

Seasons at Ciener

A Newsletter
for Friends of



PAUL J. CIENER
BOTANICAL GARDEN

www.cienerbotanicalgarden.org

July 2019



John Whisnant
Executive Director

A View from the Garden...

Happy Summer! Don't you love those words? Every year, I am that proverbial kid on the last day of school. Oh, the possibilities. I was one of those kids who roamed the woods and played in the creek with my friend Mark all summer long. It is a wonder we never got bitten by a snake. I guess our rambunctious romps scared them all away long before we could come upon them. Thank goodness! So, drawing upon that inner kid, I am excited once again about the possibilities and opportunities that await.

Speaking of opportunities, Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden is pleased to have been chosen as one of 20 gardens across America for a 5-month display garden vignette on the grounds of the US Botanic Garden. The exhibit spotlights the diversity and beauty of more than 600 public gardens in the United States. From rare and endangered plants to historic estates to modern oases, the collections and stories of 20 different gardens are showcased throughout the grounds of the US Botanic Garden.

These gardens reflect their local communities and the



amazing diversity found in the plant kingdom. The displays include signature plants and visual elements to

provide visitors a deeper understanding of the Gardens' plants, styles, origins, regional characters and missions. The 20 garden displays are there for public exploration

during normal operating hours through mid-October of this year.

Ciener Botanical Garden has chosen to highlight edible plants in a landscape and feature easily recognizable food plants like herbs, squash, tomatoes, and peppers, but also exotics and tropics like yucca, taro, banana and agave. Each plant in the roughly 200 square foot bed can be eaten or can provide a medicinal purpose.

Josh, Adrienne and I spent last week attending the American Public Garden Association's Annual Conference and what a magnificent time of learning and networking with and from our colleagues across the US. How proud we were to direct visitors to the US Botanic Garden to see our vignette. Adrienne once again wowed the attendees with her 'rapid fire' presentation on our planned holiday light display. Stayed tuned for more on that front as the year unfolds.

Anytime I am in our nation's capital, I stand in awe of our wonderful democracy and the Republic that fine public servants across the generations have created. I am inspired by our monuments and museums of the past as beacons guiding us upward and ever forward. I do hope we are still learning from where we have been as we head into our future. Despite our many flaws, we are still the greatest country on earth.

As you celebrate summer, my wish for you is wonder and awe and a road full of possibilities and opportunities. Happy trails. Make some noise along the way to scare away the snakes and never pass up an opportunity to wade in a creek.

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



Holiday Hours at the Garden . . .

The Offices and Gift Shop will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. The Garden will remain open from dawn until dusk. Have a Safe and Happy 4th of July Holiday.

Summer Thursday Lecture . . .



“Preserving the Garden: Dried Arrangements”

*by Adrienne Roethling,
Director of Curation & Mission Delivery*

Thursday, July 11, 2019, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Gardens and plants seem to get better with age. Another way to preserve the age of your gardens is to cut, preserve and use plants for indoor enjoyment. Every year, we save a handful of material from the garden,

hang them upside down in the stairwell and save them for multiple uses later. Some of the best plant parts to use are the spent inflorescence of hydrangea, sedums, and oregano while the best pods to use are lilies, iris, milkweed, cotton and okra. The best dried seeds or seed heads come from sea oats, black eyed Susan, sunflowers, clematis, artichoke, thistle, poppies and more. Learn how to preserve the gardens, take a tour of our drying area and one lucky member will be the recipient of a dried masterpiece. FREE to Members of PJCBG or \$5 for nonmembers. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is required. Register online or call 336-996-7888.



“Epiphytes - Life Out on a Limb”

*by Josh Williams
PJCBG's Garden Manager*

Thursday, August 8, 2019, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Come see what it means to be epiphytic! Learn how epiphytes live and thrive, and what you can do to take care of them. Discover interesting and creative ways to use them. FREE to Members of PJCBG

or \$5 donation for nonmembers. Registration is required. Register online or call 336-996-7888. Light refreshments will be served.

Summer Thursday Lectures are part of our Chip Callaway Lecture Series



Artisans at the Garden . . .



Presented by Twin City Artisans

Friday, July 19th, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday, July 20th, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

The exhibition and sale will showcase the work of local contemporary artists and craftspeople featuring the works of diverse artists from around North Carolina. All work is crafted by hand. For information about Twin City Artisans, visit www.twincityartisansnc.com or

contact Sue Davis at sunfire72@carolina.rr.com or 704-279-8542

Lunch and Learn Lectures . . .



“Gardening and Landscaping with Mushrooms”

by Ernie and Cathy Wheeler

Owners of Borrowed Land Farm

Thursday, September 12, 2019, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Learn how to incorporate mushrooms into the home garden or landscape. Borrowed Land Farm will present three different ways - at three different levels of involvement - to add mushrooms to your gardening repertoire. FREE to Members of the Garden or \$2 for non-members. Bring your lunch. The Garden will provide drinks. Registration is required. To register, call 336-996-7888.



