

IN MEMORY

Those we have lost in 2015

Eddie Dennis
Aspasia Knoerr
Jenn Van Brunt
Alice Zawadzki

**WELCOME
NEWEST VOLUNTEERS**

Zepablo Agueda
Anne Albright
David Alejo
Edward Atkins
Delia Avellaneda
Kaylee Barrera
Kaitlin Baxter
Cate Caroon
Catherine Chamberlin
Ashley Clayton
Helen Compton
Katherine Concannon
James Cook-Minor
Sierra Coomer
Mandy Cuskelly
Stephen Dovenitz
Niki Fowler
Julia Gong
William Hanenberg
Judith Howard
Mari Ishizaki
Heidi Ji
Minju Kang
Caroline Ketcham
Younghye Kim
Ina Kimbrough
Chuck King

THE DIRT

**BENEATH THE WISTERIA**

By Chuck Hemric

What an amazing time to be part of the volunteer family at Sarah P. Duke Gardens. The program continues to enjoy many successes, some of which I will highlight in this article.

During the recently completed fiscal year, the adult docents rose to the challenge of expanded offerings of guided tours and broke all records for attendance. Their willingness to provide both walking and trolley tours enabled the Gardens to double the number of attendees from the previous year, and their efforts tripled the annual income from tours since 2013. Kudos to all adult docents.

The garden ambassador program continues to play a pivotal role in the visitor experience at Duke Gardens. Ambassadors greet visitors and provide helpful information at the main entrance gate as well as at strategic locations within the Gardens. With the opening of the new Pine Clouds Mountain Stream Japanese garden, the program will once again expand, placing ambassadors at this beautiful new location. Weekday and weekend opportunities are available for those interested in joining the ambassador program.

Efforts continue to enrich the volunteer program to better reflect the surrounding community. Many of the volunteer program materials are now available in Spanish to serve Hispanic/Latino residents in the area. We also recently established an exciting new partnership with the Community and Service Learning program at North Carolina Central University, where undergraduates must fulfill a volunteer requirement each semester. When we met with their staff, they were thrilled to learn of the many ways that their students could assist at Duke Gardens. We are excited about this opportunity to partner with our neighboring university. Another strong partnership continues to be the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at Durham Tech. And we will hold a Volunteer Fair in March to recruit new volunteers.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that this is our 25th anniversary year, a milestone made possible by your continued participation and support. As I mentioned at the Volunteer Recognition Event in October, expect a year of special events and celebrations, planned by a task force of volunteers. I'll keep you informed of all happenings through email.

As we look ahead to the spring season, the staff at Sarah P. Duke Gardens acknowledges with thankful hearts your contributions as volunteers. Your participation and support of our many activities enables the Gardens to be recognized as a premier public garden. We wish you all a wonderful and fruitful 2016!



WELCOME NEWEST VOLUNTEERS

(continued from page 1)

Paula King
Kathryn Knowles
Kim Lamon-Loperfido
Barry Leonard
Lixia Lu
Debra Marion
Vicki McMullin
Charles Murphy
Aurelie Nguyen
Ruici Ong
Melody Park
Geethma Pathirathna
Maggie Payne
Jackson Pearce
Yan Peng
Andrew Pope
Margaret Rauwald
Jasmine Rogers
Susan Schneider
Karin Schubert
Nekesa Schutte
Malea Shaw
Clay Shepherd
Ryan Simpson
Sarah Smith
Janice Sniker
Mahogani Thomas
Paul Travis
Tonya Walling
Yiou Wang



DID YOU KNOW?

