



# digging in

December 2020

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN VOLUNTEERS



**Congratulations  
to these  
Volunteers Of the  
Month**

September  
**Paige DeMuth**

October  
**Barbara McRoberts**

November  
**Kay Roane**

December  
**Patty Miseje**

And to Gainesville's  
Volunteer of the Quarter  
**Tricia Terrell**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
TO ALL OUR  
VOLUNTEERS!**



## Meet the Volunteers of the Month

### September: Paige DeMuth

Paige DeMuth got hooked as a volunteer at the Botanical Garden after accompanying her mother Barbara McRoberts (October Volunteer of the Month, see below) to a Thanks for Giving luncheon a couple of years ago. Since then, they have become a mother-daughter volunteer duo at Cocktails in the Garden, Fest of Ale, concerts and other Garden events. These two have almost too much fun volunteering at the Garden together! A gardener who also loves to cook, Paige finds the OKRA programs like Fresh Plates and the Well Seasoned Chef series to be a perfect fit for her, and meeting some of Atlanta's top chefs and picking up a few cooking tips is a definite plus. Reliable, friendly and professional when helping with dinners and demonstrations, Paige is counted on by staff who also commend her support of their recycling and composting efforts in the Outdoor Kitchen. Like her mother, Paige is a regular at Garden Lights too, spending many festive evenings this month with the shimmering Earth Goddess. These mother-daughter experiences at the Garden are special to them both. The Garden delights in recognizing both Paige and Barbara as Volunteers of the Month.



Mother-daughter volunteer duo Barbara McRoberts (left) and Paige DeMuth (right) at Fest of Ale this fall

### October: Barbara McRoberts

Longtime Garden member Barbara McRoberts joined the ranks of volunteers in 2016, first with Garden Lights. From other regular GLHN volunteers she learned of the many volunteer opportunities available and soon signed on as a regular Edible Garden GEM and Discovery volunteer. The staff counts Barbara, a two-time Centennial Club member, as a dedicated Edible Garden volunteer who goes the extra mile by creating and sharing recipes using Garden grown food and participating in Outdoor Kitchen workshops to learn more. In 2018 her daughter Paige DeMuth (September Volunteer of the Month, see above) wanted to join in the fun so together they have become valued helpers with the programs in the Outdoor Kitchen, with Cocktails in the Garden, concerts and, of course, with Garden Lights. "I love any outdoor activity so it's a perfect place for me to volunteer, especially when I can share it with my daughter," says Barbara. Volunteering here together has become "their thing" you might say, and the Garden gratefully recognizes this mother-daughter team for bringing their enthusiasm and joy to Garden visitors, naming them as back-to-back Volunteers of the Month.



Barbara McRoberts (right) and daughter Paige DeMuth

# Meet the Volunteers of the Month

## November: Kay Roane

After 45 years behind a desk, Kay Roane knew that when she retired she wanted to spend as much time as possible outdoors, so when she discovered the volunteer program at the Botanical Garden, she signed on enthusiastically. She started as a GEM in June 2018, ready to get her hands dirty, and logged over 100 hours in her first seven months. In 2019 she counted over 200 hours and enjoyed every minute. In addition to digging in the dirt as a GEM, Kay has been a regular wayfinder at concerts and events, had fun with playdough with kids at Goblins in the Garden, has regularly welcomed visitors to Garden Lights and even found herself back inside behind a desk, putting her talents to work helping in the accounting office. Being at the Garden, inside or out, she says, is always a pleasure. Cheerful and always smiling, she is counted on and appreciated by staff for her willingness to take on new tasks, her attention to details and her friendly demeanor. A veteran of 33 years with the Coast Guard Reserves, Kay embodies the Coast Guard motto "Semper Paratus" (Always Ready) in her volunteer role. The Garden is especially proud and honored to recognize Kay Roane during Veteran's Month as Volunteer of the Month.



