



## Paula White Named 2022 Volunteer of the Year

By Josh Todd

When Paula White moved to Atlanta in 2009, she struck up a conversation with an Atlanta Botanical Garden volunteer at a local garden center, and...voila! Starting as a Garden Maintenance volunteer, she first committed to a weekly shift in the Woodland Gardens. While working those shifts, she struck up a conversation with another volunteer about the docent program and joined the docents the following year. Becoming an adored volunteer among other docents, she led the group in 2013 as the docent chair. During her time at the Garden, she has also taught visitors through the discovery stations, welcomed guests as a greeter and helped with countless events like Garden Lights, Kinder in the Garden, Goblins and Concerts.

Her biggest impact at the Garden, however, has been at high level leadership roles. Paula held leadership positions for the Gardens for Connoisseurs Tour since 2014, first as the volunteer chairperson, then moving into the event chairperson role, along with serving on various committees and as a Day Captain.

She has co-chaired the annual Garden Symposium since 2014, and says Tracy McClendon, VP of Programs, "Paula helps plan the program, contacts the lecturers, and does anything and everything needed leading up to and on the day of the symposium. This year in particular, the symposium could not have happened without her leadership."

Paula was also the chairperson for the 2020 and 2022 Flower Shows. Melissa Roberts, the Garden's Senior Development Manager, explains, "Her kind and generous spirit make her such a pleasure to work with and a treasure for the Garden."

Paula has been a Centennial Club member and 200 hour volunteer every year since 2011. She was a Root of the Garden from 2013 to 2016 and again in 2020. And she is a three-time Volunteer of the Month in 2013, 2017, and 2022. The Garden is so fortunate that Paula found a home here and cannot thank her enough for her involvement and support over the past thirteen years. She has made an impact on countless lives of Garden staff, visitors and volunteers.



### Congratulations to these Volunteers Of the Month

January  
**Beth Vaughan**

February  
**Karen Ahrens**

March  
**Paul Cushing**

April  
**Anne Kerner**

May  
**Sandra Jones**

June  
**Gale D. Thomas**

### And to Gainesville's Volunteers of the Quarter

**Susan Hurley**

**Stan Ray**

# Centennial Club

The Centennial Volunteer Award was created in 1991 to award volunteers donating at least 100 hours of service. Each member receives a Centennial name badge, library card, class discount and parking privileges. This core group of volunteers contribute so much to the Garden, and we could not be nearly as successful without each of them. We have 135 members for 2022.

## New Members

Kim Cody	Susan Hurley
Rosemary Cox	Randi Lewis
Donna Doetsch	Barb Musolf
Linda Duncan	Pat Musolf
Jana Flury	Carolyn Packard
Jim Giambrone	Andrea Rutherford
Trip Hash	Ken Vesey
Elaine Hentschel	Amy Woodrick

## Perennial Centennials

Bev Adkins	Paul Cushing
Karen Ahrens	Jessica Dark
Yvonne Arrington	Debbie Demoss
Erin Ash	Tatyana Fershtat
Pat Baillie	Chris File
Tom Baydala	Mary Flynt
Ann Bentsen	Bob Fox
Jo Ann Bertrand	Cyndy Franklin
Stan Bokoski	Rick Fritz
Wanda Bokoski	Jennifer Fuller
Denise Bomberger	Kathy Gallo
Ann Bonislowski	Vince Gallo
Anne Boyte	Pat Gianelloni
Pat Bras	Eve Goldstein
Kathy Bronaugh	Elise Halpern
Janet Cantrelle	Mary Ann Hart
Robyn Carter	Deedi Henson
Bettie Cheek	Sally Hilton
Kevin Chen	Linda Hirsch
Christine Cotter	Molly Huss
Sally Crowe	Regina Imbsweiler
Johnette Crum	Lin Inlow
Penny Crump	Sandra Jones

