A Garden for the Community

“It is worth your time to visit this most bountiful treasure...you might just walk away feeling better than when you came!”  Yelp Review – Chuck N.

As a place of respite and relaxation the Garden is an unparalleled free resource for the local community, and beyond. Our new gates have enabled us to get a much better understanding of our levels of visitation and the numbers of people the Garden serves. From May 2017 - May 2018 we estimate that we welcomed 750,000 visitors. Our records show stateside visitors from as far afield as Hawaii and California, and many states in between. Internationally, we have hosted visitors from Turkey, Belgium, the Philippines and more. Many of these visitors were effusive about the beauty of the Garden and its ability to provide peace and serenity.

Education is a passion at the SCBG. From exhibit signs, classes, guided walks and festivals, we aim to connect people more deeply to the natural world and foster a sense of respect and stewardship. Here are numbers to illustrate some of our service to the community:

**School Programs**
1779 children served
31 school groups

**Children’s Programs**
4,118 enrolled*
Children’s Camps
74 spaces filled
*many people took multiple classes

**Adult Tours, Talks & Outreach**
115 toured*
685 Talks etc.*
*doesn’t include Patrick’s numbers

**Adult programs**
Dozens of classes
547 enrolled*
*many people took multiple classes

**Festivals**
3500 +/- participants

**Family Programs**
2062 enrolled*
*many people took multiple classes

**Spring Plant Sales**
Friday, April 5
**Friend’s Sale**
2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday, April 6
**Public Sale**
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 20
**Second Chance Sale**
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Director’s Note

The end of 2018 and the beginning of a new year allows us a chance to reflect on how we have grown. We have added new staff, a new Landscape Manager, Jamie Rutherford, and part-time educator, Susan Chandler. Kathy Bridges has been promoted to Garden Manager, all positive changes. This year also brought the retirement of one of the cornerstones of the Garden, John Bodiford. Not a day goes by that we don’t miss his smile and the laughter he brought to our daily lives, and the pride and love he had for this wonderful Garden.

We grew our exhibits by opening the Susan K. Barr Pollinator Garden, adding The Jurassic Garden, and constructing a trail through the Quercetum. This path allows pedestrians an alternative to walking down the busy drive between the Visitor’s Center and Caboose Parking Lot.

New events, such as the Day of the Dead Festival, a wonderful collaboration with the local Latino and Hispanic community, added a new dimension to the Garden’s programs. The second annual Earth Day Festival was joined by two new successful family festivals, the Peter Rabbit Festival and Magic, Mystery and Math: Alice in the Garden. We are also growing in annual number of visitors. Our visitation this year is estimated at between 750,000 and 800,000 (based on the numbers of cars entering the SCBG). This is astounding and humbling, and brings me a sense of pride and joy just knowing how far we have come in the past eight years together. None of this would be possible without your help and your investment through your decision to be a Friend of the Garden. What you give, what you do, and all your support has allowed dreams to become a reality.

I invite you to use your Garden as often as you can throughout the year. Don’t forget how beautiful the SCBG is in the colder months. For decades we have purposefully planted a landscape filled with winter-flowering and winter-interest plants to bring cheer to the chilliest winter days. Camellias, Lenten and Christmas Roses, Snowdrops, Fatsia, winter-flowering Magnolias, Paperbush, Wintersweet, Witch-hazel and so many others make their blossoms known during our coldest months. Despite the increase in visitation, there is always a corner of tranquility and peace in your Garden - 295 acres is a lot of ground to get lost in! Our success in promoting diversity of all kinds into this landscape has been noticed by other gardens and gardeners around the globe.

