



Congratulations to these Volunteers Of the Month

September 2021

Janet Cantrelle

October 2021

Eve Goldstein

November 2021

Angie Meadows

December 2021

Denise Bomberger

January 2022

Jo Kroger

February 2022

Rosemary Cox

March 2022

Marge Smith

April 2022

Linda Hirsch

May 2022

Allison Nicolle

June 2022

Heather Tangren

July 2022

Paula White

August 2022

Kathryn LaTour

Gainesville's Volunteers of the Quarter

Dan McDaniel

Sally Walpole

Jim Giambrone

Janet Cantrelle Named 2021 Volunteer of the Year



By Josh Todd

Janet Cantrelle has been selected as our
2021 Volunteer of the Year recipient.

Janet began volunteering in 2016 as a Discovery Volunteer. In 2018, she joined the Docents, and in each of these roles, she energetically engages guests to enhance their experience during visits and tours. Janet also took the Garden Essential Maintenance orientation in 2016 and has been regularly volunteering in the Woodlands over the past six years. She also spends time assisting in the Orchid Center, helping with classes, volunteering for events like Concerts and Garden Lights, and aiding staff with office projects, member evenings and other programming. We can always count on Janet to commit to her weekly shifts and help whenever and wherever there is a need.

She is the June 2017 and September 2021 Volunteer of the Month and has been named a Root of the Garden (top hours) for the past five years, during which time she has donated over 2000 hours of volunteer service.

Please give Janet a congrats next time you see her around for a well-deserved recognition of her time, service, and commitment to the Garden.

Centennial Club

Congratulations to our 2021 Centennial Club Class! We continued the exception from 2020 to recognize this award for 60+ hours of service (instead of 100) during 2021. Thanks for all of your time and effort over the past year. Our staff value the service that you were able to provide, even more so during the pandemic.

Each member receives a library card to check out books from the Sheffield Botanical Library, a coupon for 50% off one 2022 class offered by the Education Department, and Garden-sponsored parking for the next year. This core group of volunteers contribute so much to the Garden, and we couldn't do all that we do without each of you.

Atlanta Garden

Karen Ahrens
Joe Alexander
Yvonne Arrington
Erin Ash *1st year
George Aycock *1st year
Tom Baydala
Ann Bentsen **200+ hours (8 years)
Jo Ann Bertrand
Stan Bokoski
Wanda Bokoski
Denise Bomberger
Ann Bonislowski
Anne Boyte **200+ hours (3 years)
Pat Bras
Kathy Bronaugh
Janet Cantrelle **200+ hours (5 years)
Robyn Carter *1st year
Bettie Cheek
Kevin Chen *1st year
Shakim Cooper
Christine Cotter
Sally Crowe
Johnette Crum **200+ hours (10 years)
Cathy Curley
Paul Cushing
Becky Dacey
Jessica Dark
Kay Darrington
Debbie DeMoss
Lisa Diamond *1st year
Jill Ellington **200+ hours (2 years)
Diana Farmer

Tatyana Fershtat
Chris File
Mary Flynt
Bob Fox *1st year
Cyndy Franklin
Rick Fritz
Jennifer Fuller
Kathy Gallo
Brenda Gibbon *1st year
Steve Gibbon *1st year
Eve Goldstein
Elise Halpern **200+ hours (2 years)
Toni Harrington
MaryAnn Hart
Bonnie Herron
Sally Hilton
Wallace Hitt *1st year
Fariba Hollister
Louise Horney
Molly Huss *1st year
Regina Imbsweiler
Lin Inlow
Sandra Jones *1st year
Cindy Kelly
Anne Kerner *1st year
Bobbie Kilgo
Steve Kilgo
Kathryn LaTour
Marj Leinbaugh
Joe Lester *1st year
Mark Lewis
Katie Lindquist
Claudia MacDonald
Ken MacLean
Jim Mallory **200+ hours (6 years)
Lynn Malone
Brenda McCrae *1st year
Theresa McDugald
Barbara McRoberts
Angie Meadows
Burrelle S. Meeks
Charlotte Miller **200+ hours (8 years)
Agnes Miller-Landers
Greg Mills
Jeanne Muhlberger
Tom Mullally
Allison Nicolle
Olivia Niemczuk
Jack Nolen
Merideth Northcutt
Lisbet Phillips
Roy Pinkston **200+ hours (9 years)

Meredith Pinto *1st year

Lynda Pollock
Bonnie Poulin
Bob Powell
Susan Powell
Deanna Pring
Alice Pugh
Eliza Quigley
Kay Roane
Patricia Robinson
Kathy Ronay

Jolie Ryff *1st year

Bhavani Saravanam **200+ hours (4 years)

Susan Schlather
Rachel Scott *1st year
Kaden Shallat *1st year
Denise Siegel
Susan Slemenda
David Smith
Marge Smith
David Snyder

Alice Soder **200+ hours (4 years)

