2012 WILMINGTON GARDEN SHOW
February 4th & 5th

Arboretum Foundation Members Get Free Admission

Everyone Can Enjoy The 19th Annual Wilmington Garden Show!

New This Year !!!

- A delightful food concession along with a dining area.
- Special Children’s gardening activities will be in a heated tent in the courtyard—great for children and families!
- Speakers and demonstrations right on the show floor.

This year’s show offers something for everyone—novice or expert gardener. The Arboretum staff and volunteers are working hard to create an outstanding show.

Over 40 vendors will offer shopping, advice, garden supplies and plants; flowers, plus expert speakers all under one roof at the Cape Fear Community College Schwartz Center, 601 North Front Street in downtown Wilmington.

And the timing couldn't be better to enjoy a glimpse of spring and days ahead outdoors.

The Garden Show opens Saturday, February 4 and closes Sunday, February 5. Show hours are 9 AM to 5PM Saturday and 11AM to 4PM on Sunday. Free parking is available in the parking lot next to the

Continued on page 2
**Director’s Message**

**Al Hight, NHC Cooperative Extension**

2011 was another productive year for the Arboretum and Gardens. With funding provided by the Friends of the Arboretum and the Cape Fear Garden Club, we completed the first phase of the Japanese garden renovation, installed the privacy fencing along the Bradley Drive property line and continued aesthetic improvements on smaller projects like the Bradley entrance. The first phase of the plant propagation infrastructure including one of the container pads and four of the mist beds was also completed.

Even though it's impossible for me to mention all of you by name, please accept my sincere thanks to all who have worked so hard to accomplish so much this year.

Work on projects for 2012 has already begun. The focus between now and the Azalea Festival Tour (our garden is featured on the tour this year) is in the heart of the display garden. A new walkway with enhanced plantings will dramatically improve the wedding temple area. Using funds donated by the Judith Pasquantonio family, a butterfly border is taking shape near the Children's garden. Just across the way from it will be a revamped Herb garden.

And, where the herb garden was near the Hutaff Center, a Welcome garden including a new water feature will draw visitors into the displays.

Later in the year we will make simple improvements to the Vegetable and Fruit garden including an observation honeybee hive with the help of the New Hanover County Beekeepers.

There were noticeable staff changes during 2011. We are fortunate to have Kristin Holloman working with limited-resource youth and adults in the Expanded Foods and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). Leslie Wilson continues to build a firm foundation for the 4-H program. We are currently recruiting for a Family and Consumer Science position working in foods and nutrition. Actions to fill the Consumer Horticulture and Environment and Natural Resources positions will soon follow.

The Arboretum and Gardens continues to evolve. And, when a suitable site is found, the facility will move to insure it's long-term viability in the community. This is only a vision for the future right now. We do not have acceptable properties available at present. So, we will continue to improve the facility to enhance the informal educational mission of Cooperative Extension and expand the customer experience.

I look forward to seeing you at two of our most important fundraisers - the Wilmington Garden Show and the Master Gardener Plant Sale. Please join us for these events and bring your friends and family.

While you’re thinking about adding dates to your calendar, don't forget the Japanese garden re-dedication Saturday, April 14 between 2 and 4 pm. This promises to be one of the highlights of the Azalea Festival Tour this year with Japanese musicians, dancers, tea ceremonies and other fun and colorful activities.

---

**Wilmington Garden Show continued………**

Schwartz Center and the new parking deck behind the Schwartz Center.

Admission is $7 for adults, children under 12 are free, free admission for Arboretum members. Be sure to look for the Star News Ad prior to the garden show for a special $2 off coupon. That’s almost 30% off the admission price!

Net proceeds from the show help support the programs of North Carolina Cooperative Extension at the New Hanover County Arboretum and throughout the Cape Fear region.

Don't miss your chance for a breath of spring without having to travel out of town.

For more information: glevesque@nhcgov.com 910-798-7670
Volunteer Corner

CC Hensley, Volunteer Coordinator

This year begins with two exciting events, Treefest and the Wilmington Garden Show. Each has a history of being hugely successful only because of you. You are invited to join in on the fun!

Treefest January 20th and 21st at Independence Mall.

Treefest is an event where one year old seedlings bought from the North Carolina Forest Service nursery in Goldsboro are distributed to residents in New Hanover County and surrounding areas. Large losses of trees due to wind storms, hurricanes and construction prompted the first Treefest in 1997. This year volunteers are needed to assist with tagging and distributing 10,000 trees. The location is inside Independence Mall in front of JC Penny’s (Time Warner entrance). Shift times are:

- **Friday January 20**
  - 7:30-10am
  - 9:45 am – 1:30
  - 1:15-5pm

- **Saturday January 21**
  - 8 am – 11 am
  - 9:45 am –1:30
  - 1:15 pm –5pm

Wilmington Garden Show
February 4th and 5th at the Schwartz Center, 601 N. Front St.

