









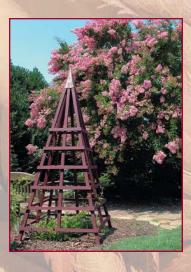
2006 Annual Report











# **Dear Friends:**

On behalf of the staff and the Board of Advisors, I am pleased to present this first annual report on the activities and progress of the JC Raulston Arboretum in calendar year 2006, the 30th anniversary of the JCRA. The past year has been not only a year of growth and development for the Arboretum, but for myself and the staff also, as I completed my first year as director, and two new members joined the Arboretum staff. Our priorities this year focused on care and maintenance of the collections, assessment of current collections, infrastructure improvement, and planning for future renovation of various gardens in the Arboretum.

The Arboretum offered a diverse series of educational programs in 2006, including numerous Friends of the Arboretum Lectures, workshops, field days, and a symposium. We have done major work on various garden areas, including the West Arboretum, the A. E. Finley Foundation Rooftop Terrace, and the Stepping-stone Water Garden. Demolition of the old Arboretum brick building was completed, opening up new garden space. We have placed increased emphasis on interpretative and educational signage to complement our already excellent plant labeling signage. Numerous new plant accessions were acquired and integrated into our existing collections. The Arboretum has acquired two additional acres of land to facilitate future expansion of the collections.

The Arboretum continued its important role as a vital resource for the academic programs of NC State University, strengthened its identity as an important community and regional educational resource, and remained a major outreach arm of NC State University for the green industry in North Carolina. Membership increased by 11.5% in 2006. The Arboretum embarked on an exciting Grassroots Master Plan to develop a new system of paths and garden spaces to enhance our collections and the visitor experience.

This is an exciting time for the Arboretum. During the coming year, the vacant assistant director position will be filled, and we will refocus on our historical efforts in new plant acquisition and testing. The Arboretum's efforts in plant breeding are resulting in the development of new plants with exciting ornamental potential. Renovation of existing garden spaces will continue. Our educational programs will continue to teach our members and visitors about the satisfaction and challenges of gardening in Piedmont North Carolina. We invite you to join us and share in the collective joy of working with plants as the JC Raulston Arboretum enters its 31st year of educating and inspiring students, the green industry, and the public. We encourage you to help us fulfill our mission by becoming a member, recruiting new members, sharing your time and talent by becoming a volunteer, and by making a financial contribution.

We look forward to 2007 and beyond, and the exciting opportunities for the Arboretum. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Werner

Director, JC Raulston Arboretum

Denny Werner

Professor, Department of Horticultural Science, NC State University

# Highlights of 2006

## In the Garden

# Stepping-stone Water Garden

A grant from the horticulture honor society Pi Alpha Xi (PAX) funded the restoration of the popular Stepping-stone Water Garden. Originally installed by landscape horticulture students in the 1980s, this garden is a special space for kids and kids-at-heart. In addition to the repair of the actual water feature, the entire area was replanted with many new herbaceous and woody plants.

# Scree Garden

An opportunity to showcase xeric plants was made possible through the construction of a new scree garden on the west side of the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center. More than 200 new plants, including taxa from the southwestern United States, Mexico, and South Africa were established in this exciting new planting. Of particular interest are a collection of new hybrid rain lilies (*Zephyranthes*) and ferns from the desert southwest. This garden demonstrates the exciting opportunities for land-scaping with taxa that require little or no supplemental irrigation after initial establishment.

## **West Arboretum Development**

Renovation of the beds lying west of the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center began in mid 2006 with the removal of old collections by the staff and summer interns. Removal of large trees, development of new paths, soil amendment, and bed reconfiguration is being done in anticipation of replanting in spring of 2007. Keep an eye out for changes in this part of the Arboretum.

# **Swindell Contemplation Garden**

Thanks to a generous gift from Priscilla Swindell, and the creativity and efforts of students in the landscape horticulture class of Pat Lindsey, Ph.D., in the Department of Horticultural Science, the Swindell Contemplation Garden was established. Lying under the welcoming arms of our two beautiful live oak trees, this garden features a diversity of shade tolerant plants, many with winter interest.

