



JC Raulston Arboretum

AT NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Planning and planting for a better world

Friends of the JC Raulston Arboretum Newsletter

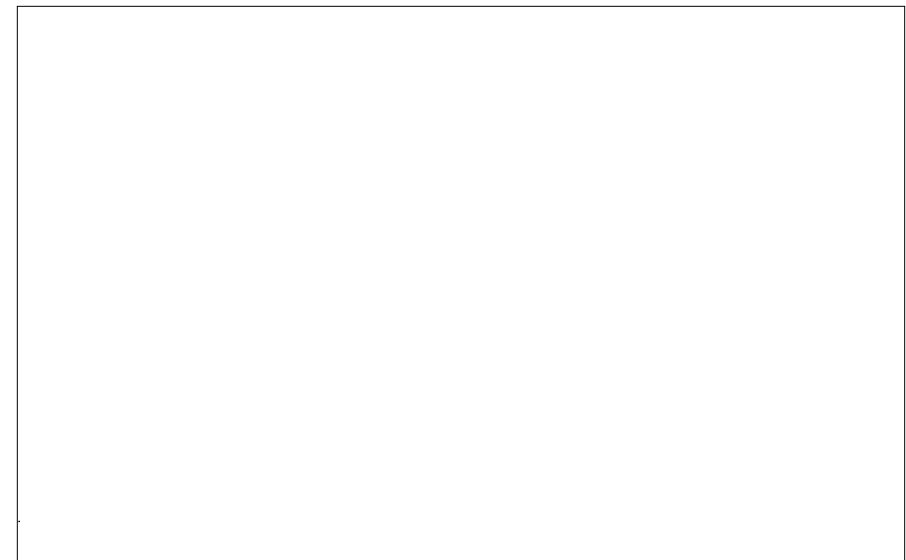
Number 6, Winter 1998-99

Director's Letter

by Bryce Lane

Winter greetings from the JC Raulston Arboretum! After having a mild and dry late fall we were hit with a pretty heavy holiday ice storm. With heavy freezing rain that started on December 23rd and coated plants with about a good quarter inch of ice before stopping on the 24th it is amazing that we did not have more damage than we did. The Arboretum only lost a few plants, but had lots of broken branches throughout the garden. Mitzi, Karen and Anita have spent many hours after the holiday break cleaning up after the storm. It always amazes me how resilient the arboretum is when severe weather hits. It really may be a commentary on how tough ornamental plants really are and how a garden can tolerate much adversity and still reward us with tremendous beauty. Please be sure to visit us this winter, for this season is one of the best times to visit our garden.

As most of you know, our new arboretum director, Dr. Bob Lyons, will be coming on board officially February 1st. We are very excited about having Bob join our department and I am confident that he will provide dynamic leadership for the arboretum. He



A sign of the times -- Bryce Lane, right, passes the torch of leadership to new director Bob Lyons. Photo by Betty Coleman

truly has the ability to take the arboretum to the next level as a university public garden. I leave the interim directorship with mixed emotions. I am relieved to finally get back to having only one full time job, and my family is excited about seeing me again. On the other hand, I will miss being so closely connected to and with the arboretum and all the people that work so hard for this organization. The staff and volunteers have done incredible things in the past two years and I continue to marvel at all that we have been able to accomplish. Thanks to the efforts of our

University, Horticultural Science Department Head, faculty members, staff, volunteers, and Friends of the Arboretum, the JC Raulston Arboretum has been able to continue moving forward. New plants continued to come in from friends over the country and the world and new gardens have been planted and are being cared for by our volunteer curators. The JC Raulston Arboretum Selection program is now established and making a difference in our NC industry. I want to thank the North Carolina Association of

See **Director's Letter**, page 20

Table of Contents

Plant News.....	3	Nursery News.....	16
Garden News.....	7	PublicationNews.....	17
Development News.....	10	Membership News.....	18
Volunteer News.....	12		

First Contact

by Bob Lyons

Relax, this won't be some quixotic, allegorical, Star Trek treatment of my first letter to you. I've just always thought it was a great phrase to describe the initial meeting of two parties, alien or not. I think that readers should be reminded occasionally that there's a gap between the time a newsletter article is written and when it appears in print. The ambience of the moment can have a profound effect on tone, style, and content of what's actually written. To illustrate the point, I'm pounding this out a few days before Christmas, the night before I actually shut down my Virginia Tech office of 17 years, on a computer whose inextricable partnership entitles it to some credit in whatever success I've enjoyed, in a completely deserted campus building. The movers have "boxed" my house with a return appointment scheduled for tomorrow's loading. I've briefed my own successor, wished him luck, and turned over the records; said countless farewells and still feel like I'm missing someone; and am using the power of wishful thinking to insure a snow and ice-free trip down I-77 at Fancy Gap Mountain. And lest you think this is the start of a saccharin prelude equivalent to John Boy's soliloquy upon leaving Walton's Mountain, lose the tissues! The fact of the matter is that I would not have

accepted the position if professional closure were not at least imminent in my mind. I take great pride in what we've accomplished at Virginia Tech and I owe a tremendous debt to those who helped in the process....but I'm not leaving them behind, I'm taking them with me to North Carolina, at least in spirit!

I owe many thanks to Bryce Lane for his help and patience as I continue to make this transition; and to the staff, volunteers, and board members who have been exceptional in their inclusion efforts to date. And by the way, do any of you ever sleep??? The challenge before all of us at the JC Raulston Arboretum (JCRA) is to focus on strengthening our familiar mission, as well as capitalize on opportunities to expand it in traditional and non-conventional ways. The unique staffing structure of JCRA means that we should work towards empowering our curators, students, and other volunteers so that they can maximize the expression of their talents and do what they do best. I hope to further engage North Carolina's nursery and landscape industries; they are integral to our mission and are one of the main vehicles in achieving it. The bottom line, perhaps, is to remain cognizant of our influence in the university, department, industry, and community arenas. Every small thing that we do has the potential to represent any of them, and nothing is too small to be insignificant.

In this, my first letter to you, I would rather avoid the

announcement of a huge litany of projects, initiatives, proposals, and promises. Suffice it to say, these will follow in time by either a trickle or avalanche, and you'll hear about them! I believe that good communications are vital to the success of any institution and individual, so don't be surprised if I "let the cat out of the bag" prematurely for future news.....some would consider it a personal character flaw, others love the chance to share my enthusiasm for things to come, even if we're not sure they'll be etched in stone. It makes for an exciting adventure. In this regard, I've already been asked for my "vision" for JCRA. Yet, in my brief exposure to everyone connected to this arboretum, the difficulty in constructing one quickly became apparent. With a secure mission, our vision should be derived from the ideas of many. One of my biggest personal challenges will be meeting so many of you to listen to your ideas. My first year will be filled with introductions but in case you're not in those audiences, there's always snail mail and email. For the latter, my address is: "bob_lyons@ncsu.edu" I sense the floodgates opening with this invitation so please be patient in waiting for a response!

In closing, many thanks for this privilege and the opportunity to work with you as we close out this century.....I couldn't be more excited about my impending responsibilities! Stay in touch! ■

Plant News

Hellebores

by Daniel Hinkley

It has been longer than a decade now since I have come to know the hellebore. I have sown its seed, grown resultant seedlings, and waited for the inaugural blossoming. By no means have I become an expert in ten seasons, but I have had sufficient time to embrace this genus, to learn of its subtleties and mysteries, its demands and crankiness; certainly time enough to conjure associations of hellebore season.

Hellebore season. It resonates with images and aromas, so much like other short, yearly appointments with things we love; Walla Walla sweets, Copper River reds, morel mushrooms. The time of hellebores, though, is profoundly less carnal, with its chilled, lean mornings and whisperings of lengthening days. There may be at times the soft rain that we welcome during the shy months, or light snow, and perhaps the faintest trill of chickadees and bush tits. There is nothing so complex as the garden of early summer, with nervous nesting birds, maddening weeds, and wild colors that flash and then evaporate.