- The Harriet Jackson Phelps Horticultural Library is a bit eclectic, as it is largely the result of generous donations—some of them quite substantial. The collection reflects the interests of our donors, which means we have some unexpected titles. Among the intriguing books are *The Italian Renaissance Garden* by Claudia Lazzaro, *Peppers: the Domesticated Capsicums* by Jean Andrews, and *Onward and Upward in the Garden* by Katherine S. White.
- The air plants on the outside walls of the Doris Duke Center (removed for the winter) are a collection of plants from the genus *Tillandsia*. They are epiphytic (they grow on another plant, upon which they depend for mechanical support but not for nutrients) and tropical, and live in areas of high humidity—thus their winter home in our greenhouses. Spanish moss is a prime example of an epiphytic plant. Look for them in the spring.
- Duke Gardens is one of 23 “lost and found” locations across Duke’s campus. Found items may be brought to the information desk in the Doris Duke Center, where they are kept for 30 days. Visitors can call the desk (919-684-9333) to see if their lost item has been turned in. In addition, these items are posted on DukeList (<http://dukelist.duke.edu/>), accessible to those with a Duke NetID.

Gardens Resident Frogs and Photographer Sue Lannon Fight Species Extinction

Volunteer photographer Sue Lannon will have three photographs of frogs at Duke Gardens on exhibit as part of the *Disappearing Frogs Project* (DFP). Created in 2013 by Charlotte-based artist Terry Thirion, the concept is to bring artists and scientists together to “communicate the unprecedented global amphibian decline and potential effects of species extinction.” DFP is in its third year, raising awareness and “inspiring people to get involved and to take personal action.”



Sue’s photographs, along with other artists’ works, will be on display at N.C. State University’s Crafts Center (through March 3), the Museum of Life and Science (March 7-May 1), and the North Carolina Zoo (April 23), among other locations. For more information, venues and additional dates, visit the Disappearing Frog Project website at <http://www.amphibians.org/disappearingfrogsproject/>.

Introducing... new staff

Sarah Jean Leach Smith joins Sarah P. Duke Gardens as our visitor services coordinator. A Durham native, Sarah Jean comes to us with bachelor's degrees in journalism (UNC-CH) and horticulture (N.C. State), and a master's in public horticulture (University of Delaware). While at NCSU, a horticulture internship at Longwood Gardens stimulated an interest in public gardens, leading her to public horticulture. As visitor services coordinator, Sarah Jean is involved in information desk services, interpretation, and social media. She invites volunteers to email her with questions, ideas and visitor feedback. To maintain her connection to both the space and the visitor, Sarah Jean takes a daily walk through the Gardens, so expect to see her out and about.



Nick Schwab is assistant horticulturist in the Doris Duke Center Gardens (Page-Rollins White Garden, Spring Woodland Garden and Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden). With a bachelor's degree in horticulture from N.C. State, Nick was a landscaper for SAS CEO Jim Goodnight, at his private residence and the SAS campus. His interest in horticulture stems from jobs at Lowe's Home Improvement garden centers during high school, where he developed an interest in the variety of plants for sale. This led to planting his mother's garden, and an enduring love of plants and working outdoors. Another native Durhamite, Nick was an Eagle Scout, having been active in Scouts since the first grade. And he loves golf (hence his college minor in turf grass management).



Sho Un Kei Pine Clouds Mountain Stream by Flora O'Brien

What was once a wooded hillside has been transformed into a Japanese garden. Bounded on the west by Flowers Drive and tucked behind and just north of the Durham-Toyama Sister Cities Japanese Pavilion Tea House, this is a new garden featuring a meandering stream and freshening waterfalls.

Mr. Sadafumi Uchiyama, garden curator of the Portland Japanese Garden, along with Culberson Asiatic Arboretum curator Paul Jones and his staff, have taken an inspired design and created a living work of art. Maples and moss, and many varieties of plants, shrubs, and grasses, evoke *shibusu*, an expression of simplicity, quiet beauty and a naturalness of form. This new space will provide Duke Gardens visitors with delight for many years.



in the quiet pool
pine needles float
on the sky

Volunteer Recognition 2015

by Ellen Levine

Chuck conjured up another perfect day to celebrate the talents and commitment of the volunteers at Sarah P. Duke Gardens. Following an elegant reception on the patio behind the Doris Duke Center, we gathered in Kirby Horton Hall to acknowledge, honor and be inspired by the best, most productive, and most enduring among us.