## December: Patty Miseje

Like so many, Patty Miseje became a volunteer at the Atlanta Botanical Garden because she "just fell in love with the Garden." First she trained as a Discovery volunteer, gravitating to Storza Woods as her base. When she wanted to be a little more hands-on as a volunteer and to learn more about day-to-day gardening, she signed up as a GEM in Storza. "I love working there because there is such a wide variety of gardening tasks to do. I really love getting my hands dirty and pulling weeds! Plus the team of horticulturists are just amazing and teach me so much," she says. She's there two or three mornings a week. When she's not at the Garden, Patty works as a speech-language pathologist at Emory's Rehabilitation Hospital, treating a variety of communication and swallowing disorders, or you might find her hiking or indulging her creative side by dabbling with arts and crafts. For her upbeat willingness to do anything in Storza Woods, no matter how early it is or how dirty she gets, the Garden recognizes Patty Miseje as December Volunteer of the Month.





# What's Growing in Gainesville

By Wanda Cannon,  
Gainesville Education and Volunteer Coordinator

As we close out 2020, I look back on this historic year and my mind wanders back to how there are "constants" in the midst of an ever-changing world. That constant is the beauty of nature in all of its splendor and how it is right on time with its changing seasons filled with a wide array of colors, textures and beauty to the eye that beholds it. This constant is always on display here at the Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville, even in the midst of the challenges that this year has brought, and that has been a blessing to staff, volunteers and visitors alike. You can go for a stunning walk through the Garden and enjoy beautiful displays in the beds and containers that are overflowing with colorful arrays of annuals, perennials and succulents. I am thankful for the "constants" in the world.

As I write this, November is upon us and the Garden staff and I send a special shout out and heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who have returned to the Garden since our reopening in June. With safety protocols in place, volunteers have risen to the call and filled the Garden with smiles, optimism and good cheer! Almost every Tuesday and Thursday, volunteers can be seen helping the Horticulture Staff with their never-ending responsibilities. Education volunteers have helped me out with Storybook Time and Garden Grooves programs that were scheduled each Wednesday and Thursday through October. Thank you ladies for always showing up and being there to assist me! Visitor Service volunteers returned for Friday, Saturday and Sunday shifts at an outside location, weather permitting, and have been busy greeting guests, handing membership information and passing out our Grab 'N Go crafts for children to take home. The Garden volunteers are a source of support and team spirit that the staff could not do without.

Congratulations to all of our 2020 Gainesville Volunteers of the Quarter, Bev Adkins, Glen Cypher, Marie Cypher and Tricia Terrell. Look for Tricia's recognition article in this Digging In newsletter.

Our Friday and Saturday Wine in the Woodlands events wrapped up at the end of October. Our Fall Online Plant sale was a big hit where we sold many beautiful and interesting plants. Scarecrows in the Garden and our Goblins in the Garden events were once again popular with visitors. Our adult classes were all filled this fall and the students particularly enjoyed painting and photo taking in an outside setting. Our Holiday Tree Trail event finds the Garden filled with different theme holiday trees through the end of the year. Look for information about our new Garden Exhibit for next year called the **Myth Makers** starting at the end of March 2021. Adult classes and new events are being planned for next year too.

Unfortunately, our annual **Thanks for Giving** volunteer luncheon will not be held in February 2021, but look for a "virtual interaction" to take place for all of our volunteers and a revised day of recognition with prizes and raffles. Kudos again to the many volunteers who have returned in 2020, and I look forward to seeing other volunteers return next year. We are hopeful and optimistic that 2021 will be a better year full of hope and promise! Enjoy the holiday season. I wish all of you good health, prosperity and a bright future for you and your families!!!!



News from the Volunteers at

Atlanta  
Botanical  
Garden,  
Gainesville



By Diane Korzeniewski

Volunteers have been busy this fall. Greenhouse propagation for plant sales and garden is ongoing. The online plant sale has proven to be very popular. We have cleaned seeds, potted cuttings, and bumped up plants into larger containers. When garden containers are changed out to welcome in a new season, some plants are saved, brought to the greenhouse and repotted. Those are always busy days for both garden and greenhouse staff and volunteers. Garden projects have ranged from deadheading, weeding, picking up acorns, leaf removal and tulip planting. There was a big acorn crop this year! There were times I thought we needed a hardhat to work in the garden. Seemed like it was raining acorns! The Pugster butterfly bushes in the Children's Garden are prolific bloomers. Deadheading them is a project in itself but well worth the effort when done. The final time we deadheaded them, probably late October or early November, was just magical! They were absolutely covered with monarch butterflies. Really covered, too numerous to count. I was very sorry I did not have a camera. Next year!