Raenell Soller

Connie Sparks *1st year

Michael Stanley

Jeanne Starr

Leslie Swain *1st year

Heather Tangren

Pat Teplitz

Gale Thomas

Richard Thorne

Margaret Turk

Beth Vaughan

Ianthe Kate Veeder *1st year

Nancy Waterfill

Jack Weeks *1st year

Clark Weisner

Boni Wendel

Alice Wertheim

Patricia Williams

Susan Wood

Sally Wright

Chuck Young

Marlene Zwier

Gainesville Garden

Bev Adkins
Pat Baillie
Glen Cypher
Marie Cypher

Debbie Delauder

Cynthia Hodge *1st year

Diane Korzeniewski **200+ hours (6 years)

Mikiko Lockwood **200+ hours (1 year)

Dan McDaniel *1st year

Bill McMahan

Lenard Poole *1st year

Dick Rightmyer *1st year

Martha Rightmyer *1st year

Cheryl Schuster

Holly Sparrow

Renee Steinike

Tricia Terrell

Denise Waldron

Deborah Weaver *1st year

Atlanta's Volunteers of the Month

2020

Carol Phillips
Alice Soder
Steve Kilgo
Bobbie Kilgo
Carrie Mayham
Lauren Melde
Lin Inlow
Bhavani Saravanam
Paige DeMuth
Barbara McRoberts
Kay Roane
Patty Miseje

2021

Cindy Kelley
Merideth Northcutt
Anne Carley
Chris File
Ann Bonislowski
Kathy Bronaugh
Theresa McDugald
Tatyana Fershtat
Janet Cantrelle
Eve Goldstein
Angie Meadows
Denise Bomberger

Gainesville's Volunteers of the Quarter

2020

Bev Atkins
Glen and Marie Cypher
Tricia Terrell

2021

Cindy Hodge
Maureen Smith
Mikiko Lockwood
Dan McDaniel

The 200 Hour Club

Since 2011, we've had 130 volunteers give over 200 hours of service at least once.
For 2021, 13 volunteers achieved this measure of service.

1st Year

Mikiko Lockwood

2nd Year

Jill Ellington, Elise Halpern

3rd Year

Anne Boyte

4th Year

Bhavani Saravanan, Alice Soder

5th Year

Janet Cantrelle

6th Year

Diane Korzeniewski, Jim Mallory

8th Year

Ann Bentsen, Charlotte Miller

9th Year

Roy Pinkston

10th Year

Johnette Crum

The Roots of the Garden

The Top Hours Award

Jim Mallory

250 hours

Ann Bentsen

258 hours

Anne Boyte

279 hours

Diane Korzeniewski

304 hours

Janet Cantrelle

330 hours

Charlotte Miller

525 hours

Meet the Volunteers of the Month

September 2021 Janet Cantrelle



The September Volunteer of the Month, Janet Cantrelle, also happens to be the 2021 Volunteer of the Year so much has been written in this issue about her many Garden activities and recognitions. Like most Garden volunteers, she's the first to say she helps with so many events because she loves being here, not for any recognition. When her retirement was looming, she knew she needed something to keep her busy, and cleaning Chihuly glass and pulling weeds fit the bill. Now she can hardly stay away, and the Garden is ever grateful. Thank you, Janet, for spending your retirement here!

October 2021 Eve Goldstein



A member of the Garden since its early days, Eve Goldstein joined the volunteer ranks in 2015, first as a Docent then a few years later as a Greeter. She explains she became a Docent mainly to share the Garden experience with young children...to open their eyes to the world around them. The first time she saw a 6 year old boy's face light up when he first eyed the Chihuly Fountain, she knew she was doing the right thing. Thanks to you, Eve, for sharing your love of the Garden with visitors young and old!

November 2021 Angie Meadows



It's no coincidence that Angie Meadows, a Yorkshire, England native, joined the Docent ranks in 2009 just in time for the summer exhibit of Henry Moore, also from Yorkshire. She has done hundreds of drop-in tours and scheduled adult tours ever since, 23 just this spring, and feels a special connection to the Garden's many international visitors. Like so many volunteers, she is happy to be back in person at the Garden now where she also helps with the Docent food committee and events like the Plant Sale, Flower Show, the Connoisseurs Tour and, most recently, Aglanta Eats. The Garden salutes Angie for her time, her gracious manner and her charming accent!

December 2021 Denise Bomberger



It's been thirteen years since Denise started digging in the Rose Garden as a Garden Gem. When Storza Woods opened a few years later, she moved to that team and has been an integral, valued volunteer there since. According to staff, she brings positivity, experience and the ability to relate to everyone to every shift. "A true detailed worker, Denise strikes fear in even the tiniest weed as she makes her way through the beds, all the while fielding questions from visitors with ease." Her easygoing manner makes her fun to be around, and the Garden thanks her for pitching in through the years!