Director Bill LeFevre offered welcoming remarks, recognizing how the volunteer program has grown and evolved over the years to meet new and expanded needs, and thanking us for our good works.

Chuck then began with introductions and recognitions. First he welcomed the newcomers among us: volunteers who have joined in the past year and staff members Nick Schwab (assistant horticulturist in the Doris Duke Center Gardens) and visitor services coordinator Sarah Jean Leach Smith (see our introduction to Nick and Sarah).

Jan Little, director of education and public programs, joined Chuck in bestowing the following service awards:

10 years

Cookie Baker
Helen Dennis
Christine Hodder
Charlie Twine
Cal Wong

15 years

Margaret Dwane
Priscilla Morgan

Education program coordinator Kavanah Anderson offered her appreciation for the children's docents and assistants, recognizing not only their commitment to bringing the love of nature to children, but their skills in managing these exuberant groups, thinking on their feet, changing plans on the fly.

Orla Swift, director of marketing and communications, thanked the volunteer photographers who provide images for all Gardens publications, with special recognition to Karen Webbink, whose skill and art has just gotten better and better over the years, as she's honed her craft.

Lindsey Fleetwood, Doris Duke Center Gardens horticulturist, thanked all the volunteers who devote their time and talents to their many gardens.

Blomquist Garden of Native Plants curator Stefan Bloodworth expressed his appreciation and thanks to Jeff Prather for his 450 hours on the McNabb Family Bridge and Stream and Piedmont Prairie projects in 2014/2015. He further thanked Jim Zimpritch for his work in the Blomquist and the ambassadors who work the Blomquist gate.

Chuck offered a special thanks to Mary Dawson for her 24 years of service, surpassing 8,000 volunteer hours. Mary was the first volunteer to enroll in the



Mary and Chuck

program in 1991. And at the other end of tenure spectrum, Chuck recognized Willie Joyner, who began volunteering this year, as "tireless and amazing, truly dedicated, willing to perform any task."

The following annual awards were made:

The Thyme Award, for significant time donated, was awarded to the adult tour guides, a group of volunteers who surpassed all goals for the program, having doubled participants and tripled revenues over the past two years.

The Volunteer Spirit Award, in memory of Margie Watkins, who epitomized the “happy volunteer,” was bestowed on Jan Gilchrist for her dedication to the terraces.



Sue and Kavanah

And finally, **The Gehman Award**. Named in honor of Scott and Ila Gehman, it recognizes exceptional leadership, an infectious love of the Gardens, and encouragement and support to other volunteers. This award was given to Sue Behringer, for her work in developing and delivering children’s programs.

Chuck also recognized the summer youth volunteers, noting that of the 12, nine were awarded the Durham Mayor’s Award for more than 100 hours of volunteer service over their summer break.

In closing the recognition remarks, Chuck offered a reflection, to note the passing of two long-time volunteers: Aspasia Knoerr, who started the plant sale with her garden club, and Alice Zawadzki, who led Gardens tours.

And always thinking of the future, Chuck announced that with the conclusion of this event, we are entering the volunteer program’s 25th anniversary,

and we will be enjoying activities throughout the year. The program closed with a beautiful and moving video by volunteer Chuck King.

The delicious hors d’oeuvres were provided by Soigné Special Events

(<https://www.facebook.com/SoigneSpecialEvents>) and the lovely and creative table decorations by the Arc of the Triangle

(<http://www.arctriangle.org/>).

The twig vases were the product of their “petals with a purpose” program, filled with flowers donated by Whole Foods Market.

Across the Street

by Nancy Jones, Senior Director, Development & Communications, Ronald McDonald House of Durham

Every night, the Ronald McDonald House of Durham provides comfort for 55 families whose children are receiving life-saving treatments at Duke Hospital. Our neighbor, Duke Gardens, is a perfect partner, providing close, affordable and instant respite for these families who are under a great deal of stress. Many of the children have severely weakened immune systems due to organ transplants or chemotherapy. As a result, they must be isolated from others and can’t participate in indoor, group activities. The Gardens provides the gifts of nature and peace to these families and their children.



