

Staying in Touch

October 2017



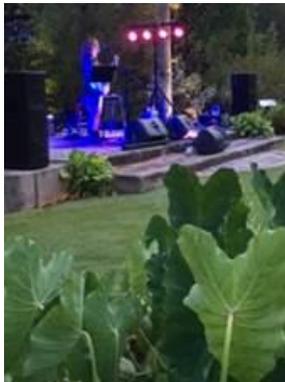
State Botanical Garden of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

A monthly update for staff, volunteers, and supporting organizations

Garden Highlights

[Click here](#) for *Children's Garden official groundbreaking news.*

Construction will start in November.



Sunflower Concert Series celebrated summer in the garden

The last of four Sunflower Concerts was held on Sept. 19. The weather made it possible to hold all four concerts outdoors this year. Athens Coca-Cola, Northeast Georgia Distributing, Freddy's Frozen Custard and Friends of the Garden provided food and beverages for attendees. The garden worked with the UGA Terry College of Business Music Business Certificate Program to contract with many of the performers.



Hurricane Irma closes the garden for 2-1/2 days

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia was closed for over two days (as was all of UGA) while Hurricane Irma passed through. Many trees were lost and we are still cleaning up, but we are also grateful that the damage was not as bad as it could have been.

Alice H. Richards Children's Garden has 100% staff support

The garden staff gathered for an ice cream social to celebrate 100% full time staff participation in the fundraising for the construction of the new children's garden.

Insectival brings over 1,000 people to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Many new visitors were among the 1,000+ people who attended Insectival on September 23. A main highlight of this popular family festival sponsored by the botanical garden, the UGA Lund



Club, the UGA Department of Entomology, and the Georgia Museum of Natural History is a butterfly release on the International Garden lawn.

Over 500 viewed the eclipse with us

Thanks to the Friends of the Garden and Coca-Cola Athens, people enjoyed live music, air conditioning, drinks, snacks, free eclipse glasses, and a fun sense of comradery at the State Botanical Garden on August 21.



Garden trails have become safer

We have just completed a yearlong Trail Safety Initiative to improve safety on the grounds, beginning with the installation of new markers on the trails. This initiative has not only provided a more secure environment, but also created policies and networks to improve response time among first responders when staff are not on-site.



Mountain bog work party battles *Miscanthus*

Members of the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance (GPCA) gathered for a work party deep in the US National Forest, including staff from the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the US Forest Service, and Botanical Guardian and UGA Collegiate Guardian volunteers. This was the tenth consecutive year a GPCA team worked to remove invasive *Miscanthus* grass from this mountain bog. The *Miscanthus* grass seeded from nearby private home gardens, covering over six acres of bog habitat in four years. Removing *Miscanthus* from the National Forest is a priority. It not only crowds out native species, it is a potentially dangerous fire fuel, burning hot with high flames when ignited. Mountain bogs are a priority recovery habitat in the State Wildlife Action Plan. This site is the last known natural population of *Chelone cuthbertii*, Cuthbert's Turtlehead, a tall pink wildflower whose bloom opens like a mouth when pollinators land on the lower petal.

UGA Grounds Department partners with Connect to Protect Program

Staff from the State Botanical Garden of Georgia and the University of Georgia Grounds Department finalized plans for a new Connect to Protect native plant display on D. W. Brooks Mall on South Campus. This joint project creates a display of grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs native to Georgia that support insect pollinators throughout the seasons and throughout the insects' life cycles. The display covers about 500 square feet, with approximately 500 plants representing more than 20 species. This campus Connect to Protect display is funded in part by the Vaughn-Jordan Foundation and serves as a "living landscape" classroom for UGA undergraduate students.



Woody plant hoop house

SBG Conservation Horticulturist Heather Alley was pleased to discover dusty framing parts stored in the rafters of a building in the Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies (MLCNPS). The parts turned out to be the frame of an old hoop house, an open-air shade structure, and perfect for raising native plants in Georgia's climate. Thanks to some clever on-the-spot adaptations and installation work by our restoration techs, Stuart Johnson and Brent Hendrick, we now have an additional 800 sq. ft. of space for growing native woody plants for education and restoration projects. The MLCNPS will be open to the public during our annual Connect to Protect Native Plant Sale, the first two Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of October.



From conferences to coloring books: UGA students build support for pollinators

Graduate student Lauren Muller was awarded a full scholarship to this summer's Cullowhee Native Plant Conference in North Carolina. She presented her research on Milkweed establishment techniques during the poster session and attended a variety of workshops and talks pertaining to both plant and pollinator conservation.

Lauren represented our Connect to Protect program at the annual Hilfest event at Hilsman Middle School, providing wildflower coloring sheets designed by UGA Public Service & Outreach Student Scholar Suzie Henderson, to festival attendees.

