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Newsletter of The
Friends of The
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

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flora



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flora



dear friends

The coming of spring is always a special time in the Gardens, even more so this year as we prepare for a busy season. With deep appreciation to our friends and Duke University, we maintained our staffing and program levels the past two years and planned several projects that will begin to take shape this year.

We spent much of the winter working with the University and Medical Center planning storm-water improvements from one end of our site to the other that include enlarging our North Pond and replacing the culvert below the Terrace Gardens in front of the Fish Pool, followed by a total reconstruction of the Fish Pool made possible by a kind and generous friend.

New sidewalks are the first feature in a renovation of our entry experience that will include new plantings at the Anderson Street Gate, replanting of the Linden Allée and placement of a fountain in the Rose Garden Circle, as envisioned in the Master Plan of 1977 but never installed. The Roney Fountain, erected on East Campus (then Trinity College) in 1901, will be relocated to the Gardens and completely refurbished to its original glory later this summer.

Enhancements to the Page White Garden behind the Doris Duke Center are well under way. Additional Gardens projects include a new covered bridge in the Blomquist Garden of Native Plants, and the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden, now to be a hands-on growing and teaching garden on our northern meadow. Construction of both will begin this year.

We will stagger all this activity to ensure the least possible impact on the beauty of the Gardens and with the enjoyment and safety of our 300,000 visitors in mind. Please excuse our occasional closing of a path or blocking of a view while we strive to make Sarah P. Duke Gardens even more beautiful. And, as always, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

William M. LeFevre
Executive Director

meet the staff

THE LAST YEAR HAS BROUGHT a number of new staff members to Duke Gardens. For readers who haven't yet met them, here's a brief introduction:

Bobby Mottern, Director of Horticulture

Bobby most recently worked for a Raleigh landscape architecture firm, after 10 years as assistant vice president and curator of gardens at Brookgreen Gardens in Pawleys Island, S.C. Here, he oversees the Gardens' 13 full-time horticulturists, as well as interns, student workers and volunteers. He got his bachelor's degree in ornamental horticulture from Clemson University and a masters in landscape architecture from the University of Georgia.

Jamie Allen, Gardening Assistant

A Durham native, Jamie came to the Gardens after working with Durham's nonprofit SEEDS (South Eastern Efforts Developing Sustainable Spaces Inc.) for five years. He graduated from Durham Technical School and also attended Riverside High School. In his free time, Jamie tends his home vegetable garden. It's a peaceful hobby, he says, and he credits SEEDS with giving him the experience to make his garden thrive.

Jennifer Copeland, Coordinator of Events

A Maryland native who longed for warm weather and friendly folks, Jennifer jumped at the chance to relocate to North Carolina to earn her undergraduate degree from Elon University. While studying communications and multimedia-authoring, she took a particular liking to coordinating events and project management. She was an intern at the

Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club, where she fell in love with the Duke community. She was determined to work at Duke after graduation, and she succeeded.

Jeff Harward, Assistant Horticulturist

Jeff has worked at Duke for 10 years, previously as a landscape specialist for the Grounds Department of Facilities Management. He is also a certified landscape technician. Before coming to Duke, he was a police special response officer (SWAT) for 10 years. He also teaches first aid, CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) use at Duke for the American Heart Association.

Katherine Wright, Horticulturist

Katherine grew up in Raleigh and earned her bachelor's degree in horticultural science from N.C. State University. She then spent three years in San Francisco working as a gardener on a small private estate. She returned to the Triangle to earn her master's degree in environmental management from Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment. Preceding her arrival at Duke Gardens, she was the easement steward at Triangle Land Conservancy.

In other staff news, Alice Le Duc will retire in June, after ten years as the Gardens' director of adult education. We thank Alice for her diligence, new ideas and artistry, and we wish her well in her new life in Texas.

(left to right): Jamie Allen, Jeff Harward, Jennifer Copeland, Bobby Mottern and Katherine Wright



🌻 into the garden: 15 years of discovery for children

by Annie Nashold, *Director of Children's Education and Family Programs*

A REFLECTION - During an outing with the *Nature for Sprouts* class, I am surrounded by 3-year-olds. The class is on the move. Some children stay close by, some run ahead, all in constant motion, while still others stop to listen and look. We are looking for treasures on the ground. We carry little brown bags for collecting treasures. The children examine and wonder at everything. Some show their jewels to me, asking, "What is this?" Others simply squeal with delight. We stop along the way to look at things closely and say hello to the birds or squirrels that join us. The children don't take everything, just those few special items that catch their fancy. Exploring, noticing and discovering is their work.

"The flowers, plants and the trees were so, SO beautiful." - Rachel



today

The Children and Family Education program now serves children from pre-school ages through high school in programs supported by volunteers that believe in our mission.

Children have always shown a great curiosity and interest in nature – understanding nature helps them understand their world, and there is an innate sense of stewardship that children bring to their interactions with plants and animals.

Thousands of children have participated in the Gardens' programs, growing up in the Gardens and looking forward to their time here. We look forward to the joy and privilege of serving thousands more. Once children learn that they are part of a living planet, they will carry that forward and gardens here and elsewhere will flourish forever. 🌱

2009

The Nature Ranger Cart was moved out into the garden for free drop-in art and science activities weekly. We also introduced the free Family Fun Days and Sunday Science to reach out to children and families.



2006

The Gardens began a teacher-training program in collaboration with Duke's Nasher Museum of Art. In this intensive summer program, elementary school teachers consider the connection between art and science, learning how to integrate outdoor experiences into their classroom. Duke Gardens also partnered with the N.C. Botanical Garden on training for pre-school teachers.