Bill McChesney, Teresa Tate and Patricia Hume, members of the RMH finance team

Duke Gardens also offers a needed break for our staff members who support the children and their families, providing a welcome retreat in the middle of a hectic day. Our finance team regularly ventures out from this home away from home to “our perfect garden.” Another staff member enjoys evening runs in the Gardens to decompress at the end of the day.

Thank you for the gifts you share with your neighbors. Duke Gardens means so much to us!

My Perspective

by Beth Sanders (cybervolunteer)

In August 1996, I read an account in the *Durham Herald-Sun* of a grant from J.C. Penney for *Into the Gardens*, a pilot program for children's education at Sarah P. Duke Gardens. I was new to Durham and Duke University that summer, and the Gardens piqued my interest. I decided to apply to the docent program, which was forming a new class that fall. Almost 20 years later, I am still a volunteer at Duke Gardens even though I moved from Durham to Rome, Italy, 12 years ago. Today, I remain involved via cyberspace from my home in New England (or from Italy for this edition).

If one is willing, Chuck Hemric will find a role (or roles) for a volunteer. My first task was cleanup after the destruction by Hurricane Fran in 1996. In my current role, I design the layout for the *The Dirt*. Chuck found myriad ways to harness my efforts, and once the seed was planted the opportunities spread like kudzu.

Working primarily as a docent in both the adult and children's programs, I conducted walking and trolley tours throughout the Gardens, including one tour for 150 Duke parents. I created a self-guided tour for children and translated Duke Gardens' visitor guide into French and Italian. I served on the Board of Advisors and the Master Plan Action Committee. Having assisted in the original Terrace Shop (in the Terraces), I was part of the strategic planning for the current shop. I designed and produced holiday cards, created a souvenir watch, note cards, magnets and a photo CD with images by Ed Albrecht. After the opening of the Doris Duke Center in 2001, I curated exhibits of botanical art and photography and lectured on herbs, botanical illustration and horticulture. My botanical paintings have been part of the recent "Art & Nature" exhibits in the Doris Duke Center. With Carol Kurtz and Theo Roddy, I conceived and coordinated the Garden Guild, a talented group that shared art and craft skills, producing and selling handmade items to support the Gardens; the guild continues to sell its creations in the Terrace Shop.



After moving to Italy, I planned a tour of the gardens of Rome and the surrounding region, including a reception in my own garden, and I presented a slide program to promote the tour. When the volunteer providing layout for *The Dirt* was no longer able to serve this role, Chuck suggested that I could do it. Using internet cloud storage, information is easily shared with the production team.

It has been a pleasure sharing my talents and enhancing my skills, and an unparalleled opportunity working with staff and volunteers as skilled and dedicated as those at the Gardens, continuing to connect with friends and colleagues after almost two decades across space and time.



Magnolia grandiflora Southern Magnolia
 ©Elizabeth Sanders

Children's Program Updates: Teaching and Learning Through Play

by Kavanah Anderson, Education Program Coordinator

Every teacher has stories about lessons they have learned from their students. The staff and volunteer children's docents who lead programs at Duke Gardens are no different. A student might share an obscure fact about a particular insect or plant with a docent. For example, a student might say something like, "Did you know that a praying mantis egg case can hold up to 200 eggs?!" Other times, a lesson may not be quite as direct—a disengaged student could serve as a reminder that everyone has different learning styles. In all our programs, we take into account that very few people learn solely through listening.



That is why you may come across a group of students using their whole body to act out the stages of complete metamorphosis, gently touching a leaf of lamb's ear to learn about adaptation, or playing a game to learn about the relationship between predators and prey in a food web. Children's docents have to be playful! Play is an important part of learning at any age, and spending time with children is a good reminder of this fact. When learning is fun, it is easier to retain new information. Children learn important social and emotional skills through play, and for adults, engaging regularly in play can help preserve memory and cognitive ability, and increase happiness!

