



## Sally Crowe Named 2020 Volunteer of the Year

By Josh Todd

Each year at our annual Thanks for Giving Luncheon we announce the Garden's Volunteer of the Year, one special person selected from our pool of over 400 volunteers who exemplifies outstanding service to Garden visitors and staff. Although the luncheon this year was postponed until the fall, we proudly named **Sally Crowe**, perhaps everyone's favorite volunteer, as the 2020 Volunteer of the Year and honored her at a small event in April.

Sally started volunteering 12 years ago as a Children's Tour Docent. A retired teacher, she loves giving tours to children and helping in the School Outreach Program. You'll also find her volunteering at the Vanilla Orchid Discovery Station, showcasing one of her favorite orchids to visitors of all ages. A few years back, she added the Greeter role, greeting guests each week with her cheerful welcome, engaging conversation and infectious smile. Over the years she has helped with so many events and assignments including the Gardens for Connoisseurs Tour, Concerts in the Garden, Goblins and Fall Family Fun, Reindog Parade, member evenings, summer camps, Garden Lights, Garden of Eden Ball and has served on a number of docent committees. She is a steadfast Centennial Volunteer, a member of the 200+ hour club and a two-time Volunteer of the Month. Her lifetime volunteer hours total over 2500, and she is one of only a handful of volunteers to give over 100 hours during 2020. She is the most positive person you'll ever meet, always smiling and bringing sunshine wherever she goes. Adored by all who know her, Sally is the perfect person to be recognized as 2020 Volunteer of the Year for bringing her positivity and cheer to a difficult year.



Congratulations  
to these  
Volunteers Of the Month

January  
**Cindy Kelly**

February  
**Merideth Northcutt**

March  
**Anne Carley**

April  
**Chris File**

And to Gainesville's  
Volunteer of the Quarter  
**Cindy Hodge**

Congratulations to Sally Crowe for the well-deserved  
2020 Volunteer of the Year Award!

# Meet the Volunteers of the Month

## January: Cindy Kelly

For almost three years now, Cindy Kelly has proven herself as a dependable, knowledgeable and just-plain-fun GEM, digging and weeding weekly usually in the Rose Garden or among the conifers. The peace and the beauty of the Garden are a magnet for her, it seems, as is the chance to work alongside other Garden volunteers and staff. Cindy can also be counted on to pour wine and otherwise help out with the chefs' series and other events as an OKRA, often recruiting husband Charles in her volunteer duties. During both of the past years – even in 2020! – she has tallied over 100 volunteer hours. Long a gardener, Cindy grows an ambitious array of vegetables and fruit, even including kiwi, in her sunny backyard raised beds. But this lady is a person of many interests which run the gamut from quilting to kayaking to traveling, an activity that obviously has been on hold for awhile. Excited to soon be visiting children and grandchildren in Minnesota and Oregon for the first time in a year and a half, Cindy reports that she's just booked their next trip to France...in September, 2022. "We can hardly wait!"

For her dependability, her energy and her no-nonsense attitude when it comes to Garden duties, the Garden salutes Cindy Kelly as January Volunteer of the Month.



## February: Merideth Northcutt

Retiring in 2015 after 36 years in healthcare, Merideth Northcutt was ready for a change. Two friends, both landscape designers, introduced her to gardening, and she found her new passion. One was also a Garden volunteer and one day encouraged her to come along to a training for something called Garden Lights. "She thought I would love it...and she was right!" By the time Garden Lights ended, Merideth was hooked. After a few months as a Greeter, she also signed on to help with the summer concerts and other events, then added OKRA shifts to her repertoire. When she heard about slots available in the gift shop, Merideth signed up for a regular rotation there too. Along the way, this always-smiling volunteer also became a children's Docent. Then came 2020, and no tours, no concerts. "I'm looking forward to Docent tours starting back, hopefully soon. And fingers crossed that concerts will be able to resume in a few months too!" Merideth has jumped in as a volunteer in a big way, with over 200 hours in 2019 and 100 hours last year. Currently, she continues twice a month shifts as both a Greeter and in the gift shop and as an OKRA as often as she can.