2005

In partnership with the North Carolina Botanical Garden, we created an original curriculum titled *Native Tales*, in which teachers explore a multi-disciplinary approach to teaching ecology, culture, history, the arts, math and science through native plants. The program was developed with a grant from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.



"I really enjoyed the plant hunt. Most of the clues stumped me." - Ashley

2002

Popular new programs launched, including *Nature Adventures Camp*, *Story Time*, *Nature for Sprouts* and *Arts in the Garden*. Children return year after year, including a camper from our first year who is now a teen camp assistant. The half-day camp also provides scholarships for children identified by their schools, and it has included children from homeless families.

2001

Programs for Children and Families grew by 80 percent in one year with the addition of classroom space at the new Doris Duke Center.



1997

Duke Gardens began its partnership with the pediatric ward at Duke Hospital, bringing science activities to patients and bringing patients and their families to the Gardens. This connection led to the Gardens' *Healing and Hope Through Science* partnership with Duke and UNC children's hospitals. *Healing and Hope* is fully funded by the Oak Foundation.

1992

Early partnerships with the Duke Homestead, Bennett Place, Eno River State Park and Stagville Plantation helped us create and extend our program further into the community. Funding through the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation and the NC Office of Environmental Education, as well as a financial gift granted with JC Penney's Golden Rule Award, allowed us to develop new classes.



"I loved the way you taught with the art flower." - Tran



歓迎

The window has opened; look inside!
A glimpse of Japan comes into focus.

Duke Gardens' Japanese Pavilion

By Paul Jones, Curator, William Louis Culberson Asiatic Arboretum

*Cool winds part the gates
Nippon! From whence did you come?
Aroma of tea.*

A journey that began with a friendly conversation has blossomed into a striking new feature in the Culberson Asiatic Arboretum: the Durham-Toyama Sister Cities Pavilion. The pavilion offers a taste of Japanese culture through architecture, garden design and even cuisine.

The stage is prepared. Listen, for the cadence of taiko drummers. Listen, for the melody of the shakuhachi flutist and the rhythm of Japanese lute. The ambiance is real.

"I love to come here," says volunteer Takahashi Maki, of Japan. "When I enter the gates, I feel as if I am at home again." On most Thursdays, Maki and friends are drawn to this adopted oasis to experience and practice Chanoyu, the traditional Japanese Way of Tea.

The Sister Cities pavilion is an exciting new venue, a frontispiece of the garden that will be written around it. Imagine a retreat set upon a hillside, a sanctuary among cherries, mume and pines. Imagine a haven where many have come before to pause, rest and reflect. Sit, meditate on the quiet echoes of the past, listen to the voice of the lake below.

Slip off your shoes and step inside the tea house, reflect on the moment, enjoy a bowl of tea, join the journey.

ORIGINS

Former director of development Kay Bunting loves to embellish her conversations with pithy sayings and idiomatic expressions such as, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." Kay was working at the Gardens in 2002 when ideas were being batted around between Sister Cities Durham (SCD) and the Gardens about constructing a Japanese-styled feature in the Asiatic Arboretum. The cities of Durham and Toyama, Japan, had established a relationship through Sister Cities

International in 1989. This project was to be an expression of Durham's esteem for the citizens of Toyama, and it would also be a valuable gift to the Duke and Durham communities.

"Many hands make light work," Kay would say, and the history of this project confirms that indeed we needed the assistance of hundreds of supporters. One could argue, though, that work was seldom "light" – for some, at least – as for several years there were seemingly endless planning and design sessions, fundraisers, project evaluations, presentations, more fundraisers, construction delays and the dreaded "value engineering."

SCD took responsibility for the lion's share of fund-raising efforts. Mavis Mayer, a (now) retired administrative coordinator with Duke's Asian/Pacific Studies Institute, spearheaded a small but extremely dedicated committee that tirelessly gave three years of their life and sanity to this cause.

Ideas for the project began brewing in 2001. One of the first posited by Sister Cities was to construct a tea room on piers in the arboretum pond. For many reasons, it was never seriously considered. But the exploratory path of idea proposals – which wandered among open-air shelters, bridges, boulder fields and massive stone lanterns – ultimately led to a facility that would function as a place to enjoy tea, in a traditional sense, anyway. With the help of architect Derek Jones, we decided to build a small pavilion on a hill overlooking the pond, a structure that could serve as a stage for small musical performances and other community arts events. With this image clearly in mind, it was no big leap for Derek to further manipulate the design for added functionality. In October 2007, we dedicated a Japanese pavilion that can, by exchanging a few floor panels for *tatami* (mats), and putting *shoji* (screens) in place, vicariously function as a traditional Japanese teahouse (or tea hut, which I'm told is a more correct English translation of the Japanese term).



Clouds silently form
On the branch of a cherry
How blue is the sky



ORIGINS *continued...*

“Value-engineering” is the process of paring down what you want but can’t afford to what you’ll accept and can. In this case, we desired to construct the pavilion using tools, materials and techniques that have been used in Japan for centuries. For example, had our budgetary pockets been sufficiently deep, we would have specified that joinery throughout the pavilion be constructed without glue or metal fasteners. Economic reality dictated that we reconsider, but not to the extent that all fine details and materials were compromised. On the contrary, even the closest scrutiny reveals the excellence and authenticity of design and construction – for example, the marriage of posts to the supporting stones, and the refined, intricate joinery used to assemble posts and beams.

