



JC Raulston Arboretum

AT NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2011 – Vol. 15, No. 1

Words from the Director

Ten to Eleven

By Ted Bilderback, Director

It's that "time" thing again! Time just keeps slipping by so quickly. The year 2010 brought some major long-dreamed-of garden construction projects to reality. The Japanese Garden renovation was completed just in time for the grand opening at our Gala in the Garden on May 2. The new Frank Harmon-designed Lath House construction was completed in time for fall 2010. The Master Plan committee has worked diligently to complete the pathways and bed design for the new Lath House. Bed construction and planting the Lath House is a major focus for early 2011, with the official dedication slated for fall, when we will recognize all the people who helped make this project a reality—especially Mike Stallings and Mitzi Hole.

The year 2011 may be a little calmer in regard to new garden projects—but only time will tell! A little breathing time between major projects will allow Mark, Tim, and our band of dedicated volunteers a chance to work on the punch list of minor construction projects. "Valley" is code for "needs work" in the Asian Valley. There are some changes in elevation and, hence, rapid movement of water during storms. The description translates into work required for eliminating giant mulch slides and/or new USGS maps showing blue line designations for intermittent streams in our garden. We also have some areas of erosion in the Scree Garden that require some attention, so you can see there will be plenty of garden projects to accomplish in 2011.



Lath House construction



As time marches on, you will witness the creation of the Ellipse, circled by a pathway similar to the main path from the Japanese Garden to the Necessary. The Ellipse is destined to be the Arboretum's major events area. We are currently seeking private funding for this project in order to launch construction of this new area. And speaking of the Necessary, our volunteer construction crew just completed a face lift with all new exterior paint, plus a new roof. The Model Gardens are another future project area that the Master Plan committee continues to review. We have struggled with what the changes in the

Model Garden area should be. The Master Plan committee, always looking for new ideas and younger thinking, invited horticulture landscape design students in one of Julie Sherk's Department of Horticultural Science landscape design classes to develop and present their visions of the function, flow, space use, and plant collections for this region of the Arboretum. There were lots of good ideas and still much creative thinking is in progress. We are very much open to ideas that Friends of the Arboretum might have, and we are always appreciative of financial assistance for the Model Gardens development, as well other garden projects.

The Master Plan really is our road map for the future development of the Arboretum, but the time is now to appreciate and enjoy the approximately 5,500 taxa of plants and beautiful floriferous views. The JC Raulston Arboretum is *your* public garden and in reality, it is Raleigh's garden! With over 1,400 FOA members, the JCRA has a strong base of support.

However, Wake County's population is approaching one million people and many do not even know that the Arboretum exists. It's time to solve our identity problem, so with the help of the JCRA Board of Advisors and the dedicated staff, we have set a strategic plan in place to help create and support excellent

Planning and planting for a better world.



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| Mark Weathington | Assistant Director and Curator of Collections |
| Tim Alderton | Research Technician |
| Nancy Doubrava | Interpretive Specialist |
| Christopher Todd Glenn | Programs and Education Coordinator |
| Barbara Kennedy | Volunteer Coordinator |
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Arboretum Open Daily
April–October – 8:00 AM–8:00 PM
November–March – 8:00 AM–5:00 PM

Bobby G. Wilder Visitor Center
Monday–Friday – 8:00 AM–5:00 PM
Saturday* – 10:00 AM–2:00 PM
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*Weekend hours are based on volunteer availability

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gardens and collections; provide financial security; offer outstanding quality and variety of educational programming; and provide effective communications and public relations. We still have considerable work ahead, but many of the designated priorities are already well under way.

One major priority is becoming a reality. The JC Raulston Arboretum is truly a great resource for families and children. Obviously, the Margaret Snow Manooch Cascade is a kid magnet, but beyond the aesthetics and water features, there is so much more that begs to be learned about our plants, the garden, and their environmental impact. Coupling the idea of a JCRA Children's Program with the fact that Wake County has one of the largest populations of home-schooled children in the United States, it was a natural fit for the JCRA to develop and offer a children's science curriculum module. Call it good karma or a "meant to be moment," but I received an e-mail from Jennie Cowan saying she was a citizen of the United Kingdom and did not have a U.S. work permit, but she was experienced in developing children's programs and wanted to come work with us while she

was in Raleigh during September through December 2010. Jennie was a true blessing. We were also fortunate to recruit Liz Driscoll, NC 4-H youth Extension specialist. After Jennie returned to England, we hired Caroline Richardson as our new children's program coordinator. Jennie, Caroline, and Liz diligently planned a variety of children's programs, plus conducted several train-the-trainers programs with volunteers. Their effervescence and excitement for introducing youth programs to our volunteers and friends shows. The time is now for a JCRA Children's Program, and we are on our way by introducing some new things that we can offer Raleigh and Wake County families and children.

We hope that our new educational programs, coupled with our new communications and public relations priorities, and as always, the outstanding garden and plant displays, will bring many new Friends of the Arboretum who will become lifelong members. Please don't keep Raleigh's "best kept secret" to yourself—tell a friend, or better yet, bring a friend to Raleigh's Garden today!



Horticulture

Maples for All Seasons — Evergreen Acer at the JCRA

By Mark Weathington, Assistant Director
and Curator of Collections

The JC Raulston Arboretum evaluates a wide diversity of woody plants for suitability to the central Piedmont region of North Carolina and the broader southeastern United States. Maples (*Acer*) have been an important component of the collections of the JCRA since its inception in the 1970s and currently there are about 265 maples in the collection. In recent years, evergreen and semi-evergreen species have gradually been accumulated through wild collections and from cultivated material. Many of these *Acer* are poorly understood and rarely grown even in botanic gardens, but may be suitable for wider use throughout the Southeast.

The genus *Acer*, formerly included in its own family, the Aceraceae, is now widely placed in the Sapindaceae family. The genus was first described in 1700 by French botanist Joseph Tournefort and the name derives from the Proto-Indo-European word meaning "sharp." Carl Linnaeus officially assigned the genus in 1753 in his landmark *Species Plantarum*. *Acer* is a widespread genus with members ranging from North America to Europe and North Africa and across to Asia and Indonesia where they cross to the southern hemisphere. There are approximately 125–150 species of *Acer*; relatively few are evergreen or mostly evergreen. The majority of these evergreen forms are native to Southeast Asia and the Himalayan region with a couple of outliers in the eastern Mediterranean region.

Acer albopurpurascens is an evergreen tree to 50'; endemic to the island of Taiwan. It is closely related to the similar *A. oblongum* and some taxonomists place both of these species in *A. laevigatum*. Botanists distinguish *A. albopurpurescens* primarily by the indistinct basal nerves on the leaves. The foliage is leathery and glossy pale green above while the underside is glaucous white to purplish. Like many of the evergreen Asian maples, the foliage of this tree is entire and unlobed. Mature trees develop an upright oval habit and are quite beautiful. Fall can bring plum tones to the underside of the leaves, adding interest to the winter landscape. It ranges from low to medium altitudes throughout Taiwan. We have not been able to test this plant in the landscape yet, although one plant grown from seed obtained through the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute was planted in Asian Valley last year. In 2008, on our last day of collecting in Taiwan, we saw this plant growing above 5,000' which corresponds roughly to zone 8b, although reports show it to grow another 1,600' higher. No seeds were present, so we left that plant with just memories. Provenance may play a strong role in determining hardiness. Plants can be propagated by seed or by grafting on *A. buergerianum*.