October Classes and Events

For more information or to register for classes: botgarden.uga.edu or 706-542-6156

Connect to Protect Native Plant Sale

Oct. 5-7 / 12-14 4-6 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m.–noon Saturdays /Free

Held behind-the-scenes at the Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies, State Botanical Garden of Georgia at the University of Georgia. Six days of shopping among 100 species of Georgia native. Experts can help guide your selections and inspire you to try new species. Collections are grown at the garden, mainly from locally collected seeds, and all without harmful chemicals. Find plants that help support Georgia birds and insects and see behind the scenes in the Mimsie Lanier Center. All sales benefit the center's operating budget and conservation actions. Directional signs in the garden will help you find the center. Plant lists available at botgarden.uga.edu

Plants We Love to Hate: Identifying and Controlling Exotic Pest Plants

Saturday, Oct. 7 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. /Visitor Center, Classroom 2 /\$50

This class is an introduction to invasive, non-native pest plants in the Georgia Piedmont. Students will learn to identify the major offenders, their current ranges and habitats, and how these plants impact natural plant communities. Basic management and control strategies will be

discussed and demonstrated. A portion of the class will be indoors, followed by field identification exercises and control demonstrations in a nearby park where control efforts are underway. Please bring snacks and water for the field portion of the class.

Classic City Band Concert

Sunday, Oct 8 2 p.m. /Visitor's Center /Free

Come hear the Classic City Band play a concert of music from the movies, featuring composers such as Henri Mancini, Alan Silvestri, and John Williams.

Salamander and Stream Ecology Ramble

Saturday, Oct. 14 10-11 a.m. /Meet at Visitor Center back plaza

Join husband and wife herpetology team, Matt Elliott and Stacy Smith, for a ramble along and in the streams and wet areas of the botanical garden. You'll learn about what salamanders are found around Athens and about the habitat conditions they need to survive and thrive. Come ready to get wet and dirty. Families are welcome. Insect repellents are discouraged when handling these fragile creatures.

Opening Reception: Kie Johnson, Watercolors

Sunday, Oct 15 2-4 p.m. /Visitor Center /Free

Local, award-winning artist and teacher Kie Johnson is hosting an opening reception for her new watercolor exhibit inspired by her love of nature, on display in the Visitor Center from Oct. 15-Nov. 26.

Holiday Flea Market

Saturday, Oct. 21 /8 a.m. – 1 p.m. /Gardenside Room /Free

A special Christmas/Thanksgiving Holiday Flea Market will include holiday décor, jewelry, gift wrap, trees, ornaments, lights and so much more. Call 706-542-6138 for more information or to donate items.

Bird Speak: An Introduction to Bird Language

Saturday, Oct. 21 9 a.m.–1 p.m. /Visitor Center, Classroom 1 /\$35

We all know birds sing and we know they chirp. But what do those sounds mean? Just like we talk to one another the birds communicate through their voices. Each has its own song or sound. By learning *how* to pay closer attention to the birds' melodic communication and their behaviors their simple lives easily open themselves up to us. The birds communicate when there is a hawk or owl around very specifically and their body language and sounds can reveal rabbits, coyotes, deer, and many other things that are going on in world of the great outdoors. All we have to do is listen. In this short course, Sarah Hubbard will share with you everything BIRD as well as skills you can use to develop your own Bird Speak. Come spend a Saturday in an intimate class setting while soaking in beautiful woods, watching the birds, and sharing in ways to connect to the natural world around you. In this class we will explore bird language and behavior, common local birds, and how to attract them. For registration visit:

<http://www.wildintelligence.org/event/bird-speak/>

Basic Botany: Lives of the Plants

Saturday, Oct. 21 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. /Visitor Center, Classroom 2 /\$105

Explore the biology of flowering plants in this introduction to general plant anatomy, morphology, physiology, and genetics, with an emphasis on relating form to function: the basic information about plants on which other courses in the native plant certificate program will build. Students will be introduced to plant cells, tissues, and vegetative organs (roots, stems, and leaves), as well as reproductive organs (flowers, fruits, and seeds). Mendelian genetics and basic life processes of plants, including photosynthesis, respiration, and transpiration will be discussed.

3rd Annual "I Love Ukulele" Ukulele Festival

Sunday, Oct. 22 1– 4 p.m. /Theater-in-the-Woods /Free

Bring a friend and your ukulele to listen to, play and sing along with the Athens Ukulele Philharmonic and other ukulele groups and soloists.

