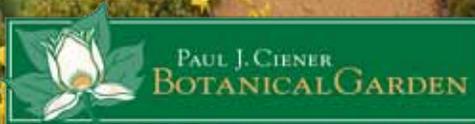


Seasons at Ciener

A Newsletter
for Friends of



www.cienerbotanicalgarden.org

April 2019



John Whisnant
Executive Director

A View from the Garden...

I left my mother's patio home at lunch today and the lawn had just been freshly mown. The bright sunny day with still a hint of cold in the air combined with the scent of freshly cut grass made me realize...tomorrow is the first day of spring. That's often how it is for me, weeks of waiting and then in an instant, the much-anticipated thing has arrived. Tomorrow promises to be bright and sunny again, but still that hint of cold in the air. That's fine for me. Spring can be so fleeting here, that I am fine with it taking its time to fully arrive. All around though, signs abound that it is here. Just take a look in your own garden and you will see it too.

Spring here, like in every garden, is a very busy time. We have tours lined up, we are waiting patiently on our bulb display to begin, we are enjoying other blooming bulbs from years gone by and grateful that all the rain and snow of the past several months does not seem to have done any damage. Mark your calendars for our Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, April 13th from 8 a.m. til 1 p.m. During that time, we will also be celebrating our Spectacular Spring Tulip Bloom. April is our birthday, so cake and lemonade will be on-hand. Stop by and celebrate with us.

One spring event that is particularly special to me is my Mother's 80th birthday on April 5th. We have a small tea party planned at the Garden for family and close friends. A great milestone indeed and we are all excited to celebrate with her and reflect on her accomplishments, reminisce on the many good times of the past and to

remember those that are not with us today. Our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude for this occasion.

My gratitude continues for you, our garden friends. It is through the generous support of our donors, corporate sponsorships, foundation grants, event rentals, members, volunteers and sales in the Wyatt and Dolores Garden Gift Shop that we are able to do this work. From our Board of Directors and Staff...Thank you to all our benefactors across the Piedmont Triad and beyond.

In other parts of this newsletter, you will learn more about all the many things we have going on here. I just completed our Annual Report and was amazed at the number of visitors we hosted (15,000) and the number of events (252) that occurred here last year. Our good word is getting out and we are so proud to be a place of civic pride and tourism attraction. The Garden is open daily from dawn until dusk. Come visit us often and see how the Garden reflects the changing seasons.

Spring! Glorious Spring! May you enjoy it with a merry heart.



215 South Main Street
Kernersville, NC 27284

Phone: 336.996.7888
Fax: 336.996.7884



Calendar of Upcoming Events...

Toni Hays
Programs Officer

More information about our upcoming events including how to register to attend, can be found on our Garden Events page on our website, www.cienerbotanicalgarden.org

Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden's Spring Plant Sale . . .

Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm



PJCBG Members Pre-Sale
Thursday, April 11, 2019
5:00 pm until 7:00 pm

Plants for sun and shade, selected trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and more will be on sale. A list of plants will be posted on our website, www.cienerbotanicalgarden.org prior to the sale. Proceeds benefit the future development of the Garden. Come find something perfect for your garden!

Spectacular Spring Tulip Bloom . . .



Saturday, April 13, 2019
from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm

Come and enjoy over 20,000 bulbs blooming in a glorious celebration of Spring (open and free to the public). Refreshments will be served.





April's Lunch and Learn . . . "A Year in the Garden!"

*by Adrienne Roethling, PJCBG's Director of
Curation and Mission Delivery*

Thursday, April 18, 2019, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm

Whether you are new at gardening or have been gardening your whole life, it is always about learning or trying something new. Gardening is about trends, growing new varieties, changing garden styles or adapting to the environment. Professional gardeners may not have all the answers, but following certain steps, lots of trial and error, and having a lot of patience makes one a success. Adrienne will share some of the tips needed during each season, highlight some of the best plants for our region and talk about her favorite gardens and their seasons as well as her favorite nurseries. FREE to Members of PJCBG or \$2 for nonmembers. Register online or call 336-996-7888. Bring your Lunch. The Garden will provide drinks.



May's Lunch and Learn . . . "North Carolina Wildflower Program"

*by Derek Smith, Environmental Engineer,
North Carolina Department of Transportation*

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm

Learn about the history of the North Carolina Wildflower Program as well as the types of wildflowers grown by the Department. Find out about the agronomic issues encountered across the State. And discover how you can

showcase and grow wildflowers in your home garden. FREE to Members of PJCBG or \$2 for nonmembers. Register online or call 336-996-7888. Bring your Lunch. The Garden will provide drinks. Lunch and Learn lectures are part of our Chip Callaway Lecture Series.