Acer buergerianum var. *ningpoense*, the Ningpo trident maple, is a variety of trident maple that, although reliably deciduous in zone 7 and growing at the JCRA since 1994, may be evergreen in warmer areas if adequate moisture is supplied through summer and into fall. In the wild in east China (Ningpo, Zhejiang Province), it can attain heights of 60'; but typically forms a small to medium tree in the landscape. The JCRA specimen has grown to over 30' in 13 years. Somewhat bluish tinged foliage varies from three lobes to none and is about 2" long and wide. Although not evergreen at the JCRA, it may make a nice evergreen or semi-evergreen specimen in the Deep South with the old foliage dropping as the new leaves emerge. The bark peels attractively in thick sheets on mature trees. Propagation is from seed (although isolated specimens often form non-viable parthenocarpic fruit), grafting to *A. buergerianum* seedlings, or softwood to semi-hardwood cuttings taken from May to September. Overwintering rooted cuttings can be difficult and success may be best with cuttings from early in the season.

Acer buergerianum var. *formosanum*, the Formosan trident maple, another form of *A. buergerianum*, is endemic to Taiwan. High elevation forms have proven to be hardy into at least zone 8 where they are mostly evergreen. It is similar in other respects to the species with a powdery blue underside to the leaves. The JCRA's plants have not yet been planted out to determine their suitability in zone 7.

Acer coriaceifolium (syn. *A. cinnamomifolium*), the leatherleaf maple, is a small tree that has been growing at the JCRA for nine years where it has grown into a 12' tall tree in the Mixed Border. In the wild, it can grow to nearly 50'; but seems to want to grow as a shrub in cultivation, although a single leader can be trained if desired. The foliage is unlobed, dark to medium green above, and paler and tomentose below. It tends to break dormancy early in the spring, which can be a problem in areas subject to late frosts. New growth emerges pale green and is covered in silvery to coppery hairs, providing a striking contrast to the older dark green leaves. The evergreen foliage is sometimes damaged during cold spells, but plants in the Carolina Piedmont have grown remarkably well. Most, if not all, plants grown in the west are from a distribution by the Shanghai Botanic Garden in 1983 as *A. cinnamomifolium*. Further hardiness could come from germplasm collected at the highest elevations of its distribution in southwest China. Propagation is typically from seed, although cuttings can be rooted in late May through June.

Acer erythranthum, red-flowered maple, has only recently come into cultivation in the West. It appears to be very closely related to *A. laevigatum* and may at some point be placed in this group. This species is endemic to a small area of Vietnam near the Chinese border. Small, unlobed foliage emerges reddish in the spring before deepening to dark green. The early spring flowers are reddish against the evergreen foliage. The JCRA's plant comes from a collection by Dan Hinkley (DJH 06147), who feels that it should prove to be hardy in central North Carolina. It has not been evaluated outdoors as of yet. Propagation is by seed.

Acer fabri, Faber's maple, is perhaps the most readily available in the trade in the West. Narrow, lanceolate leaves emerge



coppery red before turning dark, glossy green. This has proven to be among the showiest of maples in flower with dark red buds opening in late March to reveal white flowers held on crimson pedicels. The fruit is also bright red and continues the show against the glossy foliage. Young stems are green or occasionally reddish. Plants in the wild can grow to 65', but are typically closer to half that size in cultivation. It tends to grow as a multi-stemmed or low-branching tree unless trained differently. *A. fabri* appears to be perfectly hardy in central North Carolina with only minimal damage to the branch tips and discoloring of some of the foliage during cold spells. The JCRA plant has been in the ground for over a decade and has performed admirably, growing to 13' in that time on the east side of the Winter Garden. Propagation is by seed or grafting on *A. palmatum*.

Acer laevigatum, the smoothleaf maple, is a medium sized tree that grows to 50' in the wild. Young plants have serrate margins on lanceolate leaves, but become entire as the plants mature. New growth is bright red which contrasts nicely with the yellow early spring flowers. Young branches are olive green often with a purplish tinge. Summer fruits also emerge purple-maroon. This tree is found scattered throughout Southeast Asia. The JCRA has plants grown from seed collected at the Shanghai Botanic Garden in 2009, so we haven't been able to assess its growth in the Arboretum yet. Other plants growing throughout the Southeast have performed well and a specimen at the Charles Keith Arboretum in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, is over 10' tall after being in the ground for 12 years. Propagate by seed or grafting on *A. palmatum*.

Acer laurinum is a rare tree that was grown at the JCRA from 1996 to 2000 as the synonymous *A. decandrum*. It died due to late season drought in 2000. It is mainly a subtropical evergreen tree growing to over 80' tall in the wild, although presumably it will be much smaller in cultivation. New growth emerges bright red-maroon. Hardiness for *A. laurinum* will depend heavily on the provenance of the germplasm. With a range from China and Cambodia to India, Malaysia, and Thailand, this is the only maple to cross the equator. The hardest plants will come from the northernmost populations and, most importantly, from the highest


elevations near 6,500'–8,500'. Propagation is by seed.

Acer oblongum, the flying moth maple, grows at medium altitudes to 6,500' in mountainous regions of Nepal to central China. It forms an upright, oval-headed tree growing to 50' in the wild, but will be much smaller in cultivation. It is typically described as evergreen, but is a variable species in the wild, ranging from fully evergreen to deciduous. In Frank Kingdon-Ward's *A Plant Hunter in Manipur*, he describes the tree as deciduous, but not losing its foliage until the new leaves emerge, qualifying it as evergreen in my opinion. The foliage is often tri-lobed on young, vigorous plants, becoming oblong to ovate with maturity. The foliage is never serrate as in some other closely related evergreen maples. Leaves are leathery, sage green above and paler beneath. Fall color on deciduous plants can be brilliant red to nice yellow to almost nonexistent. The bark is smooth and attractive and there are reports that the bark can peel off in irregular plates, but this has not been the case for trees at the JCRA. The JCRA has several trees in cultivation from different sources. One tree grown from seed of a cultivated plant near Tokyo has been in the ground since 2006 and has grown to 5'. It is fully evergreen but has taken significant damage during most typical zone 7 winters with killed-back branches and damaged foliage. Two other seedlings from wild-collected Chinese seed received from the University of Nebraska and planted in 1996 and 1997 have grown to about 30' each. One tree has proven to be completely deciduous with excellent autumn color. The other tree has leaves which are semi-persistent with excellent fall color every few years. While the evergreen forms may have potential for Deep South gardens, the tardily deciduous form is a tree worth consideration over a wider area and should be trialed in colder regions. Propagation is by seed, but there has been some success in preliminary cutting trials. Grafting on *A. buergerianum* may also be possible.