There is no doubt that the past year has been challenging and a year of growth for me. After nearly 20 years at Clemson, and eight years as Director of the SCBG, I am taking my first sabbatical. I start my sabbatical on January 1st and return July 1st. During my absence, I will be working on a book entitled: “A Garden for Life” which will bring the philosophy of the Garden to the printed page. It is my sincere hope that this guide to creating an oasis for life in our own landscapes will bring our mission at the SCBG to families throughout the Southeast and the nation. During my absence, Shannon Barrett, our Landscape Architect, will be functioning as the Interim Director. I have full confidence that Ms. Barrett will bring her depth of talents and passion for the SCBG to work for you and the Garden. I hope you will welcome Ms. Barrett with the same confidence as she works to continue our mission of creating a space that is inviting to all life, a place where the eyes and the soul can rest and be inspired, a place that welcomes all and is a garden for life.

Thank you for all you do, and I sincerely hope that you continue to support your Garden as a Friend, and encourage others to join us so your Garden grows forever. All the best, Patrick
Welcome to the Susan K. Barr Pollinator Garden, a new garden dedicated to teaching visitors about the habits, habitats, and importance of native bees. Children are encouraged to play and explore in a garden space that demonstrates the relationships between plants and their pollinators.

This small space (one-tenth of an acre) brims with ecologically-savvy features. Watering cans line the fence next to a rain barrel and series of large planters, giving children the opportunity to experience the relationship between plants and water. Small-scale garden beds brim with over 40 species of native plants, presenting ways to incorporate pollinator habitats into small landscapes, like homes or businesses. Best practices for stormwater management include 1,700+ square feet of permeable paving to infiltrate and slow water on site. A large graphic art piece displays educational information about native bees.

Funding for this installation was given in memory of Susan K. Barr, a garden enthusiast who had a passion for natural, restorative places. SCBG relies on generous donations like this to support its educational mission and to keep the Garden free and open to the public.

This garden is adjacent to the Hayden Conference Center/Nature Learning Center, where the majority of SCBG education programs take place. This area serves as outdoor classroom space to support programming for classes, as well as a place for demonstration and public education. “This new addition is an excellent educational tool to use in teaching children the important role native bees play in landscapes and our lives,” said Patrick McMillan, Garden Director. “We encourage children who visit the Pollinator Garden to explore the native flowers and insects that pollinate them. This garden, as well as the rest of the Botanical Garden, provides valuable experiential learning opportunities unlike anywhere else.”

~ Shannon Barrett, Interim Director
We’ve had a very busy fall, with a few changes that will affect visitors to the Garden. Visitors should now enter through the main entrance to reach the Hayden Conference Center and Hanover House via the Arboretum. The gate to the Hanover House from Perimeter Road is now open Monday through Friday from 8-4:30. If you are at the Hayden Conference Center later than 4:30, just follow the exit signs and exit through the Arboretum to the main entrance.

To ensure visitor safety, we are adding a trail through the island that divides the road running between the main entrance and the Visitor’s Center. This path should get visitors off the road and away from vehicular traffic. This area is our Quercetum - a showcase for oaks from around the world.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for the much appreciated help this year. The vegetable garden ladies from the Hanover House and Visitor’s Center Garden have donated over 795 lbs of produce to Clemson Community Cares this year - not bad for a difficult growing season! We’ve had over 4500 volunteer hours logged this year. This does not include student volunteer hours, which I estimate to be over 4000 hours. What a help to our small staff! We can’t thank you enough. Anyone interested in ‘adopting’ an area in the Garden please visit the Garden website and fill out the application form located under the heading “support.”

We’ve had another large plant donation from the Southern Living Collection, which has been planted throughout the front of the Garden and Conifer Garden. The arbor has been re-enforced at the front of the Garden, and our swings are back up. What a great place to sit and relax with friends or a good book!

Bulbs are being planted throughout the Garden, a favorite fall ritual of mine. Can’t wait to be surprised in the spring by new bursts of color heralding the return of warm weather.

I’ve had many questions regarding the new road and gate below our nursery facility. Duke Energy is constructing a power substation in the area that was our dump, and it is their exclusive access road.

In closing, I just want to thank you all for your support and friendship this past year. The Garden is a wonderful place to call an office, and sharing it with our volunteers and visitors is my pleasure. Have a wonderful holiday season, and hope you have a great time with family and friends.