Meet the Volunteers of the Month

January 2022
Jo Kroger



A Docent since 2019, Jo Kroger is excited that school programs are back so that she can start giving tours again. "Their bright, questioning minds delight and stimulate me. And keeping up with them gives me good exercise!" Education has always been her "thing" she says, but she has lots of "things:" nurse by profession, ten year Girl Scout leader, volunteer then teacher with the Red Cross for years, lifelong musician who's been a season subscriber to the Atlanta Symphony since 1969, dedicated "foodie", a tent camper even at 83!! She makes school tours fun and memorable, says Garden staff who are ever grateful to have her and her energy around again!

February 2022
Rosemary Cox



Rosemary Cox brings a love of plants and trees, a wealth of knowledge and a gift for teaching to her volunteer role at the Garden. In 2019, a chance conversation with Garden volunteer Kathy Gallo led retired college English professor and longtime Trees Atlanta volunteer Rosemary to sign on as a Discovery volunteer in Storza Woods, answering questions and pointing out details to amazed visitors. Now also a children's Docent, she delights in sharing her Garden knowledge with young and old alike and is always ready to pitch in with extra projects. The Garden salutes Rosemary for her incredible knowledge and enthusiasm!

March 2022
Marge Smith



A Garden volunteer for twenty years, Marge Smith started as a docent about the time the Children's Garden opened and is continually amazed at the changes since then. Along the way she took a turn as a GEM before finding her niche in the Gift Shop where she dons her apron every Tuesday, helping visitors find that perfect memento. Just recently she has also signed on to help Josh Todd in the volunteer office, logging applications and hours for the Garden's hundreds of volunteers. Thanks, Marge, for being that smiling face the Garden can always count on!

April 2022
Linda Hirsch



Linda Hirsch first began volunteering at the Garden with the 2016 Chihuly Exhibit, a natural role for this glass artist. The next year this one-time home economics teacher, baker and caterer found her true calling as an OKRA, putting in long hours with the Well-Seasoned Chef and Fresh Plates series, chef demonstrations and cooking camps. The staff appreciates her willingness to come early and stay late to help the cooking programs run smoothly. The Garden thanks Linda for her flexibility, willingness and ever-present sense of humor!

Meet the Volunteers of the Month

May 2022
Allison Nicolle



A Garden volunteer for five years, Allison Nicolle started out with Discovery Stations, especially enjoying talking to visitors about poison dart frogs and carnivorous plants. Then she lateralled to giving children's tours, opening children's eyes to the world of the Garden. She is always eager to sign up for school tours, camps and activities like egg dyeing, Kindergarten Days, Earth Day, but doesn't stop there! She has taken turns in the Gift Shop, with Garden Lights, Vanilla Sunday, Reindog Parade...you name it! For the last two years, she's also been a weekly Greeter. Thanks to Allison for being such an amazing volunteer and a fun person to be around!

June 2022
Heather Tangren



Heather Tangren grew up in England and got her first taste of gardening as a schoolgirl learning to till, plant and weed a small school garden. Long an Atlanta resident, she began volunteering at the Garden in 2012 and through the years has been a GEM as well as a Docent, guiding many a visitor through the Garden with her trademark smile and stories. Always ready to lend a hand, she's done shifts on the Connoisseurs Tours, Member Evenings, Orchid Sales, Holiday Lights and with many a Docent Update. She loves time at the Garden as do her grandchildren who always ask her to take them to "our Garden!" Hats off to Heather for her loyal service!

July 2022
Paula White



Paula White has served in many roles as a Garden volunteer since moving to Atlanta in 2009. First a GEM, she became a Docent in 2010, chairing that group in 2013. She's served in many critical leadership roles with the Connoisseurs Tour over the years and reports that the committee is already hard at work on the 2023 tour. Never one to say no, Paula was Volunteer Chair for the 2020 and 2022 Flower Show and been an integral part of the Inspired Gardener Symposium, chairing that event from 2015 through 2021 through GPPA, all the while continuing GEM, Docent, Greeter and Discovery roles. The Garden just wouldn't be the same without her, and she is saluted for being such a devoted Garden volunteer.

August 2022
Kathryn LaTour

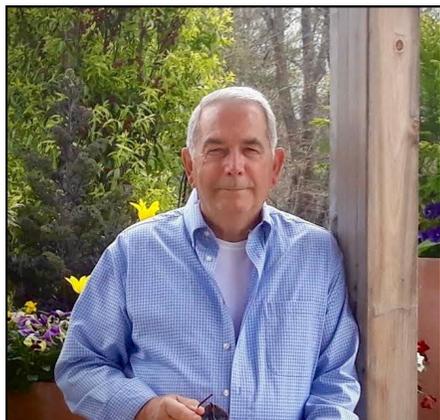


A stalwart volunteer for over 30 years, Kathryn needs little introduction. Volunteer of the Month in July 1994 and May 2007, 2008 Volunteer of the Year, a Roots honoree for top hours for 8 years, Kathryn was deservedly chosen for a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013 and hasn't slowed down since! A familiar face at nearly every Garden event and activity, she lends a hand wherever needed. A longtime Docent and Garden Associate, most recently she's been co-chairing the Flower Show and holding down regular Origami Discovery duty. For Kathryn, life has always been about being involved in what you love, and ABG has long been at the top of her list. The Garden is forever grateful.