Acer oblongum var. *concolor* is similar to the species, but has conspicuously white undersides to the leaf and a bluer color overall. The JCRA plants come from Dan Hinkley's wild-collected Vietnamese material (DJHV 8019) and have not been grown long enough for evaluation.

Acer obtusifolium is one of the more western species of evergreen maple ranging from eastern Turkey into Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Cyprus along coastal mountains. It forms a shrub or can be trained into a small tree about 16' tall. The foliage is leathery and varies from unlobed to tri-lobed. Leaves are typically gray-green and reliably evergreen in areas milder than central North Carolina. In cooler areas, the foliage will shrivel and eventually drop with no fall color. The JCRA plant survived outdoors for about three years. Its death was probably due to a combination of winter cold and wet feet. Plants will likely perform best if planted in a free-draining soil with some protection from drying winter winds. *A. obtusifolium* is sometimes lumped with *A. sempervirens*, but the former's leaves are conspicuously larger, often to near twice the size. It is synonymous with the names *A. orientale* and *A. syriacum*. Propagation is by seed or grafting on *A. monspessulanum* or *A. pseudoplatanus*.

Acer paxii, or Pax's maple, commemorates a German botanist and entomologist named Ferdinand Pax who worked on the taxonomy of maples in between his true passion for butterflies and related insects. This maple from Yunnan Province in China is very similar to the closely related *A. buergerianum*, with the main distinction being its evergreen foliage. It grows to 32' in the wild. The foliage is glossy green and typically tri-lobed, but unlobed leaves also appear. The JCRA plant has not been in the collection long enough for an evaluation of its hardiness, although reports indicate small trees are very tender while larger specimens may withstand zone 7b winters. It makes a handsome small tree and can be propagated by seed or grafting on *A. buergerianum*.

While there is little chance that evergreen maples will supplant our beloved deciduous forms in temperate landscapes, these plants warrant further evaluation to determine their garden worthiness in central North Carolina and beyond. While some will undoubtedly prove to be too tender to become reliable garden plants north of Central Florida, others have the potential to become an important part of the southern landscape. 

Wildflowers of the Colorado Rockies

By Tim Alderton, Research Technician

In July, I attended the North American Rock Garden Society's Annual Meeting in Colorado. The meeting started on July 11, 2010, in Denver at the world-famous Denver Botanical Gardens and then moved to the small town of Salida, Colorado, for the following four days. Attendees came from all corners of the United States and Canada, along with speakers from as far away as the Netherlands, Czech Republic, and Kazakhstan. Aside from all the presentations and interesting plantspeople, the real highlights of the trip were on July 12–14, when we had time to experience the native flora at high elevations in central Colorado.

While traveling to Salida, a “pit stop” for lunch at the Kenosha Pass campground provided the first taste of what we would see the next two days. On exiting our small charter bus, glimpses of the state flower of Colorado, *Aquilegia coerulea*, growing among the filtering canopy of aspens, whetted the appetites of the attendees' curiosity about the flora and distracted them from their lunches. After quickly engulfing my own lunch, I began scouring the campground and surrounding underbrush for wildflowers. It did not take much time to find them. Deep blue and plum-colored *Penstemon*, pale lavender *Erigeron*, both creamy yellow/white and fiery red *Castilleja*, and spikes of purple and white *Oxytropis* grew scattered under the open canopy and in small clearings. Fluffy, low-growing *Juniperus communis* insulated the bases of the cool white trunks of some of the aspens. In drier areas, thinly profiled *Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia* grew spaced among rocks, providing homes for scattered stalks of *Thermopsis montana* and squat clumps of the dwarf *Solidago simplex*. In the open, sprigs of *Allium ceruum* nodded their heads of pink blossoms above sparse blades of grass and bare ground. Various species of *Potentilla* grew as both shrubs with dark green leaves and herbaceous clumps with silver foliage. After only an hour or so, we continued on to Salida.

Leaving Kenosha Pass, the topography opened into South Park, an area of high elevation grassland and wetland surrounded by mountains covered in *Pinus aristata* and *Picea* species. As we approached Salida, the terrain and the vegetation both began to change again. Along the roadsides, a few cacti and some species of *Penstemon*, flowering *Yucca*, and *Cleome serrulata* grew among scrubby, round-topped pines and oaks, teasing us with what might be found in the surrounding desert. If only I had the opportunity to explore! On arriving in Salida, a plant sale and dinner greeted the attendees at the Steam Plant, the location of the conference for the next three evenings.

On the mornings of July 13 and 14, the attendees broke up into several groups for hikes at five different locations. Each attendee had the opportunity to hike at one location each day. I selected the two hardest ones to visit weeks before going to Colorado, not thinking about the altitude and the issues it can cause a lowlander from the east. Fortunately, aside from a dull headache, the altitude was not a problem.

My first day took me to Weston Pass between Leadville and Fairplay. The pass itself is at 11,900'; the hike took me to about 12,500'. Around the parking area, the abundance of flora could clearly be seen spreading out into an expansive alpine meadow. Just feet from the vans we rode in, *Taraxacum ceratophorum*, the cousin to everyone's favorite lawn weed, dandelion, flowered alongside inflorescences of white-petaled, pale blue-stamened flowers of *Ipomopsis congesta* and the bright yellow blossoms of a clumping *Potentilla*. Nearby, 10" tall tufts of *Oxytropis sericea* erupted with white spikes of small pea blossoms. *Mertensia oblongifolia* and *Polemonium viscosum* dotted the landscape with flowers of intense shades of blue that even outdid the pristine azure of the sky. Here and there, the sun-worshipping, oversized, 4", golden, daisy inflorescences of *Tetranneuris grandiflora* stood atop 8" tall stout stalks covered in thin pinnatifid leaves. Short clumps of



Aquilegia coerulea



Castilleja miniata and *Delphinium barbeyi*



Primula parryi



Sedum integrifolium subsp. *integrifolium*



Silene acaulis var. *subacaulescens*

Castilleja occidentalis flowered with pastel yellow bracts surrounding the yellow/green florets.

Crossing the road and walking up a trail leading southwest from the parking area; the flora changed into many low mat-forming species intermixed with the other herbaceous plants already seen across the road. *Phlox condensata* and *Minuartia obtusiloba* formed tight ½" tall miniature carpets of snow white blossoms mimicking the patches of snowbanks still surviving on shelter slopes. Open rocky areas also allowed the equally small *Silene acaulis* var. *subacaulescens* to flaunt its carpets of pink blossoms. In some areas, *Frasera speciosa* broke the relative flatness of the meadow with exclamation points of greenish flower stalks rising to 3', a giant in a world of miniatures. The actual 1", four-petaled blossoms nestled close to the stout stalk. Each pale creamy yellow/white petal was intricately splotched and dotted with burgundy. Further up on the path, 4" tall clumps of *Tetranneuris acaulis* var. *caespitosa* held their 1½" golden yellow inflorescences straight up as if to say, "Here I am! Don't step on me." Scattered among them, *Erigeron pinnatisectus* with pale lavender daisy inflorescence and cut foliage stood out.