“The Bird Garden – Build it and They Will Come”

by Christina Larson, President, Guilford Horticultural Society and Owner, Guilford Garden Center

Thursday, October 10, 2019, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Learn how to bring more birds up close, providing the natural food and shelter they need to thrive, both as adults and in the nest. Beautiful and functional native plants that supply the protein to enhance

survivability of baby birds should be on every gardener's list. Design your back yard (and front!) with beautifully lush trees, shrubs, and perennials that set the mood and supply the goods. Some native plants will be available for purchase. FREE to Members of the Garden or \$2 for non-members. Bring your lunch. The Garden will provide drinks. Registration is required. To register, call 336-996-7888.

Lunch and Learn Lectures are part of our Chip Callaway Lecture Series





Gardening in the Shade!

Adrienne R. Roethling

Director of Curation & Mission Delivery

As Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden continues to expand and create new displays, the most exciting one is yet to come. However, creating our shade garden has also been the most challenging. For us, the challenge has been cleaning a space that has been ignored for over 50 years. If one has a chance to start from a blank slate, the choice of plants, the layout and creating plant layers is up to you.

It was thought that a farm once resided on the property of the Botanical Garden. A row of red cedars, a depression which may have been a road, as well as pieces of old metal fencing left on the trunks of the cedars remain on our property. The fence was quickly removed for the trunks to heal, but they now have character. We're not sure how long these trees will last with this kind of physical damage, but it's created a remarkable display and we're excited to show off this space to you. As one can imagine, years of neglect has caused trees to grow in a misshapen habit often with weak stems and root masses. Years ago, the first step was to enter the space, therefore, clearing and removing low growing plants was a must. Got to love the birds that have deposited Japanese privet, English ivy and Mahonia seeds everywhere. Neighbors allowed their kudzu to grow which as you know, can grow several feet in a day. The next step was to remove the weak trees or limbs and evaluate the quality of the canopy. The canopy is primarily made up of the same species of trees which means opportunity for a more diverse and newer canopy. Fast forward 15 years and a positive aspect of this display is years of leaf litter has enriched the soils. Very little amending has taken place.

This new space, which makes up just over 2 acres, will be subdivided into the Woodland & Japanese Gardens as well as the Wetland Garden. Thankfully, planting began in 2016 when a good friend and nurseryman donated 800 hellebores. Behold, the Woodland Garden & Japanese Garden Vignettes were created which also allowed us to plant the many shade loving trees and shrubs that have been housed at the offsite nursery for so long. Some work will have to continue before it's all done; expansion of the Woodland & Japanese Gardens will continue once the wetland garden takes more shape. Two hurricanes, 14" of snow and a wet season has slowed this process down even more. For now, the vignettes have allowed more coverage for visitors to see and showcases more of our collections.



Since building a woodland or shade garden has been a slower process, we've looked at inspiration from two admirable, local, and private gardens. The gardens are exclusively shade with tulip poplars, pines and oaks. Instead of removing their trees, they raised the canopy by removing the lower limbs. The shade that radiates the garden is perfect for the middle layer. This layer consists of shrubs such as rhododendrons, hydrangeas and more. The last layer are the groundcovers and low growing perennials or annuals. One garden has large areas with lawn spaces for entertaining, while the other garden is 3 acres full of plants and paths. Unfortunately, the amount of shade killed the grass in the paths, but dwarf Mondo grass has been added as an alternative. This is ideal as the grass is evergreen and reduces the need for mowing. Another positive note to creating a woodland garden is the little use of water once plants are established. Again, the leaf litter enriches the soil, shade and layered gardening keeps the soils moist and cool during the hotter parts of the season. But, keep a sprinkler and hose on hand during drier spells.

They say a tree has many merits in the landscape to the air that we breathe, the cooling of the property and removing impurities in the air. Birds too, of all kinds make their homes there. For a list of some of the best canopy trees, visit the Audubon Society online or visit your local garden center. The county extension office should provide a vast array of resources also. Start by educating yourselves and take your time creating the shade garden. It has many rewards and returns for years to come. Lastly, the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time to plant a tree is now.





The Dolores and Wyatt LeFever Garden Gift Shop

Kim Babyak

Garden Shop Manager

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



The sun is out, for the moment! In a few minutes, the sky will turn black and send us another torrential downpour, such is summer in North Carolina!

So, let's take advantage of the rain with a rain chain. The Gift Shop has several uniquely different and beautiful chains to choose from, one may not be enough!

