

12

Newsletter of
The Friends of
Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Issue No.
56

flora



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flora



from the director

2 dear friends

main features

3 duke stone

5 digging deeper

6 editing a garden

10 across the pond

14 camp revamp

news + notes

16 awards & honors

16 asiatic consultation

17 ciompi quartet presents

17 new staff

17 summer interns

18 in memoriam

18 music in the gardens

19 garden dedications

20 a closer look: plant profiles

Flora editor: Orla Swift. Editorial assistant: Lauren Sims

Cover photo of southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) in the W.L. Culberson Asiatic Arboretum by Charles Twine.
Additional photography by Robert Ayers, Stefan Bloodworth, Rick Fisher, Jason Holmes, Wendell Hull, Paul Jones,
Tamara Kilbane, Alain Michot, Bobby Mottern, Mike Owens, Orla Swift, Les Todd, Charles Twine, Jim Wallace.



dear friends

In the past year, we dedicated the Frances P. Rollins Overlook, the Roney Fountain, the Mary Duke Biddle Rose Garden, the Walker Dillard Kirby Perennial Allée and the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden, and we re-dedicated the Page-Rollins White Garden after considerable renovations. Duke Gardens looks marvelous, and the entire horticultural staff (including scores of dedicated volunteers) is to be congratulated for maintaining our high standard of excellence in the midst of so much construction.

On the program side, we have greatly increased the number and rigor of our educational offerings, both in adult and children and family programs, and seen dramatic increases in program revenue as a result. With the opening of the Discovery Garden we will vastly increase our outreach to the local community. The investments we have made the past few years in personnel, planning and program development are paying off, and we've just begun.

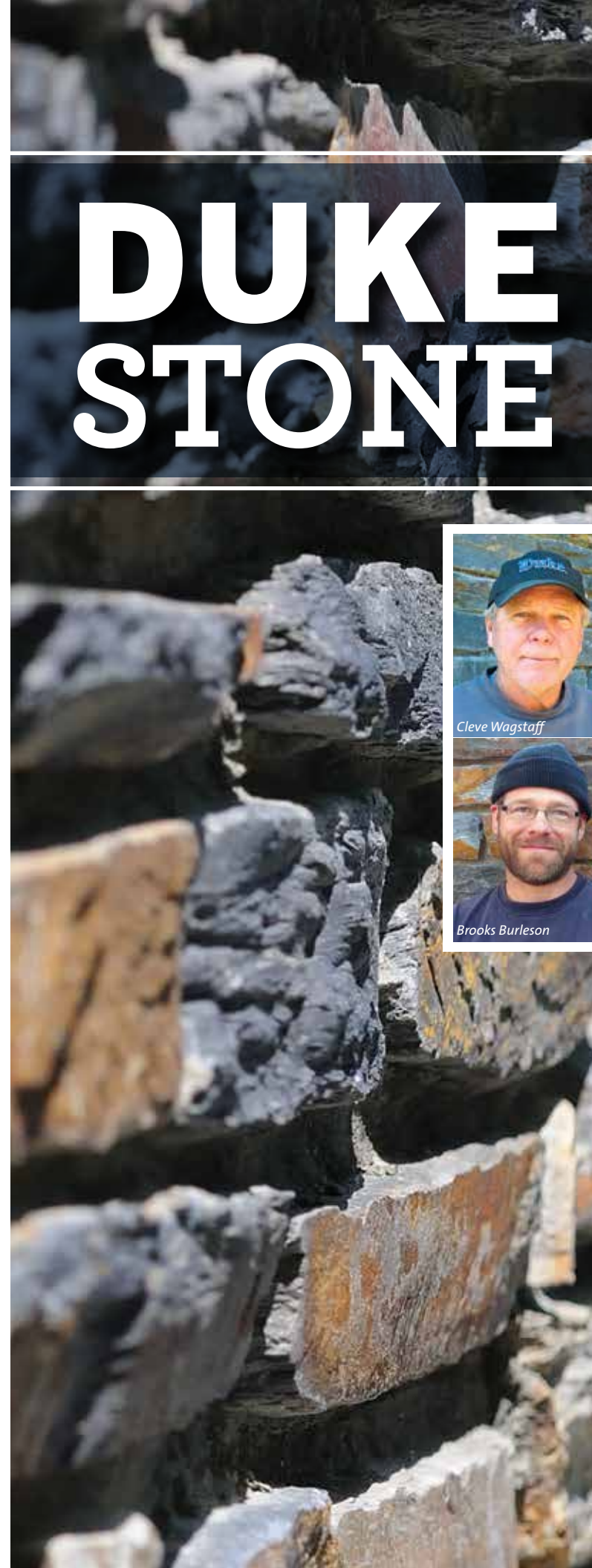
Going forward, we are working to build our capacity to communicate with our visitors, educating them that Duke Gardens is a public garden, not a public park, and that over half of our annual operating budget comes from the support of those who value what Duke Gardens has to offer. We continue to plan physical and programmatic improvements to edge us toward that goal and to build our base of support to achieve a more sustainable future.

We are making excellent progress. The staff, volunteers and Board of Advisors are to be congratulated for taking Duke Gardens to the next level. The results are everywhere to see. Sarah P. Duke Gardens ranks among the top university gardens and public gardens in America. I am thankful for the opportunity to lead such an outstanding organization and the talented, dedicated staff and volunteers who truly deserve the credit as we endeavor to make it even better.

Thank you for your support of Duke Gardens. If you know others who enjoy the Gardens regularly, we would appreciate your encouraging them to become members of the Friends of Duke Gardens as well.