On closer inspection of the surrounding ground, more diminutive and carpet-forming species became visible on the scree-covered ground. Silver-green, spade-shaped leaves arranged in multiple rosettes held clusters of alien-looking, scaly, faded gray-burgundy, two-sided seed pods in sets of three to five. Later at higher elevations, I would see this in flower with bright yellow, four-petaled flowers and find it to be a cabbage cousin called *Physaria alpina*. In spots with a little bit of moisture, wind-trimmed *Salix* species hugged the ground. Close inspection revealed catkins flowering among the twigs and leaves.

Roses were not to be found on the alpine meadow, but several relatives managed to prosper. Species of the already mentioned *Potentilla* grew among the rocky soils at all elevations near Weston Pass. Irregularly spotted with 1½", single, white to yellow-centered, rose-like blossoms, *Dryas octopetala* subsp. *hookeriana* formed patches of 2"–3" tall, scalloped-edged, dark green, silver-backed leaves.

Laboring up higher in the thin air and wandering into an area with more soil and moisture brought another change in the flora. More grasses grew with a mixture of wildflowers. *Pedicularis parryi*, a hemiparasite, flowered with spikes of pastel yellow and off-white, twisted, mint-like flowers held above rosettes of ferny foliage. A few species of *Trifolium* made their homes in these open meadows as well. Much more attractive than the *Trifolium repens* that invades planting beds and lawns in the east, the alpine species have larger individual florets of burgundy (*T. parryi*), pink (*T. nanum*), or a bicolor of cream and pink (*T. dasyphyllum*). Two species of *Polygonum* also popped up among the grass as well.

Roaming back into the area of loose rocks and scree, I continued to encounter new species. A few species of *Draba* grew among the gravel and soil, often hugging the protection of larger stones. One, *Draba oligosperma*, formed tight clumps with short seed stalks. Higher up, I found it in full flower with deep yellow blossoms. The widely distributed *Cerastium arvense* grew among the rocks along with its Rocky Mountain cousin, *Arenaria fendleri*. Both provided their white *Dianthus* like blossoms. Continuing on, I came to the edge of a rocky, south-facing cliff. Along the edge, short patches of the endemic *Penstemon hallii* flamboyantly flowered with inflorescences of deep purple/blue.

Nearby, overlooking the cliff and a tardily melting snowbank, *Penstemon whippleanus* also thrust up their spectacular plum-colored blossoms. Spots of yellow from the ever-present *Potentilla* species and *Geum rossii* var. *turbinatum* contrasted with the blues and the purples of the *Penstemon*. The cliff led the way to the top where additional carpeting species grew on the lean soil. On a ledge just below the top, the almost acaulescent magenta flowers of the dwarf *Lewisia pygmaea* squeezed between the succulent thin leaves. A short distance away on another ledge, rose relatives *Ivesia gordonii*, with its ferny foliage and round clusters of yellow blossoms, and *Sibbaldia procumbens*, with *Alchemilla*-like foliage and small clusters of yellow flowers, grew protected from the wind.

Descending the summit and arriving back before the rest of the group, I took the time to explore a boggy spot below

the parking area. A melting snowbank provided water to the bog and countless white blossoms of *Caltha leptosepala* mirrored the snowbank above. Pink spikes of *Pedicularis scopulorum*, along with the occasional white spike of *Pedicularis scopulorum* f. *album*, popped up among dwarf willows. Both the deep burgundy-flowered *Sedum integrifolium* subsp. *integrifolium* and pink-flowered *Sedum rhodanthum* grew along the edge of the bog. Nearby, ridged clumps of *Delphinium barbeyi* stood in bud, ready to open their intense blue blossoms in the coming weeks. On the saturated gravelly slope between the bog and the retreating snowbank, glowing, bowl-shaped, yellow blossoms of *Ranunculus adoneus* dotted the open expanse. Others joined me in the area, and we spotted little gems like *Gentiana prostrata*, *Oreoxis alpina*, and *Noccaea montana*.

We loaded back into the vans and headed to Salida. Our van stopped a few times, allowing passengers to take pictures of clumps of *Zigadenus elegans* growing alongside *Anemone multifida* and *Ribes*. A few feet away, a moist wash was home to countless red *Castilleja miniata* in full flower, interspersed with deep blue *Delphinium barbeyi*.

Continuing down the mountain, we stopped at a large patch of some of the last of *Iris missouriensis* of the season, flowering in the margin of a beaver dam along the road. The flooded area provided homes to *Salix* species, while on higher ground *Potentilla fruticosa* and *Penstemon procerus* flowered in yellow and blue, respectively. On dry ground across the road, a young (maybe 100-year-old) *Pinus aristata* watched over the botanizing fanatics, wondering what all the commotion was about. We made one last stop at the Weston Pass Campground for a "pit stop" before continuing back to Salida. While everyone was using the rustic outhouses, I ran back up the road a quarter mile to capture pictures of a clump of *Penstemon caespitosus* growing on the bare bank beside the road. This species grows as a small shrublet covered in sky blue flowers with white throats. Nearby, the ubiquitous *Ipomopsis aggregata*, with scarlet to salmon blossoms, contrasted with the blue of the *Penstemon* and grey/brown of the surrounding rocks and ground.

July 14 took our group of vans to Mount Sherman, only five or six miles the way the raven flies from Weston Pass, but by terrain it seemed ten times that distance. Mount Sherman, considered the easiest of the fourteeners in Colorado, rises to 14,036'; but I only ventured to about 13,000'. Much higher than that, vegetation dwindled to almost nothing. We parked at an elevation of about 11,900' and started the much steeper hike up the mountain. Old mine buildings and equipment provided added interest to the expanses of scree and alpine tundra that covered the ground. Along the rough road that led the way up the mountain, a stream of melt water lined with wildflowers greeted the visitors. Some species growing by the stream included *Castilleja miniata*, *Silene acaulis* var. *subacaulescens*, *Sedum rhodanthum*, and *Potentilla fruticosa*. Alongside these now familiar wildflowers grew magenta *Primula parryi*, yellow/green umbrellas of *Angelica grayi*, and drifts of blue *Mertensia ciliata* mingling with white *Cardamine cordifolia*. Spikes of little pink elephant-looking blossoms popped up from the ferny foliage of *Pedicularis groenlandica* that also inhabited the edges of the cold flowing water.