Happy holidays to one and all from the volunteers in Gainesville!



## Saluting the Gainesville Garden's Volunteer of the Quarter:

### Tricia Terrell

By Wanda Cannon  
Gainesville Education and Volunteer Coordinator

The Garden salutes Tricia Terrell as the Gainesville Volunteer of the Quarter. Tricia has been involved as a volunteer here at the Atlanta Botanical Garden since its inception as the Smithgall Woodland Gardens, a long time before the Garden actually opened to the public. "Mildred Fockele came to talk to our 2004 class of Gainesville Master Gardeners and she inspired me to come and volunteer," says Tricia. Greenhouse volunteering was Tricia's first experience while she was finishing up an internship with Gwinnett Technical College and getting a Diploma in Environmental Horticulture. GEM and Greenhouse volunteer opportunities are still her favorite posts. "When my husband and I down-sized our home, we moved into Gainesville to a condo with no yard, so I began volunteering as a GEM to keep my gardening active," she says.



Tricia was born in England but when her husband finished business school in France, they never really went back. We at the Garden adore her accent and love to listen to her speak! As a family, the Terrells have lived in many countries. The Terrell family is now spread from California to London. "Our four grandchildren are a source of huge pleasure to us. They too have visited the Garden on a number of occasions and they know it means a lot to us." Tricia says.

Tricia's smiling face and optimistic personality are traits few people can resist. She is a committed volunteer and has already volunteered over 50 hours this year, during a pandemic! Always upbeat, Tricia is the volunteer I love to run into! During a difficult year to volunteer anywhere, Tricia has been here faithfully each and every Tuesday. "It is my pleasure to come weekly to volunteer in this beautiful Garden," she says.

Thank you Tricia for being such a great person and a wonderful volunteer! Cheerio!

## A Tip of the Hat to Gainesville's Student Internship Program In the Conservation Safeguarding Nursery

See story on the next page.

A huge shout-out to all the past and present student volunteer interns including: Oliver Ceska, Noah Yawn, Seth Scott (North Georgia Technical College), Tanner Biggers, Julie Pope (University of North Georgia), and Ally Kimpling (Georgia Tech).



**Ally Kimpling**



**Seth Scott**



**Tanner Biggers**

## Behind the Garden Gate:

# The Conservation Safeguarding Nursery At the Gainesville Garden

By Emma Neigel,  
Gainesville Conservation Safeguarding Nursery  
Horticulturist

A final destination for wild-grown propagules, the Conservation Safeguarding Nursery provides an ex-situ home for some of the Southeast's rarest plants, including pitcher plants (*Sarracenia* sp.) and Stinking Yew (*Torreya taxifolia*). After reaching a "teenager" stage of growth, rare plant propagules grown from wild-sourced sites move from the conservation greenhouse in Atlanta to their "forever home" at the Gainesville Garden. These collections represent individuals and populations in the wild at a population site level. They both safeguard the genetic diversity of the wild populations and provide source material for restoration actions. Conservation and Research staff work with partners in conservation to safeguard these materials long-term ex-situ, "off-site conservation," and provide living genetic stock for in-situ, "on-site conservation," restoration projects.

How does Atlanta Botanical Garden Conservation and Research department manage the 3.5-acre Conservation Safeguarding Nursery with over thousands of rare plants? With the help of volunteers and student interns, of course! Since the Conservation Nursery's establishment in 2008, volunteers have dedicated their time to carefully caring for and ensuring the well-being of rare plants at the nursery. Volunteers from the Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville public garden side have also joined in on workdays at the Conservation Safeguarding Nursery, helping with bigger projects requiring multiple people, including a mass weeding of the educational display bog.