The Garden thanks Merideth for her energy, enthusiasm and smile and recognizes her as Volunteer of the Month for February.



## Meet the Volunteers of the Month

### March: Anne Carley

A Garden volunteer since 2010, Anne Carley began as a GEM in the Edible Garden. A DeKalb Master Gardener, she found the GEM role pure pleasure, but after a few months Anne found herself looking for excuses to be at the Garden more, so she became a Docent and delights in introducing visitors to the Garden. "With the Garden continually evolving, there are always new and exciting discoveries to share with Garden guests." She's also signed up for all kinds of Garden events through the years: the Flower Show, the Gardens for Connoisseurs Tour, the Garden of Eden Ball, wayfinding during Garden Lights...you name it, she's probably done it! It's no surprise that she's been a Centennial volunteer multiple times. In 2020, Anne found a way to keep up her volunteer hours by helping with the Docent cookbook. Although now fully vaccinated and packing her bags to indulge her love of traveling again, Anne says she will always make time for the Garden and looks forward to the next time she can don her apron to lead a tour.

For her dedication, good humor and ever-present smile, Anne Carley is saluted as March Volunteer of the Month.



### April: Chris File

An Orchid Specialist at the Garden since 2012, Chris File has missed her weekly Orchid Conservatory stints this past year since COVID changes halted in-person volunteer sessions. "I'm looking forward to the day it can safely reopen to all of us who love working there," she says. Also a Volunteer of the Month in October 2013, Chris has been growing orchids for nearly twenty years now and credits her mother - who regularly won blue ribbons for her orchids - for getting her started. Her condo is filled with orchids, many collected from her travels, another passion that has been curtailed somewhat this year. A Centennial Club volunteer since 2013, with 200-plus hours in 2017, '18 and '19, Chris found a way to log volunteer hours in 2020, despite her Orchid Center absence, with the Docent Cookbook Committee, a fun volunteer job that could be done from home. And at the end of Orchid Daze, it came as no surprise that Chris was there to help out with the Gently Used Orchid Sale, selling orchids and advising those who might need a few growing tips. All told, she was able to tally 115 hours even in 2020.

The Garden is grateful to Chris File for her incredible knowledge, patience and dedication and recognizes her as April Volunteer of the Month.



## Saluting the Gainesville Garden's Volunteer of the Quarter: **Cindy Hodge**

By Wanda Cannon  
Gainesville Education and Volunteer Coordinator

Cindy Hodge is recognized as Volunteer of the Quarter for her outstanding commitment to the mission and purpose of the ABGG. A Greenhouse volunteer for several years, Cindy has also lent a hand with a variety of family programs. Growing up in the Midwest, Cindy moved to Georgia from Iowa with her family in the summer of 2001 and has enjoyed the warmer climate and extended growing season that opened up a whole new level of growing many more plant varieties! "I had to learn new planting times and techniques for growing in Georgia's clay soil," Cindy says. When her sons went off to college, Cindy began to pursue some of her own endeavors and came to the conclusion that volunteerism would be an activity for her. First, she got involved with local schools and her home church then shifted to a new outlet and served in an administrative capacity at the The Carter Center in Atlanta. "When I found out about volunteer opportunities right in my own backyard at the Garden I couldn't wait to sign up. I believe strongly in the contributions volunteering can bring to the community," says Cindy. "During the pandemic, the Garden became an even more valuable activity in the midst of a turbulent time. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the work of the Garden along with so many talented, knowledgeable and kind staff. Each week I learn something new, whether it's pruning techniques, seed preparation or new plant varieties."



Cindy is a joy to be around and represents the best of the best in our volunteers. Thank you, Cindy!

## Gainesville Garden Recognizes 2020 Centennial Volunteers

In 2020, it was decided that our Gainesville volunteers needed only 60 hours to be included in the "Centennial Club." These 12 people deserve an extra pat on the back for their help in getting us back open for business. Thank you all!