Bee's Wrap is the natural alternative to plastic for food storage. The Gift Shop carries various sizes to wrap a lemon all the way up to a loaf of bread or to cover a casserole dish. Bee's Wrap is organic cotton infused with beeswax, organic jojoba oil, and tree resin and is washable, reusable, and compostable. Bee's Wrap can be used for cheese, vegetables, bread, fruit, and baked goods. It is not recommended for raw meat. Easily washed with cool water and mild dish soap, it is a great way to reduce our use of plastic.



Summer is such a great time to get together with friends and relatives for a cookout or potluck meal. We have some great ideas for making or taking food for these occasions. Cheese plates are always welcome, and we have the perfect plate to use! First, the plate is beautifully decorated with the artwork of Dean Crouser. The best part is on the back, directions to make the ultimate cheese plate! Even the first timer can make a professional looking cheese plate and your secret is hidden on the back! We have two beautiful designs to choose from.

Two more mealtime helpers are the double oven mitt and the kitchen boa. Both items have more than one use. The kitchen boa is used as a dish towel and/or a potholder. It is draped around your neck, so no searching or reaching is required! The kitchen boas come in assorted colors and designs. The double oven mitt is a combination oven mitt and hot pad. The double oven mitt comes in two patterns, both are delightful!



The Gift Shop has the perfect all-purpose tote bag! It is adorned with a tulip photo taken in our Garden by Nancy Seay. We are fortunate to carry her greeting cards; all her pictures are taken in the Garden. The tote is great for the beach or shopping. It is made of durable cloth and washable.

We have so much more, too much to mention here, in our Gift Shop. If you need a gift, come see us before driving to Winston-Salem or Greensboro, you will be pleasantly surprised!

We hope you make visiting Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden a part of your summer plans! Be sure to come on in, cool off and shop a while in the Dolores and Wyatt LeFever Garden Gift Shop, we will be happy to see 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



www.cienerboganicalgarden.org

Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden Volunteer(s) of the Season



Ben Peters (left) Khuzi Gausi (right)



Bryan Wolfe

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 would like to recognize three young men whom we

feel have done an outstanding job these past few months volunteering many hours at the Garden before graduating from high school and leaving for college. They have been an important asset to the Garden. Thank you, Bryan Wolfe (North Carolina Leadership Academy-Methodist University in Fayetteville), Ben Peters (Greensboro Day School-UNC Wilmington) and Khuzi Gausi (Greensboro Day School-Case Western Reserve University). Thank you, gentlemen, and best wishes for your futures.

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 Sharon Deemer, winner of our June Plant of the Month, *Alstroemeria* 'Tangerine Tango'-Peruvian lily.

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





The Donor's Corner. . .

Angie Huffman

Development Associate

Hi, I am Angie, I have worked with the Garden over the last year meeting many donors who give so generously to the programs we provide for the community. We have introduced ourselves to many corporate partners, local and state Foundations, some who are new to the Garden but are excited to join us in new ventures we have planned over the next year. From Denver, NC, the Vaughn-Jordan Foundation supports the Garden with funding to purchase and create seed kits for every student who tours the Garden or participates in the Elementary Education Program. Their support will also assist with costs to make improvements to the Kitchen Garden.

Our next venture, "Dancing Cranes", a beautiful bronze sculpture by Lloyd LeBlanc donated by Joseph M. Bryan Jr. from his private collection, currently live in our lobby. Maybe you have seen them when you visited, if not, please come by and let us share news of their permanent home in the Rill and Reflecting Pool. This month, we have launched a fundraising drive to raise funds for their new home in the Garden. More information will follow to all of our friends of the Garden during the summer.

If you are visiting the Garden this summer, please stop by and introduce yourself as I would love to meet and visit a bit with our Garden friends.

Concert on the Lawn featuring . . .



Hank, Patty and The Current

Thursday, September 19, 2019, 6:30 pm

(Gates open at 5:00 pm)

Two of North Carolina's veteran bluegrass musicians join forces with some of the Triangle area's most versatile musicians to create modern, American, acoustic music featuring the full range of their talents as composers and arrangers. The band is on tour regionally and nationally in support of their new album, "**Hold Your Head Up High**" on Robust Records.

Tickets - \$15 in advance (\$18 day of the Concert) at www.cienerbotanicalgarden.org or call 336-996-7888

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. Please, no coolers, pets or smoking.

Presented as part of the **John and Bobbie Wolfe Concert Series**

in partnership with





Staff

John Whisnant

Executive Director

Toni Hays

Programs Officer

Angie Huffman

Development Associate

Lynn Adams

Facility Rental Coordinator

Lisa Dunlap

Facility Rental Coordinator

Kim Babyak

Garden Gift Shop Manager

Adrienne Roethling

*Director of Curation and
Mission Delivery*

Josh Williams

Garden Manager

Mainor Melgar

Gardener

Board of Directors

David B. Ciener

President & Treasurer

Gregory M. Ciener

Vice President

Ron Cloer

Duane Long

Joellen Parks

Joe Pinnix

Patty Stone

Janie Veach