Because of hellebores, my garden no longer opens and closes like a book of seasons, or floods from blackness to brilliance at some mythical switch of light. The garden now simply narrows to that

corridor of late summer, and moves on to late autumn, to the thin days of early winter, and then swells again in early spring. Certainly, it is not just the hellebore that takes me full circle. There are witch hazels and viburnums, the brilliant striated bark of maples and the precious flowers and foliage of cyclamen. In fact, dozens of plants beg me to stay the course; to wake and walk the garden in this quiet and cold season when most gardeners have retreated to the warm indoors. But in the midst of high summer's sultry, exuberant activity, it is the hellebores I look forward to most. With each turn of autumn leaf, and every morning frost that perches upon the garden, excitement mounts for what lies ahead, and I hold vigil for the first hellebore blossoms.

Hellebores are slow. Achingly slow to build in girth, and exasperating slow to push forth bud and blossom. In late autumn, if I dig with my fingers through the crowns of the plants, I can find the plump flower buds prepared for emergence. There is no pleading with them, no hoping for expedience. They tease with the same wrapped anticipation of a child's gift. And I know that, in this slow coldness, what takes so annoyingly long to begin will take an equally long period to complete. Hellebores have taught me the torment of slow motion in the garden, but also its astounding glory.

Then, the flowers: rarefied but brawny. Fluid, pale hues gradually intensify to supersaturated damsons, crimsons, and jades; butter-scotch or pure white stars pierced with a boss of golden stamens. Nodding, shimmering satin cups that must be lifted for a full appreciation of the speckled inside, if speckling exists at all. None the matter. Look at this, the one we

have called Mandela. Now, from mid-February to late May, the deepest, blackest blossoms are finally upon us. I round the corner, week after week, and come upon the nightfall blossoms facing the low-angled sun. Moments later, I turn my head for another glimpse, over my shoulder toward the morning light. The flowers are no longer the black of satin but that of the richest Merlot held to a candle. Hellebores change by the moment and by the season; yet theirs is a methodical progression. Nothing here and gone. They age at the same pace as keg Scotch whiskey or a rich Gouda.

We porter pollen from flower to flower during this season; from a good grape to our best clear primrose; from a perfect pink goblet to a black picotee with rose. With a simple brush to the stigma of the mother plant, we effect the release of dreams weighted with chromosomes, dreams carried down the style to the unfertilized ovules, dreams birthed by fertilization. When frigid air from the Gulf of Alaska glides southward and settles over our garden, the eager, open flowers deflate like punctured egos. Surely this time they cannot withstand this cold. Too far along in blossom, I think. Too cold. They lie defeated and water-soaked, an unshaven look of frost upon their tissue. On the third day, the winter storms move eastward and the grip of the cold weakens. In early morning, by the time I have risen to assess the damage, the hellebores are revived, but with the slightest sleepy yawn to their flowers. And then, like wings of butterflies that emerge damp and shriveled from a cocoon, they fully expand again.

See **Hellebores**, next page

Plant News

Hellebores, continued

We harvest our hopes in June, when they are black and shiny and they are quickly sown. In winter, the first of the seedlings appear. Leaf by leaf, the expectations grow, and then, the first blossoms in just a year. Some are better than others; some are disappointing and are released, and some gather us around like Druids to marvel. We have grown dreams for an entire year; large flowers of butter yellow, facing outward, of black purple like overripe grapes, or of flaring reds lit by the winter sun in this deeply quiet and slow garden.

Finally, the last flower fades to an almost imperceptible shade. The season has been long and we are full and satisfied. Yet, though their leaves and stems are battered, and we are suffering the demands of a petulant summer garden, they are not ignored. In this flickering, swimming, drunken season of high gardening, I would not risk compromising their chances of storing the sun for the incoming winter. The winter ahead; the season of hellebores.

Thank you to longtime Arboretum supporter Daniel Hinkley for his permission to reprint this beautiful essay from My Favorite Plant: Writers and Gardeners on the Plants They Love, Edited by Jamaica Kincaid, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York. Daniel's mail order nursery, Heronswood, near Seattle, WA, lists many hellebores. They can be contacted by phoning 306-297-4172. -- JN ■

Bright red petals with a yellow halo of stamens characterizes the new *Camellia japonica* 'Dr. J.C. Raulston.' Photo by Ray Bond

New Camellia named in JC's Honor

Below is information supplied by Ray Bond about his new Camellia. For more information, contact Ray Bond, Bond Nursery Corporation, 6420 Del Norte Lane, Dallas, TX 75225, phone: 214-739-8586, FAX: 214-739-8238. — JN

'Dr. J.C. Raulston' has a bright red to red orange, full anemone form flower, 5 1/4" to 5 1/2" in diameter. Bright red petaloids in the center of the bloom are surrounded by a bright yellow "halo" of stamens, 1 1/2" to 2" in diameter. This camellia blooms heavily from mid winter to early spring. Show quality.

Leaves are large, dark green, leathery and lustrous with serrated edges.

A nursery grown 4 year plant will be 3' to 3 1/2' tall and 1 1/2' feet wide. The typical 12-year plant will be 10' to 12' tall and 5' to 6' in diameter.

The 'Dr. J.C. Raulston' is a chance seedling camellia japonica, parentage unknown.

'Dr. J.C. Raulston' is a preferred C. japonica for the landscape and a superior show plant. Zone 8 – 9, zone 7b with some protection.

'Dr. J.C. Raulston' is a C. japonica developed and propagated by Bond Nursery Corp., Dallas, TX. ■

Plant News

1998 Summer Bedding Plant Trials

by Douglas Bailey
Associate Professor Department of
Horticultural Science, NC State
University

Each year the colorful and educational annual trials are enjoyed at the Arboretum. Below is a summary from the summer of 1998, just in time to get in your seed orders. -- JN

Over 515 entries of annual plants were evaluated during the 1998 bedding plant season at test gardens in Raleigh, North Carolina. The trial gardens are used each year to evaluate bedding plants for landscaper and home owner use.

The trial gardens are located at the Horticulture Field Lab, 4301 Beryl Road, in Raleigh. The site is located on latitude 35°47'N, longitude 78°42'W with an elevation of 400 feet. Transplants were grown in 2.5 inch by 2.2 inch containers, and most were planted in the trial garden on 12 May 1998. A few slower selections were planted when ready. Plant spacing in the trials was 18 inches (in-row) by 24 inches (between-row spacing). Seven plants of each entry were used to evaluate the performance of the cultivars with the exception of All America Selections judged entries, which had 14 plants each.

All plants were grown in full sun except for begonia, browallia, felicia, fuchsia, hypoestes, impatiens, New Guinea impatiens, primula, setcreasea, and torenia; these were grown under 55% shade. When needed, water was applied using overhead irrigation. Temperatures were slightly warmer than normal during May–July and during September; they were

slightly below normal during August (Table 1, Figure 1). Looking at the entire five month season, temperatures averaged 75.5 °F, which is about 1.5% above normal (74.4 °F is our 30 year average daily temperature for May–September).

Rainfall received during the 5-month period (19.36 inches) was below our average of 21.2 inches (Table 1 and Figure 2) and much below our record 35.3 inches of rainfall during the 1996 season. May and June were dryer than average; July was extremely dry. August was well above average, and September was above average for rainfall.

Beds were pretreated with Basamid® for weed control prior to planting. Fertilizer was applied as a preplant incorporation and as dry applications during the bedding plant season. No insecticide applications were made during the evaluation in order to document major pest problems. No major pests were noted during the 1998 season, however the Japanese beetle population seems to increase every year in the gardens. Plant diseases were less prevalent in 1998 than in 1997 or 1996. The lack of rainfall may have accounted for the reduction in diseases such as Rhizoctonia that sometimes present a problem. The major disease problems included Botrytis blight and bacterial leaf spot on geraniums.

Sources of Seeds and Plants

The following companies graciously sponsored the 1998 trial gardens. The companies are acknowledged in the listings by the abbreviation that appears to the left of the company name. Appreciation is also given to Fafard, Inc. and to the North Carolina Commercial Flower Growers' Association for

their contributions towards the trials.