Bev Adkins	Volunteer of the Quarter 2020 & Storytime and Visitor Service
Diane Korzeniewski	Greenhouse & Garden Maintenance
Julie Pope	Conservation Garden
Mikiko Lockwood	Garden Maintenance
Bill McMahan	Greenhouse & Garden Maintenance
Tricia Terrell	Volunteer of the Quarter 2020
Debbie Delauder	Garden Maintenance
Chris Michael	Greenhouse & Garden Maintenance
Renee Steinike	Garden Maintenance
Denise Waldron	Garden Maintenance
Glen Cypher	Volunteer of the Quarter 2020 & Garden Maintenance
Marie Cypher	Volunteer of the Quarter 2020 & Garden Maintenance



# What's Growing in Gainesville



By Wanda Cannon,  
Gainesville Education and Volunteer Coordinator

As I write this, my last day at the Garden as Volunteer Coordinator is approaching. I am so grateful for the six years that I have been blessed to have worked with the Atlanta Botanical Garden here in Gainesville.

It seems like yesterday when we opened up in 2015, and the staff was excited and ready to watch the Garden grow! I am grateful to have been a part of seeing this beautiful place bloom from the ground up. It has been a pleasure and honor to work with so many great volunteers. I will miss them all, and I will also miss the wonderful staff here at the Garden. Mildred Fockele is the best; I have learned so many things under her leadership here.

A shout out to Josh Todd, the Atlanta Volunteer Manager for always supporting me and being such a great coworker and friend. The Atlanta Garden is very fortunate to have Josh. I will miss many of the staff in Atlanta in the Volunteer and Education Departments. They are truly an exceptional group of people.

Volunteer recognition is a big part of what I have tried to do as Volunteer Coordinator. The first 2021 Volunteer for the Quarter has been selected, and her name is Cindy Hodge. Look for highlights about Cindy in this issue. For 2020, the Garden did not name a Volunteer of the Year, but I do want to mention that in 2021 there will be a Volunteer of the Year named again. I feel that all of the volunteers who returned last June were Volunteers of the Year! You know who you are!!! The Garden appreciates your dedication and positivity through those trying months. I want to be sure to recognize the Centennials (60 plus hours for 2020) who were so committed to getting us back on track when the Garden opened back to the public. They are spotlighted on a separate page, along with the Volunteer of the Quarter. Looking ahead, our annual Volunteer Luncheon is planned for November 2021 with a new and innovative approach.

I welcome the new Education and Volunteer Coordinator Jodi Greenlee. Jodi will do an amazing job and is ready to jump right in. I wish her the best of success! Reach out and introduce yourselves and make Jodi feel welcomed: [jgreenlee@atlantabg.org](mailto:jgreenlee@atlantabg.org).

Well, that's a wrap! I am so truly grateful for all of the people and friends that I have made at my time with the Gainesville Garden and the Atlanta Garden. Be healthy and happy, and I wish you all the best for a bright future ahead.

Warmest regards,  
Wanda Cannon

News from the Volunteers at

Atlanta  
Botanical  
Garden,  
Gainesville



By Diane Korzeniewski

Volunteers had a COVID style send off to celebrate our time with Wanda Cannon. Instead of a fancy buffet luncheon inside, we had a 15 minute gathering on the patio. It was a little different, but festive nevertheless. With limited volunteers for the last year we have not seen each other very often so we all enjoyed seeing familiar faces again (even if you could not see the smiles beneath the masks). I think we surprised Wanda! I hope we see her again very soon.

We are looking forward to working with Jodi, the new Education and Volunteer Coordinator. She is very busy, having some big shoes to fill. Welcome!

Once again we have greeters and ambassadors in the Children's Garden. We have had beautiful weather and lots of visitors. Spring changeover of beds and pots is a big job, and we have been helping with this as well as potting for the Garden and the plant sale. We are also now helping with maintaining the containers. I now have a new appreciation for how time consuming this is! How Beth and staff kept them looking perfect without any additional help is beyond me. Visitors frequently thank us for our hard work and comment on how great things look.

Here's to spring!