Sincerely,

Bill LeFevre
Executive Director



DUKE STONE

Chiseling Duke's iconic look

By Orla Swift, *Director of Marketing and Communications*

Among the iconic visual features that mark Duke Gardens as an integral part of Duke University, Duke stone is one of the most widely recognizable. From its rich caramel, rust and blue hues to the precise manner in which it must be cut and laid, Duke stone commands attention.

Nobody knows that better than the stonemasons who have to work with it. Among them are Cleve Wagstaff, who most recently worked on the Frances P. Rollins Overlook and the Terrace Fish Pool renovation and pumphouse and also works on projects throughout Duke University, and Brooks Burleson, who most recently worked on the new Page-Rollins White Garden redesign and has done several other projects in the Doris Duke Center Gardens and Memorial Garden. Wagstaff and Burleson shared some thoughts about Duke stone's history and characteristics.



Cleve Wagstaff

Brooks Burleson

On the look of Duke stone:

Wagstaff: "The classic Duke stone look is what you see on the Chapel, and that's the standard we try to go by around the university and the hospital. Most of their work has a raised mortar joint on it. It's very distinctive. It's a predominantly blue-gray to brown stone that they quarry out of Hillsborough still, as they did in the late '20s when they began the work at Duke. It's what's called a rough, course ashlar pattern, where the stones tend to run parallel to the ground in a linear fashion, not perfectly but generally.

"At the Gardens, we typically use a little different joint situation. Sometimes we'll lay it with the mortar not showing out to the front of it. Sometimes it's laid with a raked look, where you see a little bit of mortar but it's recessed rather than built out like the conventional joint around the campus."



On working with Duke stone:

Wagstaff: “I’m still learning every day, and I’ve been doing it for 35 years. Each year that I work it we try to tweak the way we handle it a little bit more to keep the current type of stone that we’ve got looking as close to what we see at the Chapel and some of the classic work as we can. It’s a challenging material to work with. It’s a real hard, dense stone. It takes carbide chisels and carbide-tipped tools to cut it and shape it and split it. It doesn’t naturally break into 90-degree corners, they all have to be traced and cut. So it requires a lot of preliminary shaping before we actually lay it.”

Burleson: “I try to use a lot of older techniques. I go to the Chapel quite often to study their techniques. You can see the chisel strikes and what size chisels they would use, how they would attack the stone. I try to adapt what I’ve learned using the old techniques.

“Some stone actually is more hard and more brittle and blacker in color, and that was actually easier to tool because of its more brittle nature. That stuff seems to be harder to come by. If you ever look at the Terrace Café and the bathroom in the Terrace Gardens, a lot of that stone is used on that.

“Some of the stones I work with now are softer. To use the old techniques, it’s quite difficult sometimes—I would say more difficult than any other type of stone that I work with. It’s hard to crosscut with a chisel. You can hit it from one side of the stone against its grain in one direction, and it may cleave all the way across. But if you come in 90 degrees, which looks similar, nothing will happen—you’ll just end up with a pile of chips and dust and rubble.”

On where else you’ll find Duke stone:

Wagstaff: “Duke has some satellite buildings all around the area, from Wake to Orange and Durham counties, and occasionally the architects will spec a little panel of Duke stone on those satellite offices. There are some churches that have been built in the area out of Duke stone. But it’s not commercially available. I would suppose it was donated to those churches over the years; I’m not sure what the story is behind that.

“I’ve been told that there were some properties adjoining the Duke Forest property—this is just word of mouth from people in Orange County—there were some adjoining properties where a small amount of that same material was surface-mined, easily accessible stone over the years. So it’s not as if Duke owned all the property along the Eno that had that type of stone. I’m sure there was other stone that was gotten off of farmland or something and was used in other buildings. The surface supply of that stone may have played out. To my knowledge, there aren’t any other pits out there that have Duke stone.”

On letting the stone prevail:

Burleson: “If you impose your will on something, a lot of times the way you want to do it isn’t working, so you have to adjust your thoughts. You basically have to learn what the secrets are and what it’ll tell you. And I would just try to use my old way of thinking on it, so it took awhile. It took a long while to level my pride out. I had this mindset that the stone wasn’t going to win, but ultimately it did.”

For more information about Duke Stone and the stonemasons who worked with it, please see Duke Libraries’ articles at the following links:

library.duke.edu/uarchives/history/histnotes/dukestone.html and library.duke.edu/uarchives/history/histnotes/stonesetters.html.

digging deeper:

Gardens supporters on the roots of their passions

ROBERT F. DURDEN

Duke University Professor Emeritus of History

Author of “Duke Gardens Through the Years” & other Duke histories

On writing about Duke Gardens

I myself am a gardener of sorts, and I enjoyed my yard in which I gardened. I guess that led me to enjoy Duke Gardens. I used to park up in the parking lot there and walk through the Gardens on the way to the Allen Building, where my office was. So I kept my eyes on the Gardens through the years and got to know the people who worked there.

I became aware of the fact that the Gardens were not endowed, which seemed to me a shame. They were on the university’s budget, and a sizable item on the budget. I can’t remember when it was, but I was talking with one of the officers of the administration and he said, “Well, why don’t you try to do something about this endowment?” And I did. I wrote a number of letters to people that I knew enjoyed the Gardens, too, and urged them to contribute to the support of the Gardens. I don’t know how many donated, but I’m sure it wasn’t a lot of money



because I was writing to academics and they don’t have big fortunes, mostly.