~ Kathy Bridges, Garden Manager

New Staff

Jamie Rutherford
Landscape Manager

Jamie was raised in the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains of Alleghany County in Northwest North Carolina. He spent his youth working on the family farm. In his spare time, he would explore and roam the woods and areas around the New River. He gained an appreciation for the great outdoors and a deep love for nature during these youthful years. In 1989 he received a degree in Recreational Grounds Management & Technology. Jamie has spent the last 25 years in the golf course business and landscape management, the last 18 as a golf course superintendent. Jamie believes that we can work in harmony with nature in all aspects of our lives; from work to the communities that we live in.

Susan Chandler
Garden Educator

“The geology bug bit me when I was about 10.” says Susan Chandler our new Garden Educator.

Susan first graduated from Clemson University in 1971 with a degree in psychology and went to work in the human services field. After a career as a social worker she returned to Clemson upon retirement. Susan became a student at Clemson again and pursued a Geology Degree and also became a Master Naturalist. As a lifelong learner Susan brings her passion for learning to the SCBG. “The world is a fascinating, awesome place,” she says. “To live is to keep on learning.” We are so happy she has joined the Garden and will be helping with all manner of Garden classes and events.
SIMPLY SUPERB SAUROPOD SEATING SITUATION

If you have not done so already, be sure to visit the Jurassic Garden (located just behind the Geology Museum) sometime soon to check out our newest addition, a seating area featuring 5 concrete casts of giant Sauropod vertebrae (back bones) that serve as seats! The Sauropod vertebrae seats surround a reconstruction of a nest of sauropod eggs and the entire seating area is nestled among plants representing ancient lineages that these most tremendous of dinosaurs would have actually eaten! Work on a reconstruction of the footprints of a Titanosaur is also nearing completion. Titanosaurs were the largest animals to have ever lived, with some reaching weights as much as 70 tons! Each footprint will be more than 3 feet across and visitors will be able to step inside one of the footprints and experience for themselves the truly wonderous size of these giant dinosaurs!

HORSING AROUND WITH NEW EXHIBITS

Figure 1. The new Sauropod seating area, complete with a nest of Sauropod eggs is sure to be a hit with kids of all ages!

The newest addition to the Benson Gallery at the BCGM is a complete skeletal cast of an ancient horse known as Mesohippus bairdi. These archaic horses lived in North America some 30 to 40 million years ago and were much smaller than modern horses, standing only about 60 cm (6 hands) tall. Unlike modern horses that are considered to be primarily grazers (i.e., they feed on grasses) Mesohippus was a browser that fed on tender twigs and fruit. The skeletal cast of Mesohippus augments the other equine fossils on display at the BCGM, including specimens from South Carolina, Virginia and Namibia. We also have a series of leg bone casts that show how horses reduced the number of toes they have, and increased the overall size of their bodies throughout their evolutionary history, which began in the Eocene Epoch (~50 million years ago).

Figure 2. Skeletal cast of Mesohippus bairdi (left) and an artists’ rendering of how these small horses may have appeared in life (right).

PLEASE HELP US TO CONTINUE IMPROVING YOUR GEOLOGY MUSEUM

The BCGM needs your help to meet our growing need for support of our ambitious research, educational efforts. The BCGM needs a 4-wheel drive truck or SUV to conduct field work and bring new dinosaur fossils back to Clemson for study by students and display to the public. If you have a vehicle you would like to donate, please contact Curator Adam Smith by email to bcgm@clemson.edu.

