

Staying in Touch

April 2017



State Botanical Garden of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

A monthly update for staff, volunteers, and supporting organizations

Garden Highlights



UGA students plant native river cane where invasive species were removed

As we continue our efforts to remove invasive Chinese Privet from the SBG floodplain, one of the species we are using to replace it is our native bamboo, *Arundinaria gigantea* or river cane. This species is prized by Native Americans for its use in basketry, and it provides many valuable ecological services on the floodplain such as capturing sediments during floods, stabilizing levees, and providing nesting habitat

for birds and other wildlife. UGA College of Environment and Design graduate Thomas Peters specializes in propagating river cane for restoration projects. Following his lecture on the topic, he led undergraduate students in Jim Affolter's "Conserving Native Plants" class (HORT 33333S) on a work party to plant 36 more river cane plants along the levee under the powerline.

Southern author highlights the Friends of the Garden Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Garden Annual meeting is open to the public and includes a free reception and lecture, one way in which this organization brings people to the garden. This year the speaker was Mississippian Susan Haltom, a garden designer and the preservation and maintenance coordinator of Eudora Welty's garden in Jackson, Mississippi.

Artist creates original watercolor of native trillium blooming at the State Botanical Garden

Botanists recently recognized and formally named a new species of trillium, found only in Georgia. With the addition of *Trillium georgianum* (Georgia dwarf trillium) we now have 20 named species of trillium in the state, a remarkable illustration of Georgia's botanical diversity! Our collections of this species at the State Botanical Garden came into glorious flower this month. Artist Teri Nye from Atlanta was on hand to create an original watercolor of this short-statured, narrow-leaved trillium as a recognition gift for one of the donors to our Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies endowment.



Critically endangered native plants brought to SBG to protect and propagate are now reestablished in Natural Heritage Area

The black-spored quillwort (*Isoetes melanospora*) belongs to a primitive family of vascular plants with fossils dating back more than 200 million years. Several of the surviving species, including the black-spored quillwort are critically endangered, reduced to a few known populations on the brink of extinction. Working with partners from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Arabia Mountain Natural Heritage Area, Jennifer Ceska and Heather Alley have been involved in a project to increase wild-collected quillwort plants off-site in our native plant nursery, returning them to artificially created pools cut from stone in their natural habitat on Arabia Mountain. Jennifer recently returned Heather's latest batch of quillworts to safe-guarding pools tucked safely away from more public areas of the park.

Garden director presents at Plant Conservation Alliance meeting

The Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA) is a collaborative partnership among 12 U.S. Federal Agency Members (the Federal Committee) and more than 300 Non-Federal Cooperators (the Non-Federal Cooperators Committee, which includes the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance). PCA Members and Cooperators work collaboratively to solve the problems of native plant conservation and native habitat restoration, ensuring the sustainability of ecosystems in the United States. Bi-monthly PCA meetings are an open forum held in the Washington DC metropolitan area for anyone interested in or working in plant conservation. Each meeting features a speaker from the plant conservation community and is available remotely as a live webinar.

Garden Director presents at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, DC

On March 8, Dr. Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, Director of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, presented "The Greater Atlanta Pollinator Partnership", a program sponsored by the Plant Conservation Alliance. The U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, DC. hosted the program, open to the public and available as a live webinar.

Garden hosts Athens CVB board meeting

Approximately 50 members of the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Board gathered for a meeting at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia on March 28. Friend of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia hosted the breakfast meeting to bring people from throughout Athens to the garden. A garden tour was offered after the meeting.



Linda Chafin speaks at Birmingham Botanical Garden

John Manion, Botanist and Curator of the Kaul Native Plant Garden at the Birmingham Botanical Garden (BBG), welcomed Linda Chafin to the BBG where she presented a talk on Georgia's and Alabama's shared wildflower diversity. The event provided an opportunity to spread the word concerning Linda's new book, "Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Georgia and Surrounding States," which has been enthusiastically received by professional and amateur botanists alike. Linda signed books for the more than 50 people who attended the presentation.

Garden volunteer's talents discovered in our gift shop help conservation efforts in many states

Seeds of rare plants are a valuable commodity for conservation biologists and horticulturists, but for obvious reasons they can be hard to come by. Not only are rare species scarce by definition, many of them have mechanisms to disperse their seeds by wind, animals, or even explosively. One solution that often works is to place a mesh bag around the developing fruits to catch the seeds.

State Botanical Garden volunteer Nita Haley leads a double life. Not only does she help out and craft items for sale in the Garden's gift shop, she also has become the go-to person for high quality, hand-made seed collection bags. Some of the groups that are now benefiting from her experience and generosity as a seamstress include the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance, plant conservation alliances in South Carolina and Tennessee, the US Forest Service, and the Nature Conservancy. Thank you, Nita!