Friends of the Arboretum will hold its 19th annual Wilmington Garden Show. This year’s show offers many exciting changes including children’s activities through 4-H and the Children’s Museum. Chairpersons Melissa Hight and Lainie Mauger need your assistance with set-up, clean up, helping with children’s activities, selling tickets and greeters. Shift times are:

- **Friday – Set-up February 3**
  - 9 am – 5 pm
  - No specific shifts

- **Saturday February 4**
  - 9 am – noon
  - Noon – 3 pm
  - 3 pm – 5 pm

- **Sunday February 5**
  - 11 am-1:30
  - 1:30- 4 pm
  - 4 pm – 5 pm
  - Clean-up

The Arboretum is on the Cape Fear Garden Tour in April and the Japanese Garden rededication will be during that time. We will be extremely aggressive this winter in prepping the grounds for this celebration. If you feel a need to get out of the house and being productive come and join us.

The Arboretum Gift Shop

Hours
Monday - Friday
10 a.m. ~ 4 p.m.
The fundamentals of the art of Ikebana.

10:45 a.m. Gardening Myths Busted
Katie Elzer-Peters – Garden Writer
We'll discuss the old wives tales of gardening. What works, what doesn’t and why. Gardening problems and how we remedy solutions based on science.

11:30 a.m. Attracting Birds to Your Backyard
Jill Peleuses – President of Wild Bird and Garden
This presentation will focus on attracting birds to the backyards of residents in South East North Carolina. We will discuss and identity birds and the habits of the species found in our area.

12:30 p.m. Successful Rose Care for Coastal Environments
David Strickland – Rose Garden Sales Representative
This is an informative discussion on how to successfully grow roses in our challenging coastal environment.

1:30 p.m. Be a Farmer – Start a Garden
Evan Folds – President of Progressive Gardens & Progress Earth
Wilmington soil is atrocious. Learn how to garden with success in Wilmington using organic hydroponic and biodynamic techniques. Will discuss raised beds, soil testing, composting and more. Questions encouraged.

2:15 p.m. The Southern Garden Trio: Azaleas, Dogwoods and Camellias
Matt Hunter – President of American Camellia Society
Throughout our southern gardens we find this beautiful ornamental trio. Learn how and why they complement each other so well.

3:00 p.m. Floral Designs Using Natural Container or Accessories
Anne O’Malley
Incorporating flowers with natural containers such as driftwood can be everything from casual to formal, whimsical to elegant. The fun is in collecting the “container” and letting it “speak” to you as you create the design.

3:45 p.m. Hacking, Topping and Hewin’ Back and Other Pruning Mistakes
Al Hight – County Extension and New Hanover County Arboretum Director
In this session, we’ll talk about the proper pruning techniques, timing and tools with an emphasis on structural pruning for young trees.

Sunday, February 5th

12:00 p.m. Making Compost and Compost Tea
Evan Folds – President of Progressive Gardens & Progress Earth
Composting is concentrating a natural process for human benefit. Compost tea is concentrating compost. Learn how to turn your garbage into valuable fertilizer for your lawn or garden, and learn how to use that compost to grow beneficial microbes to extraordinary concentrations using compost tea techniques. After all, microbes make perfect plant food! Questions encouraged.

12:45 p.m. How to Make a Bridal Bouquet
Todd Lengyeltoti – Creative Director of RockNBloom
Will discuss how easy it is to make a bridal bouquet and a bootaneer using flowers found in your garden or from your local grocery store to keep your cost down.

1:30 p.m. Successful Rose Care for Coastal Environments
David Strickland – Rose Garden Sales Representative
Here’s where you’ll hear how to successfully grow roses in our challenging coastal environment.

2:15 p.m. Gardening Myths Busted
Katie Elzer-Peters – Garden Writer
We’ll discuss the old wives tales of gardening. What works, what doesn’t and why. Gardening problems and how we remedy solutions based on science.