Contribute directly by choosing “Geology Museum” from the drop-down menu at https://cualumni.clemson.edu/give/scbg or email us discuss the projects we have planned and how you can contribute. Also see our Facebook page and our website (www.clemson.edu/geomuseum) for details regarding upcoming special exhibits and events.
Homeschool Days
Join us each month, for an exciting, hands-on learning experience! Themes change each month, and activities are designed for children ages five and up. However, registration is open to all ages. Please register at least 3 days in advance.
Contact Allison Jones: allisoo@clemson.edu

Wed., Mar. 27 & Fri. Mar. 29: Decomposition
Wed., May 29 & Fri. May 31: Flowers and Pollination
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Fee: $5 per participant (10% member discount)

Fridays
Story Start to Stroller Strut
We will begin with a story and then we’ll set off on a Garden walk, exploring the day’s theme. These free, monthly programs are ideal for preschoolers, but all ages are encouraged to join in the fun!
Contact: Allison Jones, allisoo@clemson.edu

Friday, January 11: Slumber Party
Friday, February 1: Spying Spring
Friday, March 1: Rainbow Route
Friday, April 5: Windy Walk
Friday, May 3: Flower Power
Location: Meet at Garden Amphitheater
Time: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Fee: FREE

Mondays, March - May
Garden Sprouts
Preschool children discover the wonders of the Garden in this nature-based program. A new seasonal theme is introduced each week with new discoveries, stories, arts and crafts. Younger and older siblings welcome. Preregister 2 days ahead.
Contact: Sue Watts, watts9@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Fee: $5 per family (max 3 children)

Friday, January 18
Budding Artists: Woodland Felt Finger Puppets
Craft a set of delightful finger puppets and learn fun facts about the real critters that are the inspiration for our creations! All ages welcome, but younger children will require hands-on assistance from an adult. Please register at least five days in advance.
Contact Allison Jones: allisoo@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 10-11:00 a.m
Fee: $13 per participant (10% member discount)

Friday, February 8
Budding Artists: Botanical Valentines and Cookies
Children will enjoy designing valentines and decorating cookies using different methods and materials, including plant parts! All ages welcome, but younger children will require hands-on assistance from an adult. Please register at least 5 days in advance.
Contact Allison Jones: allisoo@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 3:30-5:30 pm
Fee: $10 per participant (10% member discount)

Friday, March 8
St. Patrick’s Treasure Hunt & Orienteering
There is only one way to find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow- with your trusty map and compass! Learn the basics of orienteering and test our new and useful skills by going on a St. Paddy’s themed treasure hunt in the Garden. Look for spring wildflowers and wildlife along the way, collect prizes, and create a “good luck” craft! Please register at least 3 days ahead.
Contact Allison Jones:allisoo@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 3:30-5:30 p.m
Fee: $7 (10% member discount)

Friday, April 19
Budding Artists: Botanical Nests and Eggs
Use natural materials to decorate eggs. Learn how birds make nests, look at real bird nests, and construct your own ‘bird nests’. All ages welcome, but younger children will require hands-on assistance from an adult. Please register at least 5 days in advance.
Contact Allison Jones:allisoo@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Fee: $12 per participant (10% member discount)
Use our ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM at www.clemson.edu/scbg to register.
Please preregister for all programs - call to check for last minute availability.

Friday, May 10
**Budding Artists: Ikebana for Mother’s Day**
Discover the Japanese art of arranging flowers and other natural materials! Children will create arrangements as well as vases to keep or give away as gifts! All ages are welcome, but younger children will require hands-on assistance from an adult. Please register at least 5 days in advance.
Contact Allison Jones: allisoo@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 3:30-5:30 pm
Fee: $10 per participant (10% member discount)

Friday, May 17
**High Flying Avian Adventure**
We’ll learn fun facts about birds and beginner birding skills for locating and identifying common birds of South Carolina. We’ll hear and see birds on a garden walk, and we’ll finish by creating nature journals and recording the day’s feathered friend findings! We will provide children’s binoculars, but please feel free to bring your own if you have them.
Contact Allison Jones: allisoo@clemson.edu
Please register at least 3 days in advance.
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 3:30-5:30 pm
Fee: $7 per participant (10% member discount)