Cindy Kelly	Alice Pugh
Anne Kerner	Eliza Quigley
Bobbie Kilgo	Rebecca Rahm
Steve Kilgo	Martha Rightmyer
Diane Korzeniewski	Kay Roane
Jo Kroger	Patricia Robinson
Kathryn LaTour	Bhavani Saravanan
Marj Leinbaugh	Susan Schlather
Mark Lewis	Rachel Scott
Katie Lindquist	Denise Siegel
Mikiko Lockwood	Susan Slemenda
Bob Lossie	David Smith
Claudia Macdonald	Marge Smith
Ken MacLean	Alice Soder
Jim Mallory	Raenell Soller
Lynn Malone	Holly Sparrow
Dan McDaniel	Michael Stanley
Theresa McDugald	Jeanne Starr
Bill McMahan	Renee Steinike
Barbara McRoberts	Sa Su
Angie Meadows	Leslie Swain
Burrelle S. Meeks	Heather Tangren
Charlotte Miller	Behnoosh Tehrani
Agnes Miller-Landers	Gale D. Thomas
Greg Mills	Richard Thorne
Jeanne Muhlberger	Margaret Turk
Tom Mullally	Beth Vaughan
Allison Nicolle	Nancy Waterfill
Olivia Niemczuk	Jack Weeks
Jack Nolen	Clark Weisner
Merideth Northcutt	Alice Wertheim
Lisbet Phillips	Paula White
Roy Pinkston	Susan Wood
Lynda Pollock	Sally Wright
Lenard Poole	Chuck Young
Bob Powell	Marlene Zwier



# The 200 Hour Club

In 2022, 24 volunteers donated over 200 hours of service to the Garden. Each of them received an origami folded crane lapel pin in recognition of this achievement.

1st Year

**Bev Adkins, Theresa McDugald**

2nd Year

**Jo Ann Bertrand, Paul Cushing, Lin Inlow, Marj Leinbaugh, Mikiko Lockwood**

3rd Year

**Elise Halpern**

4th Year

**Anne Boyte, Chris File, Agnes Miller-Landers, Marge Smith**

5th Year

**Bhavani Saravanan, Alice Soder**

6th Year

**Janet Cantrelle, Kathy Gallo**

7th Year

**Diane Korzeniewski, Jim Mallory**

9th Year

**Ann Bentsen, Sally Crowe, Charlotte Miller**

10th Year

**Roy Pinkston, Paula White**

11th Year

**Johnette Crum**

## The Roots of the Garden

### The Top Hours Award

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**Marge Smith**

**280 hours**

**Anne Boyte**

**300 hours**

**Diane Korzeniewski**

**320 hours**

**Chris File**

**325 hours**

**Janet Cantrelle**

**420 hours**

**Charlotte Miller**

**635 hours**

## Previous Volunteers of the Year

**1992**  
**Jim Fitts**

**1993**  
**Robin Shore**

**1994**  
**Harold Edwards**

**1995**  
**Sally Wright**

**1996**  
**Aileen Hatcher**

**1997**  
**Sig Guthman**

**1998**  
**Penny Huth**

**1999**  
**Jim Corley**

**2000**  
**Dolores Wyland**

**2001**  
**Bob Brennan**

**2002**  
**Ozzie Johnson**

**2003**  
**Lynn Lowrance**

**2004**  
**Minnie Bob Campbell**

**2005**  
**Merrily Labarthe**

**2006**  
**Ann Bentsen**

**2007**  
**Ernest Arvesen**

**2008**  
**Kathryn LaTour**

**2009**  
**Amelia Fusaro**

**2010**  
**Anne Sheldon**

**2011**  
**Christine Hettinger**

**2012**  
**Johnette Crum**

**2013**  
**Judie Taylor**

**2014**  
**Bob Holmes**

**2015**  
**Anita Wallace**

**2016**  
**Jack Nolen**

**2017**  
**Kathy Gallo**

**2018**  
**Charlotte Miller**

**2019**  
**Bob Nelson**

**2020**  
**Sally Crowe**

**2021**  
**Janet Cantrelle**

## Atlanta's Volunteers of the Month

### 2020

Carol Phillips  
Alice Soder  
Steve Kilgo  
Bobbie Kilgo  
Carrie Mayham  
Lauren Melde  
Lin Inlow  
Bhavani Saravanan  
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

### 2022

Jo Kroger  
Rosemary Cox  
Marge Smith  
Linda Hirsch  
Allison Nicolle  
Heather Tangren  
Paula White  
Kathryn LaTour  
Stan Bokoski  
Denise Siegel  
Penny Crump  
Deedi Henson

## Gainesville's Volunteers of the Quarter

### 2020

Bev Atkins  
Glen and Marie Cypher  
Tricia Terrell

### 2021

Cindy Hodge  
Maureen Smith  
Mikiko Lockwood  
Dan McDaniel

### 2022

Sally Walpole  
Jim Giambrone  
Martha and Dick Rightmyer

# Meet the Volunteers of the Month

## January Beth Vaughan



January's Volunteer of the Month Beth Vaughan started her Garden volunteer life as a Docent in October 2017. A retired teacher, she soon also signed on to help with children's programs and in the library, often leading storybook time. After attending a Docent Update program by Dr. Emily Coffey on the Garden's conservation and research programs, however, Beth decided **that** was the place for her, so these days she spends her volunteer time in the genetics lab, helping with things like lab projects for endangered plant species and curating the DNA Biorepository collection. A Centennial Club member for five years, Beth says "I'm proud to be a small part of the many ongoing projects and grants." Hats off to Beth for being such a vital part of the Garden's research efforts!

