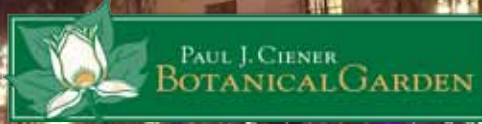


Seasons at Ciener

A Newsletter
for Friends of



www.cienerbotanicalgarden.org

October 2021



The First 10 Years...Insert Pandemic Here...

The Next 10 Years!

Adrienne R. Roethling, *Director*

In 2005, Paul Ciener's endowment purchased 7 acres of property in the Historic District of downtown Kenersville, NC, along with a deserted Dairy Queen and an abundance of weeds. Planning, clearing, grading and the beginning of several garden displays shortly followed. In 2011, the Garden officially opened with a grand display centered around 25,000 spring blooming tulips and daffodils.

Since then, we are proud to share how much we've grown. Thousands of visitors have come to watch over of 20 individual displays come to life. Among those displays are the Pattern Garden, Tropical Garden, Xeric Scree, Ginkgo Screen, Kitchen Garden, Hillside Boulder Garden, the Japanese Garden Vignette and more. Over the last 10 years, the garden has offered classes, lectures, concerts, plant sales, blood drives, a Christmas light show, and so much more. Garden staff and volunteer docents toured hundreds of school-aged groups and led them through the gardens to educate them how plants adapt. While here, they sampled vegetables grown in the kitchen garden, admired the pollinators and took home a seed kit. Adults alike shared the same experience, sans the seed kit, but saw the diversity of the displays and plant collections.

There has been so much to highlight during the last 10 years but, donating over 5500 pounds of produce to area food relief programs, installing the upside down tree or flower tower, showcasing Pearl Fryar's trained Topiary trees, watching 2 agave or century plants completing their life cycles, and hosting 2 Boy Scout Groups for their designated projects certainly take center stage. We have made great strides with offering unique programs along with unique plants and gifts through our plant and gift shop sales. There was a lot of focus and excitement moving into our 10th year. But then the pandemic hit and while we tried to celebrate, the world had gone crazy, and operations disappeared for a while. The Garden Displays remained open, and not only did we find ourselves with a

reduced income, but also succumbed to plant theft and trash left behind. Garden Staff kept their cool and continued to remain positive, we spoke often of the mission and delivered a world class garden. We soon realized that we are not alone, and we have great support from friends, members, and the community.

So, how do we celebrate 10 years during a pandemic? There has been a lot of sitting and waiting followed by doing what we do but doing it safely. Thankfully, our primary focus is to Inspire, Enlighten and Connect all visitors to the world of plants. Our livelihood is having quality displays whether they are the tulips in spring or the 60+ different varieties of Japanese Maples in the Japanese Garden. We are doing what we do during a pandemic and as a non-profit organization, we are finding ways to stay afloat. Also, during this time, there has been staff changes and one of our most engaging programs offered was the Movie on the Lawn. Kristin Hennig, Programs Officer, spearheaded this project in partnership with a/perture cinema. The comments afterwards were "When is the next one?" The movie took place in the Event Lawn where members and visitors watched a British movie "Greenfingers". Everyone was spread out safely, we had wine, beer, pizza and popcorn, and guess what, we are planning the next one.

The Spectacular Holiday Bloom is quickly becoming the second best time to see our garden. The lights will be bigger and better than last year. Volunteers have made their way back to help process and assemble recycle water bottles into a symphony of color and light. Plans are well under way to host a safe, Small Business Saturday with Vendors from across the triad, to engage families with Santa, and to offer a Wreath Decorating Workshop. Of course, as a non-profit, we are following all guidelines and will continue to adapt where necessary.

215 South Main Street
Kenersville, NC 27284

Phone: 336.996.7888

Calendar of Upcoming Events...

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

Tai Chi in the Garden



with Professor Tony Fragola

Wednesdays, October 6 - November 17, 3:30-4:45pm (no class October 20)

\$120 / \$100 for PJCBG members

Join Professor Tony Fragola to learn the art of Tai Chi Chuan during a six week course for beginner and mid-level practitioners. Tony takes a holistic approach that focuses on balance, body awareness, and stress reduction. At the end of each class, a special activity will take place in one of the garden spaces to connect our practice with the beauty of nature.

Classes will be held on Wednesdays, October 6 - November 17 (no class Oct 20) from 3:30-4:45pm inside the ballroom of the Welcome Center, people who must sit are welcome. Masks required, class size limited to 14.

Tony Fragola is Professor Emeritus of Media Studies at the University of North Carolina – Greensboro. He is certified to teach Tai Chi for Arthritis, both standing and sitting, and has completed numerous courses on Tai Chi, Qigong, and Meditation with some of the foremost nationally renowned Masters of the practice, including Dr. Chang-shin Jih, Dr. John Painter, Wu, Wen-Ching, and locally with Cheryl Rowland and Eric Reiss.