The Pollinator's Buffet

Adrienne R. Roethling

Director of Curation & Mission Delivery

When creating a pollinator buffet, it is important to add plants that provide nectar when pollinators are active. In some years, the temperatures may rise early leaving you wondering what is blooming that provides food. The same goes for late in the season before pollinators hibernate or fly south. Over the years, the gardens at PJCBG has provided an abundance of food; some plants are North American native ones while some plants are not, but all have been critical when feeding the demand of hungry pollinators.

When we think of pollinators we think of the fuzzy bumblebee or happy butterfly. Unfortunately, plants are pollinated by many species of insects including the ugly, scary and obnoxious ones. This group includes aphids, squash bugs, wasps and more. They all play a role and you will get the good with the bad. Bugs also go in waves. For example, we've all heard the 17-year cicada, but other bugs tend to be less in some years and more abundant in others. It'll be interesting to see what this season brings after all this rain. There are some tricks you can apply to your garden such as adding decoy plants or gardens. These are plants that you know attract the bad and the ugly, therefore, if you have the space, plant decoys in the back corner or far away from most of your gardening activities. Traps work too but may attract your entire neighborhood. Also, consider incorporating more herbs to your gardens. Pests tend to stay away from plants that give off fragrance. While you are outside, stroke the leaves of plants to allow the fragrance to permeate the air.

Let's take a quick look at the seasons and the plants that tend to be pollinator magnets. In winter, consider the native species of witchhazel. Mahonia and Japanese apricots are more plants to attract pollinators. Yes, mahonia can have weedy tendencies but there are species or cultivars that do not seed around. Birds too love to eat the fruit of mahonia. Later in the season, more cherry relatives come into bloom supporting a lot of different pollinators in addition to herbaceous plants and bulbs such as crocus, snowdrops and blue spurge. Once spring hits, native Virginia bluebells and creeping phlox become magnets. This diversity of plants provides a bridge of flowers before the peak native plant spring season.



Speaking of diversity, in late spring, consider sowing a bed of zinnias, cosmos, marigolds and sages to attract pollinators before the peak summer plants like native milkweed, butterfly weed, coneflower, gayfeather begin. The self-sowing annuals will continue to draw the bees, moths and butterflies in between



flowering seasons. Years ago, a volunteer shared with me her take on pollinators. She told me to create food courts. Therefore, on our 7 acres, we have created 6 key areas in which to have an explosion of flowers. You will also find several species of milkweed or butterfly weed on the property. Do you know why this plant is so important to the monarch? The white sap that gives the milkweed its name is unappealing to predators. Therefore, the monarch will lay her eggs, the caterpillars or juveniles will eat the milk which in turn makes them unappealing to predators. This is what's considered their host plant. Ironically, the photos supporting this article are of a monarch who chose to pupate on the African native species of milkweed, *Gomphocarpus physocarpus*. Once the caterpillar was spotted in this milkweed, we found up to 20 more just on this species alone. The monarch butterfly or adult will go to all sorts of flowers for food and don't seem to be fussy about where they choose to morph into beauty. They seem to like the zinnias that we grow, this is a great way to get children excited about gardening.



Later in the season, there is a plethora of native flowers; hardy sunflowers, Joe pye weed, hardy sages, goldenrod and thistle just to name a few. Though, the master plan for Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden has been in place for over 10 years, gardening trends have changed slightly.

Currently, there is a big buzz (no pun) in attracting pollinators by means of native plants. There has been great response to incorporating more natives but also using a diversity of plants to attract all sorts of pollinators without changing the mission, the master plan or the wishes of the late Paul Ciener.





The Dolores and Wyatt LeFever Garden Gift Shop

Kim Babyak

Garden Shop Manager

Springtime is such a pleasant reward for enduring winter! Spring is full of gifts, all newly packaged in every color of the rainbow and then some!



One of my favorite gifts of spring is watching the birds prepare for their new families. The bluebirds, who were happy to eat as a group over the winter, now are very territorial with their food and housing.

The Garden Shop has several homes and feeders for birds. The dual-purpose birdhouse has a planter on the top for

your favorite plant or succulent. Gourd birdhouses are popular homes for several varieties of birds. My gourd has housed a bluebird family for several years. Decorative feeders are appreciated by birds and people! We have several styles of feeders to please even the

most discerning of birds!



Bunnies are a gift of spring that keeps on giving! The bunnies here at The Garden are guaranteed not to reproduce! The yoga bunnies are adorable and would be an awesome gift for a yoga instructor or student. The SPI hopping rabbits are beautiful when used indoors or out. Buy just one or all three! One of the spring garden flags features the cutest applied bunny bottom, it can be a charming addition to your garden. Many more bunnies to choose from, stop in and see for yourself!