The current trend of adult coloring books for stress reduction is another example of an activity typically associated with childhood that is being recognized for its potential benefits to adults. During summer camp, whenever camp participants choose to color pictures of plants and animals that live in the garden, adult camp leaders and volunteers often participate. Coloring has been promoted as a form of meditation or a way to increase mindfulness.

Next time you are in Duke Gardens, consider skipping down the alleé, rolling down the hill onto the South Lawn, or bringing a child who will remind you the value of play!



Beyond Plants: The Bridges of Duke Gardens

By Andy Wheeler

While everyone appreciates the magnificent plant collection and landscaping within Sarah P. Duke Gardens, the hardscape architectural features often are not so consciously noticed. These features set off the plantings and help make the Gardens the special place that it is. Among these features, some of my favorites are the variety of bridges found throughout. They can be grouped by type into four categories: small stone bridges, high arched bridges, long bridges, and novelty bridges.

Small Stone Bridges



Berini Bridge



Woodland Garden Bridge



South Lawn Bridge

These bridges have arched openings over the areas they span and are faced in Duke stone. The most well known of this type is the Berini Bridge at the foot of the path leading past the butterfly garden. It is a classic design and was donated by the Berini family in 2001 in honor of their patriarch, Anthony Berini. Mr. Berini, an Italian immigrant, was a trained stone mason and worked as a master craftsman installing stonework throughout Duke's West Campus and in the Gardens.

A second example is the small bridge over the ravine in the Spring Woodland Garden. This is a graceful footbridge that will soon be enhanced by the Beverly and Bert Welch Woodland Garden Overlook and recirculating stream currently under construction. You can get a beautiful view of this bridge from the new stone terrace and bench just up the hill, a serene feature that was given in memory of a young Duke alumna who had had her engagement photos taken on the bridge.

A third example of the small stone bridge is at the south end of the South Lawn, under the perimeter path that encircles the lawn. Viewed from across the lawn, with its adjoining weeping willow, this bridge is a lovely accent to the beautiful open space.

High Arched Bridges

There are two arched bridges, one very familiar and iconic and the other less well known. The most famous, of course, is the red bridge at the north end of the large pond in the Asiatic Arboretum. At the Gardens we refer to this bridge by a Japanese name, *ayame-bashi*, which translates to iris bridge. This type of bridge is common in both China and Japan. Similar styled bridges have several traditional names, a common one being the Japanese *taiko-bashi*, or drum bridge. It was designed in 1992 by Raleigh landscape architectural firm Hayter, Reynolds and Jewell, and built from pressure-treated southern yellow pine by C.T. Wilson Co. of Durham. The four finials on the posts were imported from Japan. The wood was originally stained a weathered gray color, which upon re-staining over the years trended toward white, as it appears in many older photographs. In 2010 it was painted red at the suggestion of visiting landscape designer Katsuhito Nakasone from Toyama, Japan, Durham's sister city.



Red Bridge



Iris Bridge

Less conspicuous is the Iris Bridge, tucked into the ravine just below the dam at the northern edge of the Historic Gardens. The bridge arches over a stream and has metal railings with representations of irises. It was donated by Ellen and Rex Adams, designed by curator Mike Owens and constructed by Greensboro metal artist Jim Gallucci. The floor of the bridge is a Brazilian hardwood called ipe, which is particularly hard and durable.

Long Bridges

These bridges are long, straight spans over natural depressions and streams. They include the Kay Bunting Randolph Bridge in the Spring Woodland Garden, the President's Bridge in the Historic Gardens, the new McNabb Family Bridge and the Edwin F. Steffek Jr. Bridge in the Blomquist Garden.