- AAS All-America Selections,
- AT American Takii, Inc.
- BCG Bear Creek Gardens
- BEN Ernst Benary of America,
- BFP BallFloraPlant
- BG Bodger Seeds Ltd.
- BWN Berylwood Nursery, Inc.
- DHN Dæhnfeldt Inc.
- ECKE Paul Ecke Ranch
- FIS Fischer USA, Inc.
- FN Floranova
- GOLD Goldsmith Seeds, Inc.
- GRS Grimes Seeds and Plants
- HWN Homewood Nursery
- NCSU Department of Horticultural Science, NC State U.
- NOV Novartis Flower Seeds, Inc.
- OGL Oglevee, Ltd.
- PA PanAmerican Seed Co.
- SAK Sakata Seed America, Inc.

N.C. State Leaders of the Pack

The following were selected in 1998 on their ability to display attractive landscape color throughout the majority of the bedding plant season. At any one time, other species or entries may have made a better short-term showing, but the "Leaders of the Pack" were selected for consistent, dependable full-season performance as a source of color and beauty in the landscape. The cultivar source is shown in parenthesis.

Ageratum 'Blue Hawaii' (BG)

Begonia (Fibrous)

Coral: 'Super Olympia Coral' (BEN)

Mix: 'Harmony Mix' (BALL),
'Super Olympia Mix' (BEN),
'Espresso Mix' (DHN)

Pink: 'Prelude Pink' (BALL),
'Eureka Green Leaf Pink' (NOV),
'Ambassador Pink' (DHN), 'Super
Olympia Pink' (BEN), 'Victory

See **Trials**, next page

Plant News

Trials, continued

Green Leaf Pink' (GOLD), 'Senator Pink' (DHN)

Red: 'Dragonwing' (PA), 'Vodka' (BEN), 'Super Olympia Red' (BEN), 'Senator Scarlet' (DHN)

Rose: 'Super Olympia Rose' (BEN), 'Senator Rose w/ White Center' (DHN), 'Inferno Rose' (DHN), 'Eureka Bronze Leaf Rose' (NOV)

White: 'Eureka Bronze White' (NOV), 'Inferno White' (DHN), 'Victory Green Leaf White' (GOLD)

Bloodflower

'Orange' (BWN), 'Silky Gold' (BWN)

Celosia 'Prestige Scarlet' (SAK), 'New Look' (BEN)

Coleus

'Alabama Sunset' (BWN), 'Lime Queen' (BWN), 'Gay's Delight' (BWN), 'Camellia' (BWN), 'Black Opal' (BWN)

Dianthus

'Diamond Purple' (SAK)

Fuchsia 'Cascading' (BCG)

Geraniums From Cuttings

Pink: 'Jessica' (OGL)

Red: 'Designer Red' (BFP)

Salmon: 'Schoene Helena' (FIS)

Geraniums From Seed

White: 'Maverick White' (GOLD)

Hypoestes 'Confetti Mix' (DHN)

Impatiens Blue/Violet: 'Accent Lilac' (GOLD), 'Dazzler Lilac Splash' (BALL), 'Mosaic Lilac' (GOLD)

Coral: 'Accent Coral' (GOLD)

Mix: 'Dazzler Star Mix' (BALL),

'Showstopper Sweetness' (BALL)

Orange: 'Carnival Orange' (DHN), 'Deco Orange' (PA)

Pink: 'Cajun Carmine' (NOV),

'Impulse Deep Pink' (NOV),

'Carnival Pink' (DHN)

Red: 'Impulse Red' (NOV), 'Super Elfin Raspberry' (PA), 'Tempo Burgundy' (BG)

Rose: 'Mosaic Rose' (GOLD),

'Accent Bright Eye' (GOLD)

White: 'Accent White' (GOLD),

'Tempo White' (BG), 'Carnival

White' (DHN), 'Fiesta White' (BFP)

Marigold

'Durango Orange' (PA), 'Safari Tangerine' (BG)

Narrow-Leaf Zinnia

'Crystal White' (AT)

New Guinea Impatiens

Blue: 'Celebration Lavender Glow' (BFP), 'Paradise Guadeloupe' (ECKE)

Orange: 'Paradise Timor' (ECKE)

Orange/Red: 'Paradise Antiqua' (ECKE), 'Pure Beauty Apollon' (ECKE)

Pink: 'Paradise Tonga' (ECKE), 'Paradise Pascua' (ECKE), 'Paradise Woya' (ECKE)

Red: 'Paradise Tarawa' (ECKE),

'Pure Beauty Marpesia' (ECKE)

Rose: 'Pure Beauty Aglia' (ECKE), 'Celebration Rose' (BFP)

White: 'Deka White' (OGL),

'Paradise Samoa' (ECKE)

Petunia

Blue/Purple: 'Misty Lilac Wave' (PA), 'Purple Wave' (AAS), 'Surfinia Purple' (BCG), 'Trailblazer Violet' (NOV), 'Hurrah Plum' (NOV)

Pink: 'Surfinia Pastel Pink' (BCG),

'Surfinia Brilliant Pink' (BCG)

Rose: 'Rose Wave' (PA),

'Liricashower Rose' (SAK),

'PrimeTime Rose' (GOLD)

White: 'Surfinia White' (BCG)

Plectranthus

'Silver' (BWN), 'Variegata' (BWN)

Salvia

Blue: 'Reference' (BEN), 'Signum' (BG) Purple: 'Purple Vista' (PA), 'Salsa Light Purple' (GOLD), 'Lavender Vista' (PA)

Red: 'Red Hot Sally' (BALL), 'Red Vista' (PA) Red/White: 'Salsa Scarlet Bicolor' (GOLD)

Rose: 'Salsa Rose' (GOLD)

White: 'White Vista' (PA)

Scaevola

'Outback Purple Fan' (ECKE)

Sweet Potato

'Pink Frost' (BWN), 'Blackie' (BWN), '99' (NCSU), 'Sulfur' (BWN)

Torenia

'Blue' (BCG)

Verbena

Blue/Purple: 'Temari Violet' (BCG), 'Tapien Blue Violet' (BCG), 'Polaris' (BEN), 'Tapien Lavender' (BCG), 'Tapien Powder Blue' (BCG)

Pink: 'Tapien Soft Pink' (BCG)

Red: 'Quartz Scarlet' (PA), 'Temari Red' (HWN)

Vinca Pink: 'Raspberry Red Cooler' (PA)

Red: 'Pacifica Red' (AAS)

Rose: 'Rose Cooler' (PA)

Zinnia

'Profusion Orange' (SAK), 'Profusion Cherry' (SAK)

NCSU Exceptional Performance Winners

Each year, the best of the best, those cultivars that exemplify outstanding performance during the trials, will be recognized as Exceptional Performers. The winners are judged on full-season performance and are recommended as outstanding selections for our region. Growers, retailers and landscapers are encouraged to consider these cultivars first for their color needs. Only five cultivars were selected from 517 entries in the 1998 trial garden. The source of the plants are given for each winner:

1998 Winners

1. Petunia, 'Surfinia Pastel Pink' Bear Creek Gardens
2. Petunia, 'Rose Wave' PanAmerican Seed Company
3. Petunia, 'Misty Lilac Wave' PanAmerican Seed Company
4. Begonia, 'Dragonwing' PanAmerican Seed Company
5. Scaevola, 'Outback Purple Fan' Paul Ecke Ranch ■

Garden News

Changes

by Charlotte Presley

Lath House: an area where shade-tolerant plants are grown.

Curator: a person in charge of a collection.

Volunteer: a person who offers himself/herself for a service without obligation to do so.


Resignation: the act of resigning.