I wrote “The Dukes of Durham,” which came out in 1975. As an outgrowth of that, I wanted to write the history of the Duke Endowment and of the university, and I did both. And in the history of the university, I included a chapter called “The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and Other Essentials for Mind and Spirit.” And I included a long section on the history of the Gardens in that chapter.

When my daughters were children, we used to go to the little covered pavilion in the Blomquist Garden, and they liked to play around there. I took my granddaughters there, too. I love that lookout view over the Terraces, the area behind the Fish Pool. I used to stand there and look at the chrysanthemums back in the days when the Terraces would be filled with chrysanthemums in the fall. It was a lovely view.

I’m 87 now and I don’t move around too easily these days. But my daughters take me over to the Gardens occasionally. We put my wife’s ashes in the Memorial Garden, so I go there when I’m at Duke Gardens. She and I both decided we wanted to be cremated, and once we made that decision, the Memorial Garden was the logical place to put her ashes. It’s a lovely spot.

EDITING

a Garden



Among the plants in the Steve Church Endangered Species Garden are, from left: Mohr's Barbara button (*Marshallia mohrii*); Schweinitz's sunflower (*Helianthus schweinitzii*); and Georgia beardtongue (*Penstemon dissectus*). Facing page: the new millstone boardwalk.

By Stefan Bloodworth, *Curator, H.L. Blomquist Garden of Native Plants*

Renovate: (verb- used with object)

1. To restore to good condition; make new or as if new again; repair.
2. To reinvigorate; refresh; revive.

The renovation of a garden would fit both of these descriptions, with the addition of a third: to mimic the changes wrought by Mother Nature, seasonal or otherwise.

When the Blomquist Garden's Steve Church Endangered Species collection was built in 2004, it was the first garden of its kind I had ever been involved with. For those of you who may not be familiar with the Church collection, it is a small, sunny stroll through a sampling of the Southeast's most imperiled plant species. As such, it represents an opportunity to connect the visiting public with not only a number of rare plants but also a host of stories about vanishing habitats. In its original version, the garden perhaps fulfilled a part of that mission. It was a pretty place to wander through. As a middle-aged person beginning to suffer the pangs of occasional immobility, however, I began to see the way it had been originally designed as flawed.

As many of us know, admitting imperfection can be difficult but also liberating. As someone who often attempts to write coherently, I am compulsively editing. The inadequacy of my first, second and even third attempts at any given sentence can be so discouraging as to utterly paralyze my muse. As a gardener, this neurotic fixation on the perfect word to convey what I mean helps me tear things up, whether those things are on paper or in a three-dimensional landscape.

It was a series of injuries over the past few years that provided the inspiration for the complete renovation and rebirth of the Church Endangered Species collection. A hurt back and an injured ankle provided the impetus to tear down the first draft of this garden and create a space where folks who have a problem getting around will find many barriers removed, and they will also find enhanced educational opportunities.

First, a stepping stone path that would have proven difficult to navigate for anyone not completely able-bodied has been converted to a wider, packed stone path. Nearby, a collection of millstones through a bog created a unique "hopscotch" experience for children but a complete roadblock for anyone physically challenged. These stones, still in their original positions but raised two feet, have been incorporated into a unique boardwalk that helps create a seamless loop through the Church collection area.

On a technological note, a small but important addition to the collection is new signage throughout, most of which incorporates the use of smartphone technology in the form of "QR" or "quick response" codes. These small icons allow



From left: the old stepping stone path; the new, easily traversable gravel path: the "Piedmont prairie" replica garden.



An example of the new signage with QR code at bottom left.

smartphone users to increase the amount of information they can gather about the plants in the Church collection, as well as store that information on their phones and forward it to others, thus vastly increasing the educational reach of the garden.

In addition, a "Piedmont prairie" replica garden has been added along this new loop. Many of the plants found in the Church collection are residents of this vanishing habitat, and having a habitat collection like this allows for many unique teaching opportunities, not the least of which is how valuable fire can be in our native landscapes when managed properly. A decorative interpretive sign helps the public make the connection between plants, habitat and human impact.

Finally, as all plants originally installed had to be removed to accommodate this renovation, we took the opportunity

to completely reconstruct the soil in the planting beds for optimum organic material and nutrient content. At the same time, all plant specimens were divided and repotted, creating a bank of replacement plants in our nursery for future use. Also, an automated irrigation system was installed concurrently with the new path to provide a more regular watering schedule and to save time by eliminating hand watering. All of these changes complete, the garden is now growing into its second life.

As with most second or third drafts, this new version is better than the original. As always, there are other improvements on the radar screen, but for now, we'll enjoy watching the plants come into their own in the wake of change. I do have the itch to edit that spot over there, though...

CONTROLLED BURN

Fire is an incredible spectacle; all that energy, long hidden away but now being released, is something to behold. Understandably, though, fire has a bad rap. When European settlers arrived they found wild landscapes well adapted to frequent fire. Anxious to protect their newfound holdings, they did everything they could to stop fire in its tracks. Roads and fields became firebrakes where none had existed before. Forests where fire had once roamed as a mostly benevolent visitor were cut down, creating vast swaths of fire-free landscapes. Over time, though, those forests that remained

became choked with competing vegetation, evidence of fire's absence. Also, habitats that were dependent on fire for their survival began to disappear.

