

Seasons at Ciener

A Newsletter
for Friends of



www.cienerbotanicalgarden.org

April 2021



Toast of the Tulips

Adrienne R. Roethling, *Director of Curation & Mission Delivery*

This is it, the time of year where tulips and daffodils bring renewal and hope for spring. The plants wake up, the pollinators emerge and everything changes. Do you notice how your mood improves, or the sounds and smells hit you suddenly, or do you want to stay outside a little longer? After 2020 and what seemed like the longest winter ever, I think everyone is ready for their renewal. Please be sure to make a stop in the Pattern Garden to see the 25,500 tulips and daffodils as part of that renewal.

Where were you 10 years ago? We had a busy spring weekend centered around our Grand Opening. What occurred was the moment that so many worked so hard. The dream of the late Paul Ciener who started us on this journey, became a reality. This beautiful gift to the community was finally open. It was a mad dash to the finish to get 48 Ginkgo biloba trees planted in the Ginkgo Screen. Longtime friends, donors and volunteers Wyatt



LeFever and Bill Bodsford perfectly measured and planted every single one. Mary Cook, with her detailed eye, cleaned up the Kitchen Garden raised beds using a paint brush. Ashley Smith planted our annual

beds at the entrance, while her brother, Justin planted butcher's broom. There are so many of you who helped those final months, weeks, and days. Without you, we would not be here today. Finally, the five Ciener grandchildren took center stage to partake in the epic ribbon cutting.

The first of many wonderful things happened in 2011, our first elementary school tours, several weddings and corporate events took place, the gift shop opened, and our Chip Callaway Lecture Series began. At the time, 2000 permanent plants were on display with 12 individual garden themes. Today, those numbers have almost doubled. We've stayed focused on inspiring many to create gardens themselves, educated thousands as to how plants adapt in

central NC and enlightened several to the wonders of a botanical garden. Who would have thought 10 years later, we would be sitting idle and having to reduce operations just a bit. This on top of our 10 year anniversary would have made most of us sad, but we will celebrate with you as you visit. While the garden remains free of charge, donations are always welcome, volunteers are vital, and memberships help the gardens grow.

Along with renewal of spring, daffodils have an unusual meaning. They are named after the God in Greek Mythology, Narcissus who fell in love with his reflection in the water. Let's just say that daffodils are also a sign of esteem. Tulips symbolize perfection and have a deep meaning towards love. They go back to the Victorian Era often affiliated with charities. Our beloved tulip has not only become a garden symbol but has a special place in our Spectacular Tulip Bloom. Though the garden celebrates 10 years, the Pattern Garden and its first Spectacular Tulip Bloom was held in 2009. We are again thankful for the generosity of our friends Brent and Becky Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs. Be sure to select Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden during your next order with Bloomin' Bucks. For members and friends of the garden, we hope to toast with you at one of our Toast of the Tulips events. For visitors, we will be out in the garden to engage in conversation, enjoy the grounds and welcome you to our spring renewal.



215 South Main Street
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Phone: 336.996.7888



Calendar of Upcoming Events...

Toni Hays

Programs Officer

For more information or to register for our events, visit our website, www.cienerbotanicalgarden.org or call **336-996-7888**.



Join us in **Celebrating 10 Years** of Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden during the month of April. Stroll through the Garden and enjoy the over 25,000 bulbs that will be blooming in a glorious celebration of Spring during our Toast of the Tulips. The Garden is open Daily Dawn until Dusk.

Spring Plant Sale . . .



Due to the COVID-19 Virus, our Spring Plant Sale will again be Virtual and easy!

Monday, April 5th - A detailed list of photos, descriptions and prices will be posted on our website and shared via email. Call our office, 336-996-7888, Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, to place your order and have your credit card information ready.

Wednesday, April 14th - Last call to order, all orders must be placed by NOON.

Friday, April 16th, 10:00 am–4:00 pm - Curb Side Safe, Social Distancing Pick Up (Limited delivery may be available for an additional \$20 charge)

Red Cross Blood Drives . . .



Tuesday, April 13th, 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

Monday, May 24th, 12:30 pm–5:00 pm

Monday, June 28th, 2:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 12th, 12:30 pm–5:00 pm

Wednesday, June 16th, 11:00 am–3:30 pm

Roll up your sleeves and help save lives! Each pint of blood we collect can help save up to three lives and will touch the lives of so many more. What a great way to pay it forward and make an impact on people in our community and across the country. Use RapidPass to complete your pre-reading and donation questions online, to reduce the time spent at the drive by 15 minutes. Blood donations are tested for COVID-19 antibodies. Wear a face covering or mask or one will be provided. To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org.

April Lecture . . .



“Best Perennials”

by Adrienne Roethling, Director of Curation & Mission Delivery

Thursday, April 15th, 2021, 1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Adrienne will continue with the “Best Of” series with these tried and true perennials. In this lecture she will share the best herbaceous perennials PJCBG has grown in the last 10 years.