The above definitions all point to one thing: regretfully, I'm finding myself having to resign as curator of the Lath House. Following in the footsteps of curator **Rosemary Kautzky** has been a delight and I have enjoyed working in this special garden for the past year and a half. I've learned a great deal about the plants and the Lath House volunteers. What a great group of dedicated and knowledgeable gardeners! Many, many thanks to **Rosanna Adams**, **Tina Oberlee** and **Bob Roth** for all their hard work and camaraderie ... couldn't have done it without them. Bob has generously accepted the curatorship for which I am both relieved and grateful. Thanks, Bob. ■

Please see the Volunteer Spotlight on page 14 for more about Charlotte. -- JN



This fall, Milo the cat spent six weeks in a cage healing from a broken leg. Milo and the staff have fully recuperated. Above, gardener Anita Kuehne and Milo enjoy a sunny break in the Japanese Garden. Photo by Jonathan Nyberg



"If I only had a few more books, I could get this connoisseur list finished!" laments Douglas Ruhren. Photo by Jonathan Nyberg

Winter Tree Work and Wonders

by Guy Meilleur

Disrobing in front of an observer in midwinter can reveal a great deal. Inches that were added due to good nourishment can easily be noticed. Without decorative covering, areas of asymmetry can be identified and hopefully be dealt with. I'm not getting personal here, I'm just talking about the examination of a tree's structure after it has shed its leaves.

Pruning branches is a practice everyone is familiar with. But what about pruning roots? When a branch wraps around a trunk, removing it is one of several options. When a root wraps around a trunk, the same options exist. Right across the Arboretum parking lot from the akebia arbor entranceway is a willow oak, *Quercus phellos*, that just had one of these girdling roots partially removed.

The indentation in the buttress root shows the squeeze that this tree was putting on itself. Pick up the severed portion of the root that lies next to it, so much heavier than an uncompressed root would be. Imagine the forces at work over the years as one part of this tree wrestled with the other! You might also observe that part of the girdling root, with notches cut into it, is still attached to the trunk. See where the trunk tissue above it has done-lapped over the root. Like cutting new notches in a belt to deal with Done-lap's Disease in humans, notches were cut in the root to allow expansion of the trunk under it. Simply removing this portion of the root would have torn this bark

off the trunk, opening an infection court. Since tree doctors also try to follow the Hippocratic maxim—first, do no harm—the notched root is left to gradually rot away, and the buttress root will continue adding support for the oak's growing crown.

Like cutting new notches in a belt to deal with Done-lap's Disease in humans, notches were cut in the root to allow expansion of the trunk under it.

A sealant was applied at the root's origin. It has been many years since Dr. Alex Shigo's research revealed that sealants can do more harm than good. New compounds prove much more adherent than the asphalt-based glop that bubbles up, trapping in moisture and decay instead of sealing it out. In many cases it's still better to let the tree seal itself, but as Dr. Shigo said in the introduction to [A New Tree Biology](#), "Education starts when you doubt something. Education occurs when you resolve your doubts." And experience leaves no doubt that sealants have a place in arboriculture.

The word arboriculture has been misspelled for two reasons. It leaves the subject free of ego (keeping the "i" out), and, seriously, it avoids having the word mispronounced. Dr. Ted Bilderback of the NCSU

Horticulture Department once taught an excellent course in tree care called Urban Plant Management. He told his students that ar-BOR'-i cul-ture was the wrong pronunciation because the subject is not boring. I hope you'll agree that he was right.

A careful reader noticed an apparent error when I wrote in the last issue that root zones of Arboretum trees were inoculated with mycorrhizae to increase root function. Since mycorrhizae (literally, fungus-roots) are symbiotic structures made of fungus AND roots, and commercial products contain spores of mycorrhiza-forming fungi, was it really mycorrhiza that were applied, or just spores? The answer is, yes, and yes.

Plant Health Care, Inc. is a company founded by Dr. Donald Marx, formerly of the NCSU Plant Pathology Department, which produces spores of mycorrhiza-producing fungus in combination with other soilbuilding material such as beneficial bacteria and humic acid. Much research has been published recently confirming the effectiveness of building soil with this product. Some of this product was used, along with roots and soil containing active mycorrhizae freshly harvested from forest trees. More research is under way to determine how much of this benefit is due to aeration and incorporation of organic matter, and we're trying to cover all the bases.

So while you're checking out the structure of all your organisms this winter, take a look at the bottom of your trees as well as the tops. You may be surprised at what you see!

Guy has been taking care of Arboretum trees for many, many years. Thanks for all of your help, Treeguy! -- JN ■

Garden of Winter Delights

by Jonathan Nyberg

November is a transition time in the winter garden — planting, pruning, mulching and generally priming for the season. Thus, it is very important to have fragrant plants and some fall color for the enjoyment of the gardener. This is the second year that the loquat, *Eriobotrya japonica*, has bloomed throughout November and what a sweet scent it is. It's placed so the casual visitor will not see it as they stroll through the winter garden. The best place to view it is from the bench in the Elizabeth Lawrence garden. Sit and let your gaze rise above the Nellie Stevens hedge. In fact that bench is a highly recommended place for sitting in the winter to view various *Prunus mumes* as the flowering branches tower over the dried grasses of Doug and Edith's perennial border.

For fall color in the winter garden, the five foot tall weeping *Acer palmatum* 'Red Select' is really all that is necessary – stoplight red cutleaves that amazingly keep their color as they lay on the ground providing weeks of the most beautiful mulch. A bonus of the many dogwoods and maples planted for their colored limbs is that most of them also provide colored leaves in the fall.

There is a large miscanthus in E19 that I cut back twice, meaning to kill it with a chemical which I never got around to applying, so it begged for its life this November by displaying an irresistible fall color. It then surrounded itself with the intense contrasting green of a giant dwarf buford holly, the huge *Osmanthus armatus* and an adult ivy. In addition, it perfectly echoed

the rusty underside of a nearby little gem magnolia hedge. I think the only response to this crafty miscanthus is to cut down the holly and osmanthus, thereby robbing it of its physical and aesthetic protection. I know this sounds brutal but when I look at these large specimen shrubs all I do is estimate the number of new hellebores that could be planted in that space.

It's not as if the winter garden is lacking in evergreen, background hedging! After all, behind the holly and osmanthus is the 300 foot long Nellie Stevens hedge which forms the spine of the entire Arboretum. (I will try and resist calling it the "backside of the Nellie Stevens hedge," though I know that is how everyone thinks of it.) In fact, there are probably few gardeners who have inherited as small a garden with as good of large, evergreen hedges as I have in the winter garden. So much so that there was too much of a hallway feeling for my taste. In order to open up the hallway I decided to limb up the *Quercus glauca* located on the north side of the garden. This makes the garden visible to those strolling the northern paths of the east Arboretum and satisfies my desire to lessen the hallway feeling.

The downside of this limbing-up is that the garden is more open to the noises of Beryl Road. Also lost is the privacy of the sitting area where the wooden benches are attached to the ground. There is not much to do about Beryl Road but wait for the hedges along the perimeter fence to grow. But as for the private sitting area, I created a new one under the limbed up 40' high, pre-arboretum Nellie Stevens. Near the two chairs I placed there, I planted 100 winter aconites near the path. As they flower I can sit and ponder on their beauty, as did a poet many years ago.

The Song of the Winter Aconite Fairy

by Cicely Mary Barker

Deep in the earth
I woke, I stirred.
I said: "Was that the Spring I
heard?
For something called!"
"No, no," they said;
"Go back to sleep. Go back to bed.

"You're far too soon;
The world's too cold
For you, so small." So I was told.
But how could I
Go back to sleep?
I could not wait; I had to peep!

Up, up, I climbed,
And here am I.
How wide the earth! How great the
sky!
O wintry world,
See me, awake!
Spring calls, and comes; 'tis no
mistake. ■



Development News

New Members of Arboretum Board of Advisors Installed

Members of the Arboretum board of advisors welcomed six new inductees this fall. New board members include **Jane Avinger, Helen Daughtry, Doris Deal, Frank Grainger, Carolyn Grant, and Noel Lichtin.**

"We're excited about them," said board chairman **Bill Wilder.** Our new board members have diverse interests and plenty of enthusiasm. Our fall retreat was an indication of great things to come in working together with new and old members of the Arboretum board."