# Docent Doings

By Lin Inlow  
2021 Docent Chair

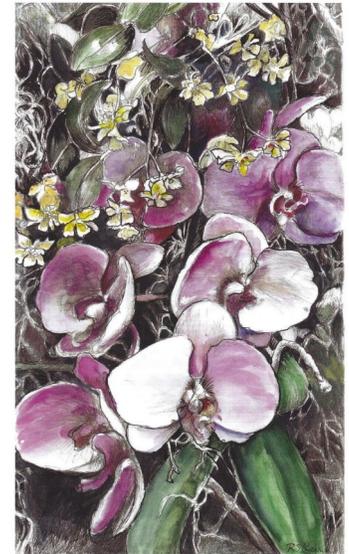


The spring equinox occurred on March 20<sup>th</sup> this year and marked the beginning of spring. I imagine that many of us were glad to see winter ending. Our docents celebrated in April with our first in-person meeting in Gainesville on a glorious spring day. Prior to our field trip to the conservation nursery, we met as a group with the purpose of selling and distributing preordered cookbooks. More importantly, we came together to acknowledge all recipe contributors, the cookbook committee's work, and to express our appreciation to Josh Todd. All Things Edible Recipes from the Volunteers and Staff of The Atlanta Botanical Garden was dedicated to Josh with the inscription of "The biggest thank-you of all goes to Josh Todd, Volunteer Manager, whose friendly and thoughtful style is ever present as he directs volunteers in their many tasks. Josh is unfailingly supportive, accessible, and encouraging. This cookbook is dedicated to you, Josh...we could not have accomplished this without you." Josh was presented with the cookbook and the original artwork of Josh and the Shaggy Dog by Rebecca Rahm who created all the stunning artwork and illustrations for the cookbook.

With her camera ever-ready, Sharon Samford took the photographs of the day that are presented in this montage.



## All Things Edible



Recipes from the Volunteers and Staff of  
The Atlanta Botanical Garden



The ABG volunteer and staff cookbook **All Things Edible** is now available for sale in the Volunteer Office.

Priced at \$12, the illustrated cookbook contains recipes contributed by volunteers and staff. The cookbook also features educational information about horticultural programs and events, with the intention of engaging a wide audience and promoting the benefits of membership.

It will make an excellent gift!



## Behind the Garden Gate:

# Storza Gets a Makeover

By Amanda Bennett  
Vice President, Horticulture & Collections

We're at it again. Construction machinery and our good friends at Genoa Construction have been on site since late 2020. By summer 2021 they will have completed a dramatic water feature and accompanying garden, designed by Sprulock Land, that will further highlight the beauty of the trees. An elegant garden featuring rhododendrons, azaleas, hydrangeas, carex, ferns, hypericum, helianthus and more will sweep its way from the boardwalk to the Imlay Bridge in shades of chartreuse, peach, white, purple and yellow. As design of the water feature and garden began, highlighting the stately, mature, tulip poplars in the area was central to the conversation: how to protect them before, during and after construction. This, combined with an in-house renovation of the Glade Garden, designed by 3 Fromme Design, will transform Storza Woods this year.

Take a peek!



# NOTES FROM MARY PAT

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



We have a rather eclectic but exciting duo of exhibitions to present this spring through fall season, and as I write this the glass of Jason Gamrath has arrived at the Garden. I first learned of his work through a colleague at the Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh where they presented Jason's work in their conservatories. Unlike Dale Chihuly, Jason creates realistic glass and steel sculpture depicting orchids and pitcher plants. His work seemed preordained to be displayed at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, given that we have the two largest collections of orchids and pitcher plants in the United States!

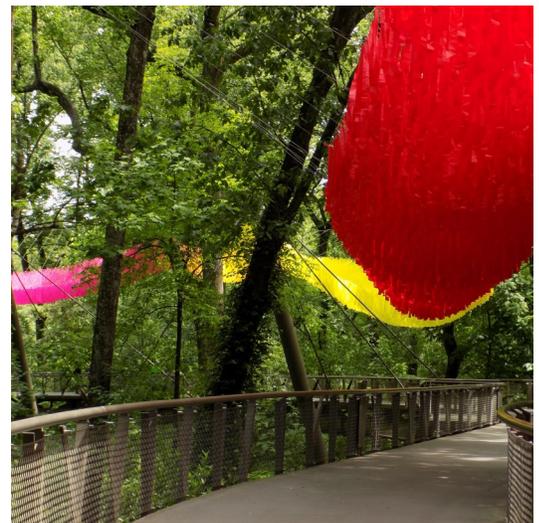
While the glass work is monumental, some as tall as 12', they can still get lost in the grand scale of the outdoor gardens. For this reason, we decided to cluster the work in areas where the glass flowers could stand their ground in mass within flower gardens or water features. I am excited about the bold and beautiful statement the glass sculptures make along the great lawn.

