



**Sandhills**  
Horticultural Gardens

# The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

Vol. 11, No. 3

Fall 2016

*The Sandhills Horticultural Society - dedicated to the support of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens since 1987.  
Please help the Gardens grow by becoming a Society member.*

## History of the Landscape Gardening Program and the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens

*Dee Johnson*

In 1965 Mr. Francis W. Howe, owner of Clarendon Gardens Nursery and Landscape services in Pinehurst, North Carolina developed a committee to explore the possibility for the initiation of a National Institute of Horticulture. As a result of these early efforts, Mr. Fred Heutte, Mrs. Louise J. Ballard, Mr. David G. Leach, Dr. Francis deVos and Dr. Raymond Stone were asked to serve as the Board of Directors for the Clarendon National Institute of Horticulture.

Shortly thereafter, Dr. Stone, president of Sandhills Community College, asked Mr. Heutte to continue with the original idea of training gardeners as conceived by the Clarendon National Institute of Horticulture and to consider the total program as managed and conducted by Sandhills Community College. Mr. Heutte consented to continue his service as a consultant for the College.

On February 1, 1968, Mr. Fred Garrett was hired by Dr. Stone to formulate the curriculum and initiate the first class of enrolled Landscape Gardening students in September of 1968. The following year, two additional instructors were employed to help carry out the intent of training students in applied horticulture utilizing training concepts already established in European garden training schools.

Mr. Heutte, a resident of Norfolk, Virginia and former Superintendent of Parks and Forestry for the City of Norfolk and the first Director of the Norfolk Botanical Garden, continued his interest in the gardening school and visited the College on several occasions until his death in 1979. The first instructional building that housed the Landscape Gardening Program was named Heutte Hall in 1974. With construction of the new landscape gardening building the name was changed to Steed Hall in honor of Warren Steed for his help in funding the new facilities. Heutte Hall became the name of the now living quarters facilities for students.

By agreement with Mrs. James Boyd, owner of the Weymouth estate in Southern Pines, the practical outdoor laboratories, such as vegetable gardening, tree climbing, pruning, propagation, landscape maintenance and



*Cabin — Hoad Children's Garden*

installation were conducted on the Weymouth estate at the beginning of the program. The classroom instruction was held on the main campus of Sandhills Community College.

In 1978, prior to accepting a large diverse collection of holly species from Dr. Fred Ebersole, funds were needed for clearing and preparation of two acres of land for the Holly Garden. The landscape gardening students undertook the work project on weekends, cutting trees necessary for construction of a new parking lot in front of Heutte Hall. With the permission from the College trustees all monies derived from the sale of the trees would be used for site preparation of the holly collection. The College trustees also dedicated fifteen acres of campus land to the Landscape Gardening program in 1978 for future garden expansion. The holly collection which became known as the Ebersole Holly Garden was the first garden established in what is now known as the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens.

Between 1980 and 1984 a decision was made to develop a master plan for the outdoor "living laboratory" which would serve as a guide for potential, additional garden expansion in the future. Students have always been involved in the development and execution of the gardens and this was no exception. A group of landscape gardening students developed a master plan project as their semester landscape design project. This plan included a vegetable garden with a small fruit orchard, a dwarf conifer area and an area where annuals, seasonal flower color could be provided.



# History . . . continued from page one

In 1984, the concept for another garden began as part of the statewide celebration of the commemoration of the attempted colonization of Roanoke Island in 1584. The formal English style garden was designed by Susan Frett, a second year student in the Landscape Gardening Program. The plan was submitted to the Moore County 400th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Norris Hodgkins. The plan was accepted and Mrs. Jane McPhaul was named chairperson for fund raising efforts enabling the initiation of construction for the Sir Walter Raleigh Garden.



*Early construction Sir Walter Raleigh Garden*

By 1987 Jane McPaul had raised over \$100,000 for the implementation of the Sir Walter Raleigh Garden. She suggested that a permanent source of funding be established to provide capital for ongoing maintenance and development of the gardens. As a result of her efforts the Sandhills Horticultural Society Board of Directors was founded in 1987. The formation and success of the Society has made it possible for the continued maintenance and growth of the garden. In addition, individuals through their donations to the Horticultural Society have made it possible for specialty gardens to be developed as part of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens.