Jane Avinger, of Davidson, NC also serves on the boards of Davidson College, Converse College, Davidson Retirement Community, Inc., and the Ada Jenkins Community Center. She is a member of the Davidson Horticultural Symposium Committee, and an elder in the Davidson College Presbyterian Church. She is a former director of the Historic Rosedale Foundation, and former Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Davidson. Avinger studied landscape design at the Inchbald School of Design in England, and was one of the co-founders of Farmhouse Gardeners, a garden center in Statesville. She is married to Robert L. Avinger, Jr., and has two children.

Helen Daughtry, of Smithfield, NC, serves on the boards of the Day by Day Treatment Center, the Johnston County Council on Aging, and the Tryon Palace Council of Friends, and is a past member of the CARE board, which serves underprivileged people in need of day care. She was the 1998 co-chairman for the Children First Gala for NC Child Advocacy. Daughtry lobbied professionally with Tharrington, Smith, and Hargrove, and lobbied for the NC Convenience Store Association, the NC Broadcasters Association, the NC Cable Television Association, and Unisys. She has lived and worked in France and India, and founded Raleigh's first natural foods restaurant.

Doris Deal, of High Point, NC, serves on the Theatre Art Galleries Board, the High Point Regional Hospital Endowment Board, the Raulston Arboretum Campaign Board, and is vice chairman of the High Point Theatre Advisory Commission. She pioneered the concept of regional Friends of the Arboretum events, including the first train tour to the Arboretum. Doris also founded and continues to maintain the Deal Family Garden at Family Services of High Point, a garden that provides respite and a place of beauty for families and staff at the women's shelter and family service center.

Frank Grainger, of Cary, NC, is owner of Fair Products, Inc., Crossroads Travel and Cruise Center, Port of Call Travel, TriTest, Inc., and Family Dairy and Tobacco Farm. He is the co-founder and treasurer of the Tobacco Growers

Association of North Carolina and co-founder and chairman of the Economic Development Coalition - 2000. He serves on the UNC Board of Governors, the Parks Scholarship Board, the Wolfpack Club Board of Directors, the Tobacco Growers Association Board, and the NC Grange Tobacco Executive Board. He is a member of the Southern Crop Protection Association.

Carolyn Grant is president of International Business Development and Real Estate at World Trade Properties in Raleigh, NC. She was the founding owner of Plants by Grant. Grant's other board commitments include the NC Board of Transportation, Raleigh Community Hospital, NC Citizens for Business and Industry, Capital Bank, St. Mary's College, Triangle Transit Authority, the NC Art Museum Foundation, the JC Raulston Arboretum Campaign Board, and the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, of which she is past president. She has won many awards, including the Star Award for Community Service and numerous commendations from the NC Landscape Contractors for interior landscape installations. She was also named one of the 25 most powerful women in the Triangle in 1996.

Noel Lichtin, of Raleigh, NC, also serves on the boards of the Alice Aycock Post Center for Health Education, the Boys and Girls Club, and the Rex Health Care Foundation. She is a trustee at Ravenscroft School. Lichtin is also a Wake County Master Gardener, and currently serves as their program chairman. She has three children.

Jane Hanes, Amaechi Okigbo, and Susan Goodmon rotated off the board. ■

Greensboro

The Greensboro Friends of the Arboretum's community drive for the Raise the Roof Campaign is moving steadily toward a rousing conclusion this coming spring. Already, lead gifts in the "quiet phase" of the campaign have far surpassed the \$50,000 goal, raising \$74,400 for the education center.

"We owe so much to our campaign leadership in Greensboro," said **Catherine Maxwell**, Arboretum director of development. "**Diane Flynt, Chip Callaway, Lotta Dick, and Deborah Glass** have done a masterful job of involving their community, molding a local organization, and following through with the hard work of one on one solicitation. They're terrific!"

Funds raised will support the naming of the entrance garden at the education center in honor of the Greensboro Friends of the Arboretum. A special gift from **Michael and Lynn Haley** will name the vine collection on the center's roof terrace garden in honor of **Chip Callaway**. (See following article)

Other donors of lead gifts to the campaign include **Diane and Chuck Flynt, Deborah and Dennis Glass, Jefferson-Pilot Corporation, Chip Callaway, and Melanie and Robert Ketner**.

The final phase of the Greensboro campaign will conclude this spring, following a reception introducing new Arboretum director **Dr. Robert Lyons**. **Michael and Lynn Haley** will host the gathering in their English-style garden on May 19.

Thanks to the following donors who made lead gifts to the Greensboro campaign for the education center.



The JC Raulston Arboretum thanks these generous individuals for their Leadership Gifts to the Raise the Roof Campaign.

Oak Grove

Diane & Chuck Flynt
Deborah & Dennis Glass
Lynn & Mike Haley
Jefferson-Pilot Corporation

Magnolia Grove

Chip Callaway
Melanie & Robert Ketner

Spruce Grove

Lois & Charles Brummitt
Sally & Alan Cone
Lotta & Allen Dick
Gail & Ken Miller
Mark Peters
Melanie & Bill Soles
Kay Stern

Dogwood Grove

Becky & David Barger
Mary Grover &
David Hagan
Linda & Maurice Jennings
Joanie & Jim Legette
Kathryn & Bobby Long
Virginia Van Story
Pat & John Wilcox

Haley's Gift Honors Callaway

Michael Haley's \$25,000 gift to the Raise the Roof Campaign in honor of **Chip Callaway** came as a big surprise to Chip, but it made perfect sense to Haley.

"We've been working with Chip since 1989," said Haley, "and we've enjoyed every bit of it. We first learned of him when he did a talk for my wife's garden club. Soon after that, we bought an older home that needed work. It's an English Tudor, and we wanted an English garden to compliment the house. We met with Chip to discuss it, and hit it off from the start.

"I retired in 1993, and took up English gardening as a hobby. In fact, I'm one of the few male members of the Greensboro Friends of the Arboretum. A couple years ago, we took a field trip to the Arboretum. I was impressed by JC Raulston's accomplishments, and was struck by his premature death.

"I wanted to do something for the Arboretum in honor of Chip. The naming of the **Callaway Vine Collection** at the Arboretum Education Center seemed a fitting way to achieve that goal."

Chip, needless to say, was thrilled.

"Helping to make Dr. Raulston's education center a reality is the most important goal in my life right now," Callaway said. "You can't imagine how moved I was when Mike and Lynn made this wonderful gift. I think I was speechless for the first time in my life." ■

Volunteer News

by Harriet Bellerjeau

New Volunteers Welcome

The Arboretum looks forward to having you with us. The whole point of volunteering is to learn new skills and knowledge about the Arboretum's collections, receive informal training, make professional contacts, enrich your own life and provide knowledge and pleasure to the public. As you become a part of the Arboretum friends and volunteers, you will bring new interests and experiences to us to share.

Prospective volunteers should contact the Volunteer Office at 919-515-7641 or fill out a Volunteer Interest form, found in the Visitors Center, and return it to the Volunteer Office or mail it to the Volunteer Coordinator. The more information you share about your interests, the better we'll be able to match you with work you'll enjoy. Please keep in mind that the majority of work is accomplished during the week, with weekend work less frequently. You may be asked to contact curators directly to arrange working in the gardens. We are open to you sharing your ideas and comments at any time and look forward to your becoming part of the Arboretum.

Volunteers are encouraged to keep in touch and visit the Volunteer Office located in the brick building to the right of the parking lot at the Arboretum. Volunteers sit in the office which is open several half days per week. **We need more volunteers now to fill in the other**

half days during the week and on weekends starting in April 1999. Should you need to be in touch with the volunteer coordinator or other volunteers please call 919-515-7641 or post a note on the bulletin boards in the Volunteer or Arboretum offices.

Volunteer Benefits

There's a catch saying around the Arb that I love to share. It came from one of our devoted volunteers, **Vivian Finklestein**. "We work for plants." It really does go deeper, but to our enthusiasts their hours are adding up towards membership benefits for one year. It takes \$30 to be a member. Volunteers who continuously maintain 30 hours of volunteer time within a 12 month period are eligible for free membership. Additional hours continuously maintained within a 12 month period build toward additional levels of membership on a one dollar equals one hour basis. Please remember to log your hours!