Concert on the Lawn: Sassafras



John & Bobbie Wolfe Concert Series

Thursday, October 21 - Gates open at 5pm, Music starts at 6:30pm

\$15 in advance / \$20 at the door

Sassafras is based in the Foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, and have been performing together for over 20 years. Sassafras pays homage to the Bill Monroe and Flatt & Scruggs era, but also enjoys progressive Newgrass music as well. Their repertoire includes a range of musical styles including ole-time, country, folk, western swing and originals. Sassafras has shared the stage and/or studio with a wide range of prominent bluegrass and Americana artist including Doc Watson and Allison Krauss, and band member have performed at the Grand Ole Opry and Merlefest.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Purchase tickets at www.cienerbotanicalgarden.org or call 336-996-7888.

Gates open at 5:00 pm. Music starts at 6:30 pm. Food and beverages will be available for purchase on site. No outside food or drink, no coolers, no pets (service animals only), and no smoking or vaping.

Production by Vintage Sound & Light.

Storytime in the Garden



with Paddison Memorial Branch Library

Tuesday, October 12, 10:00am

Tuesday, November 9, 10:00am

We are partnering with the Kernersville Library to bring storytime to the Garden. Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00am for stories, songs, and activities. FREE, recommended for ages 6 and under.



Red Cross Blood Drive . . .



Monday, October 18, 2:30pm - 7:00pm

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. Also, blood donations will be tested for sickle cell trait from self-identified African American donors. To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Curator's Choice Tour



with Adrienne Roethling, Director

Wednesday, October 27, 10:00am • Wednesday, December 1, 10:00am

\$10 / \$7 for PJCBG members

Have you ever wanted to explore the Garden from the Director's point of view? This is your chance! Join Adrienne on the last Wednesday of the month for a unique tour experience. Each month will explore different plants and areas of the Garden. Topics are chosen by Adrienne and will be kept top secret until the tour. Registration required.

Drying & Preserving Flowers



Lunch & Learn Conversations

Thursday, October 28, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

\$5 / FREE to PJCBG members

Lunch & Learns are returning, and we are changing up the format. Join us once a month for a discussion on a topic announced in advance. Questions are encouraged, so bring them with you or submit them in advance to info@pjcbg.org.

Your flowers might be fading, but they are not dead or dying. Rather, think of them as aging – they still have lots of beauty and life remaining. Adrienne Roethling, Director, will be facilitating a discussion about how you can preserve flowers from your Garden to enhance your fall and winter decorations. Bring your questions and join us for a lively and informative conversation. Bring your lunch, the Garden will provide drinks. Registration required.

Experience the Spectacular Holidays Blooms

Come experience the Spectacular Holiday Blooms every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from 5:30pm to 9:00pm (weather permitting) November 26, 2021 through January 2, 2022.

Enjoy a stroll through the dazzling wisteria lights, get lost in the illuminated trees along the patio terrace, and discover more surprises as you stroll to the Performance Stage. Over 6,000 Holiday Blooms will be on display this year including 4,500+ Tulips, Sunflowers, Foxglove, Poinsettia, Magnolia blossoms, Lotus flowers, Daffodils, Crocus, Daisies, Clematis, Poppies and more. **Admission is \$5 per person, 18 and under FREE.**

Volunteers have put in over 4,000 hours over the past 3 years recycling, preparing, and assembling plastic bottles into works of art for the Holiday Blooms. The Spectacular Holiday Blooms complements our Spectacular Tulip Bloom in spring, where we display thousands of tulips every year. Join us this holiday season for a one-of-a-kind light display.



2021 Holiday Hours:

Garden Displays open daily, dawn until dusk.

Welcome Center and Gift Shop open Monday – Saturday, 10:00am – 4:00pm, November 26, 2021 through January 2, 2021.

Spectacular Holiday Blooms open Thursday – Sunday evenings from 5:30pm - 9:00pm (weather permitting) November 26, 2021 through January 2, 2021. **Admission is \$5 per person, 18 and under FREE.**

The Welcome Center, Offices and Gift Shop will be Closed...

Thursday, Nov. 25th

Thursday, Dec. 23 through Sunday Dec. 26th

Friday Dec. 31st through January 2nd

Gift Shop – Black Friday & Small Business Saturday

Friday, November 25, 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Saturday, November 26, 10:00am – 4:00pm

Start your holiday shopping with over 40+ vendors. Booths will be set up inside and outside. From door hangers and home decor to soaps, lotions and clothing and everything in between, we have something for everyone on your list. Event hosted by Purple Wagon Events LLC.

