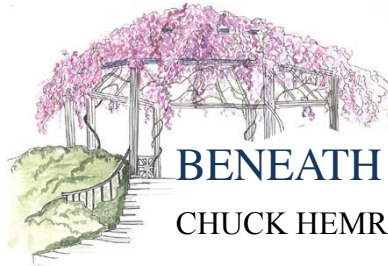


## WELCOME NEWEST VOLUNTEERS

Marguerite Adkins  
Leonard Beeghley  
Rick Brown  
Michelle Bufalino  
Lori Carlson  
Adriana Cavalcanti  
Elinor Ciftan  
Constance Covington  
Rosemary Dineen  
Eunice Earnest  
Thomas Foster  
Harry Gallis  
Sabrena Goldman  
Dianne Greet  
Gael Hallenbeck  
Meg Hoff  
Jennifer Horne  
Carson Howard  
John Jarvis  
Janelle Karlen  
Karen Kirby  
Laura Koelwyn  
Ryan Larsen  
Cheryl Lawrence  
Peggy Lefler  
Ellen Levine  
Michael Mastry  
Richard McFall  
Susan McFall  
Michael Naiman  
Adelle Nikolsky  
Amy Ochterski  
Kyle Pedersen  
Sarah Pollard  
Amanda Pryor  
Mae Rogers  
Sarah Ronnebaum  
Donna Ruger  
Dana Saleh  
Maureen Schaefer  
Anu Sidhu  
Kim Smart  
Pilar Stearns  
Melissa Takacs  
Paige Thompson  
Aline Waguespack  
Mary Ward  
Lisa Whitt  
Erika Zambello

# THE DIRT



## BENEATH THE WISTERIA

CHUCK HEMRIC

If only the trees could talk, what a tale they could tell. Seventy-five years and going strong, Sarah P. Duke Gardens has celebrated a milestone. On April 21, 1939, the Terraces were dedicated as part of the centennial festivities of Duke University. On April 21, 2014, the staff gathered in the Rollins Overlook for lunch and to commemorate this grand occasion. It was a beautiful sunny day and the flowers within the Terraces stood a little taller as their array of colors shone bright and the vivid fragrance wafted on the breeze.

Continuing with the celebratory theme, we will provide a shirt to each active volunteer, which will identify him or her as a volunteer. In addition, interested volunteers will have the option to purchase additional shirts to wear as they perform their myriad volunteer tasks. The order information will be available to eligible persons by mid-summer.

I want to welcome Ellen Levine to the volunteer family and to the staff of *The Dirt*. Ellen is working in concert with editor Jerry Sheehy to keep this newsletter on task and on time. We welcome your feedback as to content of this newsletter going forward. Please let one of us know about any suggested features you would like to see in future issues. A survey will be sent to garner this feedback. We thank you in advance for your participation.



## ART INSPIRED BY NATURE

By Erika Zambello



In late March, Duke Gardens hosted a weekend exhibit titled "Art & Nature: Artwork inspired by the Blomquist Garden of Native Plants" in the Doris Duke Center. Open to visitors Friday evening and throughout Saturday and Sunday, the exhibit highlighted the artistic talents of volunteers, Gardens staff members and the surrounding community, while drawing inspiration from the beauty of the Blomquist Garden.

To capture the Blomquist's auditory as well as the visual pleasure, Kirby Horton Hall was filled with bird sounds, as the calls of different species played over the sound system. The artwork was displayed on cloth-covered tables around the room, and against one wall a large screen displayed photographs of the Blomquist Garden's flora and fauna. Artists used ink, paint, fabric, quilting, copper, collage, and ceramics to represent the native plant garden.



of *Trillium cuneatum* by our very own Jason Holmes, curator of the Doris Duke Center Gardens.

The exhibit was well received by the weekend visitors, who appreciated the breadth of different media used to capture the vibrancy of the Blomquist Garden. In particular, certain pieces highlighted the use of recycled materials, including a copper sculpture

## ACROSS THE STREET

A bit of serendipity—Flowers Drive, bordering the southern and western perimeters of the Gardens, was not so named out of recognition of the beauty just a few feet away. Rather, it is named in recognition of Robert Lee Flowers, Duke president from 1941 to 1948. Appropriate, don't you think?

We've added this new feature to *The Dirt* to capture personal perspectives we hear so often from faculty and staff at the university and Medical Center. The Gardens, indeed, is an integral part of the Duke campus and the Duke experience.