Glaxo-Wellcome Volunteers

Many of you increase your giving to the Arboretum by including matching gift forms from your employer with your gift. If you work at Glaxo-Wellcome, you can ask them to match your volunteer hours as well.

Full time employees at Glaxo-Wellcome or their spouses who volunteer at any 501(c)(3) organization for 50 or more hours in a consecutive one year period can apply for a \$500 gift from the company for that nonprofit organization. This is part an effort at Glaxo-Wellcome to encourage community volunteerism among their employees.

For more information, you may contact the employee benefits department at Glaxo-Wellcome. If you do, please share thanks on behalf of the Arboretum for this wonderful program. And thank you for sharing the time to make it possible!

Volunteer Luncheon

The volunteer appreciation luncheon is to be held in February this year with the date to be announced. Watch for your invitation in the mail. This event is a wonderful way to mix and mingle with friends of the Arboretum and enjoy being feted. We wear name tags to ensure everyone will be able to recognize each other – out of their gardening boots!

Tour Guide Training

Tour Guide Training is scheduled for **March 7, 14 and 21**. As in other years, the tour guide training is scheduled during March in preparation for the 1999 Sunday afternoon tours which begin the first Sunday in April and run through the last Sunday in October. Another round of applause goes out to **Vivian Finkelstein** who recruits new guides and encourages experienced guides to give another year of service. This is no small task as she continues to make personal contact with the guides during the season. If you have not received a call or a letter from Vivian, please contact her through the volunteer office at 515-7641. As well, please keep in mind Vivian's announcement to retire her post. If you are interested in tour guide recruitment and training please let us know who you are. **Carolyn Fagan** will be backup for **Fran Johnson**, our Tour Guide Coordinator.

Volunteer News

Curators and Volunteers Needed

Paradise Garden: Will Hooker and students constructed this garden and bamboo dome in Raleigh's Home and Garden Show where it gathered much excitement. It was later installed at the Arboretum complete with the mosaic tile work, fountain, screen panels and plantings. The garden represents a Mediterranean garden to feature heavily scented or fruit bearing plants and water. It's a great space to garden in as it's a very well defined, manageable space. With all the raised beds it's so fanciful and wonderful. The new curator can anticipate some direction from Will in retaining the integrity and intent of the garden.

Wisteria Garden: It is located around the new marble statuary, *Italian Reflections*, opposite the Rose Garden. Once spring and summer are here the curator for this garden needs to spend a few hours each week to keep new growth clipped back and trained on their supports. It's a fairly straightforward job but needs someone willing to make the weekly commitment during the growing season. Staff is available to show the curator what needs to be done.

T-Shirt Coordinator and committee: There is a real need to develop a committee and committee coordinator to work with staff to oversee the t-shirts, sweatshirt and hats. Duties are the development of a design for staff approval, ordering, stocking and follow ups for the sale and stocking of T-shirts, sweatshirts and hats now offered by the Arboretum. The money collected from the sales goes to arboretum projects – like the completion of the Necessary as well as volunteer needs and

special projects in the arboretum that the volunteers designate. We'd like to set this as a one year rotation since it is a big undertaking.

Gardeners are needed for the **Klein-Pringle White Garden** where **Karen Jones** is needing a regular to assist with general maintenance once a week. Please call Karen directly at 834-6351.

Other curators are anticipating a busy spring, requiring additional gardening assistance in the perennial borders, the mixed border and the lath house. Please see the list of curators on page 19 and contact them directly to join their work in progress.



New Curator Welcomed

Having taken the reigns from **Charlotte Presley** in early January, **Bob Roth**, above, will be focusing his volunteer hours in the Lath house. Bob has worked consistently at the Arboretum in several capacities. He's been seen in the Japanese Garden doing carpentry, in the Mixed Border adjusting irrigation, the Perennial Borders, on White Garden work days and in the Lath house. It seems Bob, like Charlotte, is willing and able to do what needs to be done for the betterment of the Arboretum.

Vallie Lewis Henderson Memorial Dogwood Trail in Wake Co., NC

The death of Vallie Henderson on December 21, 1998 left a large "void of inspiration" for her many friends and the City of Raleigh. She devoted her life to improving the Raleigh community and her neighborhood. She inspired hundreds of men, women and children to do the same through clean up and gardening efforts.

One of Vallie's projects, which she did not have the time or energy to complete, was the development of a Dogwood Trail. She set the example by planting dogwood trees in the yard of her home and others followed. Those trees were the beginning of her Dogwood Trail to which was added a *Cornus kousa* 'Milky Way' at her gravesite in Oakwood Cemetery.

To expand on Vallie's idea, you are invited to honor her by planting one or more dogwood trees visible to the public prior to Arbor Day 1999 (March 19, 1999). Please register your name or group, the number of trees and species planted, along with the location and date and optional photo, with Wake County Keep America Beautiful at 856-6597 or fax 856-6685. Your planting will be added to the Vallie Lewis Henderson Memorial Dogwood Trail. Plantings will be listed on the Web at www.co.wake.nc/keepamer/. The public can walk or drive parts or all of the Dogwood Trail and appreciate the beauty of our state flower in its tribute to Vallie Henderson. ■

Volunteer News

Volunteer Spotlight: Charlotte Presley

My young daughter, after reading Charlotte's Web, ran up one day from our cellar to announce that there were a "whole lot of Charlottes" down there. I only tell this story to say that I feel that way when I see Charlotte Presley – that there seems to be more than one of her. At least the energy that she gives to life and to the Arboretum is more than expected from one person.

Charlotte's devotion to the Arboretum has taken many different directions in the ten years she's been a friend and volunteer. When I wondered how the Arboretum got to be so lucky to have her, she grinned and said, "I just fell in love." That was back in 1988 when she was a landscape horticulture student. During her first class with Dr. Fantz, there was a trip to the Arboretum and when she walked into the White Garden it was love at first sight. She just couldn't believe such a place existed where there was beauty all around. Through her classes she got to know instructors JC Raulston, Bryce Lane and Tracy Traer. When classes ended, she began to volunteer with Edith Eddleman in the Perennial Border.

"I wasn't always a gardener," Charlotte admitted, "except for wild flowers which my mother taught me about, I just didn't know plants. But Edith was a good teacher and I love to learn so we made a good match. She shared so much with me."

And that beginning spun off to Charlotte's working in the volunteer office and becoming the volunteer coordinator. In this capacity Charlotte's ability to

connect volunteers to things needing doing and people to each other was a great strength. She was so good at it that she became known as the 'connector.' There was a fairly long list of volunteers then but not very many active folks. Charlotte's persistence in cultivating and nurturing the volunteers and encouraging them to bring friends has given us the wonderful core of volunteers we have today.

Catherine Maxwell spoke without hesitation that "Charlotte has touched almost every aspect of the Arboretum." Catherine always appreciated the fact that while Charlotte has been willing to take on almost any job, she also knows when it's time for her to redirect her energies to other areas that would keep her excited about her work at the Arboretum.

"In every task, you always knew you could count on Charlotte 100%. It's wonderful to see how her roles have evolved along with her interests."

Mitzi said, "She's just such a strong presence at the arb. After JC's death, there was so much to do potting up and propagating and Charlotte was right there through the winter. I can always get an answer about Arboretum history, too. Her high energy and positive attitude makes you feel good to be around her." Charlotte's love of the cats goes further than pets and praise. She takes home their towel bedding and brings it back fresh

and clean, buys their food and often takes them to the vet.

Most recently her path led her, a year ago in October, to become curator of the Lath house when Rosemary Kautzky moved away. Charlotte's design background has brought her own personal touch to the plant beds along the outside of the Lath house. She has maintained a good group of volunteers to assist. She's very good at planning what the next work day will bring and planning ahead for the next season.