The President's Bridge serves as an entrance to Duke Gardens and the Perennial Allée from Flowers Drive. This is adjacent to the former university president's residence, which is now Undergraduate Admissions. The bridge not only spans the ravine between the street and the allée, it also offers seating built into the bridge itself, and it is a perfect bird-watching site with feeders nearby. This site has had a bridge since the beginnings



Randolph Bridge



President's Bridge

of Duke Gardens; the current structure was renovated in 2004 and dedicated to Nan Keohane, Duke University president from 1993-2004. The Randolph Bridge is the longest span in the Gardens, at over 40 feet. It is a yellow pine laminate beam construction and was dedicated in 2007 in honor of Kay Bunting Randolph, a former development director of Duke Gardens. From the middle of this bridge, one has a wonderful view down the Spring Woodland Garden ravine, with ferns, trillium, hellebore and other wildflowers. The new stream, being built this winter, will add even more interest to this vista.

The two bridges in the Blomquist Garden are similar in construction, with wood decking and decorative metalwork on the sides. The McNabb Family Bridge spans the McNabb Family Stream; a stop on the bridge affords the visitor not only a great view of the stream, but the sounds of running water, birds and frogs. Designed by curator Stefan Bloodworth and David Swanson at Swanson Landscape Architecture in Carrboro, and created by Chapel Hill's Storybook Metal Shop, the bridge is also distinguished by the artistic metalwork depictions of plants in the Blomquist's core collections.

The Steffek Bridge is among the most beautiful in the Gardens and probably one of the least visited, due to its somewhat remote location, spanning the upper end of the fern grotto. It is constructed of galvanized steel with wood flooring and handrails. The metal side panels have a graceful Gothic arch and Christmas fern motif, combining the university's neo-Gothic signature look with a signature plant of the Blomquist. The design was a collaboration between Stefan and David Swanson.



McNabb Family Bridge



Steffek Bridge

Novelty Bridges



Zig-Zag Bridge



Millstone Boardwalk



Millstone Stepping Stones

These bridges defy categorization, hence the invented name. The first is the popular Zig-Zag Bridge in the Asiatic Arboretum. Located along the east bank of the large pond, its boardwalk zig-zags across the water in a perpendicular sections. The design was inspired by a similar bridge in the Japanese garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden. A common Asian design, it is somewhat unusual in the use of regular right angles. A second unusual bridge is the millstone boardwalk in the Blomquist. This short crossing consists of boards inset with three millstones. Of particular note is the precision fitting of the boards to the millstones. The original millstone walkway was installed in 1992 to provide access to a bog featuring the carnivorous plant collection; the stones were incorporated into the current boardwalk in 2012 for easier visitor access. The final entry in this group is not really a bridge, but it is too beloved a feature to leave out. It is the series of seven millstones traversing the frog pond in front of the Blomquist Pavilion. Visitors love stepping across the stones. The two large millstones at either end are authentic millstones, the five smaller ones replicas. These are just some of the hardscape elements that enhance the horticultural beauty and educational mission of Sarah P. Duke Gardens.

I found peace in the serenity and beauty of your gardens.
It soothed my soul.

— Visitor from Japan

CALENDAR

Children's Docent Training

March 8 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.), March 10
(10 a.m. - 3 p.m.), March 15 (noon -
4 p.m.), March 17 (noon - 2 p.m.),
March 22 (noon - 4 p.m.)

Volunteer Fair

March 4 (1 - 4 p.m.), March 5 (11
a.m. - 3 p.m.), March 6 (1 - 3 p.m.)

Adult Docent Training

Every Tuesday in March (2 - 4 p.m.)

Spring Plant Sale

April 2 (8 a.m. - noon)

Photo credits:

Robert Ayers, Chuck Hemric, Nancy Jones,
Ellen Levine, Flora O'Brien, Wendell Hull,
Orla Swift, Andy Wheeler, Hope Wilder,
Kevin Williams

Layout and design Beth Sanders

The Dirt

Sarah P. Duke Gardens Volunteer

Program Newsletter

Box 90341

Duke University

Durham, NC 27708-0341