5K teaches about sustainability while raising funds for the State Botanical Garden

The 5th Annual Small Dreams Foundation Fun Run toward Sustainability was held at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia (SBGG) and raised money for Small Dreams Foundation, The UGA Office of Sustainability, and SBGG. Almost 200 runners and walkers learned about sustainability along the course.



April Classes and Events

For more information or to register for classes: 706-542-6156 or botgarden.uga.edu

Thursdays

Meet at Shade Garden Arbor

Nature Ramblers

9:30 am, free

Please join our Nature Ramblers and learn more about the natural areas, flora and fauna of the Garden while making new friends. This is a ramble not a hike; we will stop to view interesting plants, insects, butterflies, mushrooms, etc., along the way. To get a feel for what our rambles are like visit <http://naturerambling.blogspot.com>

Friday, April 7

Gardenside Room

Friends First Friday: Spring Plant Sale Favorites

9 -10:30 am, \$12, includes breakfast

Shelly Prescott, Director of Horticulture, will share information about special plants that will be for sale at the garden's spring plant sale, to be held April 8th at the State Botanical Garden. Shelly will share special and unusual plant varieties that will be available for sun, shade, native plant collections, pollinator and butterfly gardens, fruit and vegetable gardens, annual displays, and more. Bring your plant questions and take notes to begin planning your most beautiful and productive garden yet. Remember, Friends members are invited to a special preview sale Friday evening, where they enjoy the best selection and their Friends discount. A membership table will be at the sale. Please make your reservation by the Friday before by calling 706-542-6138.

Friday, April 7

Visitor Center

Spring Wildflowers of Upland Deciduous Forests of Georgia

9 am – 1 pm, \$50

The cool, moist forests of the Piedmont's ravines and slopes support a wealth of spring wildflowers. Students will learn the botanical terminology to identify and describe plants and will learn a variety of tools to identify spring-blooming plants. We will then visit the Dunson Native Flora Garden and learn a number of spring ephemerals and other early-blooming plants.

Saturday, April 8 Spring Plant Sale

8 am-2 pm

State Botanical Garden, Trial Gardens, and UGA Horticulture Club

Our Spring plant sale is part of Plantapalooza, three simultaneous plant sales at the University of Georgia in Athens on Saturday, April 8, 2017: at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia (2450 S. Milledge Ave.), The Trial Gardens at UGA (220 W. Green Street), and a sale by the UGA Horticulture Club (at the intersection of College Station Road and Riverbend Road). Each sale offers a different experience. What makes this event so special is the large variety of traditional and unique plants that may be difficult to find anywhere else, plus access to horticulture professors, garden curators and master gardeners that are happy to answer questions and help with your selections. More information is available at 706-542-6014 or plantapalooza.uga.edu.

Tuesday, April 11**Full Moon Hike (Pink Moon)**

Meet at fountain in front of the Visitor's Center 8 – 9:30 pm, \$5/person or \$15/family
Each walk will focus on a different topic such as the moon, constellations, or nocturnal creatures.
Be prepared to hike up to 2 miles on our wooded trails and in the garden. If you have young children or infants, a backpack carrier is suggested. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, April 15**Spring Wildflowers of the Granite Outcrops of Georgia-**

Visitor Center

9 am – 1 pm, \$50

Georgia is home to 90 percent of the Southeastern Piedmont's granite outcrops, one of the most endangered and botanically interesting natural communities in the US. Students will be introduced to the ecology and plants of granite outcrops during classroom time. We will then visit Rock and Shoals Natural Area to learn to identify the species in the field and to observe the ecological processes that create and maintain granite outcrops.

Wednesday, April 19**Pressed Flower Art**

Visitor Center

10 – 11:30 am, \$30 (includes materials)

The nostalgic art of pressed flowers began about 500 years ago when people started collecting botanical specimens. Initially specimens were glued to paper with a small index card indicating the plants names and location. Gradually, specimens were arranged in a more artistic ways and thus began the art of pressed flowers. Join Debra Knight who has been practicing this art form for 16 years. She will teach you the art of pressing flowers and each participant will make their own bookmark and notecard.

Wednesday, April 19**Georgia Review Earth Day Event**

Visitor Center

7 pm, Free

The Georgia Review's eighth annual Earth Day event will include a talk by John Lane, Professor of English and environmental studies at Wofford College and director of the college's Goodall Environmental Studies Center. Lane is the author of a dozen books of poetry and prose including six from the University of Georgia Press.