Karen Jones spoke about Charlotte as "always being there and always ready and willing to do any job that was put before her. It's so hard for me to sum it up," she said. And we quite agree — there's just a whole lot of Charlotte out there. From the looks of it we won't really have to sum up but look for Charlotte wearing a new hat. ■

Reviews and Previews

by Jonathan Nyberg

On November 6, **Dr. Michael Dirr** swept into the Arboretum and raised frenzy to a fever pitch for plant lovers. Dirr contributed his time - and his plants - to raise funds for the education center.

The Friday evening reception, lecture, and book signing drew an audience of over 250 people from across the Southeast. The talk, *In Praise of Plantsmen*, highlighted great horticulturists and plant collectors of yesterday and today, as well as some of the plants they - and Dirr himself - loved. After the lecture, **Tony Avent** donned his auctioneer's cap to raise \$2400 from bidders vying for plants donated by **Dirr, Pat McCracken, Flowerwood Nursery and Plant Delights Nursery**.

On Saturday, Dirr led two propagation workshops focused on growing new and less commonly available plants. Both teacher and students enjoyed the interchange.

"That was a great gathering of serious plants people," said Dirr. "I'll look forward to seeing them again." Arboretum staff is working now with Dr. Dirr to book him for future propagation workshops.

The entire weekend raised over \$4500 for the Arboretum! "It's a real honor to have the support and participation of such a renowned plantsman," said Arboretum director **Bryce Lane**. ■

Michael and Bonnie Dirr -- two great friends of the Arboretum!

Just over a month later we had a lecture by yet another celebrated plantsman, **Dr. Cliff Parks**. In addition to feasting our eyes on his slides of plants in China, we were able to see the real things as Dr. Parks brought a couple of dozen plants with him for people to buy in an auction. More than \$700 was raised for the **Education Center**. Thanks are due to Dr. Parks for his generosity, **Spencer Clark** for helping to organize the auction, and auctioneer **Donald Hart**, who enthusiastically guided us through a fun and fruitful auction with his wit and humor. ■

Doug and Edith's **Seasons of the Perennial Border** series has played to standing room only crowds so far and I am absolutely sure the three dates announced in this calendar will fill up as quickly. The amount of quality information received per dollar spent makes these classes the best gardening education value in the universe. I just can't express enough how lucky the Arboretum is to have

designer/gardeners such as Doug and Edith. OK, so I'll stop trying, and just say once again, very clearly, **sign up early for these classes!!!** ■

"I've been hearing such good things about the new director. When will I get to meet him?"

February 1, 1999 will be **Bob Lyons'** first official day at the Arboretum, and he is looking forward to getting to know you as much as you look forward to meeting him. Events are being planned locally, across the state and beyond to introduce Bob to the friends and supporters of the Arboretum.

Listed below you'll find the dates for receptions that are already on the calendar. Mark your calendars and watch for more information in the mail. You will receive updates and additional details about events in your area in the weeks ahead.

April 15, 1999, Asheville, NC, the home of Peter and Jasmin Gentling

May 19, 1999, Greensboro, NC, the home of Michael and Lynn Haley ■

Finally, please look closely at the new calendar. Of special note is the **Botanical Illustration in Black and White** class scheduled at the Arboretum for six weeks in April and May. ■

Nursery News

by Jonathan Nyberg

Judith and Dick Tyler of Pine Knot Farms jump-kicked the Winter Garden's hellebore collection with an extremely large and choice donation. If there are two more gentle and generous people on the earth, I certainly haven't met them. I spent a fabulous afternoon at their Virginia nursery, carved out of the woods and full of precious plants. I was shopping for woodland perennials for a landscaping job and was thrilled to find they carried almost everything I wanted, and most of it in one quart pots for a very reasonable price — things like ferns, columbines, bluebells, gingers, violets and *Iris cristata*. I was so happy to find a wholesale source of nursery propagated plants that weren't in gallons pots, which make the dollars go quickly. They are located only an hour north of Durham, so if you're a landscaper/gardener/garden center it's well worth a close look at their catalog and a trip to their nursery, especially if you go during peak fall color as I did. They are also open on a limited basis for retail customers: Every Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in April, May and the 2nd week of September through the end of October. Their **Hellebore Festival** is March 6, 1999, 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call 804-252-1990 for more information. ■

Another mail order nursery that recently came to my attention is **Seneca Hill Perennials**, 3712 Co. Rte. 57, Oswego, NY 13126. Owner **Ellen Hornig's** listing just has a very good 'feel' to it. Including the following section I found refreshing:

"Rare and Choice"

It has become the fashion to saturate plant catalogs with superlatives, and this catalog is certainly not without them. My personal preference would be the sparest of prose, but some of you seem to want a little guidance, and who am I to refuse, if it makes you want to buy? But consider the following:

"Everything which is in any way beautiful is beautiful in itself, and terminates in itself, not having praise as part of itself. Neither worse then or better is a thing made by being praised... That which is really beautiful has no need of anything; not more than law, not more than truth, not more than benevolence or modesty. Which of these things is beautiful because it is praised, or spoiled by being blamed? Is such a thing as an emerald made worse than it was, if it is not praised? Or gold, ivory, purple, a lyre, a little knife, a flower, a shrub?"

The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius, Book IV, No. 20

Of special interest for the Winter Garden were the extensive listings of arums and cyclamen, which are very reasonably priced. She offers a tray of 25 blooming-size *Cyclamen coum* for \$62.50, which is only \$2.50 each. I am told by a reliable source the plants are of good size. Phone 315-342-5915 for more information, or email Ellen at: hornig@oswego.edu. ■

Nobody really knows how they do it, but **Tony and Michelle Avent's Plant Delights Nursery** just keeps getting better each year. They have established such a high standard, it is almost possible to take their wonderful catalog of great plants for granted. I especially like their Air-Isaema basketball theme this year. I received my catalog the day the NBA strike was settled, which led me to wonder, "Did Plant Delights have anything to do with the negotiations?!" I especially liked the Shady Deals Nursery, Emu Ranch, Nail Salon, Video Poker and Auto Body Repair, unpaid ad on the inside back cover. Here are some examples of their offerings:

Ilex verticillata 'Bill Jefferson Clinton' \$15.95 Proven pollinator for most female forms, although it technically isn't sexual pollination. A nice companion to *Azalea 'Impaches and Cream.'*

Canna 'Tuna' \$28.00 Has a most unique aroma for this genus.

Camellia 'Parker Bowles' \$13.95 Companion plant for *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Prince of Wales. Very hard to explain appeal.

If you need a catalog contact: Plant Delights Nursery, Inc. 9241 Sauls Road, Raleigh NC 27603. Phone 919-772-4794. Or visit them online: <http://www.plantdel.com>. ■

Publication News

by Jonathan Nyberg

I owe an apology to those who heeded my pleadings to purchase the Andersen Horticultural Library's Source List of Plants and Seeds. The fourth edition sold out last summer and was not reprinted. However, there is good news. A fifth edition is due out for the summer of 1999. I also found out this valuable listing is now available online at plantinfo.umn.edu. The yearly subscription rates are: institutional/business, \$59.95; individual, \$39.95. I was told the online service includes links to all the listed nurseries that sell online. That means one can look up a plant and purchase it with a few clicks and keystrokes. This is an incredibly powerful tool for those who purchase mail-order. I would also think that any nursery that sells online would not want to miss the opportunity to have a link to this highly respected and used publication. The phone number for further information is 612-443-2440. Happy shopping! ■

Congratulations to Toby Bost, author of the North Carolina Gardener's Guide and Forsyth County Extension Agent in Winston-Salem for being recognized as the national winner in the Publications Class of the Communications Awards Program of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Toby is a longtime supporter of the Arboretum. He is donating a portion of his proceeds from the book to the Arboretum in memory of JC. The book is available at most bookstores, or from the publisher, Cool Springs Press, 888-591-5117. ■

Garden anthologies are valuable to both readers and writers of garden writing. A series of essays is perfect for bedtime reading and other moments when one can steal a few plant-free minutes. And the fact is most garden writers, the ones who are actually gardening, really don't have time to write more than an essay now and then.