Starting the hike up the mountain, I encountered the diminutive legume *Astragalus molybdenus*, with its pale lavender pea flowers and feathery creeping foliage flowing over the gravel-covered ground along the path. Up on an exposed bank, a clump of intense blue *Mertensia oblongifolia*, only 6" tall, arched out from between a scattering of loose stones. A short distance away, the Colorado endemic *Polemonium confertum*, clothed in deep green, ferny foliage holding wide-open, indigo blue blossoms with yellow stamens, grew in an equally rocky situation. Continuing up the trail, many of the plants seen the day before also grew. Patches of *Penstemon hallii*, mounded tufts of white-flowered *Phlox condensata*, and *Erigeron pinnatisectus*, just to name a few, were joined by the clumps of bottle brush-looking purple inflorescences of *Phacelia sericea* and gold daisy inflorescences of *Packera* and *Senecio* species. On slopes protected from wind, shrubby *Salix* shaded the rosettes of *Saxifraga rhomboidea*, which then thrust up their 15" stalks topped in clusters of creamy white, five-petaled flowers. In some exposed areas, the 2" tall *Salix reticulata* var. *nana*

carpeted the ground and crevices between stones with their tufted clusters of heavily veined, rounded leaves and upright catkins. On another bank, *Valeriana acutiloba* formed clumps of glabrous, entire (no indentations) leaves, topped by expanding inflorescences of the palest pink buds opening to white flowers. *Primula angustifolia*, tiny, 1"–2" tall plants with disproportionately large, 1", deep pink flowers with yellow centers, grew in exposed sites with bare soil and a few loose stones. Nearby, *Lloydia serotina* blew in the brisk wind despite its own small, 4" stature. The scapes holding one to two white, lily-like blossoms blew in the wind between their thin grass-like leaves.

The vegetation thinned as the elevation and exposure to wind increased. Following a 4' wide path edged by a steep slope down on one side and up on the other and composed of the loose spoils of mining from 75–125 years ago, it was amazing to find *Claytonia megarhiza* with rosettes of thick succulent leaves prospering in the deep substrate of loose shards. At about 12,800', a few clumps of the rare *Chionophila jamesii*, with white, one-sided spikes of blossoms like their cousin the *Penstemon*, flourished in the intense light of the high elevation. A little higher in a patch of tundra, minute specimens of *Eritrichium nanum* var. *elongatum* looked like little tufts of intense blue sky that had fallen to the ground.

I stopped to eat my lunch beside the ruins of the Hill Top Mine at about 13,000'. Spectacular views rewarded me for trudging up the trail, but I had to start back down. Just behind the mine buildings on a plateau, a meadow covered in golden flowers of *Geum rossii* var. *turbinatum*, along with a scattering of *Castilleja occidentalis*, *Potentilla*, *Claytonia megarhiza*, *Mertensia oblongifolia*, and *Polemonium confertum*, provided my last pictures of the heights. The trek back down still brought new finds. Looking at the seemingly barren rocky spoils, I saw a quarter-sized *Androsace septentrionalis* camouflaged by its brown/green leaves and the glaring reflected light; it became visible because of the umbel of tiny porcelain flowers. The descent also brought glimpses of *Draba crassa*, *Erysimum capitatum*, and *Besseyia alpina*. Breaking from the path, I ventured by a melt water pond and followed a stream where I met up

with a group of our botanizing crew. The stream edge was home to large patches of *Primula parryi* and *Anemone narcissiflora* var. *zephyra*, mixing with *Geum rossii* var. *turbinatum*, and *Sedum integrifolium* subsp. *integrifolium*.

Before going back to the van for the ride back to Salida, I was able to explore below the parking area. There, a large stream provided a home to drifts of flowering *Caltha leptosepala* and more magenta *Primula parryi*. On a grassy bank just above the stream, a meadow provided a sampling of all the wildflowers that I had seen while in the mountains. *Castilleja miniata* were growing next to *Castilleja occidentalis*, and probable hybrids of the two grew beside *Penstemon hallii*, *Penstemon whippleanus*, *Potentilla*, *Fragaria virginiana* subsp. *glauca*, *Erigeron*, *Oreoxis alpina*—and the list went on. A great way to finish up my first experience of the Colorado Rockies! 🌸



Planting the Seeds for Development

By Anne M. Porter, Director of Development

Membership Makes a Difference

“Membership Makes a Difference” sounds like such a cliché, but there is no other way to say it. Your membership support really *does* make a difference!

Your support makes the difference between

- having a public garden in Raleigh that is free and open to the public every day of the year or *not* having this tranquil space that families, students, and garden enthusiasts can enjoy;
- having a research garden that supports one of North Carolina’s most valuable industries or *not* having this all-important research facility that is continually trialing and introducing new plants;
- creating new horticultural programs and classes, like the new Children’s Program that began in March or *not* having a facility or green space to offer any educational experiences!

Just think, the JC Raulston Arboretum touches the lives of people who might never have the money to visit a garden if they had to pay to visit. Who knows, one of the Arboretum’s workshops might turn someone on to plants who then discovers a life-long love of plants, who then makes horticulture a vocational choice, or who then even helps save our planet. The possibilities are endless!

As we celebrate the Arboretum’s 35th anniversary this year, we sincerely thank you, but we also want to challenge you. Since the JCRA’s 30th anniversary in 2006, there has been a slight drop in overall memberships. Yes, the economy has caused us all to reexamine our personal spending and giving priorities, but just think what would happen if every current member invited friends, colleagues, and family to visit and then encouraged them to join. Wow! Aren’t you tired of people saying, “I never knew the Arboretum was here”? We are, too, so please help us spread the word and tell the story of this remarkable garden. Your membership *does* make a huge difference, and we thank you for your continued

support and advocacy of the JC Raulston Arboretum!

Members Corner

Featuring pictures, stories, and testimonials from JCRA members.

From Dick Pearson, JCRA Volunteer Tour Guide

Several years ago, **Bob Lyons** asked me to respond to a speaker request in his absence. Gathering and copying slides from **Bryce Lane** and from **J. C. Raulston’s** collection with the help of **Chris Glenn**, I developed a talk entitled “Plant Diversity in the Seasonal Landscape.”

The 88 slides that I selected began with *Prunus mume* in January and ended with a *Camellia japonica* flowering in December.

Within the last year, I have spoken to two garden clubs, the North Harnett County Seniors, St. Bernadette’s Catholic Church Seniors, and Temple Beth Or Seniors. (I’m waiting to hear from a Hindu or Buddhist temple!) For fun, I raffle off four or five seedlings from my greenhouse. Apart from the enjoyment of social interaction, the real satisfaction is when I hear of new memberships and donations to the JCRA as a result of my speaking engagements and Arboretum tours.