Holiday Wreath Decorating Workshop

Saturday, December 4, 10:00am – 11:30am

\$50/\$40 PJCBG members

Join us for a festive DIY workshop led by Adrienne Roethling, Director. Each participant will receive a large, natural wreath to decorate. We will provide an assortment of natural items and ribbon to adorn your wreath or you can bring your own decorations. Pruners and gloves are encouraged. Space is limited. Registration and payment are required by November 19.

Spectacular Blooms with Santa

Sunday, December 5, 5:30pm – 8:30pm

\$30 per family

Santa is making a special trip from the North Pole to join us among the Spectacular Holiday Blooms at the Garden. We've hired Hindsight Media and Studios, a talented professional photographer, to capture your visit with Santa. Tickets are \$30 PER FAMILY (defined as a nuclear unit, extended family members should buy a separate ticket). Each ticket includes admission to the Spectacular Holiday Blooms, a family visit with Santa, digital images of your visit, and hot chocolate for each family member. Digital images will be emailed to you within 1 week.





Allium - Plant Profile

Adrienne R. Roethling, Director

It's the time of year to plan and plant bulbs for Spring. Here in central North Carolina, we can begin planting bulbs now for the spring and continue planting well into December as long as the grounds are not frozen. Bulbs need 6-8 weeks in the ground in order to emerge and perform well. Most bulbs begin emerging and blooming in late March all throughout the month of April.

One of my favorite spring blooming bulbs are *Allium* or ornamental onions. Most *Allium* peak after tulips and daffodils extending your spring bulb displays. Hurry up and order your *Alliums* now because they are selling fast. Our friends at Brent and Becky's Bulbs have already sold out of several varieties. Ornamental onions are best suited in full sun gardens and perfect to plant among lower growing perennials. They are strong performers giving you great return from year to year. If I haven't sold you on them just yet, they are also pest resistant. The onion flavor of the bulb deters voles, squirrels, and chipmunks while the tops are unappealing to rabbit or deer. As I type this, I do hope no one has experienced this.



'Globemaster' or *Allium giganteum* are taller varieties. Flowering stems reach 4-5' tall. They perform well above a blanket of hardy geranium, dianthus, through lambs' ear and more. Flower heads are rather tight, about the size of a softball, producing a lavender purple color. A white

flower form exists for those not in favor of purple. *Allium christophii* produce a shorter stalk but a wider flower head. It's an explosion of purple and I'm equally attracted to the dried seed head afterwards. Come July,



heads are cut, and spray painted in time to celebrate and decorate for the 4th of July holiday.

'Summer Drummer' is a variety of ornamental onion that is too, 4' tall but a much smaller flower head. The flower is about the size of a golf ball producing a mauve purple color that flowers in June.



Be sure to order through the Bloomin' Bucks with Brent and Becky's Bulbs program. Bloomin' Bucks is a fundraiser which supports non-profit organizations. Because PJCGB registered for the program, visitors can now come to the gardens, look at our displays and jot down their favorite bulb companions or combinations. At

home, they can visit the website, www.bloominbucks.com or call Brent and Becky's Bulbs and select Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden to support and place their order. As a reward, 25% of their purchases will come back to the garden.





October 2021 Garden Tip

Josh Williams, *Garden Manager*

As we enter fall, the work of the gardener transitions. Instead of dragging hoses and staying cool in the summer heat, we find ourselves staying on top of falling leaves, cutting back dried/desiccated plant parts, and planting cool season vegetables and annuals. During this time of fall maintenance, make sure your landscape and plant materials are 'living' to their full potential.

Many plants that form large flower heads not only look attractive when going to seed (e.g. Sunflowers, Echinacea) also have a tremendous ecological benefit to many wildlife species. Consider collecting the heads of these flowers and adding them to your outdoor containers, giving bugs and birds plenty to eat in a season of limited food sources. The same goes for ornamental grasses and plants that produce yearly canes or limbs that desiccate back to the ground -



instead of throwing them away or tossing them into your compost pile, use them

in wrapped bundles or winter thatch fences. Give your landscape another layer of interest and allow the beneficial insects that lay eggs and over winter these materials the best shot possible at continuing their work in your garden.

Membership . . .

Become a Member

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. Congratulations Carolyn Hunt, winner of our September Plant of the Month, *Zephyranthes* 'Yolkster' - rain lily.





Staff

Adrienne Roethling

Director

Kristin Hennig

Programs Officer

Diana Day

Facilities Rental Coordinator

Lisa Dunlap

Gift Shop Manager

Josh Williams

Garden Manager

Vikki Brandstetter

Gardener

Mainor Melgar

Gardener

Trish Sprague

Gardener

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