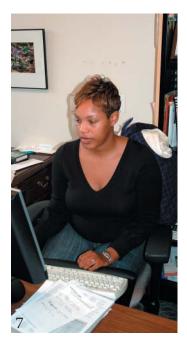


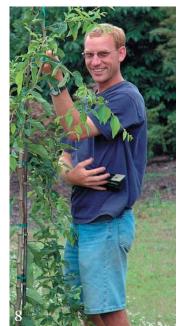














## **Rooftop Gardens**

The gardens in the A. E. Finley Foundation Rooftop Terrace are undergoing a complete renovation to facilitate culture and trialing of a greater diversity of plants. Modification of the growing media and reconfiguration of beds is nearly complete in anticipation of establishing new plant materials in spring 2007. A favorite location for weddings and other events, the rooftop garden area provides guests with a great view of the West Arboretum.

# **Brick Building Demolition**

The old Arboretum "brick building," an icon of the Arboretum for many years, was demolished in late 2006. Long used as a classroom and for various Arboretum purposes over the years, the building was in advanced disrepair. The site will be renovated and new plantings established in 2007.

## **New Staff**

We were pleased to welcome two new staff members in 2006. Autumn Keck joined us as associate director of membership and fund-raising events in March 2006. Autumn is a 2000 graduate of NC State University with a degree in communications, responsible for coordinating our member recruitment and fund-raising efforts, and coordinating fund-raising events such as our Gala in the Garden. Tim Alderton joined the JCRA in February 2006. Tim has a horticulture degree from the Pennsylvania State University. Tim filled the research technician position, and is responsible for general care and maintenance of the Arboretum grounds and plant collections. The JCRA assistant director position is currently vacant, but will be filled in 2007.

# **Summer Internship Program**

Thanks to the generous contributions of Alan Mc-Intyre, Bobby Wilder, the Raleigh Garden Club, the North Carolina Association of Nurserymen (now the North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association), and the North Carolina Commercial Flower Growers Association, the Arboretum was able to host four student interns in 2006. These students obtained a broad range of experiences in the care and management of the Arboretum collections.

# **Educational Programs and Public Outreach**

The Arboretum offered 18 Friends of the Arboretum Lectures and four workshops in 2006, covering a diversity of topics and speakers. Special events included our first annual JCRA Summerfest, offering numerous educational programs for the gardening public. Over 400 people attended to hear presentations on earth-friendly gardening, beekeeping, turf management, herbaceous perennials, irrigation, designing for small spaces, attracting wildlife, and other topics. The highlight of the 2006 educational programs was the JCRA 30th anniversary symposium entitled "Plan – and Plant for a Better World," in honor of the late founder of the Arboretum, J. C. Raulston, Ph.D. One hundred and seventy-five attendees were treated to a terrific educational program, highlighted by keynote speaker Roy Lancaster.



# **Academic Partnerships and Research**

The Arboretum provides a valuable teaching resource for numerous faculty at NC State University. Students in Ornamental Plants I and II, Plant Systematics, Nursery Management, Tree and Grounds Maintenance, and Plant Propagation classes benefitted from the availability of the Arboretum's diverse collections. The Arboretum's extensive collection of *Aesculus* is supporting a systematics study of this important plant group by a graduate student in the Department of Plant Biology. Researchers in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources make use of the collection of *Abies* species in their research aimed at developing rootstocks for Fraser fir, *Abies fraseri*.



# **Plant Breeding Research**

Plant breeding efforts conducted by the Arboretum staff focus on *Buddleja*, *Cercis*, and *Stokesia laevis*. Final evaluation of two compact *Buddleja* selections with low fertility was completed in 2006 in anticipation of formal release in 2007. Numerous exciting redbud (*Cercis*) selections are being evaluated in advanced trials and have elicited considerable interest from the nursery industry. A significant percentage of the royalties from sales of future Arboretum cultivar releases will go into the JCRA Endowment for Excellence to generate income to support the long-term care and development of the gardens.









# **Interpreting the Collections**

We began a new changing sign program to highlight particular gardens and plants during the changing seasons. This effort complements our already excellent program of plant labeling. Our goal is to provide more informal educational experiences for Arboretum visitors. A grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust was obtained to assist in this effort.