Materials selection is likewise excellent: the flooring is Brazilian walnut, aka *ipe* (*Tabebuia spp.*); posts and beams are made of recycled heartwood of Southern longleaf pine, *Pinus palustris*; the ceiling, walls and much of the foundational wood is western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*); shoji windows and doors are fashioned from aromatic Port Orford cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*); the *tokonoma* (recessed space) has both black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and unsawn log sections from our local red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). The roof is a combination of copper sheathing and clay tiles imported from Japan. The stucco (*wara juraku*), into which natural rice and wheat straw are incorporated, is also from Japan. We hope that when you visit, you’ll have a chance to appreciate these details.

Further ensuring that the new pavilion would be true to tradition, the Gardens was fortunate to work last fall with Japanese horticulturist Nakasone Katsuhito, a master of Japanese landscape design, whose visit Sister Cities helped make possible. Among his many gardening talents, Mr. Nakasone is a skilled artisan in placement of rocks, construction with bamboo, and training of trees. He is also a devotee of chanoyu, the Japanese Way of Tea. With advice and instruction, he has made his mark, for which we are grateful.

Indeed, you can’t make a silk purse from a sow’s ear. But combine dedicated people, good ideas, time and quality resources and, as Kay would say, you’ll hit pay dirt every time. With this pavilion, we did. 🌿

photos (top to bottom) wooden joints and copper and clay tile roof in the pavilion tea house, and the Gate of the Blue Heron. (opposite page) Dot Borden participates in a traditional Japanese Tea Gathering. Photos at left by Paul Jones.



Silent ash awakens
the heart of an iron kettle
Encounter freedom

tradition
in the tea house

If you’d like to gain an even deeper understanding of Japanese culture, consider participating in a traditional Japanese Tea Gathering, one of the Gardens’ most unusual offerings.

These gatherings take place in the idyllic setting of the Japanese Pavilion, a place of retreat in which guests savor the nuances of the season while enjoying a bowl of whisked green tea prepared in the traditional manner.

The experience of tea is characterized by the phrase *ichigo ichie*, “one moment, one meeting,” which encourages guests to embrace each moment as precious. This notion resonates as a tea gathering unfolds, from the way guests enter through the *nijiriguchi* – a small door for guests that signifies equality – to the way tea is prepared and enjoyed.

Duke alumna Nancy Hamilton began hosting the gatherings after studying the Japanese Tradition of Tea at the Urasenke Foundation in San Francisco. Hamilton is now the cultural programming coordinator for the Asiatic Arboretum.

Some of the tea gatherings have themes, such as the forthcoming Children’s Day Tea on May 8 (a traditional celebration for boys, to which families are invited) or the Autumn Leaves Tea to be held in the fall.

Gatherings take place in the intimate new tea house, with attendance limited to nine participants. The Gardens occasionally hosts larger tea gatherings in the Doris Duke Center. To register for a tea gathering, call 919-668-1707.

digging deeper:

Gardens supporters on the roots of their passions

BECKY DUKES

*Gardens member and longtime visitor
On honoring family, friends and life-savers*

For me, the Gardens have been important for a long time. My daddy graduated from Duke and I suppose everything about Duke has a special connection to me through daddy. He died on Christmas Eve when I was 9, from pneumonia. So anything connecting me to him has always been important.

For quite a long time, I tried to figure out what I wanted to do in honor of my daddy. So what we did finally do was a garden in his memory. It's called the Boulder Garden.

It means a great deal to me to have that garden there in honor of him and friends and family that have given inspiration to our lives. As an only child who lost her father, I had a lot of adults caring for me and loving me throughout my growing-up period. So that garden is really honoring him and all of those who gave me so much love.

Another thing that's very meaningful to me about the Boulder Garden is that I can see the old part of the hospital from there. I was born at Duke Hospital and my life was also saved at the hospital. I had major cancer twice and I'm a very lucky gal.

So when we created this garden – and Paul did such a beautiful, inspirational job – I really wanted it to be first of all a place of healing, where people could come and feel healed, whether it was physical or emotional. I wanted it also, because of that, to be a place of strength. But I really wanted it to be a place of inspiration, for creativity, so that people could come and feel inspired and at peace and they could be creative with their words, or with writing, with art, in whatever way they were moved.

Paul understood the inside of me and why this garden was so important. He was so spiritual in the way he went about planning it and developing it and allowing me to express what I was feeling inside.

I don't care how old you are or how young, or what your profession is, being in the Gardens is enlivening and inspiring. The university is so blessed to have the beauty of this space, and the way that those in charge have developed it through the years. It's just a very special place.



HORST MEYER, DUKE PROFESSOR EMERITUS

*Volunteer and member of the Board of Advisors
On tending the bluebird boxes*

"The bluebirds are so beautiful. It's a kind of bird that was getting almost endangered because they did not have boxes. You need boxes for these birds, for them essentially to breed, to multiply. So I decided to give a number of boxes to the Gardens some years ago, I would say about 20 of them.

Bluebirds, they like pine needles for building their nest. ... If there is a box where I see already twigs, this is the mark of house wrens who compete with bluebirds, and I remove those twigs, provided there are no eggs yet. And if I see pine needles in the box, I'm very happy. When I see bluebirds and eggs inside, it's very exciting.

There are lots of birds that I love. But the bluebird is something that I can do something about." 🐦

Do you have a special connection
with Duke Gardens?