Saluting the Gainesville Garden's Newest Volunteers of the Quarter

By Beverly DeLong

Dan McDaniel



Gainesville's Visitor Center is always brightened by Dan McDaniel's smile. Dan has volunteered with the Garden since it opened in 2015. He grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and developed a love for gardens at a young age.

After a long career in the medical field, including at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, Dan finally decided to retire to enjoy the finer things in life, such as gardening.

As a lover of nature, he naturally became a member at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, and as soon as the Gainesville location opened he quickly jumped at the opportunity to volunteer. He loves helping his community and especially loves being a part of the Garden.

"The Garden is my quiet comfort place, my kind of go-to place. It is always growing and changing. There is always something new to see," he says. "People seem to smile more inside the Garden walls, so I think they are leaving their troubles outside the gates just like I do. As a greeter, I get the chance to greet, talk and smile at each one of them."

Thank you, Dan, for always keeping our guests happy and having a joyful presence every shift that you work!

Sally Walpole

Just a couple months ago, we never could have imagined that Sally Walpole's dedication would reach such heights. She has taken on several volunteer opportunities such as Storytime, Wayfinder, as well as being a Children's Garden Nature Ambassador. We always appreciate how genuine and upbeat she is when interacting with visitors, regularly describing our progress as a Garden and her love of it when greeting guests.



Originally from eastern Tennessee, Sally and her Gainesville-native husband, Bo, moved to Georgia in the fall of 2014. Retiring from a career in pharmaceutical and medical device sales management in 2017, she found time for the Gainesville Garden where they had been members since 2015. She has increased her volunteer shifts at the Gainesville Garden as she found more time on her hands and continuously shows her passion and dedication to the Garden.

The Garden would not be the same without you, Sally. Thank you for taking on so many opportunities and always being the first to volunteer for unclaimed shifts.

Jim Giambrone



One of the bright and shining faces visitors will encounter in the Garden is US Navy veteran, Jim Giambrone. As a volunteer on our General Essential Maintenance team since 2021, he never misses an opportunity to greet guests as they stroll through the Garden. Having worked as a paperboy, a pharmaceutical manufacturer, a distributor, and now a Garden volunteer, Jim has had a variety of life experiences. Growing up, Jim's family always had a vegetable garden. When his father gave him his own small garden spot to call his own, Jim's gardening skills took off. This experience sparked his passion for cultivating and nurturing plants of all kinds, and this interest continues to this day.

In addition to his GEM volunteering, Jim has recently taken on another challenge: maintenance work in the Conservation Nursery. Whether it's maintaining the Garden or engaging with guests, he always goes above and beyond. When asked why he loves volunteering at the Gainesville garden, his reply was, "I was thrilled when ABG Gainesville asked me to volunteer. My peers are wonderful, and it is a dream come true to be a team member in an environment so beautiful." Your dedication is greatly appreciated, Jim.

What's Growing in Gainesville



By Beverly DeLong
Gainesville Volunteer Coordinator



Going “Gnomeward Bound” This Fall

Here in Gainesville, fall colors have begun to emerge in the Garden, bringing brilliant yellows, oranges, reds and purples. Although the summer was brutal, it is a relief to know that fall is just around the corner. Some of our eye-catching fall plants include our giant “Redneck Girl” salvia, fragrant corkscrew vine, lush “Raydon’s Favorite” aromatic aster and the always favorite fragrant orange flowered tea olive.

Our annual **Scarecrows in the Garden** is another exciting adventure we’re looking forward to. With this year’s event, we are challenging the community with a little twist and adding a theme, “Gnomeward Bound.” We can’t wait to see what kind of ideas and creativity everyone’s “gnome-magination” produces! The theme should bring lots of laughter and fun for builders, volunteers and visitors alike.

The volunteers have decided to join in on the fun this year and have registered to create not one, but two gnome crows. But shhh...they aren’t letting anyone in on the secret of what or who it will be, so you will just have to visit the Gainesville location to find out!

Hope to see you soon!



News from the Volunteers at Atlanta Botanical Garden, Gainesville



By Diane Korzeniewski

Meet our new Volunteer Coordinator Beverly DeLong

Volunteers at the Gainesville Garden have enjoyed getting to know our new volunteer coordinator, so for this column I asked Beverly to introduce herself to all the Garden’s volunteer corps.

“I started at ABGG in Spring of 2017 as a Visitor Services Associate after working at DS Services, previously known as Crystal Springs Water Company, as a Filtration Specialist for 10 years. I have three children: Mckenzie, age 16, Gracie, age 12, and Avery Cole, age 4.