**4-H Junior Naturalists (2019)**
This year’s Junior Naturalist Club for elementary students (6-12) explores the exciting habitats of South Carolina. Participants will learn about the animals and plants who call this state home, and the landscapes that define South Carolina. Scholarships available – contact Sue Watts, Watts9@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 4 - 5:30 pm
Fee: $80 for the series (10% member discount)

Clemson Experimental Forest Tours
**Saturday, January 12**
**Saturday, February 9**
**Saturday, March 9**
**Saturday, April 13**
**Saturday, May 11**
Join us each month as we explore a different area of the 17,500-acre Clemson Experimental Forest (CEF). These fun and informal walks will expose you to a diversity of natural and cultural resources in the CEF. Meet educator James Wilkins (and special guests!) at a pre-determined location and carpool or follow us on the trail. Register online or by email at least 2 days in advance to jhwilki@clemson.edu.
Location: TBD
Time: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Fee: $7

Full-Moon Hikes
Join naturalist James Wilkins and experience the sights, sounds and sensations of a full-moon night. Please wear shoes and clothing appropriate for walking in the woods. Flashlights are not needed. Register online or by email at least 1 day in advance to jhwilki@clemson.edu.

**COLD MOON** – Mon., Jan. 21, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
**BONY MOON** – Tues., Feb. 19, 6:20 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.
**WINDY MOON** – Wed., Mar. 20, 7:20 p.m. – 8:50 p.m.
**FLOWER MOON** – Fri., April 19, 8:20 p.m. – 9:50 p.m.
**PLANTING MOON** – Sat., May 18, 8:15 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.
Location: Discovery Center/Museum Parking Lot
Fee: $7 family (up to 5)

First Friday Walks with David Bradshaw
October - March 9 a.m.
April - September 7 a.m.
Hands-on Gardening
Clemson’s Extension agents are a treasure trove of research-based information for the homeowner. In this new series, join local agents for hands-on programs to learn successful tips and techniques for gardening in the upstate. Contact: Sue Watts, watts9@clemson.edu

Wednesday, March 6
Perfect Pruning with Mark Arena
Join Anderson County agent Mark Arena in this hands-on pruning workshop. Learn the fundamentals of tree pruning and methods to encourage healthy tree structure. Trees with good structure are more resistant to storms and other natural forces. Bring pruning shears and dress for the weather.
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Fee: $25 (10% member discount)

Tuesday, June 11
Gardening for Small Spaces with LayLa Burgess and Adair Hoover
Straw bales and raised beds are two ways to garden in small spaces. In this workshop, learn how to turn a straw bale into a rich compostable planter for veggies or herbs in a few simple steps. Alternatively, square foot gardening might be for you! LayLa will show you how a small raised bed can produce many different herbs in a season, with just a little extra organization. We’ll also be using herbs to produce a savory dish, so don’t be left out on the surprise!
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 10 a.m. - noon
Fee: $25 (10% member discount)

Lunch and Learn
Wednesday, February 6
Amanda McNulty, Rice Culture in South Carolina
Wednesday, March 6
Sue Watts, Companion Planting for a Healthier Garden?
March 20,
David Coyle, What’s Bugging My Trees
Wednesday, April 3
Andrew “Drew” Jeffers, Soil Improvement Basics
Wednesday, May 1
TBA
Check the website calendar for additional programs.
Location: Hayden Conference Center
Time: noon - 1 p.m.
Fee: $7 (10% member discount)
**Nature Learning Center Open House**

- January 26 **Animals in Winter**
- February 23 **Awakening World!**
- March 23 **Spring Up!**
- April 27 **Peter Rabbit Festival - Mushroom Magic**
- May 25 **Insect Discovery**

**Hunt Cabin Open House**

- January 26 **Wintertime Blues**
- February 23 **Life in the Upstate**
- March 23 **Spring Fever!**
- April 27 **Peter Rabbit Festival - Meet Beatrix Potter**
- May 25 **Building a Cabin**

**The Melody Garden**

Multi-instrumentalist and songwriter, Rebecca Smith, will inspire you and your seedling or sprout to sing and dance to nature-themed music. Imaginations will soar as your child learns to sing in tune and move to rhythm. Classes are outside on pretty days! Each class ends with an instrument petting zoo! Suggested Ages: Under 6 years. Register at least a week in advance. Limit 12 children.

