



**Sandhills**  
Horticultural Gardens

# The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

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Summer 2019

*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.*

## A Gem of the Sandhills of North Carolina

*Skip Ragland*

Nestled among the towering Loblolly Pines in the Sandhills of North Carolina is a very special garden. Created in 1978 to function as a teaching platform for landscape gardening students, it has evolved into a regional horticultural jewel. The Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens not only serves as a unique laboratory for horticultural students, it serves as a magnet, drawing tourists and residents alike to explore the eleven sub-gardens contained within its 32 acres.

From dawn to dusk, 365 days a year, visitors can linger in a woodland garden, visit a Children's Garden where youngsters can touch and smell and play among the plants, and a fruit and vegetable garden.

Of special interest is the Ebersole Holly Garden, which in 1985, was designated as an official Holly Arboretum consisting of over 380 different cultivars and 30 holly species. It is the largest accessible collection of hollies east of the Mississippi. Holly researchers from all over the country come here to study.

Other sub-gardens includes a Wetland Garden, a Perennial Garden, a Herb Garden, a Hillside and Pond Garden, a Succulent Garden, a Formal Garden, a Rose Garden, an Annual Garden, a Conifer Garden and a Japanese Garden.

What makes all this so special is that the SCC Horticultural Gardens are managed and maintained entirely by the students and staff of the Horticultural Program. The Landscape Gardening curriculum has achieved the reputation as one of the finest two-year, applied horticultural programs in the country.

Students receive an Associate degree in Applied Science in Landscape Gardening. One-half of their time is spent in the classroom and the other half is spent working in and maintaining the gardens. For two weeks in every season, students actually live in the horticultural dormitories where they learn to manage the garden and greenhouse while attending classes. Presently, there is no other known horticultural program in the US that maintains a residency requirement.

The Landscape Gardening Program emphasizes extensive field training. The curriculum includes study and experience in plant propagation, greenhouse crops, turf management, plant identification, arboriculture, diseases and pests of plants and landscape planning, maintenance and construction.

The first Director of the Horticultural program, Fred Garrett, introduced a "learn by doing" concept in 1968, which continues through today. It is a demanding curriculum, but the success rate of students completing and moving on to horticultural jobs or to acquiring a bachelor degree at a 4-year college or university is impressive.

Jim Westmen, an instructor at the school believes smaller class sizes, experienced faculty, and "hands-on, one-on-one" learning opportunities aid the success of the program for the students.

The students echo Westmen's enthusiasm about the instruction and have a host of reasons they chose the school. Amy Fogleman, second year student likes the fact

*Continued Inside*



### *A Gem of the Sandhills of North Carolina Continued*

that her classmates spend time in the classroom learning how to do something and immediately move to the Gardens to put what they have learned into practice. She says, "It is like a private lesson each time I walk into a class". Teno Benitez is beginning his second year and is preparing himself to go into his family nursery management business. He believes the practical instruction provided him with the skills he needs in the future. Second year student Roger McMillan came to the program simply because he wanted to be able to plant a garden for his Grandmother that would have something growing in it every day of the year.

The Program is one of only twenty-three schools in the US and Canada which is certified by the National Association of Landscape Professionals.

Scores of gardens and other horticultural venues throughout the United States can boast of SCC Landscape Gardening graduates. Past Horticulturists of the White House Gardens, Tom Greer and Dale Haney are graduates, as is Peter Hatch who headed up the Monticello Gardens for over three decades. Nurseries, landscape companies, resorts, etc., employ these exceptionally qualified graduates. Dee Johnson, the current Coordinator of the SCC Horticultural Department, is also a graduate of the program. According to her, "I think what makes this program so special is the continued evolution of the gardens and the close relations we have with our students. Past graduates continually visit the gardens and support the program long after they graduate. Our successful graduates are our best advertisement."

Over the past 39 years thousands of visitors from throughout the United States and abroad have enjoyed the quiet beauty of these gardens. Over the past 49 years hundreds of horticultural students have been inspired by outstanding teachers and a unique training program that allowed them to enter the Horticultural field where they have advanced the science and craft of Landscaping Gardening and have changed the face of Horticulture forever.

The SCC Horticultural Gardens - A gem of the Sandhills of North Carolina.