“I took the Volunteer Coordinator role in November 2021. At first, I worked endlessly writing and rewriting Policies and Procedures, guidelines on specific volunteer positions, essentially to create the perfect handbook. It’s still a work in progress, but it’s one of my goals for this year to complete it.

“One of my main duties is recruitment. As of today our volunteer roster has 62 volunteers, 16 of them new this year. I am always looking for different projects and ideas to attract new volunteers to the Garden, some of which have included The Garden Expo with the HCMG, volunteer sign up booths at local active adult communities, and flyers for bulletin boards at local colleges, coffee shops, and small businesses. We have started a newsletter for the Gainesville location to keep our volunteers in the loop on garden events, classes, and other key information. We are also adding more social events throughout the year, such as Lunch and Learns, and we have scheduled a docent training for those interested in becoming tour guides in the Garden.

“Another goal that I have for volunteers, as well as myself, is outreach. As local festivals and events come up, I am hoping to train more of our volunteers on membership facts and knowledge of the Garden, to assist with our outreach to the community. One exciting new outreach opportunity will be at the Elachee Nature Science Center here in Gainesville. I think it’s a natural partnership.

“Our family programming is expanding as well, so we need more volunteers for Discovery Stations, Storytime, and as Nature Ambassadors in the Children’s Garden. These volunteers are crucial for our Garden, as *well* as our community. If we are able to capture the attention of young minds, create lasting memories, and teach them one simple fact, then that information stays with them forever. We want them to have a reason to want to come back to the Garden. The more minds we reach, the better our future will be.

“We are more than just a garden- we are the future.”

Docent Doings

By Lin Inlow
2020-2021 Docent Chair



**Docent Updates
are the second Monday
of every month, usually
in Day Hall.**

As 2020 came to an end, there were many lessons learned personally and collectively about moving forward during a pandemic. In 2021 we experienced a renewed commitment to our volunteer pursuits while bringing a return to many of our cherished activities such as our in-person monthly Docent Updates. We first met in April in Gainesville where the cookbook committee dedicated *All Things Edible* to Josh Todd. At later Updates we had the opportunity of learning from the Horticultural and Conservation staffs about their many accomplishments. Events such as the Garden of Eden ball returned with volunteers engaged with staff in creating a stunning venue. Drop-in tours also resumed as did the fieldtrips. We saw a return to our July Potluck Luncheon and finished the year with our Holiday Volunteer and Staff Luncheons.

During these past two years it has been my great privilege to serve as Docent Chair. Thanks to all for your fellowship, perseverance, and enthusiasm in making 2021 another memorable year!



This Summer's Blockbuster:

Origami In the Garden

By Emily Saccenti
Exhibits Project Manager

This summer's exhibit, **Origami in the Garden**, features 18 installations of larger than life metal sculptures inspired by the Japanese art of paper folding. Artists Kevin and Jennifer Box have created a unique process that transforms the delicate paper art of origami into large-scale sculptures made of museum quality metals. Each sculpture begins with just a blank sheet of paper. An origami artist will craft an original origami form and then pass it off to Kevin who works for weeks, using a multi-step process involving wax and paper, to turn the original form into a large-scale metal sculpture. Then the Box team begins the actual fabrication which involves cutting giant sheets of metal into shapes then welding them together. The result is a sculpture that looks like the original origami but on a huge scale!

Though iterations of **Origami in the Garden** have been installed throughout the country since 2013, the ABG exhibition is the largest to date. Our exhibit includes 68 individual sculptures installed throughout the Garden. Almost all of the 68 sculptures are newly fabricated for our exhibition. Some works will be scaled up versions of existing sculptures such as *Hero's Horse*. The largest version previously exhibited was seven feet tall, but the one in our Garden's Strickland bed is two and a half times taller than that...roughly the same size as the Mosaiculture Dragon!

One of the few existing sculptures included in our show will be *Master Peace*, which was inspired by "Senbazuru," the Japanese act of creating 1000 origami cranes in a single year for good luck. The sculpture is made up of 500 individually cast metal cranes. The other 500 are represented by the reflection in Howell Fountain of the 25 foot tall tower.

There are many never-before-seen works such as *Pinwheel Wildflowers*. Fittingly, this work is installed along our Flower Walk and includes 22 individual flowers, several of which are pinwheels that actually spin in the wind! *Scents of Gratitude* in the Skyline Aquatic Pond features kinetic pinwheel flowers and measures over 24 feet tall.

A series of new works tells the story of the lifecycle of the butterfly with *Consider the Caterpillar* placed in the Conservatory Pond, *Pause of the Pupa* in the Conservatory Rotunda display bed, and a charming kaleidoscope of various-sized butterflies flying through the Orchid Center Atrium and Display House. Additional installations throughout the Garden feature deer, canaries, rabbits and more adorable animals as well as more traditional origami forms such as cranes, lilies and a kusadama.

