



Sandhills
Horticultural Gardens

The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

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Winter 2022

*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.*

One Hundred and One Years Serving the White House

Fred Garrett

A mile stone in the records for both the White House and the Landscape Gardening curriculum at

Sandhills Community College was set this year by two graduates of the Landscape Gardening program. Thomas Geer graduated in 1971 and Dale Haney graduated in 1972. Both elected to take their required internship in the gardens of Dumbarton Oaks, Washington D.C. Both were approached during their internship for consideration regarding employment as White House gardeners upon graduation from Sandhills Community College. Both students in turn accepted employment with the National Park Service that oversees the White House landscape. The rest of the story, as the old adage goes, "is now history". Both Thomas Geer and Dale Haney have to date served ten United States Presidents and their families.

Thomas Geer is Chief of Maintenance for the President's Park. The President's Park, established in 1790, includes the landscape surrounding the White House, and also includes the landscape of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the United States Treasury Building, the White House Visitors Center, Lafayette Square, and the Ellipse, for a total of seventy-seven acres that are supervised by these Sandhills Landscape Gardening graduates.

Dale Haney was promoted to Superintendent of the White House grounds, upon the retirement of grounds superintendent Irwin Williams in 2008. Dale is part of the White House Residence Staff reporting directly to the Chief Usher of the White House. Haney supervises a full time staff of twelve gardeners, maintenance workers, plumbers, and electricians.

Most recently, several articles have been featured by the Washington Post, Public Radio, the Times Union,

and others; high lighting President Biden's surprise elm tree dedication ceremony October 24, on the south lawn of the White House to honor Dale Haney. You can "Google" White House Grounds Superintendent" to read articles about Dale.

Many wonderful students were enrolled in the Landscape Gardening curriculum during my tenure. I consider those days employed at Sandhills, some of the best days of my life. I am extremely proud of each and every student that I had the privilege to be associated with. I am sure I speak for the other Landscape Gardening instructors when I say, "thank you students, you



*Students on a 1979 field trip visiting the White House grounds.
Thomas Geer, back row far right. Dale Haney (dark shirt) back row, adjacent to Thomas.*

all made the Landscape Gardening program at Sandhills unique and rare" compared to many two and four year programs throughout the nation.

Fred Garrett - started the Landscape Gardening Program in 1968, retired in 2001.



Garden Spotlights - "Learning in Nature"

Jim Westmen

The Hoad Children's Garden is located near the Ball Garden Visitors Center and is one of the most visited gardens in the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens. This garden is in memory of John and Grace Hoad and their family that supported its construction. Josh Richardson designed this garden and is a former Landscape Gardening Program graduate from Sandhills, class of 2011. The garden design was his senior design project for his continued degree from NC State. Families, especially those with young children gravitate, sometimes run, to this garden as a favorite place of enjoyment.

This garden centered around a natural play concept, encourages imagination and interaction with nature and the natural environment. Components of this garden offer visual and physical stimulation through different smells, sounds, and physical movement in the different spaces of the garden. Birds, insects, moving water and many different flowering trees, shrubs and perennials all are found in this enchanting garden.

There is a play area consisting of several large rocks for children to climb over and cut logs to step on and practice their balancing skills.



A flagstone patio that incorporates a boulder with gushing water coming up through it into a narrow stream that leads through the patio. Both the gushing water and the flowing stream allow children to interact with the water, building small dams of gravel along the stream and squirting water with their hands and of course getting wet themselves.

Three raised vegetable planters with seasonal veggies, herbs and flowers are available to investigate and examine different edible plants and smells. There are also two outdoor chalkboards to draw pictures on and offer a place for written expression of what they see or are thankful for.

This garden also has a small sized wooden cabin for make believe activities and a solid board fence around it with peep holes for small eyes to look through towards a couple of bird feeders and watch some visiting feathered friends.

A musical play area consisting of several outdoor musical instruments can be enjoyed with families making musical tunes many times and even some tunes that you can recognize. These young musicians create another experience that fills the area with magic.