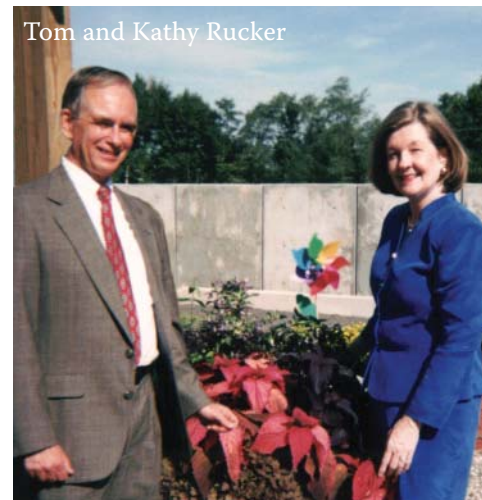
From Kathy Rucker, Long-time JCRA Member from Winston-Salem, North Carolina

We know our neighbors wonder about us sometimes. One reason might be that in our modest yard, no two plants match. JCRA friends know that’s not unusual in an arboretum—but in somebody’s yard? Our love affair with the Arboretum dates back many years ago to the Christmas wreath-making workshop scheduled at the home of J. C. Raulston. I had two tickets but couldn’t cajole anyone else to drive to

Raleigh with me to search out a private residence where we were going to spend the day arranging foliage. So my long-suffering husband, Tom, agreed reluctantly to go, after I promised him that he wouldn’t have to make any flower arrangements if he felt his masculinity was being violated. The day turned out to be a delightful mélange of learning about cryptomeria foliage and hollies like ‘Bonfire’, and we came away with holiday arrangements ready to pop on the mantle.

Four days later, we saw a notice in the newspaper that shocked us. J. C. Raulston had been killed in a car crash. We were devastated! We were looking forward to meeting him again after enjoying the workshop at his home, but we never got that chance. However, we did gain an enduring love for his plant collection and for his writings, especially the winter interest gardens which he promoted so vigorously.

So that’s how we got started getting up at 5:30 AM to make that Raleigh trek each year for the Annual Plant Distribution, which coincidentally often falls on my birthday. We’ve tried to corral friends into going with us, but I suspect they really don’t believe us when we tell them that more than 4,000 free plants are eagerly carted away by Friends of the Arboretum members in just five minutes. They just know that we are always out there planting a “few new things” in mid-October, and that our “new friends” have odd names like *Osmanthus*, *Prunus mume*, *Poncirus trifoliata* and *Ilex cornuta* ‘D’or’.

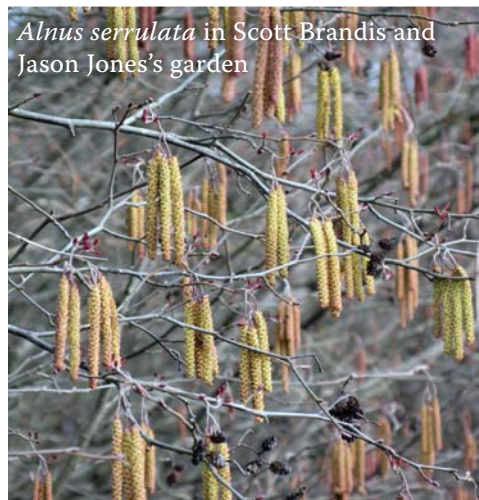


From Scott Brandis and Jason Jones, Members from Athens, Georgia

Living in Athens, Georgia, we have found gardeners in the Deep South to be equally passionate about plants as in plant-centric California. On our epic cross-country move from San Francisco in the summer of 1999, our precious collection of plants took up more room in the truck than our possessions! We learned quickly the Deep South is very selective about which plants ... and people ... will thrive here!

Several opportunities have enhanced our horticultural interest and knowledge, including our tenure as “Farmies” at the UCSC Organic Farm & Garden program (<http://casfs.ucsc.edu/>) and also as plant propagators for Bay Area landscape architect Ron Lutsko’s personal nursery, which greatly contributed to our propagation knowledge. Here in Athens, we give plant propagation workshops to area gardening clubs.

Our collection of native plants focuses on transition zones from the Piedmont to Mountain and Piedmont to Coastal Plain. As plant collectors, our travels usually involve searching out unique plants and many tales can be told about their acquisition, including racing for unusual plants in the destructive path of bulldozers, almost landing us in the pokey! The rewards of our southern native species can’t quiet our desire for the unusual or unexpected exotics, satisfied through our trips to the JC Raulston Arboretum as well as Woodlanders in Aiken, South Carolina. Our plant collections contain many unusual plants we’ve propagated, and many find their way into landscape projects we jointly design and install.



Alnus serrulata in Scott Brandis and Jason Jones’s garden

Our passion for plants led us to become members of the JCRA and has provided a rewarding connection to the Arboretum’s outstanding staff and volunteers. The unique plant collections are not only an inspiration for southeastern landscapes, but also an invaluable source of information and education for those seeking greater understanding of plant communities. Although we are not locals, we are grateful to be part of the JCRA plant community from afar and consider the JC Raulston Arboretum to be an invaluable resource always worth the road trip!

Members Making News

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

Tom Krenitsky has written a new book, and he has generously donated 100% of the proceeds to the JC Raulston Arboretum for any books sold at the Arboretum. The book’s title is *Planting for Posterity: Forty Years of Gardening in the Carolina Piedmont*, and it is a must-read for anyone interested in gardening in our area. Even novice plant lovers will find this book informative and easy to understand. Friends will be delighted to read all of the references about J. C. Raulston and our acclaimed arboretum. This book will have friends wanting to scope out all of the plants that Tom so eloquently writes about. Well done, Tom, and thank you for your generosity toward the JCRA and for writing this very cool book!

Julia and Robert Mackintosh received the 2010 Neighborhood Recognition Awards from the Raleigh Citizens Advisory Council (Glenwood CAC) for maintaining the Margaret Reid Garden, noted for its native plant theme. This award recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to neighborhoods across Raleigh. Congratulations, Julia and Robert for being among this year’s 15 award-winners! Robert is one of the JCRA volunteers on the Master Plan committee, and he has given countless hours working on the many designs and projects that are making the JC Raulston Arboretum a more wonderful place! Thanks so very much, Robert!

Ted Bilderback, Ph.D., has a new award—the IPPS Sidney B. Meadows Award of Merit in recognition of his outstanding contributions to plant propagation, the nursery industry, and his dedication to the International Plant Propagator’s Society, Southern Region. The Sidney B. Meadows Award of Merit is the highest award offered by the Southern Region. We’re so proud of you, Ted!



Gala in the Garden: Save-the-Date for the 2011 May Day Gala

The JC Raulston Arboretum is thrilled to present **Susan Woodson** as the 2011 honorary chair and **Jere Stevens** as the 2011 event chair. You will not want to miss the best garden party in Raleigh and see what this dynamic duo, along with their outstanding Gala committee, has in store for the 2011 Gala in the Garden. Remember to mark your calendars for Sunday, May 1, 2011, at 3:00 PM for great food, friends, and a fantastic silent auction—all in a fabulous garden setting! Visit our Web site for more Gala in the Garden details.