In the Gardenhouse Gallery there is an accompanying exhibition titled *Inside Out* that features original origami masterworks in paper alongside cast metal maquettes that were used to create the **Origami in the Garden** exhibition. These folded and unfolded works provide a more intimate view of the nature and process of **Origami in the Garden**.

The exhibition is open through October 16.



Check It Out:

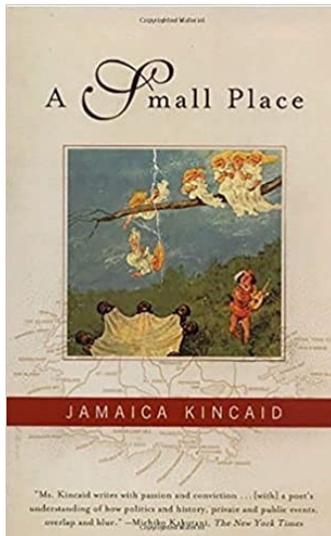
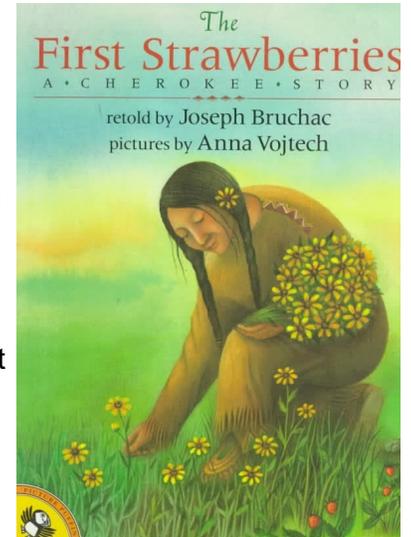
Good Reads in the Sheffield Library

By Michelle Li
Library Volunteer

The First Strawberries

retold by Joseph Bruchac and illustrated by Anna Vojtech

This charming Cherokee tale collected and retold by Joseph Bruchac (enrolled Nulhegan Abenaki) is about a quarrel between the first man and woman and how the sun helped to resolve it. There are several differences from other versions of the story, but the ending—be considerate to those you love and treasure—remains the same. Anna Vojtech's beautiful, careful illustrations of both the people and the natural world are a lovely accompaniment. I asked my eight-year-old what he thought the moral of the story was, and he replied, "Be kind to each other." Message received.



A Small Place

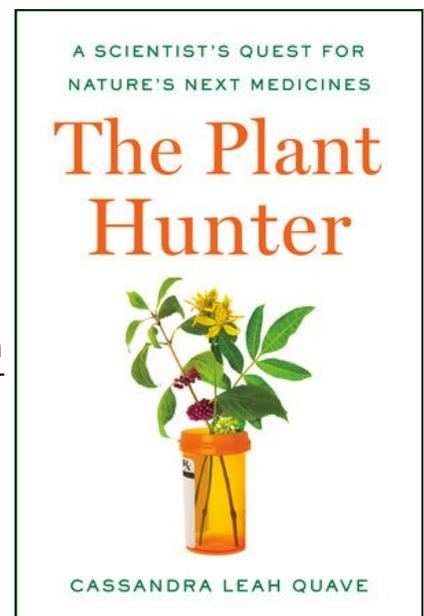
by Jamaica Kincaid

There comes a time in one's life when one is sat down by a friend, family member, or someone else who is kind enough to give you a reality check: an unvarnished, clear-eyed, and pragmatic look at a situation that serves as the gateway to deep and often painful introspection. That's Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place*, a novella-length essay published in 1988 on Antigua and its relationship to the Western world. The essay is told in second person from the point of view of a white tourist who has come to what they consider an island paradise, and all that Antigua is, its positives and negatives, its unhealed wounds and its idiosyncrasies, crash-land on the page. In *A Small Place*, Kincaid reflects unflinchingly upon the long trauma of British colonialism, the corruptness of the Antiguan government, and how easily foreigners to the island can seize power. As is typical of strong medicines, this book is hard to swallow, but ultimately a gift born of love for the island.

The Plant Hunter: A Scientist's Quest for Nature's Next Medicines

by Dr. Cassandra Leah Quave

Not only is Dr. Cassandra Quave Emory University's herbarium curator and associate professor of dermatology and human health, she also once was a volunteer at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Thus, it feels like a bit of a homecoming to add her book to Sheffield's collection. *The Plant Hunter* is a memoir in the vein of Hope Jahren's *Lab Girl*, a highly readable and compelling novel that will make you wish for a real snow day, a comfortable chair, and an endless supply of hot beverages. An emergent theme within *The Plant Hunter* is the desire to let traditional folkways around the world guide Western science's search for new medicines, and it only makes it more apparent how disconnected we are, especially in this pandemic, from nature and our community. If there's anything to take from *The Plant Hunter* other than a renewed love for science, anthropology, research, and all things botanical, it's an exhortation to reach out, reconnect, go outside, and marvel at our earth. Our problems arise from nature, but so too do our solutions.