### *A Unique Undergraduate Environment*

By Susan Semonite Waters  
Senior Assistant Director of Admissions  
Office of Undergraduate Admissions

I see the impact and importance of the Gardens daily. Since Undergraduate Admissions is the Gardens' "next door neighbor," we have a terrific relationship. We encourage families to wander back through the Gardens after completing a campus tour, on the way to their cars. We tell students how lucky they are to have a 55-acre botanic garden in the center of campus, where something is in bloom any time of the year. It's an ideal place for students to escape the classroom while enjoying the outdoors. And I mention it's wireless, too, making it a great place to explore, read, work on a paper, etc.

## THE TERRACE SHOP

By Leola Smith and Donna Owens

Seasonal changes?? This year, it's hard to know which season we are in, despite the date. With that in mind, The Terrace Shop has just about everything you will need to make your garden hum. Our butterfly bench and assortment of trellises will be perfect for that corner of your garden. Add one or two of our solar balls or stakes in a variety of colors and a balancing stake with an owl, bird or butterfly floating in the breeze, and you are set.

As you browse in the shop, you will see many new items featuring the new Sarah P. Duke Gardens logo. Be sure to stop by and check out our new canvas tote bags (medium and large sizes), plastic and metal water bottles, leather legal pad holders, journals, hats, and mugs. These make excellent gifts or souvenirs of visits to the Gardens. And these items will be expanding as the year progresses.

Don't forget the "clearance" area of our shop. This has grown to make room for exciting new merchandise arriving every few weeks.

As always, we want to thank all of our volunteers who make The Terrace Shop a wonderful shopping experience. Your loyalty, commitment, and dedication are what make The Terrace Shop a cheery, warm (or cool, depending on the season), and inviting place for all who enter our door. Certainly take advantage of the discount



## GARDEN GUILD – A FUN WAY TO SUPPORT DUKE GARDENS!

The Garden Guild at Sarah P. Duke Gardens is a group of talented craftspeople who gather weekly to create beautiful botanical craft items as a source of financial support for the Gardens. Their annual Holiday Craft Sale continues to grow and increase in revenue.

Members of this group join for different reasons. "You get to meet fun-loving people with like interests," said one member, "which provides great weekly mental health. ... Fun and laughter is the best medicine."

"The sale is the pinnacle of our hard work, and the excitement builds as the day approaches," said another member. "We are glad to see our work appreciated and purchased."

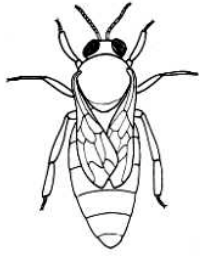
This talented group is looking to expand its membership and breadth of "crafty" ideas. It does not matter if you possess artistic skills or not. The main requirement is that you are teachable. The group meets on Monday afternoons from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Anyone interested in joining the Garden Guild should contact Chuck Hemric at 919-668-1705 or [chemric@duke.edu](mailto:chemric@duke.edu).











Former Youth Terrace Shop Volunteer Emily Palmer pictured with Leola Smith. Emily is valedictorian of the Class of 2014 at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

## BEE FACTS



With beehives in the Gardens, we asked horticulturist Lindsey Fleetwood for a brief primer on bees, which are a complex social group.

-  The three types of honeybees in a colony are queen (the only female that can reproduce), drones (males), and worker bees (females and 90% of the hive population). A colony contains 20,000-60,000 honeybees and one queen.
-  The queen may live up to 5 years and lays 1,200 eggs a day. Drones exist only to mate with the queen. Worker bees clean the hive, collect pollen and nectar to feed the colony, and take care of the offspring, observing a division of labor based on age. Bees make honey to feed their young and to have food through the winter.
-  The “buzz” we hear is from wings flapping 11,000 times per minute.
-  They see all colors except red.
-  Honeybees are vital for plant pollination, pollinating more than 100 types of crops in the U.S., each visiting 50-100 flowers during a single collection trip.
-  French writer Maurice Maeterlinck, in his 1901 book “The Life of the Bee,” called the bee “the venerable ancestor to whom we probably owe most of our flowers and fruits (for it is actually estimated that more than a hundred thousand varieties of plants would disappear if the bees did not visit them), and possibly even our civilization, for in these mysteries all things intertwine.”
-  Honeybees are not native to the U.S. but were brought over by European settlers. Some Native Americans have called them “white man’s flies.”
-  To avoid stings, approach the hive from the

back, avoid perfume, wear light colors and protective clothing, move slowly, and “heed the head-butt.” A bee will head-butt you to let you know she isn’t happy with where you are and you should move. If you fail to “heed the head-butt,” you may be stung.