All these components allow for a child's exploration, experience, and expression in a natural outdoor world.

Please enjoy this wonderful garden with your family.



Winter Gardening Tips

- Winter is a great time to plan and shop for items to incorporate into your Spring and Summer gardens.
- Look at your winter landscape and see where you can add colorful plants to improve winter interest
- Provide food and water to our native birds and increase nesting sites in your landscape by introducing more bird houses.
- Winter time is always a great time to prune and shape many plants. Be careful not to prune your early spring bloomers as you may prune off many potential blooms.

Horticultural Society Talks & Workshops *Tracye Reiland*

Going, going...almost gone! At the end of December my current term on the Sandhills Horticultural Society Board expires. For the last six years, it has been a privilege and an amazing learning experience to serve on this board. As a relatively new resident of North Carolina, this position has afforded me opportunities to meet wonderful people such as yourselves, who share a love of nature and horticulture and value unique educational experiences to further our knowledge in these areas. I've gained a better understanding and deeper appreciation for this community and these Gardens. I don't think that would have been achieved as quickly had I not been so involved with folks locally and regionally to identify sources for our speakers and workshops. I hope you enjoy the winter lineup and I've even managed to book a few more for the spring before I leave! I'm not going far though, so you'll still see me around!



On Friday, October 21, 15 ladies created their own succulent pumpkin centerpieces from an array of colorful pumpkins. Each was unique and you can see by the smiles that everyone had lots of fun. Can you imagine what their Thanksgiving table will look like?

Don't forget that we have developed an online registration and payment process via the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens website to make it easier and more convenient to sign up for our events. Please check our website and Facebook page often for updates on event offerings.



<https://www.sandhills.edu/horticultural-gardens-upcoming-events/>

Upcoming Events at the Ball Visitors' Center...

Registration required for all events. To register for Free Events, you can register online, e-mail landscapegardening@sandhills.edu, or call (910) 695-3882. Please leave your name, phone number and e-mail address. To register for workshops with fees, please visit: <https://www.sandhills.edu/horticultural-gardens-register/>

All classes and workshops are held in the Burlingame Room at the Ball Visitors Center, Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, unless otherwise noted.

Climate Change Mitigation for Gardeners and Homeowners

December 8 (Thursday) Free – 11:00AM – 12:00PM

Marcia Woodfield, certified Yoga instructor will lead you through a yoga practice designed to nourish your soul as well as your body and mind while Rebecca Ward, Assistant State Climatologist, NCSU, will speak on how North Carolina's climate is changing and the implications for plants and gardening. She will describe actions that are available to all of us to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Pruning Talk and Demonstration

January 10 (Tuesday) Free – 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Taylor Williams, retired Moore County Horticulture Extension Agent, returns to give his ever-popular talk on how and when to appropriately prune your trees and shrubs.

Identifying Edible Mushrooms

February 10 (Friday) Free - 1:00PM - 3:00PM

Frank Hyman, owner of Cottage Garden Landscaping in Durham, NCSU educated horticulturist, author and columnist, is returning to the Gardens to give his popular talk based on his latest book, *How to Forage for Mushrooms without Dying*. With his signature humor and style Frank will speak on how to distinguish edible mushrooms, "if it's hollow, you can swallow," by giving expert foraging advice so that you can be confident on which mushrooms you can safely eat and which to avoid.

How to Grow Your Own Cut Flower Garden

February 21 (Tuesday) Free – 11:00AM – 12:00PM

Gail Prevatte, Moore County native and farm owner, will discuss how flowers are grown for production on her farm, as well as methods for incorporating annual and perennial cut flowers in your landscape or garden. This is also a great way to create a pollinator paradise!



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BEST OUTDOOR ACTIVITY
2nd Place

SANDHILLS HORTICULTURAL GARDENS

As voted on by The Pilot readers

Think Spring - Dates for your 2023 Calendar

April 1, 2023 - Sandhills Horticultural Society Spring Plant Sale Woody plants, perennials and bulbs

April 24-28, 2023 - Bedding Plant Sale – benefits student's field trip