Behind the Garden Gate:

Volunteers Are Integral In the Garden's Micropropagation and Seed Bank Labs

By Jason Ligon, Lab Manager

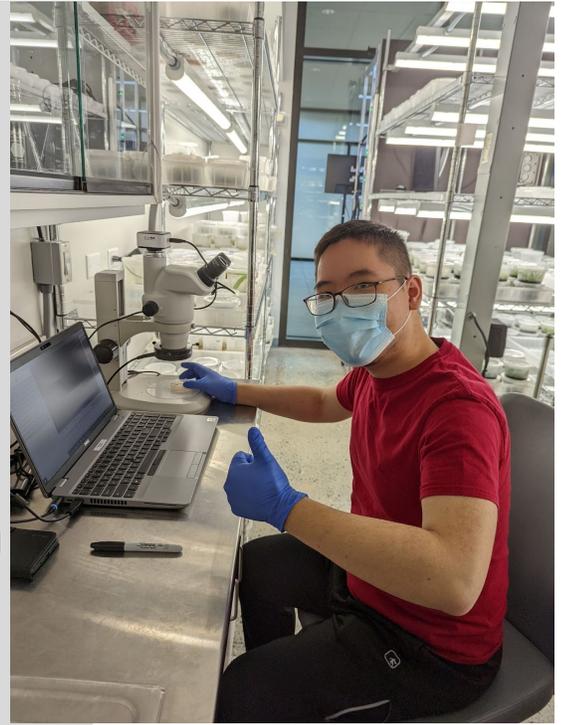
It's been a busy year in the Conservation Micropropagation and Seed Bank labs. With many ongoing projects involving seed collections and propagation of plants, there is never a dull moment. We could not keep everything straight without the amazing work of our dedicated, skilled volunteers. While there are many in our small army, we would like to acknowledge Lynn Malone, Kevin Chen, and Kaden Shallat.

Lynn Malone has been a long-standing volunteer in the lab. She aids in transferring seedlings that have outgrown their current containers, which requires sterile technique and high precision. She regularly makes growth media for our plants, always ensuring there are no discrepancies in the recipes and that fellow lab members have what they need. She is also instrumental in keeping the lab organized – diligently keeping up with updating our database, notifying staff of supply shortages, and not being afraid of cleaning out the discarded, contaminated plants (a true sign of an unfaltering volunteer!).

Kevin Chen began volunteering in the labs this year and brings an excitement and eagerness to work on conservation of endangered plants. Kevin is a whiz with data collection and brings some much-needed organization to our labs. He worked alongside our intern Tito to transfer over 2,000 vials of seeds to our new compact storage method within the Conventional Seed Bank. This new method allows for a much more efficient use of space and organizes all seeds chronologically. This was an essential undertaking as the seed bank continues to expand and we increase our capacity to preserve more diverse and larger quantities of seed. Kevin also oversees scoring and watering non-orchid germination trials and participates in imaging orchid germination trials.

Kaden Shallat came to us with a knack for videography and editing coupled with a sincere interest in carnivorous plants, and we had the perfect role for him. In October 2020, he signed on as a video production volunteer. Once the Garden welcomed back its dedicated volunteers, Kaden pitched in with shooting a micropropagation tutorial to aid remote training of staff and volunteers. Fast forward to 2021, and he has been working tirelessly to produce four instructional videos by year's end for a grant through the Center for Plant Conservation, focusing on disseminating seed bank and micropropagation topics.

We could not be more thankful for the volunteers who keep the Micropropagation and Seed Bank labs moving forward. Our volunteers are always adaptable and eager to help in any way they can. The work they are doing is very important in the conservation of many rare and endangered species. We look forward to another great year of work in the Micropropagation and Seed Bank labs, with our volunteers supporting us with their amazing skills and unwavering dedication.



Meet the Staff:

Kiara Leach

Guest Experience
and
Gift Shop Manager

By Josh Todd

Kiara Leach is celebrating nine years at the Garden this fall. While working at Office Depot in 2013, she heard from a co-worker about an opportunity to work as a seasonal cashier for the Special Events department during Garden Lights. After the exhibition concluded, Kiara moved into an associate role in Visitor Services, then quickly moved up to a Lead Position shortly after. The following year, under then Manager Jason Diem, she was promoted to the Assistant Manager role. Under current Guest Experience, Gift Shop and Training Senior Manager Jason Morris, Kiara was promoted to the Guest Experience Manager in 2019, before finally reaching her current title of Guest Experience and Gift Shop Manager.



Kiara's hard work for the Garden and her attention to its visitors has not only been rewarded through these promotions over the years, but she has also been recognized most recently as the recipient of the 2021 Employee of the Year Award. Her dedication to the Garden through blockbuster exhibitions like Chihuly and Imaginary Worlds, and the record-breaking attendance that comes from it, along with perennial shows like Garden Lights, is a valued asset to the Garden and its employees, volunteers and visitors.