A catered reception with live music will follow the talk. More information can be found at garev.uga.edu

The Georgia Review, UGA's internationally regarded literary quarterly, is currently celebrating its 70th anniversary and has earned a reputation for its frequent inclusion of essays that focus on environmental matters.

Thursday, April 20**Spring Bulbs and Ephemerals**

Visitor Center

2 – 4 pm, \$25

A guide to the identification, propagation, and ecology of both native and exotic spring ephemerals. We will focus on minor horticultural bulbs and native wildflowers that thrive in zone 8A in this introduction to these diminutive yet diverse treasures.

Saturday, April 22**Exotic Birds and Reptiles on Planet Earth**

Visitor Center

10 – 11:30 am, \$5/person; \$15/family (under 2 are free)

Roy Hodge, from Exotic Paradise in Atlanta, will educate and entertain family members with his menagerie of exotic animals. Discover amazing animal adaptations and learn about conservation concerns of many different animals including, cockatoos, parrots, spectacled owls, monitor lizards, anacondas, boa constrictors and more!

Sunday, April 23

Upper Parking Lot

Oconee Rivers Audubon Society Spring Bird Ramble

8 am, free and open to the public.

Come join the Oconee Rivers Audubon Society for a morning bird walk at the Garden. Look and listen for our spring migrants. All birding levels are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them. For more information, visit www.oconeeriversaudubon.org.

Wednesday, April 26

Visitor Center

Flower Arranging Unit 5: Creative and Miniature Design

9 am – 3 pm, \$45

Unit 5 focuses on Creative Miniature Design. Upon completion of all five units, students will be awarded the Basic Design Certificate from The Garden Club of Georgia. Courses do not need to be completed in order. Participants will be provided with a list of materials to bring to class. Limited to 20 participants. Priority will be given to those participants who have completed Units 1-4.

Saturday, April 29

Medicinal Herbs of the Southeast Workshop

Visitor Center, Classroom 2 9 am – 1 pm, \$35

Join us for a dynamic workshop on medicinal plants and herbs of the Southeast! This is an introductory class in which students will learn traditional uses and preparations for our most common medicinal plant species, with special attention to Georgia natives. Enjoy an ethnobotanical tour through the garden collections and spend hands-on time crafting herbal remedies to bring home.

Garden Gift Shop

Seeds!

Our gift shop now carries a large selection of seeds from Botanical Interests, including seed mixes, flowers, vegetables, vines and more. These are already quite popular; Mike has been reordering to keep up with demand!

*Also, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia now offers 10 species of **Georgia native wildflower seeds** at our gift shop that were produced at the garden and are from stock within 60 miles of Athens.*



Suzie Henderson, PSO Intern, delivering wildflower seeds to the shop.



Tickets are available at the Garden Gift Shop for the
Piedmont Gardeners 24th Annual Garden Tour of Athens

Saturday, April 15, 2017, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Rain or Shine

A spring tradition in Athens, the Piedmont Gardeners' tour showcases five distinctive private gardens, open to visitors for one day, rain or shine. Tickets to the self-paced tour are \$15 if purchased in advance. The tour booklet serves as a ticket and includes a map and detailed descriptions of each garden. For further information about this year's gardens visit the website at www.piedmontgardeners.org or search Facebook for "Piedmont Gardeners".

Visitors to this year's tour will find a wealth of ideas to inspire, challenge and energize their own gardens. The showcase gardens include abundant stone and water features, a Harold Rittenberry, Jr. sculpture, a physic garden, an infinity pool, even a putting green!

Links

Support the Garden

Information about volunteering at the Garden, donating, or joining Friends of the Garden [here](#).



Is your group interested in a tour of the Garden?

Contact Andrea at sbgvol@uga.edu or 706-542-6195 to schedule.



The State Botanical Garden of Georgia has five venues where memorable weddings, meetings, proms, and parties take place. View these online at botgarden.uga.edu.

Contact Cris at sbgrent@uga.edu or 706-542-6467 to find out more, take a tour and **reserve the perfect spot for your event.**

[State Botanical Garden of Georgia website](#)

[Become a Friend of the Garden](#)

Benefits include discounts to classes, the Garden Shop, Café Botanica and plant sales, plus an informative quarterly newsletter, and discounts at affiliated gardens.

State Botanical Garden of Georgia [Facebook Page](#) and [Twitter Page](#)



State Botanical Garden of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

2450 South Milledge Avenue – Athens, Georgia 30605

A unit of the University of Georgia Public Service and Outreach, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia provides the general public as well as UGA faculty, staff and students opportunities for recreation, events, research and learning through its natural areas, display gardens and building spaces. The State Botanical Garden is located at 2450 South Milledge Ave., Athens, one mile south of the Athens perimeter. For more information, visit botgarden.uga.edu.