Limited to 25 attendees. The Ballroom chairs will be arranged theatre style with 6’ between each. Masks will be required and temperature checks and hand sanitizer will be available. You can either attend in person (we’ve missed seeing you and hope you will) or join us on Zoom (we will email you a link the day before the lecture). To register to attend in person or to be added to the Zoom list, please call the office at 336-996-7888. Part of our Chip Callaway Lecture Series.



Kernersville Little Theatre presents . . . Eleemosynary

April 15th, 16th and 17th, 2021, 7:30 pm–9:00 pm

For this production, we’ll be back outdoors with our community partner, Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden, in Kernersville. Eleemosynary examines the delicate relationship of three women: a grandmother, Dorothea, who has sought to exert her independence through strong willed eccentric behavior, Artie, her daughter, who has run from her overpowering mother, and Echo, Artie’s daughter, who is incredibly smart and equally sensitive. It is a study of family relationships, and both through humor and poignant moments, highlights the need for connection and forgiveness.

For more information, visit

www.kltheatre.com or call the Kernersville Little Theatre at 336-993-6556.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://kernersvillelittletheatre.thundertix.com/events/18452>





What's New in the Dolores and Wyatt LeFever Garden Gift Shop

Lisa Dunlap, Gift Shop Manager and Facility Rental Coordinator

Spring is here and the Dolores and Wyatt LeFever Garden Shop is stocked with many new items!

We are now carrying Rivers' Finest Jams and Jellies! We have Habanero Jelly, Pomegranate Jelly, and Rose Petal Jelly just to name a few. We also have local honey!



For the outdoor fan, we have unique birdhouses, bird feeders, rain chains, wind spinners, garden flags and planters. These items all add interest to your outdoor spaces!

Easter and Mother's Day are right around the corner! We have a whimsical assortment of Easter bunnies from Mosaic which are handcrafted by an artist with developmental disabilities. For Mom, we have beautiful vases, inspirational gift books, handcrafted soaps and lotions, diffusers and so much more. We also have house plants for sale, with many already potted and ready to gift!

Don't forget, all Members of the Garden receive a 10% discount on their purchases, excluding consignment items. Remember all proceeds from the Garden Shop help our Garden grow!



The Gift Shop is open Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm and on Saturday, April 10th from 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

Volunteer of the Season . . .



"The broadest, and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good." – **Ivan Scheier**

Our talented and hardworking group of volunteers is one of the great strengths of Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden. Our dedicated volunteers enjoy the beauty of nature, while playing important roles from horticulture to special events and educational tours while they generously give their gift of time to the Garden. Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden recognizes one volunteer each season whom we feel has done an outstanding job.



Our volunteer this past season joined the Garden long before we opened to the public in April, 2011 and has volunteered to do whatever is needed including, volunteering at our plant sales, at our reception desk meeting and greeting visitors, staging and hosting special Garden events, getting our Gift Shop ready for its grand opening, organizing a garden guild that contributes unique items (many made by her) to be sold in our Gift Shop, and working for the past two years making tulips, and flowers for our Spectacular Holiday Blooms display.

Our Volunteer for this season is **Anna Warner**. Please join us in thanking Anna for all that she has done for the Garden. We were truly blessed to have Anna as part of our Garden family. As a small token of our appreciation, Anna will receive a gift certificate to a restaurant in downtown Kernersville to enjoy!

Donor's Corner

Angie Huffman, Development Associate



It is such an exciting time at the Garden. A few beautiful spring flowers are beginning to show. And in April we celebrate our 10th Anniversary!! What a wonderful trip down memory lane that will be but looking forward holds so much promise.

Beginning April 5th our Spectacular Tulip Bloom begins and will run through April 25th. There are many exciting events happening that the community can participate in.

The Garden would like to thank a few of our sponsors who have been supportive over the past 10 year and this year's 10th Anniversary and Spectacular Tulip Bloom.

88.5 WFDD, Public Radio for the Piedmont
Ray and Pat Thomas
Kernersville Garden Club
Lawrence E. Pope Foundation

Ronnie, Bobbie and Kristy Roberts
Pam Cook Communications
Genuine Car Care Center

Please join us the month of April to celebrate our 10th Anniversary and witness the beauty of 25,000+ tulips and daffodils. We look forward to seeing you in the Garden!!





Lantana -Building a Collection!

Adrienne R. Roethling, *Director of Curation & Mission Delivery*

I chose to talk about Lantana this time because our summer theme will include many shades of orange, yellow, pink and red lantanas. Not only will they fill the seasonal appeal throughout the entire garden, but some are perennial and have been growing in the border along the road. Lantanas are a fairly large group of plants native to the tropics of the Americas and throughout Africa. It is one of those caution plants as it has invasive properties further south and the berries are not edible. Thankfully, over the years, several non-threatening varieties have been introduced and is widely used as a summer ornamental plant.

In 2013, the seasonal displays did include many varieties of tropical lantana. Since then, newer varieties have hit the market. We look forward to revisiting this as our theme and will be sure to repeat one named 'Samantha'. Lantana 'Samantha' is a yellow flowering variety with green leaves and yellow margins. It stays low to the ground and is perfect for



containers. There are just a few hardy lantanas and several varieties of tender ones. Be sure to research the difference depending on your placement.