If so, we'd love to hear about it.
Please write to Flora
at orla.swift@duke.edu



VIEWPOINTS

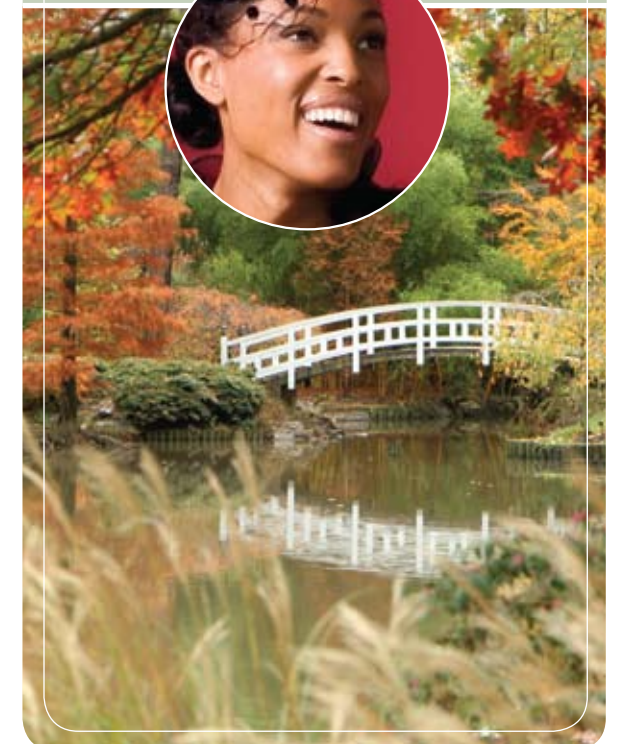
*Musings on favorite
gardens spots*

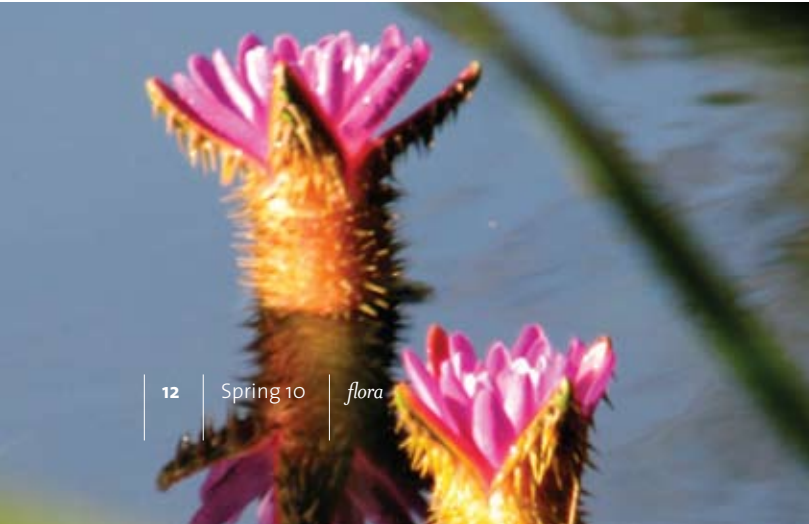
Simone Lewis
*Duke sophomore and Gardens
work-study student*

...

On the Iris Bridge, Culberson
Asiatic Arboretum

That's the place where I lingered most when I first went to the Gardens. I just liked how it was a really nice spring day and I could see the banks in the distance with everyone sitting and picnicking. It was very serene, very calm. I didn't feel at all like I was in the middle of a city or a bustling campus right near a hospital. I just felt completely isolated, but in a really peaceful way.





water plants: a deeper look

By Tamara Kilbane, Horticulturist & Water Plants Specialist | Photos by Tamara Kilbane and Jason Holmes

EACH SUMMER AT DUKE GARDENS, the display ponds buzz with activity. Dragonflies and bees jostle for position around vibrant aquatic blooms, while our human visitors do the same at the water's edge. Though these ponds and the plants that thrive within them may be novel for some, their importance has long been known by cultures around the world. For centuries, people have valued aquatic plants as sources of nourishment, inspiration, symbolism, medicine and more.

SACRED LOTUS (*Nelumbo nucifera*)

Native to Asia and India, the sacred lotus is a symbol of purification and enlightenment in Eastern religions including Buddhism and Hinduism. Though the plant grows from the muddy waters along the shallow margins of a pond, it emerges in pristine condition. A closed bud is said to represent the potential for enlightenment, while a fully open bloom represents the achievement of enlightenment.

AMERICAN LOTUS (*Nelumbo lutea*)

Though not as highly revered from a religious standpoint, the second species of lotus (native to the eastern U.S.) was widely used by Native Americans as a source of food and medicine. The rhizomes were boiled and eaten as a starchy vegetable, while young leaves were steamed with other foods. The seeds, also called pond nuts, were roasted or ground to make flour.

WATERLILIES (*Nymphaea* species)

Derived from a Greek term meaning "nymph," a supernatural feminine being found around natural springs, the genus *Nymphaea* is made up of more than 30 species found worldwide. These include both hardy and tropical varieties, as well as day-bloomers and night-bloomers. Valued by ancient civilizations around the world as symbols of purity and enlightenment, waterlilies are perhaps most beloved for their beauty and grace in the pond, inspiring painters and photographers alike to spend many an hour pond-side trying to capture their essence.

GORGON PLANT (*Euryale ferox*)

With sharp thorns covering the entire plant, it is no wonder its common name is derived from the Greek *gorgos*, meaning dreadful! Unfriendly though it may be, the gorgon plant has been an important food crop for people living in its native habitats of India, China, Japan and Korea for hundreds of years. The starchy seeds are collected in late summer and fall and are roasted or fried, causing them to pop like popcorn. The small, colorful blooms generally open under water, while the leaves can reach up to 5 feet in diameter and are bright green on top with royal purple undersides.