Now there appears a book called My Favorite Plant – Writers and Gardeners on the Plants They Love, edited by Jamaica Kincaid (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, NY). She had the idea of asking gardeners to write about just one plant that they really love. This is good idea. It is an especially good idea when the people you ask also happen to be good writers: Michael Pollan, Ken Druse, Christopher Lloyd, Wayne Winterrowd, Dan Hinkley...and the list goes on and on. Ms Kincaid then threw in a few classic essays: Katherine White, Karel Capek and others. Then added a sprinkling of poems by the likes of D.H. Lawrence. The result is a book destined to become required bedside reading for gardeners.

The best of the best has to be Dan Hinkley's essay on hellebores. He writes driving, relentless prose that at some undeterminable point becomes indistinguishable from poetry. It is just amazing, inconceivable really, that so much information about hellebores can be conveyed in such a short space. His essay is reprinted on page three of this newsletter. Please let me know — is it just me? Am I being blinded by my current desire for hellebores? Or do others feel a little dizzy, lightheaded, with that taken-into-another world-feeling after reading his essay? ■

From the Seneca Hills Nursery listing comes the following poem with the instructions, "For those whose can't decide."

Table Talk

Granted, we die for good.
Life, then, is largely a thing
Of happens to like, not should.

And that, too, granted, why
Do I happen to like red bush,
Gray grass and green-gray sky?

What else remains? But red,
Gray, green, why those of all?
That is not what I said:

Not those of all. But those.
One likes what one happens to like.
One likes the way red grows.

It cannot matter at all.
Happens to like is one
Of the ways things happen to fall.

Wallace Stevens

Membership News

You are probably aware that much of the Arboretum's support comes from your membership contributions. We thank you for being a part of the Arboretum and making its work possible.

We hope you'll consider sharing membership with a friend. If each member could get one person to join we could double our membership! Ask one of your gardening friends if they would like to help support the Arboretum and its continuing mission of enriching and expanding urban and residential landscapes by promoting a greater diversity of superior and better adapted landscape plants.

The purpose of the Friends of The JC Raulston Arboretum is to encourage and support NCSU in establishing a significant arboretum of high quality at the University to enhance teaching and research programs in Horticultural Science, and to serve the public, nursery and landscape industries as a place of continuous learning and inspiration. Membership fees and donations are used for construction of new facilities, purchase of plant materials, and for maintenance. All contributions are tax-deductible.



Membership Benefits

Student \$10

Arboretum Newsletter, published quarterly, free members lectures, annual members picnic and admission to annual friends of the Arboretum rare plant give-away.

Individual \$30

Benefits listed above.

Family \$40

Benefits listed above plus two membership cards, admitting two to the Friends of the Arboretum rare plant give-away.

Organization \$50

Benefits listed above plus a free group tour.

Sponsor \$100

Benefits listed above plus choice of a Contributor's Connoisseur Plant.

Donor \$250

Benefits listed above plus two Contributor's Connoisseur Plants and an invitation to the annual Director's Dinner.

Patron \$500

Benefits listed above plus five Contributor's Connoisseur Plants, a

private tour of the Arboretum with the Director and a free subscription to the *Carolina Gardener*.

Bronze Leaf \$1,000

Benefits listed above plus ten Contributor's Connoisseur Plants, invitations to receptions for visiting lectures, a special Director's seminar and two complimentary memberships.

Silver Leaf \$2,000

Benefits listed above plus twenty Contributor's Connoisseur Plants, recognition in the ledger of Arboretum benefactors and the privilege to host an event at the Arboretum for the group of your choice.

Gold Leaf \$5,000

Benefits listed above plus a special educational program at the site of your choice and the plant of your choice propagated for you.

Special Green Industry Benefits

Green Industry members at the \$1,000 level and above receive a special industry gift pack. Members at the \$5,000 level receive an invitation to sit on the Plant Advisory Board.

Membership Application

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Leaf \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Leaf \$2,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Leaf \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My company matches gifts. I have enclosed a matching gift form. | |

name

address

city/state/zip

telephone/fax/e-mail

Make checks payable to
The NC Agricultural Foundation
with Friends of The JC Raulston Arboretum on the memo line.
Mail to: The JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University
Department of Horticultural Science, Box 7609, Raleigh, NC 27696-7601

The JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University

Department of Horticultural Science

Box 7609

Raleigh, NC 27695-7609

World Wide Web Address: <http://arb.ncsu.edu>

Friends of the JC Raulston Arboretum Newsletter is published four times a year.

Jonathan Nyberg, Editor

JC Raulston Arboretum Staff

Director	Bryce Lane	515-3189
Development Director	Catherine Maxwell	515-2000
Program Coordinator	Jonathan Nyberg	515-3132
Volunteer Coordinator	Harriet Bellerjeau	515-3132
Arboretum Secretary	Pamela Christie-Tabron	515-3132
Arboretum Technician	Mitzi Hole	515-1632
Gardener	Anita Kuehne	515-1632
Gardener	Karen Jones	515-1632
Plant Recorder	Valerie Tyson	515-1632
Horticultural Advisor	Douglas Ruhren	515-1632
Arboretum Volunteer Office	Staffed by volunteers	515-7641

Volunteer Curators (* indicates help needed)

Butterfly Garden*	Patricia Highland	217-1252
Blue Bird Houses	Bill Satterwhite	787-5248
Blue Conifer Collection*	Guy Meilleur	387-7045
Iris Curator	Catherine Gaertner	380-5172
Japanese Garden*	Dan Howe	848-5462
JC Raulston Archives	Mary & Claude Caldwell	515-3132
Labeling*	Tom Bumgarner	231-7450
Lath House*	Bob Roth	481-9911
Magnolia Curator	Pat McCracken	365-7878
Mixed Shrub Border*	Amelia Lane	787-6228
Paradise Garden	Curator needed	
Perennial Borders*	Edith Eddleman	286-7691
	Douglas Ruhren	688-0240
Rose Garden	Harvey Bumgardner	832-5426
	Anne Clapp	787-9852
Southwest Garden*	KenZearfoss	846-7211
T-shirt Coordinator	Curator needed	
Tour Guide Coordinator	Fran Johnson	847-5274
Visitor Center Coordinator*	Bee Weddington	782-7737
Volunteer rep. to Arboretum Board	Anne Clapp	787-9852
Volunteer Office* Weekends needed	Harriet Bellerjeau	515-3132
Water Garden	Alicia Berry	829-2524
White Garden	Karen Jones	834-6351
	Jeff Briggs	836-0969
Garden of Winter Delights*	Jonathan Nyberg	688-0240
Wisteria Garden*	Curator needed	

NC State University Horticultural Field Laboratory

Superintendent	Paul Lineberger	515-3144
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Director, cont. from page 1

Nurserymen and the North Carolina Landscape Contractors Association for their continued support. I have truly enjoyed getting to know the fine folks in our industry better over the past two years. To our Horticultural Science alumni, thanks for your words of encouragement and involvement.

Lastly I would like to thank some very special people for their commitment and dedication to the Arboretum during the interim period. Thanks to Diane Flynt, Tony Avent, Jonathan Nyberg, Harriet Bellerjeau, and Doug Ruhren for their excellent part time interim work. Thanks to Anita Kuehne, Jon Archer, Shep Lassiter, Elizabeth Smith, Todd Lasseigne, Laura Jull, and Sarah Lane for their part time efforts, although they all worked as if it were permanent. Thanks also go to the HFL Superintendent, Paul

Lineberger and his assistant, Bradley Holland for all the help they gave us whenever we asked.

I also want to thank the following permanent staff members; Val Tyson, Karen Jones, Pam Christie, Donna Walker, Catherine Maxwell, and last but not least Mitzi Hole. To everyone, I deeply appreciate all the help and work you have done for our garden!

To our friends, thanks for sticking with us! The JC Raulston Arboretum will continue to grow and prosper. Plants have been the primary focus and plants will continue to be the focus. I look forward to working with the Arboretum as a volunteer and faculty member. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this organization for the past two years.

Regards.....Bryce



JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University
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