The Gift Shop has received a new shipment of local honey. Come in and look at our bee-less hive and see how the bees live without getting stung!

Spring is full of wonderful gifts and so is the Dolores and Wyatt LeFever Garden Gift Shop. Come on in after touring our beautiful Garden, we look forward to seeing you!



The Dolores and Wyatt LeFever Garden Gift Shop is full of unique and special gifts and treats! Come visit our beautiful Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden and then stop in the Gift Shop, you never know what you may find!

Contact Kim Babyak at 336.996.7888 or Kbabyak@pjcbg.org



Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden Volunteer of the Season



Pat Thomas

It takes many hands to help a garden grow and our hardworking group of volunteers are the heart of Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden! They contribute their talents, enthusiasm and energy to many different areas within the daily and seasonal functions of the Garden and whether they give a little or a lot of their time, our dedicated volunteers help make each guest's visit beautiful and enriching. Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden recognizes one volunteer each season whom we feel has done an outstanding job.

This season's volunteer has been a long-time member, supporter and advocate of the Garden and volunteers in the Garden, as a Docent and a member of our Guild. She is Sunday School teacher, a Wake Forest fan and a lover of snowflakes! When she is not volunteering at the Garden, she is active in the Kernersville Garden Club, Kernersville Woman's Club, Next Step Ministry and the Main Street UMC Community Garden.

Our Volunteer for this season is Pat Thomas. Please join us in thanking Pat for all that she does for the Garden volunteering as We are truly blessed to have her as part of the Garden. As a small token of our appreciation, Pat will receive a gift certificate to a restaurant in downtown Kernersville to enjoy!

Membership...

Individual/Household memberships are just \$50 per year. Join or renew your membership for a chance to win our Plant of the Month. Congratulations to Marianne Royle, winner of our March Plant of the Month, *Helleborus niger* - Christmas rose.

Some member benefits include:

- A subscription to Seasons at Ciener – the Garden's Quarterly newsletter
- A one-year's subscription to Better Homes and Gardens or Martha Stewart Living compliments of American Public Gardens Association
- A 10 % discount at the Garden's Plant Sales and Members Only Pre-Plant Sale, 10% discount at the Garden's Gift Shop
- Free admission to the Garden's Lunch and Learn and Summer Thursday Lectures
- Preferred registration to outings for Friends of the Garden
- Discounts to over 300 gardens nationwide through the American Horticultural Society



Concert on the Lawn . . .



**featuring Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba
with Special Guest Tony Williamson
Thursday, May 30, 2019, 6:30 pm (Gates open at 5:00 pm)**

“Diali Cissokho, Kaira Ba’s bandleader and kora player, hails from a long line of Griot musicians in Senegal. But moving an ocean away from his musical past has only strengthened Cissokho’s resolve to enliven the traditional sound. With four Tar Heel native behind him, Cissokho & Kaira Ba create a universally appealing sound full of bright tones and driving polyrhythm.” – PASTE MAGAZINE

North Carolina Heritage Award recipient Tony Williamson is a seventh-generation musician from rural Piedmont North Carolina. A musical instrument expert, he has played stringed instruments, most significantly mandolin, for six decades, receiving awards and honors for 50 of those years. Known as one of the best mandolinists in the world, Tony continues to perform live and travel internationally. **Tickets \$15 in advance (\$18 day of concert)** and proceeds benefit the further development of Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden. Concert is rain or shine with limited tent coverage. Bring a chair or blanket. Food trucks, local beer and wine on site for purchase (**Gates open at 5:00 pm**). Please, no coolers, pets or smoking. Presented as part of the John and Bobbie Wolfe Concert Series in partnership with Sonic Pie Productions.

June’s Summer Thursday Lecture . . .



**“Don’t Get Your Bloomers in a Bunch - the
Best Blooming Plants for Southern Gardens”**

by Christina Larson,

President, Guilford Horticultural Society and

Owner, Guilford Garden Center

Thursday, June 13, 2019, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

Learn about the most interesting trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals that outperform in our climate with beautiful flowers

and striking foliage. Some of the trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals will be available for purchase. Christina will also share information about the Greensboro Oak Project, an initiative to replant native white and red oaks. FREE to Members of the Garden or a \$5 for non-members. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is required. To register, call 336-996-7888. Summer Thursday lectures are part of our Chip Callaway Lecture Series.





Staff

John Whisnant

Executive Director

Toni Hays

Programs Officer

Angie Huffman

Development Associate

Lynn Adams

Facility Rental Coordinator

Kim Babyak

Garden Gift Shop Manager

Adrienne Roethling

Director of Curation and

Mission Delivery

Josh Williams

Garden Manager

Mainor Melgar

Gardener

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