Let's start with the easy ones. The hardy lantanas that have been growing in the Perennial Border since 2009 are L. 'Ham and Eggs' and L. 'Star Landing'. Lantana 'Miss Huff' is another hardy form and there have been reports of winter hardiness with Lantana montevidensis and L. 'Chapel Hill Yellow'. The first three emerge in mid-spring quickly growing to 3-4' wide and tall. By mid-June, clusters of flowers begin and will not stop until frost. 'Ham and Eggs' has pink tubular flowers on the outside and yellow tubular flowers on the inside, offering a perfect cluster resembling its namesake. 'Star Landing' is orange around

the outside and yellow in the inside. Though there have been reports of 'Chapel Hill Yellow' having hardiness potential, it did not survive those freezing temperatures in 2012-2016. A chance seedling may have popped up but is now gone. We missed the opportunity the last two winters and could have planted in with 100% of winter survival. L. montevidensis has the same hardiness potential as 'CHY'. We did plant these last year, but with all hardy lantana, wait until late April to see new growth. Lastly, hardy lantana should be planted very early in the season for proper root establishment and hardiness. Do not plant lantana in the fall.



Summer lantanas come in a wide range of colors and sizes.



Expect solid colors or a mix of colors and do expect to see oranges, reds, yellows and pinks. Most will reach 2' tall and 3' wide. Summer lantanas should be planted after the last chance of frost. Usually mid-late April is ideal for planting. Once established, expect masses of flowers all summer long. Lantanas are pollinator magnets especially for the skippers. Butterfly skippers are about the size of a quarter, typically we see the brown and orange species. The flutter from flower to flower as if to skip from one to the next. Hummingbirds equally love the flowers and butterflies of all kinds will admire them too. Be sure to visit the gardens in the summer months to learn all the varieties that will be on display.





Let Us Rediscover: Permaculture

Josh Williams, *Garden Manager*

With most of life's decisions, not just with gardening/horticulture, don't you believe that your choices or directions should be ones that are based on what is best? Choices should feel natural, right? And at its heart, that is the main philosophy behind Permaculture. Its definition can be greatly expanded depending on who you talk to including everything from better farming practices to expressing the greater connectivity of the world. But for me, I would like to start simple and let the philosophy grow to whatever end in any given situation by always asking "Is this best?"

The practice of permaculture has been around since humans have been cultivating. There is evidence that the ancient people of New Guinea might have been the first to cultivate plants for their needs as late as 10,000 years ago. They started with taro, banana, sago and yam. They noticed some had bigger/better fruit or vegetable parts. Then they selectively propagated more of those plants in the areas of the jungle where they were naturally found.

This method of cultivation led those early people to completely design their society around the concept of working with the world around them instead of forcing it to their will. They played inside the natural cycles of nature that already existed. This is a sentiment we can see throughout many other ancient civilizations.

The humble and practical beginnings of permaculture came from the ultimate need for every action and place we inhabit to serve more than one purpose. To achieve this goal, we must utilize several good horticultural methodologies along with a well-thought out design for implementing them. There are quite a few staples to permaculture and even more recourses on the subsequent subjects. Below, I have identified four aspects that will get you started on our permaculture journey.

1. Strive for a closed loop system. Meaning, try to put back what you take from the land. The waste from what we use should be what supplies nutrient for what is growing. The acts of composting, companion planting, cover crops, having animals for manure then using that manure to grow their feed, using biological controls for pest management instead of chemicals are just a few trends that we see that can help complete that loop.



2. The utilization of perennial crops. This staple comes from the fact that the annual tilling of earth is not good for it. In large scale, we have new no/low till methods that take advantage of nitrogen fixing cover crops, also the understory planting of tree orchards, practiced by coffee and cacao plantations. In home scale, the edible landscape movement is helping our stagnate home landscapes become an active part of the ecosystem by incorporating fruit bearing trees/shrubs, herbs, and vegetable growing areas within ornamental beds.

3. Multi-Function. Fences for wind-shear, the keeping of animals, and a trails all at once; brick/stone walls for erosion control and reflected heat; rain barrels/ponds for growing edible fish then using the manure enriched water; using cane fruit for boundary plantings of living fencing. Just to name a few common multi-taskers in the garden.

Membership . . .



Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden located, in the Kernersville historic downtown district, is the only such public garden between Raleigh and Charlotte. Memberships help the Garden provide valuable educational opportunities to adults and children and also help in our development of new garden spaces as we continue to grow. Individual/Family Memberships are \$50 annually. Some Member benefits include a 10% discount at the Garden's Plant Sales and the Garden Gift Shop, free admission to the Garden's Lunch and Learn and Summer Thursday Lectures, preferred registration to outings for members, free subscription to Better Homes & Gardens or Martha Stewart Living compliments of APGA, discounts to over 300

gardens throughout North America and the Cayman Islands through the American Horticultural Society – www.ahsgardening.org/rap and more! Join or renew your membership online and your name will be entered into a drawing for our Plant of the Month.





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