- Apr 22 - June 6, Six weekly classes
  - Mondays 10am-11am
  - Tuesdays 4pm-5pm
  - Thursdays 10am-11am

**Save the Date...**

**Enjoy an afternoon of family fun.**

**Saturday, April 27, 2019 ~ 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM**

**The Peter Rabbit Festival**

**Returns to the South Carolina Botanical Garden**

Meet Peter Rabbit
Live Animals
Games
Storytelling
Food and More

Donations will support education outreach into the community.
Friends and GeMs

Patron
Glenn Franklin
Greater Greenville Master
Gardener’s Association
Asa and Brenda Hill
Stephen and LouAnn Luongo

Magnolia
John and Ann Gilreath
Archie Lewis
Fred Martin
Karín Purvis
Bill and Halley Townsend

Maple
Joseph Brazy
Don and Ansley Fraser
Donald Glover
Les Love
Lake and Pat Jameson
Minor and Hal Shaw
Beverly and Sam Stone
T. Thomasson
James Wannamaker
Bill and Evelyn Watkins

Camellia
Lisa Alsobrook
Leslie and Karen Beck
Hugh and Melissa Bland
Joe and Jamie Bostic
Elaine Brockman
Thomas and Sharon Brosnan
John Burris
Steve and Alix Carney
Mary and William Clayton
John Coggeshall
Frank and Crossie Cox
Deno and Jo Curris
Charles and Pamela Deal
Larry DeFever
Andrew Delscamp
Steven and Nancy Destefano

Liang and Monica Dong
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Donald Fisher
George and Mary Ann Fulton
Bettina George
James and Elizabeth Glenn
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Steve and Donna Graddick
Steve and Diana Greene
Mike and Virginia Haas
Sandra E. Hamann
Brett and Jennifer Haring
James and Lily Haughton
Bob and Sheila Hogan
Paula Jakubchak
Valerie Meador
Ken and Mary Means
David and Faye Miller
William Phillips
Jerry and Beth Redmond
David and Cara Robb
Eugene Scarpa
Kenneth and Melinda Schweer
Alden and Judith Valentine
Dwight Williams
Mary and James Williams

Nancy Taylor
Sharon Tolley
Nico and Mitzi Vanderschaaf
Nico Veasey
Kristin Vogenitz
Joel and Shannon Ward
Stephanie and Hal White
Bill and Sandra Yates
Bob and Pat Young
Roy and Ann Young
Barbara Zacharyczk

Hosta
Gary and Elizabeth Baker
Wayne and Shirley Bennett
Annette Brantham
Bo and Liz Braxton
Pat Brown
Robert S. Brown
Donna Buchanan
Dick and Ann Christie
Katherine Clark
Marianne Deczynski
Lanny and Lois Delaney
Marvin and Jean Doerr
David and Julie Dutterer
Amelia Earnhardt
Eric Elissen
Susan Fedor
Rodney Foley
Don Gallian
Elizabeth Gregory
Bill and Judy Geer
Gayle Grogan
James and Susan Grow
Richard and Janice Haldeman
John and Patricia Hester
Bud and Leslie Hicklin
Cynthia Horton
Aimi Jackson
Ann James
John Johnston
Fay Klatte
M. Loescher
Carolyn Maddox
Wendy Marshall
Eddie and Carolyn McLeod
Terry McKenney
Taylor Parker
Maggie Reilly
Barry and Aleta Robinson
Ellory Schmucker
Sharon Smith
Henry and Elizabeth Spann
Catherine and John Spragins
Ivan and Jo Stubbs
Sam and Audrey Swart