Recently, the Blomquist Garden hosted a burn of our Piedmont prairie garden to highlight the usefulness of fire in the landscape, and to talk about habitats in the Southeast like the Piedmont prairies, where the lack of fire has put many plant species in peril of extinction.



viewpoints

On the Bird-Watching Shelter in the Blomquist Garden



Rosemarie Wilson
Gardens Visitor

For me, a visit to Duke Gardens is not complete without a pilgrimage to the Bird-Watching Shelter. This spot is my little piece of paradise that I enjoy sharing with friends and family. I love observing the constant stream of different bird species that congregate at the bird feeders.

The shelter also serves as a place of solace for me. When my sister Marlo passed away last year at Duke Hospital, I went to this spot to gather my thoughts and to find the strength to tackle the challenges ahead. Since that day, I feel a spiritual connection to my sister when I am there.



The white garden at Sissinghurst Castle

ACROSS THE POND...

English gardens inspire a gem at Duke Gardens

By Bobby Mottern, *Director of Horticulture*

Photos by Bobby Mottern, Jason Holmes and Tamara Kilbane

Every gardener seeks inspiration at one time or another. It satisfies our artistic desire to create and points us in a successful direction for the garden. This inspiration can come from a handful of sources: magazines, books, TV, etc., but the most enriching method is to experience it for yourself.

During the planning process for the recently renovated and redesigned Page-Rollins White Garden, inspiration was essential, and not just any magazine would suffice—complete immersion in our craft was critical. Therefore, it became obvious that a trip to experience the original white garden at Sissinghurst Castle in England was a necessary component of our creative process. So that's what we did.

In June last year, I made a pilgrimage with Jason Holmes, curator of the Doris Duke Center Gardens, and horticulturist Tamara Kilbane to what most gardeners consider the horticultural mecca of the planet, England. Our goal was simple: to view

some of the most dynamic displays of flowers and horticultural prowess ever assembled and bring these ideas back to create our own bit of English paradise right here at Duke Gardens.

We visited 10 gardens over five days, capturing a plethora of memories and ideas, not to mention more than 7,000 images.

GRAVETYE MANOR WAS FORMERLY THE HOME OF FAMOUS 19TH CENTURY ENGLISH GARDEN WRITER WILLIAM ROBINSON. Robinson's *The English Flower Garden* and *The Wild Garden* were immensely popular garden books written in the late 1800s. Tom Coward, the head gardener, gave us a tour through the property, which is now operated as a five-star resort and spa. We were impressed with the lupines, which unfortunately detest our climate. Foxtail lilies (*Eremurus robustus*), a variety of geraniums, poppies and euphorbias filled the perennial borders. The resort also has its own 3-acre organic vegetable garden to supply the kitchen with fresh produce.

WAKEHURST PLACE WAS NOT FAR FROM GRAVETYE. This is a Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) garden that houses the national geranium and rhododendron collections. The south garden here displays many plants needing more exposure to heat, like our southern magnolia espaliered on the wall, which they find difficult to flower.

The walled garden was exceptional. The displays of lavender, catmint, alliums and roses blended with splashes of silver were breathtaking. One of our favorite combinations was the lavender catmint (*Nepeta faassenii*) echoing purple from the reverse sides of the African daisy (*Osteospermum*).

DENMAN'S GARDEN IS THE HOME OF FAMOUS ENGLISH GARDEN DESIGNER AND AUTHOR JOHN BROOKES. This garden was a true designer's garden. Unorthodox uses of plant materials, path borders with blurred bed edges, and captivating geometry defined this garden. The garden was not only planted with myriad perennials, but an amazing display of shrubs and trees, many with foliage interest, provided additional visual support. A purple weeping mulberry and golden catalpa are seen in image 5. A variety of verticality in the form of mullein (*Verbascum bombyciferum*, *Syrinchium striatum*) and red-hot poker (*Kniphofia urvaria*), all contrast with spherical shapes in the background.

THE MORNING OF THE FINAL DAY, WE VISITED GREAT DIXTER, the former home of the well known plantsman Christopher Lloyd. Over the years he lived here, the garden became legendary for exquisite plant combinations mixed with a fun flair for whimsy.

In photo number 1 on the next page, you'll see a pastel scene of alliums, our native burgundy smokebush (*Cotinus coggryia*), and yellow columbines, punctuated by a hot touch of magenta rose campion (*Lychnis cornaria*).

THE FINAL GARDEN, SISSINGHURST CASTLE, DIDN'T DISAPPOINT. Sissinghurst is of course the home of the world-renowned white garden designed by former garden owner Vita Sackville-West. The white garden made Sissinghurst famous, but the blue border, the rose garden, the yellow garden and the herb garden are equally dynamic.

The white garden, although not at its peak during our visit, did deliver a nice array of white-blooming plants such as lychnis, fireweed, *Epilobium parviflorum*, goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*), astilbe, dicentra, lupines and many others. Our native *Hydrangea arborescens* and culver's root were nearly in bloom. Silver- and blue-foliaged plants bolster the white theme: *Artemisia* 'Valerie Finnis', *Pyrus salicifolia* 'Silver Sails', cotton thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*) and hosta, among others. Roses covered the central arbor and graced the walls, and boxwood hedges maintained order among the beds. The yellow garden and rose gardens were equally dazzling.

Back at Duke Gardens, the design for the Page-Rollins White Garden, now in its second season, is beginning to reflect many of the concepts, flower combinations and plant choices we experienced in England. And we still have plenty of inspiration for years to come.