Flower Arranging Unit 2: Mass Design and Foliage Design

Wednesday, Oct. 25

9 a.m.–3 p.m. /Visitor Center, Gardenside Room /\$45 (Pre-registration is required)

Unit 2 in this National Garden Club series focuses on mass and foliage design. Additional units of study include designs for dining table, fruit and vegetable design, and creative miniature design. Participants will be provided with a list of materials to bring to class. The class is limited to 20 participants. Priority will be given to those participants who have completed Unit 1. Bring a sack lunch.

Athens Flute Choir Fall Concert

Sunday, Oct. 29 2 p.m. /Visitor Center /Free

Join the Athens Flute Choir for its fall concert, Autumn Sprits, which will feature works that will conjure images of the season with a nod to All Hallows Eve.

Sponsored by Friends of the Garden

Swing Dance Night

Tuesday, Oct. 31 7-10 p.m. /Visitor Center /\$6 general admission; \$4 students

Learn new dance steps, dance under the palms, or watch talented and enthusiastic dancers from seating beside the dance floor. Choose between an East Coast Swing or Lindy Hop lesson from 7-8 p.m., then everyone is welcome for an open dance from 8-10 p.m. Athens Swing Night would like you to know that you don't need to have any previous dance experience, or a partner to attend. Halloween costumes are welcome! *Sponsored by Friends of the Garden.*

Birthday Parties at the Garden!

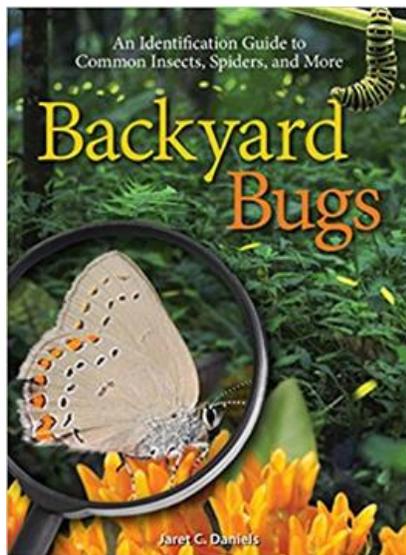
Are you looking for kid-friendly birthday ideas? The State Botanical Garden of Georgia is now offering a variety of birthday programs. We have several new options, as well as old favorites. Each party includes one hour of guided activities and use of the facilities for three hours for up to 15 participants. For more information contact Berkeley Boone at bwboone@uga.edu or visit our website at www.botgarden.uga.edu. Birthday parties are offered September through May.

Student artists may win up to \$1,000!!
2017 Student Art Competition

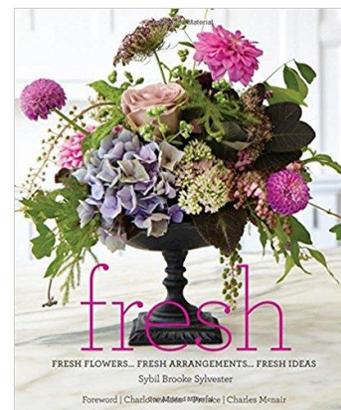
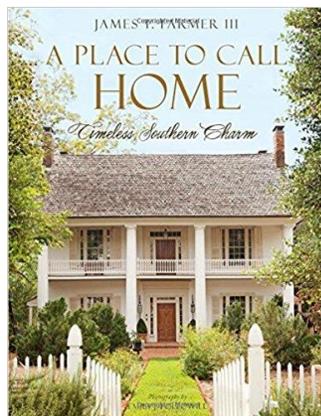
Students in grades 9 through college enrolled in Georgia schools are invited to participate in the 2017 State Botanical Garden art competition funded by the J.A. and H.G. Woodruff Jr. Charitable Trust and sponsored by the Friends of the Garden. Winning artwork will be used to create signature items, such as note cards, scarves, mugs and mouse pads, for sale at the State Botanical Garden gift shop. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners, with first place receiving \$1,000.

*For more information, visit botgarden.uga.edu or call Connie at 706-542-6014.
All artwork must be turned in to the State Botanical Garden by
Friday, December 1, 2017, 5 p.m.*

Garden Gift Shop



The Garden Gift Shop is well stocked with signed copies of Jaret Daniel's new book, "Backyard Bugs". We enjoyed his talk at the Johnstone Lecture on September 26.



There is so much to discover at the Garden Gift Shop now: fall décor, new jewelry, many new children's books ("A Fall Walk in the Garden") and adult books (James Farmer's "A Place to Call Home" and Sybil Sylvester's "Fresh"), plus a selection of live plants.

Is your group interested in a tour of the Garden?

Contact Andrea at sbgvol@uga.edu or 706-542-6195.



Support the Garden

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



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.

Contact Cris at 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 on classes, the Garden Shop, Café Botanica and plant sales, plus an informative quarterly newsletter, and discounts at affiliated gardens.



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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, GA., 30605, one mile south of the Athens perimeter. Visit online at botgarden.uga.edu.