2011 Gala in the Garden Committee

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|------------------|------------------------|
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| Committee | |
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| Jayne Bednarczyk | Charlie Kidder |
| Jennifer Bernabi | Judy Morgan-Davis |
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| Patsy Hopfenberg | |
| Beverly Hurley | Laura Willer |
| Jerry Jackson | Jackie Wynne |
| Cheryl Kearns | Helen Yoest |



Gala 1994, our first May Day Gala

Open Days—Growing Strong

By Jayme Bednarczyk, JCRA Member and Volunteer and Garden Conservancy Regional Representative

Collectively, the 2010 Garden Conservancy's Open Days hosted over 80,000 visitors in private gardens across the country. How'd they do it?

For 15 years, volunteers expressed the desire to be part of the bigger picture in a coast-to-coast garden preservation initiative patterned after a British tradition to identify noteworthy private gardens. Next, they partnered with national sponsors: *Garden Design* magazine, Burpee Seeds, and *Wall Street Journal* as well as soliciting regional media support.

Taimi Anderson planted the seed in our region, organizing the event in 2001.

Helen Yoest nurtured the event, partnered with the JC Raulston Arboretum, and networked the media tirelessly from 2005–2010. The Raleigh area Open Days Garden Tour has become a regional travel destination and continues to grow each year!

Each spring, the Garden Conservancy publishes the *Open Days Directory*, a guide listing the dates by state and by month, for those who like to travel and visit gardens. The guide also features the most prestigious public gardens.



Many visitors to the Raleigh area (even the local ones) visited the JC Raulston Arboretum for the first time through the Open Days Garden Tour. Many visitors plan weekend trips around the Open Days locations, delighting in meeting the garden hosts, gathering ideas, learning about new plants, staying at hotels and B&Bs, sampling the local cuisine, and bringing home a plant or two from local nurseries. We consider it “fun” fund raising!

Special thanks to the 2010 garden hosts: **Jeanne and Tom Andrus; Katharine and Nick Davies; Jean and Lawrence Shuping; and Jere and Richard Stevens.** We appreciate each of these families for sharing their beautiful gardens with our visitors.



The more than \$5,000 raised during the 2010 Open Days Garden Tour helped support both the Garden Conservancy and the Arboretum.

The JCRA is pleased to once again partner with the Garden Conservancy Open Days Program in 2011. There are five private gardens (a first time for each garden) on this year's tour—a petite city chic specimen garden, a tropical jewel box of exotics and sculpture, a charming English heirloom entertaining oasis, a romantic English cottage garden, and a sweeping French country landscape. Plan an outing with friends and save the date for September 17 and 18, 2011. For more information regarding the program and to see a complete schedule, please visit <http://www.gardenconservancy.org>. 

Gift Planning: Change is a Constant

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

Change is a constant that we all face on a daily basis. My favorite store closes, my grocery store reorganizes its aisles sending me five times around the store for a jar of dried basil.... Policies change, our leadership changes, the financial system changes, even weather patterns change....

Throughout it all, our arboretum is a constant: a comforting place where its gardens continually appeal to our senses with colors, flowers, seeds, and majestic trees that become more intense as the seasons and years pass. It's also a rare and liberating place where children can indulge in exploring all of their senses. What a joy!

Just as the plants of the Arboretum weather through the seasons and storms that come through, endowments provide everlasting gifts that weather through the financial storms of our economy to

provide support for the Arboretum, students, faculty, staff, programs, and even plant collections.


A family recently shared a story with me about their holiday tradition. Tired of spending time and money shopping for each other, they agreed to give to a charity of their choice and make their gifts in each other's names. Each year, a family member selects a favorite nonprofit, and all the family members would give to that charity. Then, when everyone is together over the holidays, they talk about the previous year's gifts and their impact on the chosen program. Just imagine these inspiring and uplifting conversations!

As you plan for the distribution of your estate and the gifts that you will be making to your loved ones through your will, I challenge you to think about using philanthropy to bring your family closer together—the way this family did. You may want to think about adding to your

existing endowments through your will or even creating a new endowment. A will bequest (making a gift to a qualified charity through your will) enables you to remain in control of your assets until your passing and it also reduces your Federal estate tax liability, should your estate be liable for Federal estate tax.

If you would like to see what others have done, please visit <http://www.legacy.vg/ncsucals/giving/3.html> where real donors talk about their planned gifts and what it means to them.

Please contact me at (919) 513-0637 or sonia_murphy@ncsu.edu if you have questions or need more information.

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

A Year in Review

The JC Raulston Arboretum is pleased to present the 2010 Annual Report, recognizing our donors, members, and volunteers. We extend a sincere thank you to all the individuals and organizations that supported the JCRA in 2010. Your support makes possible the continued growth and development of our gardens, plant collections, and educational programs. Plants and gardening nurture the human spirit and enhance our quality of life. We are honored that you have chosen to support this special arboretum as it continues to fulfill its mission of excellence in research, teaching, and public outreach.

Membership Makes a Difference

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

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Thanks to these friends who honored and paid tribute to special people through their gifts to the JCRA.

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Richard and Amelia Lane

In Honor of Bobby Wilder
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Gifts in Memory

Heartfelt thanks to these friends who donated memorial gifts in fond remembrance of their loved ones and friends.

In Memory of LeNeve "Ollie" Adams
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JC Raulston Arboretum 35th Anniversary Symposium

"Horticultural Madness"
September 23 and 24, 2011 (Friday and Saturday)

Speakers

Tony Avent, Plant Delights Nursery at Juniper Level Botanic Gardens

Jim Dodson, *Beautiful Madness* author and *Pine Straw* editor
Janet Draper, Horticulturist, Mary Livingston Ripley Garden, Smithsonian Institution

Hayes Jackson, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service

Panayoti Kelaidis, Director of Outreach, Denver Botanic Gardens

Larry Mellichamp, Director, University of North Carolina Charlotte Botanical Gardens

Bleddyn Wynn-Jones, Crug Farms

Registration: Early registration (ends August 31, 2011): \$150.00 for members and \$170.00 for nonmembers. Late registration (begins September 1, 2011): \$170.00 for members and \$190.00 for nonmembers. Please call Chris Glenn at (919) 513-7005 for more information or to register.

Gift-in-kind Donors

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

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Mary Yarborough
Z Enterprises
Sandie Zazzara

2010 Gala in the Garden Sponsors

The Gala in the Garden is the Arboretum's signature fund-raising event held each year on the first Sunday in May. Thank you, 2010 Gala in the Garden sponsors, for making this event a huge success.

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North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association

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Benefit Providers

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

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Volunteers

The gift of service is invaluable to the Arboretum, and we are very appreciative of the many hours our volunteers devote to the Arboretum. Our volunteers share their many talents and their time to make the Arboretum a wonderful place for all to enjoy. We couldn't do it without them. Thanks to all of them

Volunteer Hours – January–December 2010

Our volunteers gave nearly 8,000 hours of their time in 2010. Their efforts have made the Arboretum a showplace in the community.