# Project SEE Participation

The ARC of Wake County, North Carolina, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to assist people with disabilities secure employment experiences in the community. The Arc of Wake County offers a summer internship program entitled Project SEE (Supported Employment Experience) that provides opportunities for young people with disabilities to work in a variety of job settings. The JCRA was pleased to be a part of Project SEE in summer 2006 by hosting two interns. Our Project SEE interns, Robbie Colondres and Cassie Cunningham, and their job coach, Doug Morris, kept our Visitor Center, Klein-Pringle White Garden, and the Tom and Kathy Rucker Roof Terrace Container Gardens watered and looking great, as well as participating in a number of other garden activities.

## Grassroots Master Plan

Completion of the Ruby C. McSwain Educational Center and the accompanying Visitor Center in 2002 significantly changed the physical map of the JCRA. Recognizing that no formal master plan existed for developing the paths and garden spaces in the area immediately surrounding the new buildings, nor for integrating the paths and garden spaces in the remainder of the Arboretum to the new buildings, a "Grassroots Master Plan" was initiated. This effort, led by a team of volunteer landscape designers and landscape architects, is aimed at developing a physical master plan for the JCRA, with emphasis on the path systems, handicapped accessibility, garden spaces, and enhancing the visitor experience. The team has solicited suggestions and ideas from all members of the JCRA community, and is currently in the final stages of developing the Master Plan.

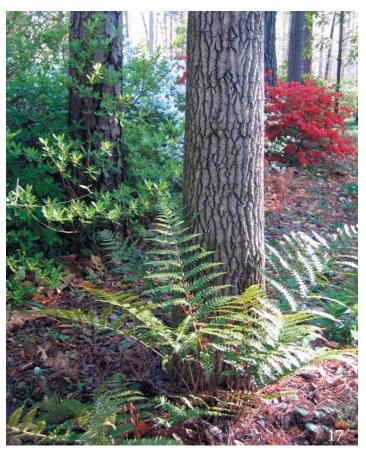
# "Go Fish" Project

The creative students in Will Hooker's landscape design class channeled their energies into designing and creating a collection of bamboo fish that have been placed at various locations around the JCRA. This project provided students an opportunity to develop their design skills using bamboo, with the Arboretum as the palette. Children visiting the Arboretum have enjoyed "fishing" in the gardens.

# Joslin Garden

Although Bill and Mary Coker Joslin made their property a gift to NC State University a number of years ago, we made great strides in beginning to understand the garden as an extension of the JCRA in 2006. We learned a great deal about the history of the site and its plantings, and prepared a guide for visitors. More than 700 plants were catalogued, 200 of which are now marked with engraved labels. Plant "performances," i.e., flowers, fruits, and foliage, were recorded weekly and were documented in over 1,500 photographs. We were happy to invite the public to enjoy the garden during spring and fall open days, and several small groups visited with private tours. Beyond their sharing this beautiful garden and home through a planned life estate gift, the Joslins pledged to create a generous endowment through outright and planned gifts to be used to support and maintain the property. We look forward to strengthening our relationship with the Joslins, discovering hidden plant treasures, and introducing more visitors to the garden each year.





### **Photograph Key**

- 1) Bob Davis and Tim Alderton place plants back into the water garden after it was renovated.
- 2) The Scree Garden shortly after being planted.
- 3) The summer interns and staff remove plants from behind the Southwestern Garden in preparation of future bed renovations.
- 4) James Lail, Tim Alderton, and Denny Werner planting the Swindell Contemplation Garden.
- 5) After years of research, most of plants on the roof of the Ruby C. McSwain Education Center were removed in preparation of new plantings.
- 6) The brick building was demolished in December 2006.
- 7) Autumn Keck works on the 2007 Gala in the Garden.
- 8) Tim Alderton secures a weeping plant.
- 9) The summer 2006 interns Ben Pick, James Garzoni, Corley Hughes, and Anthony Beck.
- 10) The 30th anniversary symposium speakers Bobby Ward, Ph.D., Bill McNamara, Peter Del Tredici, Ph.D.; Kim Tripp, Ph.D.; Don Shadow; Roy Lancaster; and Michael Hayman (Roy Dicks not in photograph).
- 11) Stu Warren's Tree and Grounds Maintenance class learns to apply fertilizers over large areas.
- 12) A compact Buddleja (butterfly-bush), still unnamed, will be one of the first plants introduced from the Arboretum's new breeding program.
- 13) One of the many new interpretive signs made possible by a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.
- 14) Cassie Cunningham, Doug Morris, and Robbie Colondres, Project SEE interns and their job coach.
- 15) Harriet Bellerjeau and Suzanne Edney introduce the Grass Roots Master Plan.
- 16) One of the many bamboo fish from Will Hooker's Residential Landscaping class on display in the Arboretum.
- 17) The Joslin Garden in spring.