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## Color, Color Everywhere

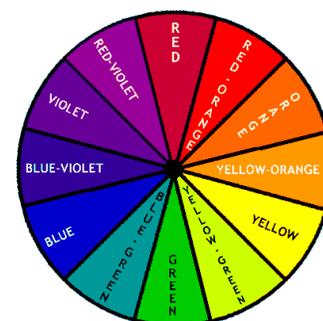
*Johanna Westmen*

It's that time of the year again when we spend glorious amounts of time with seed catalogs trying to decide on our plant selections for the upcoming spring season. We are inundated and bombarded with thousands of plants in hundreds of colors. Sometimes it can be overwhelming to make a decision on our plant choices, not to mention what colors we would like to use. The catalogs and various other sources tend to give us a plethora of information regarding the cultural requirements of the plants, such as light and water, but the choice of color combinations is one that is hardly ever mentioned or suggested. This leaves us on our own when it comes to choosing the purple one to go with the yellow one or the pink one to go with the yellow one. Many people will choose colors based on what they like, which isn't necessarily a bad thing, and not realize that an amazing array of color variations are options which they might enjoy, if only tried.

When understanding color combinations, there are a few rules one should consider. Cool colors (blues and mauves) tend to recede visually whereas warm colors (reds and oranges) seem to advance towards you. With this in mind, plants in the cool color range should perhaps be planted in the front of a border or bed so that they will not get lost among other colors. Since warm colors want to visually advance towards you, perhaps they would be better planted in the rear of the bed or border so that they do not seem overpowering or overwhelming.

When it comes to design ideas with colors, it is always handy to have

a color wheel available. A color wheel will help you understand the different color schemes available to work with. A few terms are necessary to understand. A pure color can also be referred to as a hue, with tints being the lighter color of the pure color. A shade is classified as a color darker than the pure color. There are generally four color schemes that you can work with. They are:



Monochromatic, Analogous, Complementary and Polychromatic. A monochromatic color scheme utilizes flowers in various tints and shades of one color. An analogous color scheme uses colors closely related to one another, such as red, red-violet and violet. All three of these colors are side by side on the color wheel. The complementary color scheme utilizes colors opposite each other. This color scheme could be represented using flowers that are yellow with ones that are violet. Another option could be blue flowers and orange flowers. The last color scheme often used by us all is the polychromatic color scheme, utilizing any and all colors found on the color wheel. No matter what color choices you make, remember to take time to enjoy your creation.

## Summer Garden Tips

- Fertilize centipede lawns around the middle of May to the first of June
- Prune you azaleas by the end of June
- Plant many cool season vegetables around August
- Apply an early Fall pre-emergence herbicide to control winter weeds

# Horticultural Society Events & Workshops

*Tracye Reiland*

Despite the crazy weather this Spring we have been busy at the Gardens! March kicked off our first Lunch & Learn with Tommy Rains from Cape Fear Wildlife Control and his talk on The Behavior and Control of Voles and Moles. These little critters are so popular that 47 people showed up to hear about how to save their landscapes and yards from the damage they can do. Our March workshop was taught by Kathy Byron, Director of Good Food Sandhills. She shared her wealth of knowledge about vegetable gardening. Participants left with a grow bag planted with potatoes and a cool little herb Softpot constructed from each participant's choice of fabrics.

In March, nearly 90 participants heard Craig LeHoullier, the NC Tomato Man, talk about "Growing Tomatoes in the Sandhills". After getting a lot of helpful tips, everyone went home with a packet of tomato seeds and a dream of growing tomatoes in their garden. The program was jointly sponsored with the Council of Garden Clubs of Moore County.

The April workshop was taught by Diane Flanagan from ARTworks studio in Vass. Diane taught participants how to cut and place stained glass pieces to create their own unique mosaic mirror frame. Everyone left with a lovely piece of art. Bees were the topic of our April Lunch & Learn. Pat and Larry Brannon, owners of Brannon Apiary, discussed how to attract bees to your yard and how to set up a home apiary. Attendees left with a pack of flower seeds to plant to attract bees and they got a taste of local honey from the Brannon's bee hives.