THE LOTUS EFFECT

The unique ability of lotus plants to clean themselves is due to tiny bumps that line the surfaces of the leaves, allowing water to roll off while collecting dirt particles. This unique morphology has been studied by clothing and paint manufacturers to develop new and improved products that will mimic the plant's self-cleaning properties.

VICTORIA WATERLILY, WATER PLATTER (*Victoria* species)

In the Amazon River basin of South America, legend has it that a young Indian girl named Naia fell in love with a beautiful and powerful god-soldier who lived in the moon. Each night she would run through the jungle chasing the moon's rays in hopes of finding her love. One evening, she came upon a calm lagoon and saw the moon reflected in its waters. Thinking she would finally be united with her love, she entered the water. Too late, she realized the moon she saw in the water was only an illusion, and she drowned. The Soldier of the Moon, says the legend, did exist and felt such pity for the beautiful girl that he turned her into a star of the Amazon's still waters – an enormous plant that reigns as queen of all aquatics and whose beautiful flowers open only at night, lit by the rays of the moon – the Victoria waterlily.

TARO (*Colocasia esculenta*)

If you have traveled to Hawaii, you've likely seen fields of taro being grown by farmers on the islands. This "potato of the tropics" is grown for its edible corm, as well as its leaves. In the Hawaiian Islands, it was believed to have been formed from daughter earth and father sky before the birth of humans, and it was therefore revered as superior to humans and the most important food crop. Before eating, it is necessary to cook the corms and leaves to remove the toxins present in the plant.

SWEETFLAG (*Acorus calamus*)

Named for the sweet fragrance that is released when its leaves are cut or bruised, this native plant was used in Colonial times as a potpourri, as well as a flavoring in candies, gin and beer. Native Americans developed medicinal uses for the plant to treat ailments such as stomach aches and coughs.

water plants: a deeper look

(left, top to bottom)
Sacred lotus, lotus seeds,
Waterlilies, Gorgon plant;
(right, top to bottom)
The Lotus Effect, Victoria
waterlily, Taro, Sweetflag

gardens partnerships

THE GARDENS COULD HARDLY SURVIVE without its partnerships with thousands of Gardens Friends, advisory board members and volunteers. But recent years have brought other vital and interesting collaborations we thought you'd like to know about. Here are a few.



(left to right): Sweet Honey in the Rock; Easley students paint rocks for their new garden; farmers' market fare; a turtle rescued by Nicholas School students; Gardens horticulturist Jan Watson removes invasive plants at the Hanes Estate.

MAKING MUSIC

Duke Gardens and Duke Performances co-produced a free concert by Sweet Honey in the Rock on the South Lawn in August, to celebrate the Gardens' 75th anniversary. The concert was a hit with the Duke and Durham communities, drawing roughly 7,500 people. Duke Performances also presents its Music in the Gardens series at the Gardens each summer.

INSPIRING YOUNG GARDENERS

When Durham's Easley Elementary School decided to build a native plant education garden, Duke Gardens and the Eno River Association helped them make it happen. Gardens curator Stefan Bloodworth even built a website for the school to show off its garden and the students' contributions: www.easleydiscoverygarden.com

BRINGING NATURE TO SCHOOLS

The Gardens' Education Program has launched a new partnership with the Durham Arts Council's CAPS program (Creative Arts in Private and Public Schools). The Arts Council has worked with the school system for 37 years, bringing artists and scientists into classrooms. The Gardens' partnership includes four programs designed to introduce children to the wonders of nature and culture.

CONQUERING INVASIVE PLANTS

Invasive plants have less of a hold in the region, thanks to our horticulturists and interns, who have traveled far and wide to remove the plants. They've done work at Durham's Ellerbe Creek, the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art on the Hanes Estate in Winston-Salem, and the Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park in Scotland Neck. Sylvan Heights also provides some of the waterfowl in the Asiatic Arboretum.

SUPPORTING LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Hundreds of Duke employees and local residents flock to Duke's Mobile Market at the Gardens each week. They help local farmers with community-supported agriculture (CSA) agreements, in which they pay in advance for seasonal fruits, vegetables, meat, herbs and flowers to be delivered to the Gardens. Several farmers also serve non-CSA customers on site, and a new fish CSA launched last year. The Mobile Market is part of Duke's larger Farmers Market program, which is in its 10th year.

PROTECTING WILDLIFE

Students from Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment worked with Duke Gardens to rescue turtles and other creatures from the Gardens' North Pond preceding a construction project there. The Nicholas School also partnered with the Gardens on a sold-out weekend of events featuring author Toby Hemenway.

HELPING NATIVE PLANTS THRIVE

Duke Gardens worked with the NC Native Plant Society to build a permanent native plant education garden at the N.C. State Fairgrounds. Gardens staff members and volunteers have also worked on nine plant rescue projects at eight sites in five counties, saving more than 1,200 specimens representing 22 species.

Some additional partnerships

- Durham's SEEDS (South Eastern Efforts Developing Sustainable Spaces Inc.)
- Triangle Land Conservancy
- St. Philips Episcopal Church
- The Nasher Museum of Art
- Durham Master Gardeners 🌿



VIEWPOINTS

Musings on favorite Gardens spots

Harry Jenkins

Gardens superintendent and horticulturist

...

On the view southwest from the Pergola.

Having worked at the Gardens since 1972, largely in the Terraces and Rose Gardens in the initial years, Jenkins has always been partial to the view from the Pergola. That view has just changed with the removal and pruning of some trees in the distance. Now, for the first time in decades, the gothic spires of the iconic Duke Chapel will be visible.

