

# Staying in Touch

July 2017



State Botanical Garden of Georgia  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

A monthly update for staff, volunteers, and supporting organizations

## Garden Highlights

### Milkweeds for monarchs

Late spring brings milkweed flowers and monarch butterflies to Georgia. Both are receiving year-round attention at the State Botanical Garden through our research, education, restoration and public outreach programs. Horticulture graduate student Lauren Muller established experimental plantings of *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly milkweed) last fall at Panola Mountain State Park in order to study the effect of various site pre-treatments on establishment success in restoration plantings. Lauren was delighted to find monarch butterfly egg cases on her plants after they emerged from the ground this spring. On the prairie restoration site, Public Service and Outreach interns Susie Henderson and Molly Gaynier counted plants in a natural population of butterfly milkweed in an area we call “Milkweed Meadow.” They located over 70 plants — great news since we had previously seen only about a dozen. Susie and Molly worked under Heather Alley’s supervision at the Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies during spring semester on a number of conservation projects. We also made it easier this year for home gardeners to add local ecotypes of milkweed to their gardens by selling hundreds of our own seed packets of locally-collected butterfly milkweed in the gift shop along with milkweed plants propagated in the center.

### Keeping a close eye on Quillworts

Rush Quillwort (*Isoetes junciformis*) is a rare plant known from only one population in the entire world — in Tift County, Georgia. We feared the species was lost, but two botanists recently discovered a small population about 800 feet upstream from the last known sighting. Rush Quillwort is a member of a very ancient lineage of plants, one that flourished in the time of dinosaurs before plants developed flowers and seeds. We are proud that one of our Certificate in Native Plants graduates, Amy Heidt, has been chosen as the botanical guardian for these plants. Heidt lives near the site and will make frequent



visits to monitor the small population and its swampy habitat. She will also work with botanical gardens to propagate and cultivate the plant so populations can be safeguarded from the potential impacts encountered in the wild.

### **Long-term care for the endangered smooth coneflower**

The garden is in its 18<sup>th</sup> year of restoring smooth coneflower habitat (federally endangered *Echinacea laevigata*) with partners in the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance. During May, a work party including the U.S. Forest Service and fire restoration “hotshots” from Wildland Restoration International cleared encroaching woody plants away from the smooth coneflower and its companion woodland prairie wildflowers and grasses. The smooth coneflower was in full bloom due to years of restoration work opening closed forest to woodland. Conservation horticulturist Heather Alley has been growing coneflower for reintroduction to the national forest since her UGA master’s thesis project in 1999, which focused on reintroduction techniques for this endangered species.

### **Two week community theater production in the Theater-in-the-Woods**

Local community theater Brightstone Productions produced eight performances of the Tony-award winning “Into the Woods” in the Theater-in-the-Woods. The unique setting added to the experience of the musical fantasy, brought in new audiences and returned a percentage of the ticket price to the garden.

### **Bringing the “Connect to Protect” message to more local schools**

SBG conservation horticulturist Heather Alley and Connect to Protect steward Harper Ann Moffett were invited to Watkinsville by the Georgia Superintendent of Schools to help celebrate Colham Ferry Elementary’s STEM certification. The school’s participation in the Connect to Protect pollinator garden program was one of the deciding factors in awarding STEM certification to the institution.



Pictured in the group photo are Heather Alley, conservation horticulturist (left), with Mrs. Wolf’s third graders at Colham Ferry Elementary and Connect to Protect steward Harper Ann Moffett (second from right).

Harper Ann Moffett and other members of the Oconee County High School Environmental Club are receiving additional training at our Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies to help them serve as Connect to Protect stewards. One of their activities was constructing planters for native plant gardens. Click [here](#) to read more online.

### **Tri-state plant conservation meeting is another milestone**

The Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance has worked with conservation professionals in numerous southern states to encourage development of additional statewide alliances. As these new state-based alliances begin to work together, new partnerships are being developed on a larger scale. In a major step towards regional collaboration, the first joint Tennessee-Alabama-Georgia meeting of plant conservation alliances was held outside Chattanooga on May 18-19. Jennifer Ceska, coordinator of GPCA, worked closely with counterparts in Tennessee and Alabama to organize and present the meeting. SBG director Jenny Cruse-Sanders and conservation horticulturist Heather Alley also represented the State Botanical Garden at the meeting. Jenny presented on population genetics of rare plants. With more than 70 attendees, the TAG meeting was a great success and another indication that the institutions in Georgia and surrounding southeastern states are leading the nation in the development of effective state and regional plant conservation alliances.