# **Volunteers**

Volunteers play a critical role in all aspects of operations of the JCRA. Their willingness to share their time, passion, and talents with the Arboretum enriches our programs and gardens. The staff of the JCRA wish to extend their sincere appreciation to all of our volunteers.

# Volunteer Hours January 2006–December 2006

A special thank you to all volunteers that shared over 8,000 hours of their time and talents in 2006. Your volunteer contributions make the JCRA a better place.

### *300+ Hours*

Vivian Finkelstein

#### 250-300 Hours

Tom and Marie Bumgarner Claude and Mary Caldwell Charlotte Presley

#### 200–250 Hours

Mary Edith Alexander Suzanne Edney Virg Birkin

### 150-200 Hours

Judy Morgan-Davis and Bob Davis Beth Jimenez Charlie Kidder Laddie and Edna Munger John Schott Bobby Wilder Dora Zia

### 100-150 Hours

Rosanna Adams
Harriet Bellerjeau
Patrice Cooke
Colin Daniels
Wayne Friedrich
Linda and Jerry Glenn
Annie Hibbs
Margaret Jordan
Barbara Kennedy
Amelia Lane
Rudolf and Rikki Machilek
Mary McClure
Jean Mitchell
Elaine Pace

### 50-100 Hours

Jeanne Andrus Jayme Bednarczyk Harvey Bumgardner Anne Clapp Laurie Cochran Sherman Criner Donna Dietrich Carolyn Fagan Anita Kuehne Sarah Marano John Pelosi Judy Ryan Esther Spaltenstein Ann Swallow Betsy Viall Dee Welker Ralph Whisnant David White

#### 30-50 Hours

Dale Allen
Vandi Bradow
Betty Cannady
Monika Coleman
C. J. Dykes
Gail Harris
Timothy Hinton
Marty Howard
Dick Pearson
Martha Ramirez
Sandy Reid
Nancy Simonsen
Ann Stellings
John Suddath

# Other Contributions of Hours

Barbara Blackwell Rick Boggs Lisa Bohlen-Admire Brenda Cleveland Kathy Crosby Genelle Dail Ralph Dean Dave and Karen Duch Wendy Elliott Roland Flory Donna Horton Cheryl Kearns Sheila Kellogg Jennette King Carol Lawrence Rick McGirt Thearon and Vanette McKinney Rita Mercer Frank Moore Marianne Mott Bey Norwood Catherine Poff Kathe Rauch Janet Riddle Matt Roberts Bob Roth Christina Rowe Bill Satterwhite Erin Schnieders Priscilla Swindell Marianne Teichman Bee Weddington Bill and Libby Wilder Qian Wu



Above: Many of the Arboretum's dedicated volunteers.

# Members

It is difficult to imagine where the JC Raulston Arboretum would be without the support from our members, the Friends of the Arboretum. With the growth of our membership, we can continue to offer new educational programs, create and maintain our garden spaces, and inspire the community at large.

### **Philanthropist**

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Dee Welker

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Thomas Wentworth and Linda Rudd

Judy Whatley Elisabeth Wheeler Ralph Whisnant

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Barefoot Paths Nursery

Jane Bartlett Nancy Bartlett

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The Gala in the Garden is our signature fund-raising event held every first Sunday in May. In 2006, our sponsors contributed over \$62,000. Thank you again to the 2006 Gala in the Garden sponsors for making our event a huge success.

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The JC Raulston Arboretum is very fortunate to have another large source of support through gifts-in-kind. These donors are so vital to the success of our events, especially the Gala in the Garden and the symposium. They also provide services and plant materials that keep the Arboretum beautiful for everyone.

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Written by Denny Werner, Ph.D., with contributions by Frankie Fanelli, Autumn Keck, and Judy Morgan-Davis.

Christopher Todd Glenn,

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Above: The staff of the JC Raulston Arboretum (Sheila Kellogg not in photograph).



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