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English Garden photo journal

1. Alliums, burgundy smokebush, yellow columbines and magenta rose campion at Great Dixter.
2. Catmint and complementary African daisy at Wakehurst Place.
3. Gravetye Manor, formerly the home of 19th century garden writer William Robinson.
4. Jason Holmes among the container plants at Great Dixter, the former home of plantsman Christopher Lloyd.
5. Denman's Garden, the home of garden designer and author John Brookes.
6. Lavender, catmint, alliums and roses in the walled garden at Wakehurst Place.

camp REVAMP

By Kavanah Anderson

Nature Adventures Camp is an opportunity for children to develop a close relationship with the natural world through exploration, experimentation, creativity and adventure. This year, we have expanded the size and duration of camp.

During the new spring break camp in April, campers learned to pitch a tent, use a compass and listen closely to a tree. They observed a nesting duck and saw ducklings moments after they hatched. They watched a dragonfly emerge from its chrysalis. They learned about the water cycle as they helped plant a rain garden in the new Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden.

The summer camps are divided into different age groups, from ages 5 to 13. And each week has a theme. Campers can become scientists who study trees, insects, weather and birds. They can transform into time travelers to learn about ancient tools that tell time, measure latitude and predict the weather. They can identify plants in the garden that dinosaurs ate and play games to learn about the power of the sun. In Drawing on Nature, they can sharpen observation skills to experience nature through art.

Here are some images from spring break camp. If you'd like more information about our summer camp sessions, please call (919) 668-1707 or click the "education & events" tab at gardens.duke.edu.

They watched a dragonfly emerge from its chrysalis. They learned about the water cycle as they helped plant a rain garden in the new Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden.



viewpoints

On the Japanese Tea experience



Jeanette Stokes

Frequent Japanese Tea Gathering attendee

Attending a Japanese Tea Gathering in the teahouse at Duke Gardens often helps to quiet my mind. I love sitting in the teahouse as sunlight glows through the rice paper shoji screens, with the beauty of the Gardens peeking through each time the door slides open. I relish the sound of water

being poured into the kettle, watching the host whisk the bright green tea until it is frothy, holding a warm earthenware tea bowl in my hands, and sipping the slightly pungent tea. The slow, carefully focused motions of the host encourage me to be present in the moment and seem to brush away the hurry and worry that often fill my days.

HARRY JENKINS RECEIVES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AWARD



Harry Jenkins, Duke Gardens' superintendent, was among several Duke students, staff members and projects honored at an annual awards ceremony sponsored by the Duke's Environmental Management Action Committee (EMAC).

Jenkins won the committee's Environmental Impact Award for his efforts to continually implement sustainable practices at the Gardens, including removing invasive plants and conserving water. He has worked at Duke Gardens for 40 years.

ASIATIC CONSULTATION



Landscape architect Sadafumi Uchiyama, garden curator at the Portland Japanese Garden, visited Duke Gardens in May to work with Paul Jones, curator of the W.L. Culberson Asiatic Arboretum, on further developing the Japanese-style gardens within the Arboretum.

Uchiyama's input expanded upon the ideas offered by Japanese landscape designer Katsuhito Nakasone, who consulted with Jones during a 2009 visit to Durham and during Jones' visit to Japan in 2010. Distance and the language barrier have made more extensive collaboration with Nakasone-san difficult.

Uchiyama is a third-generation gardener from southern Japan. Devoted to fostering relations between Japanese gardens in Japan and those outside of Japan, he served as a secretary of the International Association of Japanese Gardens (IAJG) from 1996 to 2000. He is also working with Steve Bloom, CEO of the Portland Japanese Garden, to establish the North American Japanese Garden Association.

Among the projects he has worked on are the renovation of the Osaka Garden at Jackson Park in Chicago and the Shofuen of the Denver Botanic Gardens. He also completed the Japanese Heritage Garden in Hood River, Or., and is currently working on the design of a Japanese garden and buildings for the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society in Fargo, N.D.

While at Duke Gardens, Uchiyama presented a public lecture titled "Japanese Gardens in the U.S.: Growing from Cultural Outreach to Community Restoration."

BLUE DEVIL OF THE WEEK: JASON HOLMES



Jason Holmes, curator of the Doris Duke Center Gardens, was named "Blue Devil of the Week" in December. Duke University picks an employee each week to spotlight, selecting from nominations from the employees' co-workers or supervisors.

In the "Blue Devil of the Week" profile, when asked what his dream job is, Holmes said he already has it.

To read the whole article, search for "Jason Holmes" at today.duke.edu.

TAIMI ANDERSON HONORED



Duke Gardens has been fortunate over the years to have had the support of long-time Board of Advisors member Taimi Anderson, who completed her recent term on the board, with service dating back to 1995. In appreciation of her service, the board dedicated a tree in her honor.

"I feel very privileged to have been involved, even in a small way, in the milestones of development at Duke Gardens, as it flourished over the years and has evolved into a spectacular garden that brings pleasure and joy to so many people," Anderson wrote in a note to executive director Bill Lefevre and board chair Anne Mischeaux Akwari.

In addition to her board service, including two terms as chair, Anderson was involved with master planning for the Doris Duke Center and other substantial improvements. She was instrumental in launching the education program as a volunteer, she organized and taught classes and led tours, and she has donated dozens of books to the Gardens' horticultural library. The Gardens' annual Taimi Anderson lecture was created in her honor.

Anderson said she was especially pleased by the tree dedication.

"On a spring morning, I was at the Gardens to see the newly planted Akebono cherries in bloom along the Allée," she wrote of the new entry allée leading to the Mary Duke Biddle Rose Garden. "Being in their first year after planting, they were a little shy in blooming. I was directed to go and see an Akebono cherry in full bloom by the Memorial Garden. The tree was covered with delicate blossoms, white with a breath of pink along the petals—it was a glorious sight! You cannot imagine my delight that this lovely tree is now dedicated in my name."