## **July Classes and Events**

For more information or to register for classes: 706-542-6156 or [botgarden.uga.edu](http://botgarden.uga.edu)

### **Nature Ramblers**

Thursdays

8:30 am (June – August)

Meet at Shade Garden Arbor

Free

Please join our Nature Ramblers and learn more about the natural areas, flora and fauna of the Garden while making new friends and enjoying the cool, fresh air. Sessions will start with an inspirational reading by a nature writer such as Annie Dillard, John Muir, or Janisse Ray. This is a ramble not a hike; we will stop to view interesting plants, insects, butterflies, mushrooms, etc., along the way. Ramblers are encouraged to bring their own nature writings or favorite poems and essays to share with the group. Join us for one or all sessions; these informal rambles are free but donations are accepted in the Garden's donation box in the lobby of the Visitor Center. To get a feel for what our rambles are like visit <http://naturerambling.blogspot.com>

### **Paintings by Cameron Berglund**

Sunday, July 9 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Art opening reception includes a plein air watercolor sketch demonstration

Exhibit July 9-August 12

Cameron Berglund is a Georgia born landscape designer, illustrator and artist who just became a Double Dawg, completing his master's degree in landscape architecture.

"As an artist and designer I get to express and explore my creativity through a wide variety of mediums. My main profession of landscape architecture is the perfect juxtaposition of art and science and gives me a diverse pallet from which to sculpt unique and functional works of art. As an artist, watercolor and ink are my favorite methods for observing the world around me. Most of my work is done plein air and gives me an excuse to look, listen, and be."

## Full Moon Hike: Buck Moon

Sunday, July 9

8:00 – 9:30 pm

Meet at the fountain in front of the Visitor's Center

\$5/person or \$15/family

Come see the garden come alive at night! Each walk will focus on a different topic such as the moon, constellations, or nocturnal creatures. Bring family and friends of all ages along to enjoy the mysterious world of nature at night! Be prepared to hike up to 2 miles on our wooded trails and in the garden. If you have young children or infants, a backpack carrier is suggested. Pre-registration is required.

## Sunflower Music Series: String Theory

Tuesday, July 11

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Flower Garden Lawn

\$15; \$5 children ages 6 - 12

Originally formed in 1993, String Theory plays old time, bluegrass and Americana music. While the lineup has evolved and changed throughout its history, the band has consistently been made up of some of Athens' finest acoustic musicians and is a perennial favorite at the North Georgia Folk Festival, The music is high energy and refuses to let the audience sit back and simply listen: they have to move, dance or even just tap their feet.

[www.facebook.com/StringTheoryAthens](http://www.facebook.com/StringTheoryAthens)

## They Are Back---The Hummingbirds and the Hummingbird Trail

Saturday, July 15

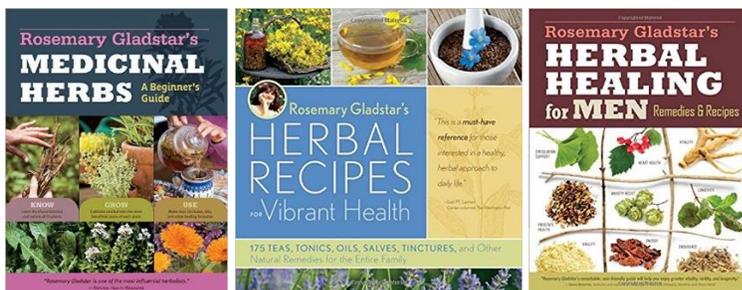
9:00 – 11:00 am

Meet at the Fountain in front of the Visitor's Center

Free

Join us for a ramble as we walk through the Hummingbird Trail to find the hummingbird's secret hiding places. Bring a camera or binoculars if you'd like and join the adventure! The last hour of the ramble is intended for participants to have time to independently photograph or observe the hummingbirds.

## Garden Gift Shop



Our staff and volunteers highly recommend Rosemary Gladstar's many books on herbs, which are now available in our gift shop.

Speaking of books, do you have a selection to bring with you to read to younger relatives you visit? If not, we do! There is a large selection of childrens books, toys, and more in our gift shop.

# Links

## Support the Garden

Information about volunteering at the Garden, donating, or joining Friends of the Garden [here](#).



*Is your group interested in a tour of the Garden?*

Contact Andrea at [sbgvol@uga.edu](mailto:sbgvol@uga.edu) or 706-542-6195 to schedule.



**The State Botanical Garden of Georgia has five venues where memorable weddings, meetings, proms, and parties take place. View these online at [botgarden.uga.edu](http://botgarden.uga.edu).**

Contact Cris at [sbgrent@uga.edu](mailto:sbgrent@uga.edu) or 706-542-6467 to find out more, take a tour and **reserve the perfect spot for your event.**

## [State Botanical Garden of Georgia website](#)

### [Become a Friend of the Garden](#)

Benefits include discounts to classes, the Garden Shop, Café Botanica and plant sales, plus an informative quarterly newsletter, and discounts at affiliated gardens.

[Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#)



**State Botanical Garden of Georgia**  
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**2450 South Milledge Avenue – Athens, Georgia 30605**

*A unit of the University of Georgia Public Service and Outreach, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia provides the general public as well as UGA faculty, staff and students opportunities for recreation, events, research and learning through its natural areas, display gardens and building spaces. The State Botanical Garden is located at 2450 South Milledge Ave., Athens, one mile south of the Athens perimeter. For more information, visit [botgarden.uga.edu](http://botgarden.uga.edu).*