And if you look up the hill overlooking the Fish Pool, the limestone boulders that were artfully placed there more than half a century ago have only now been re-exposed and will remain visible hereafter. Those changes are part of a major Fish Pool repair. "They were hidden," Jenkins says of the boulders. "The plants had encroached on them. They're going to be enhanced by low-growing plants, dwarf conifers and other companion plants." If you check out the new views, don't forget to drink in the intense colors and scents of the wisteria and other Terrace flowers, which Jenkins also adores. "I love the aroma, how sweet it smells," he says. "It'd be nice if you could bottle that fragrance."

VIEWPOINTS

Musings on favorite gardens spots

Colette Cambey

Stanford Middle School sixth-grader and Nature Adventures camper.

...

On the Rose Circle

My favorite spot is the rose garden, because I really like all the different roses, and sometimes they have different patterns, they have all different kinds. I really like the stairs that go down into it and the centerpiece. It's really pretty. It feels special to me because roses are my favorite flowers and red is one of my favorite colors. And I always think of my mom whenever I see a rose, because that's her favorite, too.



Do you have a favorite Gardens spot, either for its immediate surroundings or its view? We'd love to hear about it. Write to orla.swift@duke.edu.

dramatic improvements

GARDENS VISITORS WILL NOTICE A NUMBER OF CHANGES throughout our 55 acres this year, as we make some dramatic improvements to our landscape and infrastructure. The most noticeable impact will be that the lower part of the Terraces, as well as a large part of the landscape on the other side of the Fish Pool, will be closed off to visitors until fall.

Please excuse the inconvenience as we make much-needed repairs to the Fish Pool at the foot of the Terraces, which has been drained as part of a months-long project to repair the entire storm-water infrastructure in conjunction with major construction at the Duke University Medical Center upstream. The pool has leaked for decades and the culvert under the Terraces has reached the end of its useful life.

Visitors will still be able to walk through the Terraces. And the many weddings reserved for the Pergola will go on as planned, with the view of the construction screened and also offset by a renewed view of the Duke Chapel through the trees.

Duke Gardens is taking great care to retain the original materials from this historic part of the Gardens, notes director of horticulture Bobby Mottern, who is overseeing the project. A stonemason will remove the Duke stone that forms the pool and take it off site to clean and reshape it before reinstalling it once the storm-water system is repaired.

The fish from the pool, meanwhile, have been moved to storage tanks near the greenhouses, with some going into the pond in the Asiatic Arboretum. When the Terrace pool is rebuilt, the water will be filtered, enabling visitors to see the fish more easily.

Nearby, the Rose Circle will get a dramatic new centerpiece: the Roney Fountain, a feature on Duke's east campus since 1901, when the campus was Trinity College. The fountain has been in disrepair for decades, but it will be fully restored in its new home – including some lost elements.

The Doris Duke Center Gardens are also undergoing some changes, including a major renovation of the centerpiece Page White Garden, to better integrate with the Doris Duke Center and the Angle Amphitheatre and their many events, and to serve as a more stunning backdrop.



*(top): the Roney Fountain, in its original glory
(below): the Fish Pool, drained for repair*

Landscape architect Sam Reynolds is designing the project, which will include new steps at the center of the amphitheatre seating area – the better for bridal parties to enter – and a larger pergola replacing the small one next to the Virtue Peace Pond.

The new White Garden will take some inspiration from the white garden at Sissinghurst Castle in England, says Mottern, whose aim is to have plants in bloom at least three seasons each year.

The design is expected to be finished by the end of April, with construction this summer and large shrub plantings following in October. During the project, the area will be kept beautiful with temporary plantings and seasonal color.

“We’re taking it to another level,” says executive director Bill LeFevre, who expects the garden to reach its full splendor by spring of 2011. 🌱

news & notes

HELP YOUR GARDEN GROW

Sarah P. Duke Gardens is pleased to announce a new Home Horticulture Certificate program, designed for the life-long learner interested in gardening.

Every garden is a unique combination of site, soil, climate and the gardener who nurtures it. This certificate program will give you the knowledge and skill to select plants successfully, develop and grow your landscape garden, and then maintain the garden and plants.

The curriculum will focus on practical knowledge presented in lectures, demonstrations, field experiences and design projects. You will master the gardening techniques best suited to North Carolina and enjoy learning from local experts while meeting other gardeners from your community.

The program offers seven required courses and a minimum of four elective courses to complete your certificate. The required courses will introduce you to a wide variety of landscape plants, basic botany and plant growth, gardening skills and garden maintenance. Electives are created in response to student requests, allowing students to pursue their specific interests.

The Home Horticulture Certificate Program joins two other certificates offered at Sarah P. Duke Gardens, the Master Naturalists and Nature Photography certificate programs.

For a complete program description, please visit www.sarahpdukegardens.org or call 919-668-1707.



BOARD SPOTLIGHT



The Sarah P. Duke Gardens Board of Advisors was a perfect fit for Ellen Adams, whose professional experience ranges from editing to fundraising and serving on a school board, and whose love of gardening dates back to her childhood in Montgomery, Ala.

Adams also has deep Duke ties. While studying political science at Duke, she met her husband, Rex D. Adams, who would later become dean of the Fuqua School of Business. She served on the Duke Library Board and was also newsletter editor and president of the Campus Club.