The Volunteer Student Internship program started in Spring 2019. Currently, five students have taken a stance on rare plant conservation in Gainesville. The students work at the Conservation Safeguarding Nursery as volunteers, usually in exchange for experience and course credit. Students learn the value of plant conservation and how management practices in-hand with human actions can influence our natural areas and their rare plant communities. Some of the projects students have worked on include helping with the bog bed renovations, seasonal garden maintenance (weeding, deadheading, watering), and plant inventory/tagging. Interns have the opportunity to join in on hands-on field conservation such as seed collection trips and rare plant monitoring in North Georgia. Interns are also tasked with completing an independent project over the course of their school semester. The goal is for students to learn applied conservation horticulture skills they can bring into the workplace and into their futures, while also learning best practices for plant conservation.

Looking for an opportunity to volunteer at the Conservation Safeguarding Nursery in Gainesville? Email Emma at: [eneigel@atlantabg.org](mailto:eneigel@atlantabg.org) for more information.



Gainesville Conservation Safeguarding Nursery  
Horticulturist, Emma Neigel, in the educational display bog.  
Blooming species: White-topped Pitcher Plant  
(*Sarracenia leucophylla*)



Volunteers working under Ron Determann at the Conservation Safeguarding Nursery in its early days. (Circa 2009)  
Photo credit: Ethan Guthrie

# Docent Doings

By Lin Inlow  
2020 Docent Chair



During this season, I am reminded of families and friends who are unable to engage in some of their holiday traditions because of the pandemic. Tradition has purpose and that purpose is to anchor us in cultural behaviors and values providing a safe harbor that contributes to our sense of comfort and belonging. When I recall some of my family's traditions, I have this acute realization that our traditions have changed over time due to exigencies such as changing belief systems, geography, or health.

My immediate family celebrated holidays by lighting candles on a very tall live tree. Yep, we did do that with me posed with a water bottle to douse any potential small fires. After about 30 years of our candle lighting parties, my husband empathetically said, "No more!" From this tradition we moved to celebrating the winter solstice by decorating mantels with winter forest scenes and a tree without real candles, all culminating in winter solstice parties. No druids present, but lots of mistletoe, holly, and evergreens to keep evil spirits at bay.

This year we will not be with our daughter's family in Seattle nor will we have any gatherings in our home. So why would I spend three days decorating my home? I know that I am beginning to sound like the Grinch, but I think the answer lies in the fact that our winter solstice tradition connects us to our cultural identity and the natural world. I will decorate, cook, and enjoy the time with just my husband. We may not be able to celebrate in our customary fashion, but there is certainly one tradition that we are not willing to sacrifice and that is Garden Holiday Lights. To me, this is Atlanta's special way to usher in the holiday.

In whatever way you have decided to honor your culture and your traditions, I wish you a festive and safe season.



## Docent Cookbook Project Underway

By Lin Inlow

During last December's docent sponsored staff appreciation luncheon, the idea of an ABG Cookbook began to percolate, resulting in the creation of the ABG Cookbook Committee composed of volunteers Beth Baer, Anne Carley, Chris File, Lin Inlow, Rebecca Rahm and Sharon Samford. Since that time, this committee has been collecting recipes from docents and now is extending an invitation to all volunteers and staff to submit up to **three** of their favorite recipes. Recipes that your family and friends have enjoyed and those recipes you enjoy cooking would be welcomed.

Your favorite recipes should be submitted by mid-January to Lin Inlow at [linlow@gsu.edu](mailto:linlow@gsu.edu).

Please do not use abbreviations for the words "teaspoon" and "tablespoon" and try to list ingredients according to the order of use in the recipe. You may include the original source of the recipe, if available.

Thanks to all you Garden cooks for participating in what is shaping up to be a most rewarding project. Upon completion and printing, the cookbook will be available at a small fee.



# NOTES FROM MARY PAT

INSIGHTS FROM MARY PAT MATHESON  
THE ANN AND HAYS MERSHON PRESIDENT & CEO

We've just started thinking about documenting how the Garden fared during the 2020 pandemic. It's always amazed me how quickly we lose our history and this year is one for the records. January of 2020 provided us with the highest January holiday lights attendance in nine years, due largely to warm and beautiful weather. With that lovely beginning, I took a group of donors to South America to explore the culture and beauty of Argentina, Chile and Patagonia. We had a grand time and left Patagonia on February 9th, with no idea what was ahead for us in Atlanta.