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Taylor Parker
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Barry and Aleta Robinson
Ellory Schmucker
Sharon Smith
Henry and Elizabeth Spann
Catherine and John Spragins
Ivan and Jo Stubbs
Sam and Audrey Swart

Please direct questions or comments to Angel Perkins, perkin8@clemson.edu

Thank you
Garden Board
Mary Elder, Chair
Bob DiBella
Donna Donnelly
Heather Hilliard
Frazer Pajak
J Dabney Peebles
Richard Porcher
Karín Purvis
Marcia Radakovich
Carol Savage
Joe Turner
Plants for the 21st Century

Salvia reptans, West Texas cobalt sage, is a herbaceous perennial that gets up to 3 feet tall. It blooms in the fall, starting in September with vivid blue flowers that seem to float above wispy foliage. This drought-tolerant plant is closely related to the native Salvia azurea, but is slightly later-blooming, adding a cool blue to the autumn colors that seem to be dominated by reds, yellows, and oranges. While highly drought-tolerant, this Salvia doesn’t seem to mind our infamous southeastern humidity either, and seemed to really enjoy the wet summer we had this year.

This plant is attractive to pollinators, and would fit in perfectly with other more common drought-tolerant plants such as coneflower (Echinacea spp.), black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia spp.), Goldenrod (Solidago spp.), and grasses such as little bluestem (Schizachyrium spp.) or pink muhly (Muhlenbergia capillaris).

My favorite way to incorporate this plant is to underplant with a low-growing grass or other fine-textured perennial so that the naked stems and bare ground can be covered. I prefer this because it allows other plants to provide interest when the sage isn’t in bloom, and then during its blooming season, the flowers seem to float above their shorter neighbors.

~ Trenton Miller, Collections Manager

Garden News Contd.

2018 A Year of Festivals

2nd Annual Earth Day Celebration
Bob Campbell Geology Museum
April 22

Peter Rabbit Festival
April 29

Magic Mystery and Math: Alice in the Garden
October 21

Day of the Dead/Día de los Muertos
November 2

Memberships received between 7/16/18 and 11/15/18
Hamamelis virginiana, common witch hazel, is native to the woods of the eastern United States and provides autumn’s last hurrah. The flowers look like little pom-poms cheering on the season. Each flower bud unfurls with 4 strap-like petals producing vivid yellow flowers anytime between October and December.

Witch hazel has many common names, each related to a unique aspect of the plant. The generic name, Hamamelis, means “together with fruit,” and refers to the fact that this is the only tree in North America to have ripe fruit, flowers, and next year’s leaf buds all on the branch at the same time. Its nickname “snapping hazel” comes from the seedpods. As they dry and shrink, the pods explode and disperse seeds up to 30 feet away. This ballistic seed dispersal increases the likelihood that this year’s crop will have room to grow and thus eliminate overcrowding.

The tree has also been called “water-witch.” The word “witch” is a derivative from the Anglo-Saxon word wych meaning flexible. The forked springy branches of witch hazel were used by early settlers, and later dowsers, as divining rods to detect underground water and minerals. In addition, Native Americans used the flexible wood to make bows.

The Native Americans first discovered that witch hazel bark, boiled into a tea or mixed with animal fats into a poultice, has therapeutic qualities. A natural astringent, witch hazel soothes irritated skin, shrinks inflamed tissues, and is a key component of everything from facial cleansers to pore-tightening products, astringent lotions, and hemorrhoid pads. The astringency helps to stop bleeding, so witch hazel is useful in treating bruises, cuts, and other skin abrasions.

This shrub or small tree grows 15-25 feet high and 15-20 feet wide. It performs well in moist, well-drained soil, but can tolerate clay. Avoid dry conditions and promptly remove suckers to prevent colonial growth. Witch hazel serves as a host plant for the larvae of the spring azure butterfly, a nectar source for pollinators, and its seeds are consumed by many species of birds. There is a specimen located near the Hunt Cabin.

~ Allison Kelly, Natural Heritage Garden Manager