200+ Hours

Mary Edith Alexander
Jayme Bednarczyk and Philip Abbott
Annie Hibbs
Beth Jimenez
James Schlitt
Bobby Wilder

100+ Hours

Angelia Beasley
Jennifer Cowan
Dennis Drehmel
David and Catherine Duch
Suzanne Edney
Jeffrey Evans
Michael Ferrell
Vivian Finkelstein
Wayne Friedrich
Linda and Jerome Glenn
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Charles Kidder
Anita Kuehne and Bill Swint
Richard and Amelia Lane
Linda Larkins
Kerry and Patricia MacPherson
Jean Mitchell
John Pelosi
Walt and Kathleen Thompson
Dora Zia

40+ Hours

Rosanna Adams
Jeanne Andrus
Harriet Bellerjeau
Judy Bradyhouse
Mark Bruno
Tom Bumgarner
Lynn Canada
Anne Clapp
Laurie Cochran
Sherman Criner
Colin Daniels
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Alexandra Reid
Judy Ryan
John Schott
Nancy Simonsen
Ann Swallow
Laura Turas
Betsy Viall
Dee Welker
Ralph Whisnanz
David White

Other Contributions of Hours

Judy Allen
Nick Baez
Debbie Beach
Lisa Bohlen-Admire
Vandy Bradow
Guy Broome
Regan Brown
John Buettner
Sydney Bunting
Claude and Mary Caldwell
Erin Champion
Young Cho
Beth Cleveland
Maggie Cole
Monika Coleman
Lynda Creutzburg
Linda Crocker
Kathy Crosby
Heather Curcio
Genelle Dail
Ellen Darst
Graham Dean
Cathy DeWitt
Sylvia Drew
Mary Lou Eycke
Roland Flory
Sonya Fox
Liza Gettles
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Gail Harris
Sarah Harris
Barbara Harvey
Cynthia Heinlein
Timothy Hinton and Alisa Lycof-Hinton
Mitzie Hole
Marty Howard
David Josephus
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Michelle Kern
Jennette King
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Carolyn Sinzenich
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Ellen Sullivan
Christine Thomson
Anitra Todd
Padma Tummala
Joanne Vandermost
Victoria Vass
Kevin Wang
Dennis Werner
Erica Winston
Laura Wright
Qian Wu
Tamara Yamaykin
Chuu-ni Yeung
Helen Yoest
Sandie Zazzara



Mary and Claude Caldwell (sitting), recipients of the 2010 Honorary Volunteer Award

JCRA Volunteer Construction Crew Gets the Job Done

By Beth Jimenez, JCRA Volunteer

A new volunteer group kicked off in January of 2010 and spent the last year helping put in place some of the design elements and changes envisioned by the Master Plan committee.

The newly formed JCRA volunteer construction crew came about as a remedy to that old dilemma of “too much work and not enough staff,” which often got in the way of moving forward with some of the plans the Master Plan committee envisioned. When the committee discussed possible changes, we knew the only things standing in the way of what we wanted done and what was feasible were money and the people to do the work. With Ted, Mark, and Tim committed to making the Arboretum work on a daily basis, we needed another way to get the non-plant related tasks done. Volunteers with strong backs, nimble fingers, a bit of good vision, and good tools could do it.


We began on a bitter cold morning in January 2010 by removing the raised walkway through the Japanese Garden in preparation for the garden’s renovation. At the same time, we built a temporary wall between the Japanese Garden and the Lath House. Next came raising the existing walls in the Japanese Garden’s front entrance, adding new roof caps, and adding a roof and cap over the new entrance cut into the wall between the Asian Valley and the Japanese Garden. We took a side trip to Knightdale to cut bamboo for some of the detail work and replaced the decorative runs of bamboo across the roof top. We worked hard and got the Japanese Garden looking great for its big debut at the Gala in May.

The team removed the structures in the Townhouse Garden and tore down the old Lath House, which had been one heavy snowfall away from coming down by itself. This project was challenging in that it was sometimes tough to avoid flying debris, but it was a lot of fun and brought out a

gang of volunteers all full of anticipation of how beautiful the new Lath House was going to be. It indeed is a beautiful structure.

In mid-summer, we began a series of repairs to the Necessary. We cleaned out the storage area on the back of the building and painted the walls. The roof has been repaired, power washed, and stained. A man from Sanford with years of experience working with cedar shingles did the repair work since the height and shape of the roof told us it was a job for a professional.

A long list of upcoming projects awaits us this year. The gazebo in the Klein-Pringle White Garden needs repairs and a new coat of paint, as do benches and birdhouses on the Arboretum grounds. We need to build a new arbor for wedding photograph opportunities and add sides and a place for tool storage to the new Lath House.

The members of the construction crew range from the very skilled to the handy and willing to learn. We haven’t run across a job yet that we aren’t willing to tackle. This past year was a good one, full of challenging work and rewarding results. 



Volunteer News

By Barbara Kennedy, Volunteer Coordinator

We are so lucky to have such dependable and loyal volunteers. They do so much to make the Arboretum look beautiful. As a result of their suggestions, we have added several new jobs for volunteers. The construction crew works on projects that need to be fixed or renovated, like the Lath House. We now have a group of volunteer photographers who take pictures at our events. The volunteer event planners work on developing new activities, such as trips and open gardens. And we have seed collecting volunteers who go through the gardens collecting seeds to be shared by other botanical gardens around the country. We are thrilled to have the help from these new groups.

New Volunteers

We are happy to welcome 15 new volunteers. They have been very active and contributed in many different areas.

Guy Broome, Evening and Weekend Gardener
Sydney Bunting, Gardener
Jennie Cowan, Children’s Program
Ellen Darst, Gardener
Sonya Fox, Visitor Center
Liza Gettles, Flower Arranging
Burhanvddin Kadibhai, Gardener
Michelle Kern, Gardener
Megan Lyons, Gardener
Sharon Munger, Special Projects
Irina Palumbo, Gardener and Photographer
Katherine Raj, Gardener
Tamara Sanderford, Gardener
Ellen Sullivan, Special Projects
Denny Werner, Tour Guide

Your membership expiration date and the password needed to access the Members Only section on the Arboretum's Web site is printed above, along with your address. Type the password in all lower case letters.

Volunteers at Work

The Annual Color Trials are one of our biggest attractions. **Irina Palumbo** takes a closer look at all the flowering annuals.



Mulching the beds is an ongoing project. **Trish MacPherson, Bernadette Clark,** and **Melanie Kelley** have just finished mulching the Annual Color Trials.



Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in May was so much fun. **Joan Robertson, Dick Pearson, Charlie Kidder, Mark Weathington, Liz Guzynski,** and **Linda Larkins** are just a few of the volunteers and staff who enjoyed a great evening.



In order to ready plants for the Annual Plant Distribution, pots have to be weeded and labeled. **Dave White** helps us every year with getting the pots ready.



Preparation for the Annual Plant Distribution takes several days to set up the plants. **Pat Korpik, Amelia Lane,** and **Laurie Cochran** take a break on a very rainy day.



Children's Program volunteers **Liz Bridges, Rebecca Pledger, Brigitte Crawford, Irene Palmer, Katie Pound,** and **Maureen Donini** (l-r) play along during a February training session.

