardeners includes **Susan Andrews, Dave Duch, Harley Mudge, Jeanette Redmond,** and

Marvin Thompson. The garden was in high form thanks to all of their hard work!

The success of the event involved the talents of many others — both staff and volunteers alike. **Todd Lasseigne**, Assistant Director, along with **Nancy Doubrava** worked on the plant information included in the tour brochure that Nancy produced. **Chris Glenn**, Programs and Education Coordinator, pulled all of the pieces together — as usual. The following volunteers helped in different capacities, from greeting to guiding to refreshments: **Carolyn Fagan, Viv Finkelstein, Kathy Hafer, Barbara Kennedy, Carolyn Lewis, Catherine Poff,** and **Kathe Rauch**. Kudos to all for a successful and fun event.

What a Talented Lady!

The talents among the JCRA volunteer force never cease to amaze me! What is even more heartening is the unselfish sharing of both time and talents by volunteers. **Mary Edith Alexander**, who staffs the Volunteer Office every Thursday afternoon, is one of our amazing volunteers with an array of talents. **Donna Walker**, Development Associate, asked Mary Edith about new cloths for our display tables. That is all it took. Mary Edith grabbed the ball and did not stop until we had four fabulous new custom fitted cloths. Donna asked me to pass along that Mary Edith chose a wonderful fabric with a terrific design and a custom fit that allows the cloths to fold like a Chinese puzzle so as not to wrinkle. What ingenuity! Thank you, thank you, Mary Edith!

New Volunteers

Edna Munger has joined the Volunteer Office staff. Stop by on Mondays and introduce yourself to her. **Judy Morgan-Davis** is assisting **Val Tyson** with a special mapping project as well as several other volunteer needs. Both volunteers are already regularly logging hours. Welcome to you both!

Volunteers at Play...

Volunteer Celebrations

Holiday cheer was in order at two December events! On December 2, 2001, volunteers showed up to deck out the Harry Lauder's walking stick (*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta') in the Paradise Garden. It seemed most fitting to have a Charlie Brown type tree with all of the goings-on at the Arboretum! A number of volunteers came and went throughout the afternoon — some of the young at heart participating included **Carolyn Fagan, Viv Finkelstein, Jean Mitchell, Bonnie O'Connor, Nancy Simonsen,** and **Ginny Welton**. **Graham Dean, Nancy Doubrava's** son, aptly pointed out the lack of an angel topping off the tree and the absolute necessity for one. Thanks to **CJ Dykes**, Vine Curator, for solving this dilemma. Anyone that knows Harry knows this was not a simple feat, as Harry has no central leader to top!

On December 9, 2002 **Bob Lyons**, Director, hosted a holiday open house for the JCRA Volunteers. Approximately 40 volunteers shared in the season's cheer, good food, and companionship. Many left with great door prizes, including fabulous poinsettias donated by Homewood Nursery. Thank you, **Joe Stoffregen**. And thank you, Bob. We all appreciate your hospitality!

Earning Plants...

One of the benefits of being a JCRA Volunteer is the opportunity to accumulate hours that earn plants via the Connoisseur Plant Program. You see, volunteers earn membership benefits through their volunteer hours. Once a volunteer completes 250 hours in a year, they qualify for the fall Connoisseur Plant Program. This is easier than you think — once a volunteer completes 30 hours in a twelve month period, the hours for the previous years of volunteer work are added into the total. This makes it easier for volunteers to qualify for benefits at the 250+ or perhaps the 500+ membership level. In 2001, twelve volunteers received two plants (250+ hour level) and fifteen received five plants (500+ hour level). It is fun to get plants — especially the unique specimens offered in the Connoisseur Plant Program.

Garden Tripping...

Twenty-three volunteers joined the JCRA staff on a day trip to Pine Knot Farms <www.pineknotfarms.com> on February 16, 2002. **Dick and Judith Tyler** treated us to a special preview of Hellebore Days. The day was filled with tours, learning, and just wandering about the Tyler's fabulous nursery. The weather was beautiful, allowing for a tour (see photograph below) and a leisurely outdoor lunch. We headed home with our hellebore and perennial purchases tucked under the seats of our private coach and relaxed. Thank you, Dick and Judith, for the refreshments (out of this world double chocolate brownies), the education, and for sharing your part of paradise!

Volunteers with 30 plus hours over the previous 12 months were invited to participate. Get your hours in – there is more planned for the 30 plusers!



Above: Tim Hinton, Wayne Friedrich, and Carolyn Lewis (left to right) planting tulips in the Paradise Garden.

On the upper right hand side of the address label to the right, please find a new entry. It is the password needed to access this newsletter on the Arboretum's Web site at <www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum> and the date your membership expires. The entry is in the following format: mm/dd/yyyy – password.

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- Student – \$10.00
(full-time, 2- or 4-yr accredited)
- Senior – \$10.00
(60 years or older)
- Individual – \$30.00
- My company matches gifts. I have enclosed a matching gift form.
- Family/Dual – \$50.00
- Sponsor – \$250.00 - \$499.00
- Patron – \$500 - \$2,499.00
- Benefactor – \$2,500.00 - \$4,999.00
- Philanthropist – \$5,000.00 (and up)

Membership Type

- New Renewal Gift

Membership is for:

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