Gamrath's work was to be displayed in 2020...and you know the story. It was impossible to complete and ship the exhibition in the midst of the COVID pandemic. Happily, we all agreed to showcase the glass in 2021 which is perfect as we begin to see the end of the pandemic.

The second part of this story is an example of how we think and act boldly when needed. In the midst of the 2020 year with restricted visitation, we believed that 2021 would be the year of return to normalcy and that people would be craving dramatic and innovative exhibits to celebrate a grand year. So we made the decision to engage Poetic Kinetics in a first-ever Woodland exhibition as a complement to the glass exhibition. Patrick Shearn, the artist who leads Poetic Kinetics, was immediately enamored with the idea of a woodland exhibition and the team began to work on our show. This one required a very tight timeline as most exhibitions have a three year window. I deemed it the "River of Coolness" as the designs came to us since it feels like a river of color over the Canopy Walk. Smarter people came up with a much better name - Dream Flora - for the piece that arrived at the end of April.

I believe that we will have one of the most creative and innovative exhibitions in the country this year and think that acting boldly by combining two dramatically different artists will create a buzz and excitement in Atlanta. It should be a spectacular year and I am excited about **SUPERNatural** - we hope that you are too!

(Continued on the next page)



# NOTES FROM MARY PAT

(...Continued)

Josh asked that I talk about events this summer so I will do my best. Last year, the Garden was open every evening until 9 pm to accommodate as many guests as possible while controlling numbers through timed tickets. It worked so well that we are doing the same this year but will remain closed on Mondays. Knowing that performing artists have been really hurt by the pandemic, we decided to have live music nightly starting in May. What a great way to employ artists and provide a wonderful evening experience to Garden members and visitors! You can expect a diverse array of musical artists this summer from 4:30 to 8:30 every evening.

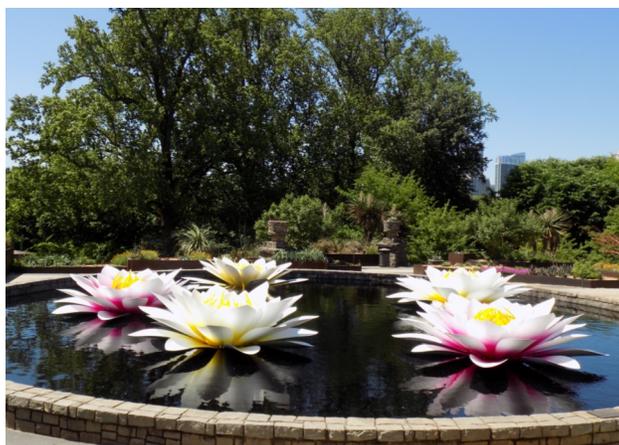
Weddings and private events will take place this year but with distancing and safety protocols still in place for guests. The size of these events will be greatly reduced, but we are happy to continue to offer the Garden as a place for a special event.

Concerts remain the great unknown. We have canceled the Bruce Hornsby show scheduled for June because the Garden and artist were not ready for a big show. We continue conversations with our promoter and are looking for a safe way to have even a few concerts later this summer. Stay tuned (pun intended)!

As we manage the Garden, our visitors and events, the senior team and management team spend many hours reviewing CDC protocols and adapting as we go. Decisions happen by thoroughly reviewing our events and making detailed plans about how to have them while keeping safety first. I think we've done a remarkable job, and that comes from having a smart, talented and professional team working together. I am so proud of them all.

And to wrap this up, I want to say thank you to each and every volunteer who stayed with us through a very difficult year and a half. We value you, treasure you and need you. Thank you for the moral support, for your generous donation of time, for your humor and smiles and for all that you do for this wonderful Garden. Virtual hugs to you all!

**Mary Pat**



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

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