## A GIFT OF LENTEN ROSE

By Jason Holmes,  
Curator, Doris Duke  
Center Gardens

Sarah P. Duke  
Gardens received a

**Hellebore Collection**, given in the winter of 2013-2014 in memory of 1984 Duke graduates Tom Ellis and Adam Fowler. The collection includes species, interspecies hybrids, and selected cultivars.

Hellebores are a group of plants comprising about 12 herbaceous species that are native from eastern Europe to western China. Commonly called Lenten rose, they bloom from mid-winter to late spring and perform well in the eastern U.S., as they are tolerant of shade, drought, clay soil, and deer.

This collection elevates the status of the Gardens’ elite group of core plant collections. On a national level, we hope this collection will become the most singular assemblage of the genus Hellebore in a public botanical garden, as most significant collections are found in private gardens. The gift will enable Duke Gardens to display the collection in the most appropriate setting and allow the visiting public to experience, enjoy, and learn about this exceptional plant group.



## SPOTLIGHT ON... JERRY SHEEHY

By Ellen Levine



We volunteers are a motley crew. While we all share a love of the natural world and these beautiful gardens, we come to this place with diverse and interesting personal stories. A case in point is Jerry Sheehy.

You might know Jerry as the friendly and informative presence at the information desk, from the Terrace Shop, or from her efforts working on this newsletter. A native Durhamite, Jerry grew up with the Gardens. When she visited her aunt who lived on Swift Avenue, the pair would take frequent walks, allowing Jerry to witness the growth of the Gardens, as it expanded, as new collections were installed, as the seasons brought new delights to the senses.









Professionally, Jerry worked with psychologist Dr. Frederic Kuder, a pioneer in vocational assessment, on his professional journals

*Personnel Psychology* and *Educational & Psychological Measurement*. In her inimitable way, Jerry demonstrated her intelligence, versatility, and responsibility, becoming the publications' editor, managing editor, and marketer. She also provided analytical support for Dr. Kuder's research. During that time, she grew to love the Gardens for its peace and serenity. On busy, stressful days, she would lock her office door and find refuge and personal restoration in the Gardens.

Jerry also has the unique and enviable pleasure of personal memories of Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans (1920-2012, granddaughter of Benjamin N. and Sarah P. Duke), who was a humanitarian, civic leader, and philanthropist, and a loved and respected member of the community. After meeting Mary casually while dining at the Fairview restaurant at the Washington Duke Inn, Jerry, as program chair of the Durham Woman's Club, invited her to speak at one of their meetings. To her surprise, Mary agreed and "spoke lovingly of her early life, answered questions, and was just akin to all of us." Jerry, who is 5-foot-6-inches, also remembers, with some amusement, having her picture taken with Mary, who was quite petite—"we looked like Mutt and Jeff!"

About 12 years ago, Jerry, now retired, found herself at the Gardens for a luncheon. She says she was struck by the revelation that "this is where I need to be." She has been a volunteer ever since. When asked what advice she has for her fellow volunteers, Jerry's immediate response was, "roll with the punches, be calm, be happy,"

## DID YOU KNOW?

-  The Gardens received *Horticulture Magazine's* Award for Garden Excellence from the American Public Gardens Association in 2013,
-  We were named among the top 10 public gardens by tripadvisor.com,
-  We were also chosen as one of the nation's most "insanely beautiful public gardens" by *The Huffington Post*.
-  You can read about all the Gardens' awards at [gardens.duke.edu/awards-and-honors](http://gardens.duke.edu/awards-and-honors).
-  Doris Duke Gardens curator **Jason Holmes** was selected for the 2014 "Outstanding Leadership in Waste Reduction" award, given by Sustainable Duke and Duke Recycles (University Facilities Management). The award recognizes his leadership in promoting waste reduction with recycling such items as nursery plastics and other waste materials generated in Gardens operations. It also recognizes efforts to compost waste and use that compost in the Gardens. Congratulations to Jason!
-  Visitors often ask **are we green and how green are we?** The new "Green Team" is devoted to minimizing our environmental footprint by using less electricity, water, and other resources, both indoors and out. Jason's award is testament to the significance of the recycling program underway and its success in waste reduction.
  -  In the Gardens, we practice integrated pest management (IPM) and are moving toward organic management for pest control and fertilization; at this point we are about 75% organic management.
  -  We do apply herbicides for weed management, but we do not spray any insecticides or fungicides. The only insects we battle yearly are fire ants, and we use a bait product that is harmless to other animals. The rose garden was replanted a couple of years ago with heirloom roses that do not need spraying, and the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden is an organic, sustainable food garden and pilot project for the national Sustainable Sites <http://www.sustainablesites.org>
-  **The pergola is getting a facelift!** Our beloved pergola, with its cascading wisteria, will be undergoing significant renovations. Planted in 1939 for landscape architect Ellen Shipman's design of the Terrace Gardens, the Chinese wisteria is as aggressive as it is beautiful, and it is threatening the integrity of the pergola. It is also in need of a major rejuvenation to restore its health; you may have noticed that the display this year has been disappointing. With the restoration, the pineapple (an international symbol of hospitality) at the peak of the structure will be revealed for the first time in many years. Work on the structure will begin in June and should be complete in August. It will be a few years before the wisteria is back to its full glory. For more information, see the article by horticulture director Bobby Mottern in [Flora](#).