3:00 p.m. Five Most Important Things to Know About Growing a Great Lawn
Al Hight – County Extension and New Hanover County Arboretum Director
Basic information necessary to grow turf grasses in the challenging climate of southeastern North Carolina.
E
FNEP as the program is most frequently referred to is a federally funded nutrition education program for limited resource families (with children under the age of 20 living in the home), youth (ages 5-19) and pregnant or parenting teens. Through a series of hands-on classroom lessons, EFNEP teaches nutrition, food safety, food preparation, resource management and physical activity using the Families Eating Smart and Moving More curriculum. In true Cooperative Extension fashion, EFNEP empowers participants by providing simple solutions to some of the more common struggles and misunderstandings associated with nutrition and healthy behaviors. Lessons focus on Moving More, Every Day, Everywhere & Watching Less (increasing physical activity and limiting tv), Eating Smart at Home (food safety, meal planning, smart shopping, choosing healthy foods/portion sizes, and preparing quick/easy meals at home), Eating Smart on the Run (planning meals for a busy lifestyle, choosing healthy options when eating out, and choosing healthy drinks) and Eating Smart Throughout the Lifecycle (nutrition for pregnancy, breastfeeding, infants, children and adults – based on the USDA Dietary Guidelines and MyPlate).

Each lesson includes in-class food preparation and/or tasting and a physical activity. Participants receive skill builders such as cutting boards, measuring cups and spoons, planning/shopping guides, and resistance bands so as to replicate the skills that they learn in the classroom at home with their families.

Participant groups can attend as many as 21 EFNEP lessons, though at the conclusion of 9 core lessons, participants can graduate from the program. Graduates receive a certificate of completion and an EFNEP cookbook in addition to all of the life-improving knowledge that EFNEP has to offer. For some graduates, the benefits of EFNEP are far greater than simply improved nutrition. Acquired job skills, improved self-esteem, weight loss, improved physical health, decreased need for medication, improved family relationships and decreased need for public assistance can all be attributed to lessons learned through EFNEP.

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program has been helping NC families since 1969. The introduction of the program in New Hanover County began with the hiring of Kristin T. Holloman, EFNEP Program Assistant in September 2011. The program received its first large-scale introduction to the residents of New Hanover County in November with an article published in Star News. The program continues to grow, making a name for itself with weekly EFNEP tips in Star News and recruiting volunteers and participant groups. The first New Hanover County EFNEP participants will begin classes on January 5, starting off 2012 with a resolution for good health and well-being.

Support the growth and success of this valuable program by volunteering or referring prospective groups to Kristin T. Holloman at 910-798-7668 or kthollom@ncsu.edu. Information and brochures regarding the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program are available at the NHC Cooperative Extension office at the Arboretum and online at http://newhanover.ces.ncsu.edu/.
2011 was an excellent year for the Friends of the Arboretum. The financial support you provided by purchasing memberships, supporting our annual fundraising events and volunteering, enabled your Board of Directors to fund the Arboretum grounds improvement projects outlined in the Arboretum Director’s report. The Arboretum gardens have never looked better thanks to your generosity and support.

2012 is off to a fast start and we expect to have another very successful year. Your Board of Directors is continually looking for ways to improve efficiency and have our level of accomplishment at an all time high. This year, five new talented people will join our Board. They are Rita Fash, John Grimshaw, Mike Connolly, Ginny Peterson and Valerie DeSanti. We are fortunate to have these new board members who will bring a wealth of talent, experience and strength to help us meet our goals.

A new key project for 2012 will be the establishment of a brand awareness marketing program. The purpose of this new program is to improve the Arboretum’s visibility within the community, thereby increasing visitation on the Arboretum grounds and making the Arboretum a must-visit destination for residents and vacationers alike. Our Marketing Committee headed by Marita Bon and John Grudzien will lead this effort and the Board will provide additional resources during 2012 enabling them to launch this new initiative and meet their goals.

Each year Board member term limits expire and members must move off the board after six years of service. I would like to recognize and thank Noreen Stokes, Lorraine Perry and Denise Miller for the contributions and dedication to the Friends of the Arboretum Board and the Arboretum for the past six years. They will be missed but we look forward to their continued involvement in the many activities available at the Arboretum.

Ability Garden Update

Heather Kelejian, Ability Garden Fundraising

The Ability Garden is looking forward to a great year in 2012. The end of 2011 found the program in financial trouble, while we did not solve our funding issues, but through an outpouring of community support we were able to raise enough money to keep the program going through the summer. One of the highlights of these efforts was the December Greenhouse sale, spearheaded by an Ad hoc committee, chaired by Mary Ann Torres. The participation of five supported volunteers made this a unique event. This level of involvement allowed our supported volunteers to shine. The sale enabled them to take their gardening experiences and the fruits of their labor and connect with the greater community. Their sense of accomplishment was evident at their next group session, when they shared their involvement in the success of the sale with their peers. And the results of the efforts for the program were incredible, raising $6,000 in two days.

The Ability Garden wants to keep the momentum going as we strive to build a stable and sustainable base for the program. Here are ways you can help.