At the end of February we hosted the second Atlanta Botanical Garden Flower Show, a beautiful display of horticulture, design and floriculture. I was so proud of the result; it truly compares to the Philadelphia Flower Show in terms of quality, and our visitors enjoyed every element of the show. Then came COVID.



By mid-March, we closed the Garden and began learning about life in a pandemic and how to survive financially. We had a new budget forecast within a week and were doing our best to project income by looking in a crystal ball – no one had any idea when the Garden or other places would reopen. Fortunately, we did reopen on May 18th, and the decisions made to extend hours and open on Mondays to our members really had a very positive impact. Attendance steadily grew, even under limited hourly numbers, and by September and October we were exceeding our 2019 numbers.

I know we are all looking for the “silver lining” in this pandemic, and the one that stands out to me is that the Garden truly was a respite for so many people in our community. Many people drove in from remote communities to visit us, and visitor diversity just blossomed. I love that so many young people visited during the evening and dressed up as though they were heading to a special party. And they were...it was the Alice in Wonderland party where people could enjoy the beauty of the Gardens, the exhibit and a glass of wine. As we look to leave 2020 behind, let's all remember the silver linings that we learned this year: more time with family, a slower pace, time to witness the daily miracles of nature, less time in our cars, reduced air pollution and reconnecting with old friends.

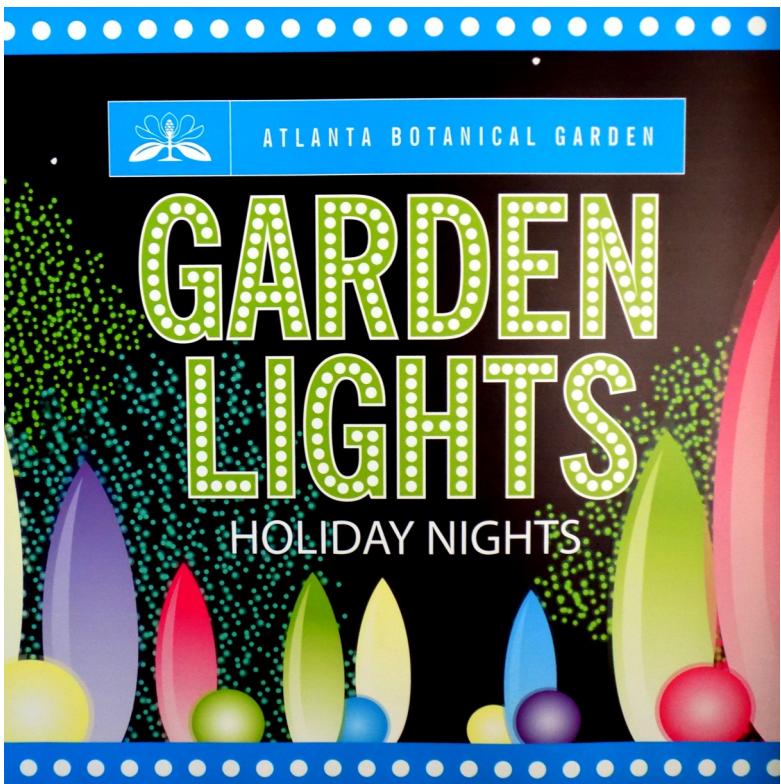
And now let's toast to the end of 2020 and welcome in a better year ahead!

Orchid Daze will start things off in a unique and beautiful (as always) way in February. Tres Fromme and our orchid / horticulture team have put together another creative approach to showcasing orchids during Orchid Daze 2021. The focus this year will be on orchid displays with fabrics draping walls, ceilings and arbors. Imagine brightly colored fabrics formed into shapes and chandeliers with orchids attached! This show is a hard one to describe but will be equally as bright as the show in 2020. The big difference is that we will have visitors!

Wishing you safe, healthy and happy holidays!



*Mary Pat*



"Digging In" is published for the volunteers of the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

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