NEW STAFF



KAVANAH ANDERSON (education program coordinator) grew up on the move. After experiencing many styles of education in many settings, she found her calling as an outdoor educator. She got her bachelor's degree in history from Beloit College in Wisconsin, then worked for several family farms and environmental education organizations. Before joining Duke Gardens, she worked for 5 years at SEEDS Educational Garden as the co-coordinator of the Durham Inner-city Gardeners.



CAROLINE FLINN (administrative assistant to the director) has worked at Duke for five years, previously in University Development in the area of Special Initiatives. She moved to North Carolina 13 years ago from Las Vegas. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Tulsa, and she has worked with a wide range of corporations and educational institutions.



MILLICENT SNOW (development assistant) grew up in Roxboro. She received her bachelor's degree from Elon University. In 1986, she began working at the Fuqua School of Business. Later, she owned and operated Millicent's Dance Studio in Roxboro for 15 years.



LINDSEY FLEETWOOD (horticulturist) grew up in the country outside of Edenton. She earned her bachelor's degree in horticultural science with a concentration in landscape design from N.C. State University. She was an intern at Duke Gardens in 2011. Lindsey has a passion for growing food and is excited to come aboard during the development of the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden.



HEATHER SEIFERT (assistant horticulturist) spent nearly 25 years as a director of a nonprofit organization focusing on historic preservation. She then chose to redirect her career path. Following two years as a volunteer in the Historic Terraces, Heather was an intern at Duke Gardens in 2010. She earned her associates degree in horticulture from Alamance Community College, and she also holds a bachelor's degree in art and a master's degree in public administration.

SUMMER INTERNS

Michelle Rawlins, Horticulturist & Intern Program Coordinator

Summer 2011 brought us a diligent group of interns.

The best example of this was **Lindsey Fleetwood**, a N.C. State University intern who was so impressive that she joined our staff soon afterward as a horticulturist in the Doris Duke Center Gardens. Lindsey researched how public gardens can best communicate with visitors.

Also from NCSU was **Nicholas Schwab**. He researched and helped choose roses to be planted in the newly redesigned Mary Duke Biddle Rose Garden. **Matthew Luks**, a Sandhills Community College student, helped landscape the new *Machiai* structure in the Japanese Pavilion, from large boulders down to small plants. And **AJ Perez** came from San Marcos, Texas, a student of former Duke Gardens education director Alice LeDuc. AJ investigated ways for Duke Gardens to improve its composting.

CIOMPI QUARTET PRESENTS

Duke Gardens is partnering with Ciompi Quartet, Duke Arts and Duke's Department of Music for an exciting new chamber music series.

"Ciompi Quartet Presents" will take place on three Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Doris Duke Center. Each will feature one or more members of the Ciompi Quartet with guest artists.

Tickets are \$20; \$5 for students. They're available at tickets.duke.edu or by calling 919-684-4444. Parking is free after 5 p.m. For more information, please go to events.duke.edu/ciompipresents.

The concerts are as follows:

JUNE 5: Ciompi Quartet violinist Eric Pritchard with Ciompi violist Jonathan Bagg and N.C. Symphony principal cellist Bonnie Thron in a string trio transcription of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*.

JULY 10: Jonathan Bagg presents "Dancing in the Wind," a program featuring soprano Ilana Davidson, flutist Laura Gilbert and harpist Stacey Shames.

AUG. 14: Ciompi cellist Fred Raimi presents Shostakovich's *Piano Trio No. 2* and works by Beethoven and Brahms. Raimi will be joined by violinist Richard Luby and pianist Clara Yang, UNC-Chapel Hill faculty members.

IN MEMORIAM: COURTNEY SHIVES JR.



A dear friend of Duke Gardens and Duke University, Courtney Shives Jr. (T'66), lost his battle with cancer on April 27, 2011. He was a resident of Greenville, S.C., and also had a home in Durham for several years.

Shives left the bulk of his estate to Duke University, creating three named endowment funds benefitting the Nasher Museum of Art, Duke Men's Basketball and Sarah P. Duke Gardens.

At the time of his death, Shives was serving his third term on the Duke Gardens Board of Advisors. He loved the Gardens and he loved Duke University, especially Duke Basketball. His stone in our Memorial Garden is inscribed, "I'd rather be in Cameron..." He will be dearly missed and fondly remembered, and we are forever grateful for his friendship and for his enduring legacy of support.

IN MEMORIAM: MARY D.B.T. SEMANS



We at Duke Gardens mourn the passing in January of Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans, a longtime Duke Gardens supporter whose passion and generosity shaped the Gardens in dramatic ways.

Sarah P. Duke Gardens would not exist were it not for the vision and generosity of Mary Semans, her mother, Mary Duke Biddle, and her grandmother, after whom the Gardens is named.

Mrs. Semans often spoke of how much her mother loved flowers and gardening and how important Duke Medical School's Dr. Frederic Hanes was in influencing Mary Duke Biddle to establish the Terrace Gardens in memory of Mary's grandmother, Sarah P. Duke.

Mary Semans and her late husband, James H. Semans, served as honorary members of the Duke Gardens Board of Advisors since its inception in 1991. And she participated in several major functions during the capital campaign to build the Doris Duke Center, which opened in 2001. She was also the honorary chair of the Gardens' 75th anniversary celebration in 2009.