As she prepares to leave the board this spring after two terms, Adams shared some thoughts about the many gardens in her life:

"My mother gave me my first garden and a whole lot of seeds when I was 7 years old. Fortunately, she hired someone to dig it for me or I might have quit then! After marriage, I didn't have much of a chance to garden until 1972 in England. My neighbor was the daughter of a famous rose garden owner and taught me how to take care of the little rose garden that came with our house. I never looked back after that.

I experimented with lots of different types of gardens when we got to New York and had some land. I had a rock garden, vegetables, roses, a shade garden. It was probably a big jumble, but I loved it.

When we went to Virginia, we had a new house on the edge of an animal preserve and I was able to create my very own garden from scratch. I also learned a lot about wild animals: snakes, deer, bears, turkeys, beavers, foxes, raccoons, once a mountain lion and even a monkey escapee. I used to work until dark every night I could. Fortunately, Rex traveled a lot. In North Carolina, we had a small native garden at first, but when I found out that Hillsborough's Chatwood with its gardens was for sale, we bought it and I had my best

gardening years ever. In addition, my husband and I became active in historic preservation as we took care of our 200-year-old house. We continue to be involved with Burwell School in Hillsborough and the Alliance for Historic Hillsborough, as well as the Historic Society of Falmouth, Mass.

Now, I have a tiny but almost perfect garden in Hillsborough. I also have an acre and a half in Cape Cod, which is divided into many "garden rooms." There are roses, fish ponds, shade gardens, a pool garden (for laps but made to look like a reflecting pond), a secret garden and more. The most challenging there is growing vegetables. The season is short. Each year I try new strategies for vegetables, pots one year, raised beds once, mixing with perennials and annuals, but no perfect solution yet. I recently read about running pond water through pipes to feed and water vegetables. Maybe that's next!

PREPARE THE POPCORN

Last summer's inaugural Movies in the Gardens by Twilight series on the South Lawn was well received, though the weather wreaked havoc with the schedule, pushing it into fall. The classic musicals went over well with the family crowds, and director of administrative operations Paul Kartcheske – the man behind the big screen – hopes to continue the series this summer.

Check our website or our Facebook fan page this summer for more information.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

A big welcome to the new members of Sarah P. Duke Gardens' Advisory Board. The Gardens welcomes supporters interested in lending their expertise and passion for the Gardens by serving on its boards or committees. If you'd like more information, please contact Teresa Dark, assistant director of development.

Here's a brief introduction to each of our new board members:

BRYNDL BARTTER A Duke junior from Illinois, Bryndl is our only student board member. She is majoring in economics and English, and she serves on the executive board of Chi Omega, as well as the Gardens' Committee on University and External Relations. Bryndl fell in love with the Gardens when she began studying outdoors instead of at Duke's libraries. She also enjoys skating, dancing and golf.

JOSEPH D. ROWAND The owner and director of Durham's Somerhill Gallery, a commercial fine art gallery specializing in Southeastern U.S. artists, Joseph also lectures about art and serves as a juror for shows and exhibitions. He studied at Southern Illinois University, the Ontario School of Art, Parsons School of Design and New York's School of Visual Arts. He received the Reign Ashton Award for outstanding volunteer service from the former Duke Museum of Art. And he serves on numerous boards and committees, from the American Craft Council to the Association for American Dance Festival, and Duke's Theatre Studies Council and President's Art Museum Committee.

COURTNEY SHIVES, JR. Courtney is the longtime owner of Middleearth, which restores historic properties in downtown Greenville, S.C., for commercial and residential use. A Duke graduate, Courtney earned his MBA from the University of Colorado and his PhD from the University of Oregon. His father founded the Greenville Rose Society and his mother was a garden club president, so it's natural that Courtney has had a lifelong love of gardens. His other interests include bicycling, gourmet cooking, photography and collecting photographic art. He has served two terms on Duke Gardens' board of advisors and is now returning for a third.

got questions? we've got answers

The Garden Ambassador outreach program has been changed in an effort to extend a warmer welcome to visitors. Ambassadors will be stationed at strategic locations within the Gardens to better assist visitors with directions and answers to questions about the Gardens.

We have also renewed and expanded our partnership with the Durham County Master Gardener program. Beginning this spring, volunteer master gardeners will staff shifts within the Gardens to answer specific gardening and plant questions.

We hope you'll take advantage of these volunteers' expertise next time you come to the Gardens. 🌸 🌸 🌸

(pictured): Gardens ambassador Charity Cole



2009 INTERNS

The Gardens' summer interns brought us a wealth of knowledge, tremendous ambition and fond memories. During their 12-week stay with us, all three of them had an independent project to complete and present to us before they headed back to school.

BETH RUDD, a graduate of George Washington University, designed a landscape plan to expand the size of the Honey Patch community garden, a plot of land tended by Duke's Farmhand organization.

TYLER PARKER, a junior from N.C. State University, enjoyed showing us his video that showcased an array of interviews with Gardens visitors.

CHELCEY BEHM, a student from Delaware Valley College, compiled a huge list of former Gardens interns and Duke Work-Study students to find out how Duke Gardens impacted their lives with regard to their careers in horticulture.

Our staff is always impressed with the quality of projects that these students do in such a short time with us.

The summer passed by quickly, as it normally does, but not without a wedding celebration for one of our interns, Beth Rudd, on her last day at the Gardens.

— Michelle Stay



HEALING & HOPE AT APGA

Duke Gardens' Healing and Hope Through Science will step into the national spotlight in June, when program coordinator and educator Katie Vogel appears at the American Public Gardens Association's annual conference in Atlanta.