*Kathy Byron,  
Director of Good Food Sandhills*

## Upcoming Events... June, July & August

**Registration required for all events. Please email [landscapegardening@sandhills.edu](mailto:landscapegardening@sandhills.edu) or call 910-695-3882.**

### **Designing Succulent Containers**

**June 4 (Tuesday) 11AM to Noon – Ball Visitors Center**

Carol Lucas will show you the proper way to plant succulents in containers and various creative planting designs. You will go home with your very own masterpiece to keep or have an ideal gift for Father's Day. All supplies included. Class size is limited to 12 but an afternoon session from 1PM-2 may be added if the morning fills quickly. Horticultural members \$30, nonmembers \$35.

### **Lunch & Learn**

**June 17 (Monday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center**

#### **Inviting Nature into your Garden with Native Plants**

Lisa Thompkins, owner of Carolina Heritage Nursery in Waxhaw, NC will be discussing the importance of incorporating native plants into our landscape. She will talk about our current landscaping practices, their unintended consequences, and ideas for creating a more hospitable landscape for ourselves and wildlife by incorporating native plants. FREE - bring your lunch, the Gardens will provide drinks.

### **Abstract Art - Fluid Acrylic Pouring Method**

**July 9 (Tuesday) 10AM to Noon – Ball Visitors Center**

Local artist Meredith Markfield will teach you how to paint in the newest abstract style – fluid acrylic pouring. Each student will take home a 10X10 inch original. Learn how to mix paints to the right consistency for pouring to create your choice of two styles of an abstract painting. To explore this method of painting and see examples of what you can create, see the instructor's website: [www.artbymeredith.com](http://www.artbymeredith.com) or our Facebook page. Students should wear old clothing and bring an apron for further protection. Paintings require a week to dry. Space is limited and registration must be made by July 2 to allow time for instructor to purchase supplies. Horticultural members \$45, non-members \$50.

### **Lunch & Learn**

**July 16 (Tuesday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center**  
**Houseplants from A-Z**

Back by popular demand, Keely Harpster, SCC Landscape Gardening graduate and Landscape Design contractor will give her presentation aimed at educating fellow plant lovers by sharing detailed knowledge on personal successes and failures with houseplants. Learn the basics of houseplant care and insightful tidbits that will make you crave more green in your life and home. FREE - bring your lunch, the Gardens will provide drinks.

### **Lunch & Learn**

**August 6 (Tuesday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center**  
**Fall Landscape Design**

Dee Johnson, former coordinator of the Landscape Gardening Program at SCC and now owner of her own business (Deesigns) will give us inspiration for fall plantings using good design principles. Fall is a great time to do plantings in your landscape. Basic design principles will be discussed to optimize your money and time when planning and planting your landscape. FREE - bring your lunch, the Gardens will provide drinks.

### **Botanical or Lace Impressed Pottery Platters**

**August 8 (Thursday) 10AM to Noon – Ball Visitors Center**

ARTworks of Vass is back! Maegan Lea of Fickle Pottery is bringing one of her most popular classes to the Gardens. Students may choose to bring their own botanicals or piece of lace or choose what Maegan provides. All supplies and tools will be provided. To allow time for drying, glazing, and firing; class projects will be ready by September 9th. The Horticultural Society will contact students and arrange for pick up at the Ball Visitors Center. Class size is limited to 24. An afternoon session from 1PM-3 may be added if the morning session fills quickly. Horticultural Society members \$50, nonmembers \$60.



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# National Collegiate Landscape Competition

*Hilarie Blevins*

This past March, a group of fourteen Landscape Gardening students from Sandhills Community College traveled to Fort Collins, Colorado to participate in the 2019 National Association of Landscape Professionals, National Collegiate Landscape Competition. A team from Sandhills has participated every year since 1993. There are twenty-nine categories ranging from landscape design, plant and pest identification, irrigation assembly and operating various pieces of equipment.

The event this year was spectacular. For this southern team, we were fearful of snowy conditions, but we couldn't have ordered better weather. The students had an intense three days of networking, workshops and competitions. When the dust settled and the scores were tallied, we learned that Team Sandhills finished 24th out of 64 schools and won the best school cheer! The hard work of our students and faculty truly paid off.



In the midst of this trip, I was inspired by a quote from Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. - "A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions." I saw this quote in action. Regardless of how they performed, they were all changed people after this experience. Some pushed their personal limits and others their professional ones. Students were able to see the broad scope of the Landscape Industry and exactly how many varying opportunities exist for them.

If and when you see our students, please congratulate them on a job well done!