Shortly after the completion of the Sir Walter Garden in the late 1980's a perennial garden was initiated on both sides of this garden. In 1990 the Hillside Garden was funded by Mrs. Warner Atkins. In the fall of 1991 Dr. Mark Cathy, then Director of the US National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., led the dedication of this garden. The Desmond Native Wetland Garden was begun in the Spring of 1993. This garden includes a 680 foot wooden boardwalk through the wetlands, terminating at an overlook of the upper College pond. In 1995 the Hackley Woodlands

Garden was started thru a gift from the Hackley family of Pinehurst. In 1998 the succulent garden was constructed using funds provided by the Sandhills Horticultural Garden Society. In the mid-seventies a site within the confines of the garden property had been marked as a potential area for construction of a Japanese garden. In December of 1999, Mr. Jack Ambrose proposed a gift to the gardens in memory of his wife. This gift was to be utilized for construction of a Japanese Garden. The Ambrose Japanese Garden was dedicated in the Fall of 2005.

In the Spring of 1997 Fred Garrett, Coordinator of the Landscape Gardening Program, was contacted by a representative of the G. Victor and Margaret Ball family of Chicago. This contact resulted in the construction of the G. Victor and Margaret Ball Garden Visitors Center. This Center acts as a welcome center for the Gardens and a meeting place for garden related events. Dedication of the Center was held on December 11, 1999.

Upon the retirement of Fred Garrett on June 30, 2001 "The Circle of Peace" statue that is in front of the Visitors Center was dedicated to him for his over thirty years of efforts in training students and developing the Landscape Gardening Program at Sandhills Community College.

In 2009 the O'Rand family wanted to do something to honor their mother, Bea, who had passed away recently. Bea was member of the Sandhills Horticultural Board. The Bea O'Rand Children's Vegetable Garden was developed. It is a totally organic place where children can see where their food comes from and get their picture taken in the face cutout.

A past graduate of the landscape gardening program, Josh Richardson, went on to NC State and completed his landscape architect degree. As part of his senior project he designed the Hoad Children's Garden. The Hoad family were very generous in giving a donation to the Sandhills Horticultural Society for the beginning construction of this garden. Construction on this garden started in 2014 and is ongoing as funding becomes available.

As you can tell after reading this article that the Gardens are always evolving and changing and many people helped and continue to help make them possible. This Garden could not be possible without the landscape gardening students, faculty and the generous donations of individuals and groups to the gardens. The Gardens are a "Living Laboratory" for the students, but they are also a great community resource that anyone can enjoy. Remember the Gardens are open every day from sun rise to sun set and best of all they are free for everyone.

Thank you all for your generous support. We could not do it without you!

## Fall Gardening Tips

1. Sow a cover crop such as clover, winter rye or buckwheat in your garden to improve your soil if you are not growing vegetables throughout the winter.
2. Fall is an excellent time to plant new shrubs or trees. Don't forget to continue to water after planting.
3. Bring in your houseplants before temperatures drop to 50's at night. Make sure you check for pests before bringing them indoors
4. Remove all old leaves and spent blooms from your garden beds that might harbor diseases or pests. You want to start with a clean garden in the spring.
5. Plant your spring blooming bulbs in November. If the weather is staying too warm, refrigerating them for a couple of weeks will improve your blooms in the spring.
6. Plant cool season crops such as snapdragons and pansies for cool season color in your garden.

# Horticultural Society Events & Workshops

*Dolores Muller*

What a treat to have Peter Hatch, former director of Jefferson's Monticello Gardens & Grounds, come to speak to us in May. His information about Jefferson and his amazing gardens was fascinating. Hatch, a former graduate of the Landscape Gardening program, donated the event proceeds from his talk to our gardens.

Our Lunch and Learn in the Gardens series continues to be successful. May's presentation on Annuals and Perennials in the Landscape by JJ Faulk had 53 people in attendance. In June my class on Attracting Birds to your Yard had 50 people.



*Edible Flowers and Herbs*

In mid June Norma Burns gave a workshop on Edible Flowers and Herbs. Those attending prepared culinary delights that were beautiful and delicious. Everyone had a fun time sampling the yummy creations.

At the Honeybee workshop we learned about the plight of honey bees and what we can do to help them. Participants also made bee's wax candles to take home.

We on the Horticultural Society board are excited about a new event we are having this year. En Plein Air Painting in the Gardens. Mark your calendar for September 24th, a Saturday, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Artists will be out in the

gardens painting beautiful works of art (en Plein Air). Come and watch them and enjoy light refreshments throughout the day at the Ball Visitors Center. All paintings will be for sale with additional pieces by the participating artists on display and also for purchase. It should be a fun day strolling through the beautiful gardens to watch the talented artists. Only check or cash will be accepted when purchasing a painting. Even if you are not in the market for a painting....come enjoy!