Vogel's presentation is titled "Monarchs, Maples and Medicine: Taking the Garden to the Pediatric Hospital and Exploring Ways to Extend Your Current Programming to Reach Diverse Audiences." Susan Trabka, a UNC hospital school teacher, will join her, as will Carolyn Schneiders, a child life specialist at Duke Children's Hospital. Connie Cottingham, of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, will be the moderator.

Vogel has run Healing and Hope Through Science for four years, bringing curriculum-based science and nature activities to about 1,200 children at Duke and UNC children's hospitals. She was also named Tar Heel of the Week by the Raleigh News & Observer in October. Read more about her program at www.healingandhopethroughscience.org.



a closer look: Duke Gardens curators on interesting plants in their gardens



AROMATIC ASTER (a)

There is perhaps no native perennial from this part of the country that creates more impact in the landscape than aromatic aster. Found in the wild from New York to Texas, *Sympyotrichum oblongifolium* creates a unique presence. More shrubby in form than your average wildflower, this floriferous member of the aster family offers a violet cloud of color 5 feet tall by 4 to 5 feet wide. Capable of tolerating some light shade, this is an ideal specimen for a wood-edge border planting or a woodland planting with high shade. Give it full sun and it gets bigger and beefier. The best trait I have found, however, is Aromatic Aster's ability to attract a mind-boggling diversity of insect pollinators to a garden. I have seen butterflies, beetles, flies, bees and wasps all congregating on the same plant by the hundreds. You need only connect the dots in the food chain to imagine the number of reptiles, amphibians, small mammals and birds that can be sustained by the insect protein you've brought to the table with your *Syphyotrichum oblongifolium*. Try it out!

— Stefan Bloodworth, Curator, Blomquist Garden of Native Plants

ORIENTAL PAPER BUSH (b)

During the last days of winter, an unusual flowering shrub grabs the attention of anyone who sees it. This distinct plant is the Oriental paper bush, *Edgeworthia chrysantha*. The paper bush's yellow and white tubular flowers are clustered like starbursts on bare stems during February and March. This easy to grow deciduous shrub grows 5 to 6 feet tall and wide in sun to part shade. It prefers a rich, organic, moist soil that doesn't dry out. The slightly fragrant flowers perk up the landscape when there is very little else blooming and give us hints of the approaching spring.

— Mike Owens, Curator, Historic Gardens



ARISAEMA SIKOKIANUM (c)

Commonly referred to as cobra lilies, the genus *Arisaema* has witnessed a great surge in popularity among gardeners in recent years. *Arisaemas* are tuberous herbs imminently well suited for woodland gardens, as is evidenced by the native eastern North American species *Arisaema triphyllum*, a fairly common inhabitant of rich, lowland forests. *A. triphyllum* is locally known as Jack-in-the-Pulpit, a reference to the flower morphology in which "Jack" is the spadix, a specialized reproductive structure in aroids, and he stands within an elegantly modified bract called a spathe. Among the 150 or so *Arisaema* species worldwide, the spathe and spadix vary greatly in color, size and presentation. For gardeners in temperate regions, the clear winner for beauty is *A. sikokianum*, named for the small southern Japanese island of Shikoku from which it was described. Shikoku cobra lily sports a spathe that is black on the lower surface, and lighter with prominent stripes above. The interior of the spathe and the spherical tip of the spadix are glowing white. Hard to describe, easy to appreciate once you've seen it. You can find them in the arboretum in mid-April.

— Paul Jones, Curator, Culberson Asiatic Arboretum

HELLEBORES (d)

Wow, what a show for the winter garden, blooming at a time when spring is knocking at the door with crocus, daffodils, cyclamen and witch-hazel to boast as companions. The genus *Helleborus* comprises quite a few species and numerous hybrids. These plants, mostly known as Lenten roses, are evergreen perennials that enjoy the lightly shaded woodland environment. Once established, they are very tolerant of drier conditions and resistant to pesky deer.

— Jason Holmes, Curator, Doris Duke Center Gardens



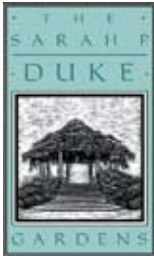
Is there a plant at Duke Gardens that you're curious about?

REQUEST A CLOSER LOOK AT IT BY WRITING TO FLORA AT ORLA.SWIFT@DUKE.EDU.

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Groundbreakers Society: \$50-\$249

(Student Groundbreakers – current students with valid ID: \$15)

Benefits include:

- Flora newsletter and Annual Report
- Invitations to special Friends events
- Education program discounts at Duke Gardens & other participating gardens
- Reciprocal admissions benefits to gardens throughout the United States
- 10% discount on Terrace Gift Shop purchases
- Invitation to preview sales preceding semi-annual Plant & Craft Festivals

Terraces Society: \$250-\$999

Groundbreakers benefits plus:

- 10 % discount on Gothic Bookstore purchases
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Pergola Society: \$1,000-\$2,499

- Terraces benefits plus:
- Complimentary Gardens parking
- Two complimentary Groundbreakers gift memberships.

Directors Society: \$2,500-\$4,999

Pergola benefits plus:

- Special tour of the Gardens and reception with members of the Directors Society
- Three complimentary Groundbreakers gift memberships

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- A plant propagated from Duke Gardens stock (available at the Gardens' Annual Spring Plant & Craft Festival, or upon request; plants cannot be mailed)
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- Flora Newsletter
- Annual Report
- Invitations to special events
- One free space rental at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens or Doris Duke Center (Monday-Thursday) per availability within membership year

All Friends memberships are part of the Duke Annual Fund and are used entirely for the benefit and purposes of Duke Gardens. Duke alumni also receive reunion class gift credit.

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