If you are interested in volunteering at future plant sales contact Dagmar Cooley at dagmarcooley@yahoo.com
If you are interested in volunteering for or chairing a fundraising event, have ideas for a fundraiser or have experience with grants contact Heather Kelejian at hkelejian@nhcgov.com

And save these Ability Garden dates: February 4th & 5th plant sale at The Wilmington Garden Show
March 28th – April 2nd plant sale during the Master Gardener Plant Sale
April 11th – April 15th plant sale during the Azalea Festival Tour
June 2nd & 3rd the Water Garden Tour

Finally, the Ability Garden staff, Phyllis Meole, Dagmar Cooley and Heather Kelejian would like to extend our thanks to the volunteers and community supporters for all the assistance you have given us in a serious time of need. Whether it is time, ideas or money the rallying of resources has shown us how important our program is to the community.
As we move into January, the Master Gardener Volunteer Association has an exciting roster of meetings, events and workshops planned for 2012. Our meeting in January will be followed up by a trip in the spring to the historical Oakdale Cemetery, where we will again be joined by Eric Kozen for a guided tour through this jewel of Wilmington. Our meetings, held on the third Monday of each month in the auditorium at the Arboretum, feature speakers with varied topics of interest to our members, and we invite all of those who are associated with the Master Gardener program, whether you are active (or inactive) to join us at any of our events. This is an opportunity to learn and make some new friends, as well.

We instituted our monthly newsletter in September, with meeting information, news of our organization, gardening tips, a “person of the month” and photos from our events. Communication is important to any organization, and we thought this new feature would help our members to be aware of upcoming events and lead them to other features on our website. So far, the comments have been very positive, and we have had an increase in participation at our meetings. Our Master Gardener classes will begin on February 7, and we look forward to meeting the new class members at our monthly meetings. Once again, our MGVA mentors will be working with each group to answer questions, plan small group events and establish friendships with class members.

If you haven’t seen our MGVA calendar, it is available at our meetings, in the Potting Shed and at our various events. This is an invaluable tool for planning your garden and gives tips relevant to each month, with a featured “Plant of the Month”. All of the horticultural information included has been submitted by Al Hight, our Director, and we thank him for his help on this project.

Our annual fundraiser, the MGVA Plant Sale, will be held this year from March 28 through April 2. As always, we need your help to make this a successful event. There are several volunteer opportunities available, and depending on your horticultural interest, you can choose your favorite area, from azaleas, shrubs & ornamentals, annual & perennials, herbs, Japanese maples, set-up and take down, and checkout. More information and sign-up sheets will be posted shortly. With so many options, everyone can find their own niche. Your help is also needed for the Annual Garden Show, to be held on February 4 and 5 at the Cape Fear Community College Schwartz Center. CC Hensley, our Volunteer Coordinator, has included an article with information on available shifts in this newsletter.

Our Speakers’ Bureau has been up and running at full speed, and we are available to give a variety of presentations to garden clubs, churches, HOAs and civic organizations. If your group is interested, please call Jon Wooten, at (910)395-2332 for more information.

Please think about volunteering for one or more of the many opportunities at the Arboretum. Ongoing shifts in our plant clinic, remote plant clinic (starting in the spring), Tuesday/Thursday group, the rose garden, signage group, school education team, speakers’ bureau, pond group, vegetable garden, event committees and many other areas are available to you. If you haven’t yet become involved, start the year right with a commitment to support our Master Gardener organization. We hope to see you soon!

Pat Meyers, MGA President

February 4 and 5 at the Cape Fear Community College Schwartz Center. CC Hensley, our Volunteer Coordinator, has included an article with information on available shifts in this newsletter.

Our Speakers’ Bureau has been up and running at full speed, and we are available to give a variety of presentations to garden clubs, churches, HOAs and civic organizations. If your group is interested, please call Jon Wooten, at (910)395-2332 for more information.

Please think about volunteering for one or more of the many opportunities at the Arboretum. Ongoing shifts in our plant clinic, remote plant clinic (starting in the spring), Tuesday/Thursday group, the rose garden, signage group, school education team, speakers’ bureau, pond group, vegetable garden, event committees and many other areas are available to you. If you haven’t yet become involved, start the year right with a commitment to support our Master Gardener organization. We hope to see you soon!
**WILMINGTON GARDEN SHOW**

*March 5th & 6th*

Schwartz Center at Cape Fear Community College

601 N. Front Street in Downtown Wilmington

**Hours:**
Saturday, February 4th, 9am - 5pm
Sunday, February 5th, 11am-4pm

**Admission:**
Adults:$7
Children under 12 Free

---

**62nd Tidewater Camellia Show**

February 25th

Arab Shrine Club

4510 S. College Rd.

**Hours:**
1:00-5:00 P.M.

**Features:** Sale of Camellias, Floral and Educational forums, and Student Art.

**Cost:** Free

www.tidewatercamelliaclub.org