*Honeybee Workshop  
Bob and Ruth Stoling*

## Upcoming Events... register by email or call Tricia Mabe at 910-695-3882

### **Plein Air Painting in the Gardens**

**September 24 (Saturday) 10AM to 3PM – Sandhills Horticultural Gardens**

Come and enjoy a day in the Gardens and watch local artists painting in this beautiful garden setting. Light refreshments will be served throughout the day at the Ball Visitors Center where additional paintings will be on display and for sale. All art will be for sale with a portion of the proceeds going to support the gardens.

Cash or check ONLY will be accepted.

### **Fall Plant Sale**

**October 15 (Saturday) 8AM to Noon – Steed Hall**

Woody plants (azaleas, hollies, camellias) daffodils, pansies and spring flowering bulbs will be available. This is the annual Sandhills Horticultural Society and Student Horticultural Club plant sale. Pre-orders are recommended. Call Johanna Westmen at 910-246-4959 or, you may purchase plants the day of sale. Horticultural Society members receive 5% off orders of \$100 or more.

### **Living Flower Arrangement Workshop**

**October 27 (Thursday) 1PM and October 28 (Friday) 10AM**

Sandhills Community College, Steed Hall/Stephens Laboratory Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs is the instructor. Participants will plant and take home a container with tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, muscari and anemone especially chosen for this area to create a living flower arrangement of blooms outdoors in the spring. Horticultural Society Members \$50, non-members \$55. Payment due at registration. Space is limited to 18.

### **Bulbs and Companion Plants**

**October 28 (Friday) 1PM – Owens Auditorium**

Every year, gardeners in the South look forward to receiving their catalog of bulbs, seeds and perennials from Brent and Becky of Gloucester, Virginia. Their 28 acre farm and gardens allow them to offer an unsurpassed collection of bulbs for all seasons. We now have the opportunity to hear Brent Heath himself talk about "Bulbs and Companion Plants" emphasizing four seasons of bulbs for the southern landscape. Sponsored by the Sandhills Horticultural Society and the Council of Garden Clubs. FREE but registration is required. Register at: [landscapegardening@sandhills.edu](mailto:landscapegardening@sandhills.edu)

### **Growing and Using Ginger**

**November 1 (Tuesday) 10AM to Noon – Ball Visitors Center**

Norma Burns from Bluebird Hill Farm is the instructor. Learn how to grow and store Culinary Ginger. There is an amazing difference between fresh "Baby" Ginger and grocery store Ginger. Once you taste it you will never think of Ginger in the same way. Our season lends itself to producing "Baby" Ginger. Workshop will include information on the health benefits and culinary delights of using Ginger. Class will participate in demonstration, preparation and tasting. Horticultural Society members \$30, non-members \$35. Payment due at registration. Space is limited to 40.

### **Delightful Desserts – Gluten and Dairy free**

**November 16 (Wednesday) – 10 to 11:30AM - Ball Visitors Center**

Instructor Sueson Vass will discuss ideas for preparing and eating nutritious and delicious gluten and dairy free desserts. Participants will have the opportunity to taste these delightful desserts. Cost to be determined.



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## Membership — Sandhills Horticultural Society

If you are currently a member of the Sandhills Horticultural Society – many thanks for your support. If not a member, please consider joining. Society dues and sponsored programs provide the funds required for development and maintenance of the Gardens. We do not receive money from either the State or the College.

Your membership comes with many benefits. Such as . . .

- Free Garden Seminars
- Admission to 200+ gardens throughout North America
- A discount on spring and fall plant sales
- Use the Ball Visitors Center for garden related events
- Continuing educational opportunities
- A discount on Society workshops and programs

Plus a FREE subscription to Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

It's not too early to renew your membership for 2016-2017. Or, consider giving a membership as a Christmas or birthday gift to your garden loving relatives and friends.

**Annual dues are reasonable:** Individual\_\_\_ \$25, Family\_\_\_ \$45, Individual Life\_\_\_ \$350.

**Membership:** \_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal

**Gift Membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

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Make checks payable to: SCC – Sandhills Horticultural Society  
 Mail to: Dee Johnson, Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Rd., Pinehurst NC 28374