- 👉 **Everything's an annual in the terraces.** Tulips and many other plantings in the terraces, which might be perennials in other zones, are annuals in our zone 7a, as our winters just do not get cold enough for them to stay healthy and re-bloom year after year. So yes, to the horror of many visitors, we pull them and into compost they go. We don't permit visitors to take the discards, as it would create the impression that our plantings are ripe for pickin'.
- 👉 **Mapping Duke Gardens.** Led by plant collections manager Beth Hall, we've begun inventorying and mapping every plant and garden feature into a plant records database. For more information on this fascinating project, visit [Flora](#).



- 👉 We are the grateful recipients of a significant collection of **Chinese Tree Peonies**. From a gift of 200 donated by Nelson and Jane Hsu of Germantown, Md., 140 were transplanted this past fall into the Asiatic Arboretum. After a period of adjustment, we had anticipated a modest spring display. The blooms, however, have been exquisite. For the story of this wonderful gift, visit [Flora](#).
- 👉 Through **Project BudBurst**, the Gardens and its visitors are participating in an international effort to document the phenology of 10 of our plants, to assist climate change study and build information about plants that thrive in the Piedmont. Phenology is the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal and inter-annual variations in climate, as well as habitat factors (see [Flora](#) for more information). Project BudBurst is a collaboration with the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON), the Chicago Botanical Garden, and the National Science Foundation. (<http://budburst.org/gardens-duke>; <http://budburst.org/home>)
- 👉 **WiFi in the Gardens.** WiFi installation is complete. The Duke network WiFi is active from the top of the dam, down the Hanes lawn, through the Terraces, and covering the South Lawn. The network is accessible to all who have a Duke net ID and password. For details, visit Duke's [Office of Information Technology](#).
- 👉 **The Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden**, now in its third year, reports impressive results. In 2013, 1,000 pounds of produce (as well as the eggs) were donated to the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle in Durham; 1,936 pounds have been donated since its inception. In Spring 2013, we installed mushroom logs, and we expect a crop this year.



## CALENDAR

### JUNE 3

Summer Concert series begins  
For tickets, 919-684-4444

### JULY 1

Chamber Music series begins  
For tickets, 919-684-4444

### OCTOBER 16

SPDG Volunteer Recognition, 5 -7 pm

### DECEMBER 11

Volunteer Holiday Party  
2 pm

These groups meet regularly at the Doris Duke Center and are open to all. For a more comprehensive list of interest groups that meet at the Gardens ("Gardens Partners"), visit <https://gardens.duke.edu/learn/gardens-partners>.

**Durham Photography Club at Duke Gardens:** This club meets on the second Monday of each month, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information on the club's [Facebook page](#).

**Triangle Orchid Society:** This group meets at the Doris Duke Center on the second Monday of each month. Please visit [triangleorchidsociety.org](http://triangleorchidsociety.org) for more information.

**Durham Beekeepers:** This group meets on the third Monday of each month to discuss beekeeping techniques. Meetings are from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

**Sarah P. Duke Ikebana International Chapter # 264:** This group met at Duke Gardens in the past. For information, please contact chapter president Carol Krauser at 919-960-2946.

**Extension Gardener Series:** a free series is offered in the evenings in partnership with the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service: Durham County. Registration is requested (919-668-1707).

**The Dirt**  
**Sarah P. Duke Gardens**  
**Volunteer Program**  
**Newsletter**  
**Box 90341**  
**Duke University**  
**Durham, NC 27708-0341**