The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation has continued the family's legacy of support in the Gardens. The foundation has provided operational support since 1972. It enabled the Gardens to start a children's program in 1995. And it contributed to last year's ambitious refurbishment and relocation of the century-old Roney Fountain from East Campus to Duke Gardens, as well as the expansion of the newly named Mary Duke Biddle Rose Garden surrounding the fountain. The fountain project, dedicated in Mrs. Semans' honor, earned an award last year from Preservation North Carolina.

In addition, the sundial in the Butterfly Garden was given to Duke Gardens by the Trent and Semans children in honor of Mary & James Semans' 35th wedding anniversary in 1988. And the gallery in the Doris Duke Center is named for Mary and James Semans.

"I've often said that people who really don't know Duke very well just love the Gardens," Mrs. Semans said at the 75th anniversary celebration. "I'm so thrilled that so many people from out of town come here. So many people from other countries. It's great. The more people who come, the better off it is."

GARDENS DEDICATIONS

Sarah P. Duke Gardens celebrated the completion of several major projects in May 2012, with dedication ceremonies for new and improved gardens that visitors will surely appreciate.

The newly named **Mary Duke Biddle Rose Garden**, one of the first features that people see when they enter the Gardens through the Gothic gates, is now larger than before and will feature no-spray and heirloom roses complemented by herbs, perennials and ornamental grasses.



Family members of the late Mary D.B.T. Semans—including children, grandchildren and cousin Tony Duke—gather at a ceremony dedicating the newly named Mary Duke Biddle Rose Garden.

At the Rose Garden's dedication ceremony, Duke President Richard H. Brodhead pointed out the Duke family's matrilineal support of Duke Gardens. Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans, the granddaughter of the Gardens' namesake and daughter of Mary Duke Biddle, asked that the Rose Garden be dedicated in her mother's name. Semans, a 1939 Duke graduate, died in January. Her six daughters and son attended the dedication ceremony, and daughter Mary Trent Jones will join the Duke Gardens Board of Advisors as an honorary member this year.

"The Gardens become a kind of emblem of a family reaching forward from generation to generation," Brodhead said, "leaving beautiful things behind."

The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation provided major support for the project, as it did for the restoration and relocation of the historic **Roney Fountain** from East Campus, which now graces the center of the Rose Garden. The fountain was dedicated in 2011 in Semans' honor, in a bequest from the late Dr. J. Robert Teabeaut II (T'45, M.D. '47). The relocation project received a top award in 2011 from the nonprofit Preservation North Carolina.

Mary Trent Jones noted her mother's love for Duke Gardens and the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation's support of the Gardens since the foundation's inception in 1956.

"As one of the fortunate members of the fourth generation of this remarkable group of Duke women," she said at the dedication, "I am so pleased to have my grandmother honored with her mother and daughter at Duke's beautiful gardens."

Overlooking the Rose Garden, along a new entrance path created for easier access for people with physical challenges, is a new **Rose Arbor**, built with support from Drs. William G. Brown (T'72; P'03) and Janet F. Brown (P'03).

Leading from the Rose Garden to the Terrace Gardens is the newly named **Walker Dillard Kirby Allée**. The allée, which boasts a dramatic display of perennials, vines and shrubs, is a gift from the F.M. Kirby Foundation.

The redesigned **Page-Rollins White Garden** behind the Doris Duke Center was also dedicated in May. The new design features a Gothic Pavilion, interlocking paths that create garden "rooms," and myriad white-flowering plants.

"Whenever I walk through here, I just think, 'White, white, white, but each so different,'" Brodhead said at the ceremony. "And look at these foxgloves, and look beyond them at the roses, each so different. And it just seems to me that when you come here, you remember the phrase from Darwin: 'endless forms most beautiful.' That's what you see here. It's just the sort of endless forms of nature, bound together by this color white."

The final dedication was for the new **Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden**, a teaching garden featuring an orchard, fruiting shrubs and vines, vegetable beds, a reconstructed tobacco barn, a rain garden and other components that will help visitors better understand ecology and where their food comes from. The new garden will officially open in fall, and you'll hear much more about it in the next issue of *Flora*.

In honor of the new Brody Garden, peppers and other ornamental vegetables have been planted in the Terrace Gardens and the beds at the main entrance of Duke Gardens.



MUSIC IN THE GARDENS

Duke Performances will bring back its Music in the Gardens outdoor concert series to Duke Gardens again this summer. The series will feature the following bands:

JUNE 6	The Beast and Big Band	JULY 11	Mandolin Orange
JUNE 13	The Old Ceremony	JULY 18	Midtown Dickens with special guests
JUNE 21	Dex Romweber & the New Romans	JULY 25	MegaFaun
JUNE 27	Bombadil		

All concerts will take place rain or shine. Shows are at 7 p.m., and all are on Wednesdays, except for Dex Romweber, which is a Thursday. Picnics and blankets are encouraged. Dogs are not allowed. Food and beverages, including beer and wine, will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$12; \$5 for Duke employees or students; free for children age 12 and younger. For tickets, please go to tickets.duke.edu or call 919-684-4444. For more information, please go to dukeperformances.duke.edu.

viewpoints

On welcoming visitors
at the Gothic gates



Nan Schiebel
Gardens Ambassador
and longtime volunteer

My two hours each week at the Gardens' entrance is a time of meeting visitors with a cheerful greeting, offering a map and/or directions, and informing them of the history or contemporary happenings at the Gardens, the university or Durham. The visitors in turn like to tell me about where they are from and why they are

visiting the Gardens. This is my third year, and I have not met an unpleasant visitor yet—even when the parking meter is out of order.