Her day-to-day responsibilities include overseeing the Guest Experience and the Gift Shop to ensure smooth operations and exceptional visitor experiences. Kiara also hires staff for both areas, handles the schedule, processes Shop orders, and also continues to oversee the on-site call center. She has put together a team of three assistant managers to help: Georgia, onsite memberships sales and ticketing; Justin, call center; and Tori, gift shop.

**“We appreciate our volunteers
in both Guest Experience and Gift Shop
for donating their time, energy and patience.
Your help with greeting and assisting guests
in the shop is an important factor in helping
the organization thrive.**

Thanks for all that you do!”

Kiara Leach

Of course, she and her team value the volunteers that spend their time and talent to assist with the visitor experience. Kiara's group of volunteers include both Lobby Greeters and Gift Shop volunteers. Greeters welcome guests to the Garden and offer maps and directions, and answer questions, an especially important role to help first time and out of town visitors. Shop volunteers ring up sales, keep the displays tidy and stocked, and also chat with visitors and answer questions.

A Warner Robbins native, Kiara moved to midtown in 2013 to attend Clayton State and received a degree in Intergrated Studies and Health. She also received a Master's Degree from NOVA Southeastern University in Child Protection and Public Health. During her days off, Kiara enjoys shopping, drawing and getting to the beach.

Next time you pass through the Visitor Center, make sure to say “Hi” and give Kiara a congrats on her well-deserved Employee of the Year award!

Notes From Mary Pat

Insights from Mary Pat Matheson
The Ann and Hays Mershon President & CEO



Since we are in the season of harvest, I decided to write about the Atlanta Botanical Garden's investment in the urban agriculture community in Atlanta. We have a long history of growing edible plants, dating back to the 1990s when ABG had a robust vegetable garden on the southeast side of the Orchid Center. That garden was long gone by the time I arrived in 2002, but Mildred Fockele described it to me and we decided that a more current approach to edible gardens was warranted, and that's the impetus behind our Edible Garden. That garden opened in 2010 and quickly became visitors' favorite outdoor garden; it continues to delight guests with bountiful fruits and vegetables and to feed program participants and many others.

In the last two decades, urban farms have cropped up throughout the city and the metro area. There is now a healthy ecosystem of community gardens and farms working to bring fresh produce to communities. About five years ago, we decided it was strategically time for us to work beyond our borders and engage with the community on a whole new level. With the Garden's horticultural and educational expertise, we decided that partnerships and collaboration would be the best approach to supporting urban agriculture. The timing of our decision to hire the Garden's first Community Outreach Manager was perfect as our former horticulturist and educator, Moe Hemmings, was returning from England where she had just finished a master's degree. Moe was the perfect choice for this new and important role because of her deep knowledge of horticulture and education.

We partner primarily with three organizations, The Food Well Alliance (FWA), Truly Living Well and Friends of Refugees. The Food Well Alliance is a network of local leaders working together to build thriving community gardens and urban farms. Moe develops and delivers educational programs with FWA at numerous community gardens throughout the metro area. As a gifted teacher, Moe presents a signature program titled Plant, Eat, Repeat to hundreds of people each year. She also serves as a consultant on growing and harvesting food, helping to improve outcomes at the gardens she works with.

The partnership with Truly Living Well, an urban farm and teaching center on the Westside, has been robust over the years. I have mentored their Executive Director for more than three years, and we have both benefited tremendously. We also invest in their growth and sustainability by investing in their programs and development efforts. Moe has been instrumental in supporting their education programs and curriculum as well as their volunteer program. Recently, they held the Soil Festival a collaborative event that celebrates compost and its importance through programs and demonstrations. The event attracted over 1,000 people and was deemed a huge success.

I wish my descriptions of our collaborations could truly paint the picture of how important our community outreach program is, but words can't impart the beauty of these gardens and the people they serve. So as I explain our third partnership, I will do it as a story about what I saw when I last visited this special garden. It's called the Jolly Avenue Community Garden, it is in Clarkston and is owned and managed by the Friends of Refugees, a non-profit serving refugees. Last year, with a group of Board members and staff, I visited this garden to learn more about their efforts. We were welcomed by five young women, all refugees in their teens. They showed us how they planted five gallon buckets with herbs and vegetables, to be given to local families for their front "porch or stoop." We saw these growing buckets on the front steps of the apartments surrounding the garden – and we all smiled. It was so clear that this garden was a green hub for people trying to find their way in a new country. These young women were delightful, thoughtful and proud of their good work. To see a growing and thriving garden is one thing, but to see its impact on the people within it is truly a memorable event because the garden brings people hope, joy and community. And that's exactly what we strive to do with this important outreach program. Stay tuned as we take it to the next level!

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

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