Being a Gardens Ambassador is one way that I can help and do something I enjoy. Especially this time of year, when you go to the Gardens and you see all the flowering shrubs and trees and flowers, you can't help but feel like it's a Duke church outdoors.



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

a closer look:

Duke Gardens curators on interesting plants in their gardens

ERYSIMUM 'JENNY BROOK' (a)

The Erysimums are a group of short-lived perennials or annuals found throughout the western U.S. and the world. In general, they are called wallflowers. They attract butterflies and are also food for butterfly larvae. The cultivar selection 'Jenny Brook' is a hybrid that was found in Wales as a chance seedling and introduced through Blooms of Bressingham. Here at Duke Gardens we use this striking wallflower in the winter/spring Terrace Gardens beds. It grows to about 18 inches tall and has striking mauve and peach flowers on upright stalks and can bloom for three or four months in late winter and spring. We usually plant these in late October and November. They have been very vigorous and reliable every year.

Jenny Brook wallflower combines well in beds with other annuals or can be quite striking used by itself. Often we use it in beds that have a cottage garden look, and this year we used it with Dutch iris and tulips coming up through it. It could also be a good plant to fill empty spaces in a perennial border. Usually the wallflowers will start to diminish by June, and they rarely make it through our summer heat. In cooler climates it can bloom through the summer and into fall. Along with this cultivar, we have been using other selections of wallflower, such as precious gold and Bowle's mauve. Mike Owens, Curator, Historic Gardens

BUTTONBUSH (b)

A favorite plant of mine, often found at one of my most beloved hiking destinations along the Flat River in Durham County, is the buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). As a child, I remember marveling at the golf ball-sized creamy white flower clusters that seemed to float around the deep green lance-shaped leaves.

A member of the madder family, buttonbush is a cousin to my morning companion, *Coffea arabica* (coffee), from the Middle East, as well as a diminutive fellow Southeast native, *Mitchella repens* (partridgeberry). Buttonbush is a leggy shrub/small tree most often seen along river bottoms among Pinxterbloom azaleas (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*) and Virginia willows (*Itea virginica*) beneath a canopy of river birches (*Betula nigra*).

Plant it near water and give it sun, and it can grow to 15 feet and put on a June display of floral beauty and fragrance that's hard to match. Stefan Bloodworth, Curator, Blomquist Garden of Native Plants

HELWINGIA CHINENSIS (c)

And now for something completely different—*Helwingia chinensis*. One of the goals for the plant collections in the Culberson Asiatic Arboretum is to represent the floral diversity of the plant kingdom. *Helwingia chinensis* is a slow-growing evergreen shrub with narrow glossy leaves that matures to 3 to 5 feet in height. It is one of only four species of a rarely encountered genus endemic to warm, temperate regions of southeastern Asia.

Sexually speaking, helwingias are dioecious, meaning that a given shrub is either male or female. The flowers are small and not very ornamental, but the fact that they occur literally atop a leaf, a condition known as *epiphyllly*, makes helwingia an interesting conversation piece in the garden, especially in autumn, when the leaves of female shrubs are laden with shiny, pea-sized, dark reddish berries. The helwingia pictured was grown from seed collected in the mountains of western China. Paul D. Jones, Curator, Culberson Asiatic Arboretum

NELSON'S BLUE BEAR GRASS (d)

Nelson's blue bear grass (*Nolina nelsonii*), despite its name, is not a grass at all; in fact, it is considered a "woody lily." Like yucca and agave, these are plants that are lily-like and evergreen. Native to the deserts and mountainous regions in the Tamaulipas State of Mexico, this drought-tolerant plant is well suited to our southeastern summers. *Nolina nelsonii* looks like a yucca with bluish-green foliage that radiates out from a central point, over time reaching 4 to 8 feet high and 6 feet wide.

These plants are extremely fine textured in appearance, with long, linear leaves that have minute serrations along the edges. During summer, a 4-foot tall spike erupts with hundreds of small white flowers that age to a fuzzy yellow-green plume. Proven hardy from USDA hardiness zones 7 to 10, Nelson's blue bear grass is very tolerant of dry locations once established and is a deer-resistant plant. This woody lily is a wonderful architectural plant when mixed with bold-textured plants. Suggested locations for use include the full sun perennial border, as an accent in specimen locations, and even as a container highlight. Jason Holmes, Curator, Doris Duke Center Gardens



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Please consider becoming a member of Duke Gardens. More than half of our annual operating budget comes from people like you, who value all that Duke Gardens has to offer.

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. Membership information is available in the Doris Duke Center, at gardens.duke.edu or by calling 919-684-5579. Thank you.

Groundbreakers Society: \$50-\$249

(Student Groundbreakers – current students with valid ID: \$20)

Benefits include:

- Flora magazine and Annual Report
- Duke Gardens notecards
- 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 our Plant Sales

Terraces Society: \$250-\$999

Groundbreakers benefits plus:

- Discounts on Gothic Bookshop purchases (must show valid member card)
- One complimentary Groundbreakers gift membership
(Please provide name & address of recipient)

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

Mary Duke Biddle Society: \$5,000+

Directors benefits plus:

- A plant propagated from Duke Gardens stock (available at the Gardens' annual Spring Plant Sale or upon request; plants cannot be mailed)
- Four complimentary Groundbreakers gift memberships

Corporate Friends: \$5,000+ (Excludes matching program gifts)

- Flora magazine
- 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



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