## February Karen Ahrens



After retiring from a career with the Federal Reserve, Karen Ahrens knew she needed to find a way to keep busy and productive. Exploring the many volunteer options at the nearby Botanical Garden, she found her niche with the Gardens under Glass staff, in particular the amphibian conservation program. "I just thought that would be fun!" Now the care and feeding of the Garden's frogs and other amphibians is "her thing" and she's a regular on Fridays, helping keep a ready supply of fruit flies and crickets and logging Centennial Clubs hours since 2018. Karen fills in on other days too, always ready to help with water testing, newt release, conferences...whatever is needed. The Garden thanks Karen for being a valued part of the amphibian team!

## March Paul Cushing



Paul Cushing may be a first time Volunteer of the Month, but his involvement with the Garden began decades ago. A fascination with orchids while in high school led him to spend time in the greenhouses, then managed by the City, that ultimately became the ABG. This curiosity led to a lifetime commitment to the Garden that went far beyond his fascination with orchids. As an attorney with the Garden's law firm, Paul became a trusted legal advisor, a member of the Garden's Board and now a Lifetime Trustee. Since retiring, Paul can devote more time to the nitty-gritty of the Garden's orchid collections, doing what he loves in the greenhouse two days a week, racking up over 200 hours already this year. A Centennial since 2018, he is a valued and incredibly knowledgeable behind the scenes orchid volunteer. The Garden cannot thank Paul enough for his lifetime of commitment and is proud to name him March Volunteer of the Month.

## April Anne Kerner



When Anne Kerner first started volunteering at the Garden in 2018, she had no idea how much fun she would have digging, trimming and weeding every week. "I should be doing this in my own yard but it's much more enjoyable here!" Learning from the staff makes all that sweat worthwhile, she says with a laugh. A Centennial volunteer for the last two years, Anne looks forward to her weekly shifts with a great group of GEMS who have become close friends. They've recently taken OKRA training together and can't wait to help with their first event in the Outdoor Kitchen. The horticulture team says, "Anne is one of our best! We can always depend on her to arrive with a smile and a can-do attitude. The staff and her fellow GEMS love her!" No doubt, the feeling is mutual. For that positive attitude and trademark smile, Anne is saluted as April's Volunteer of the Month.

## Meet the Volunteers of the Month

May  
Sandra Jones



May's Volunteer of the Month Sandra Jones never knew she'd be introduced to frog legs when she started volunteering at the Garden! It was fall 2020 when she signed on as a GEM in the Children's Garden. Shifts with Garden Lights then other special events followed before Sandra found her favorite role as an OKRA. "I'm not a very good cook so this has really enhanced my knowledge about food preparation! Plus I get to meet some of Atlanta's most outstanding chefs who have introduced me to some very different foods," she says with a smile. "One chef prepared frog legs as one of his courses...I would never have tried them if not for this opportunity!" They do taste like chicken, she admits. The staff says they are lucky to have her around. Thanks, Sandra, for being willing to try new things as part of the Garden's volunteer team!

June  
Gale D. Thomas



Gale D. Thomas brings a love of plants, a wealth of knowledge and a joy of sharing that knowledge to her volunteer duties at the Botanical Garden. A retired mental health professional and educator, she started in 2014 on the Plant Hotline, as a greeter and docent and later with several flower shows and special events. This Master Gardener soon decided, however, that her true calling was with the Plant Hotline. Every week she patiently answers all kinds of plant questions that come in via calls, emails and, even occasionally, in person. Garden staffers value her tremendous knowledge of the plant world. This Centennial volunteer also now writes the Plant Hotline column for Clippings, the membership newsletter. The Garden gratefully salutes Gale D. Thomas for sharing her knowledge and her enthusiasm with Garden visitors!

Gainesville Second Quarter  
Susan Hurley



Susan Hurley has been volunteering with the Gainesville Garden for just under a year. This Master Gardener began as a lobby greeter and with special events then quickly added many other roles. She is always eager and excited to learn new things and help out whenever and however she can, most recently in the Conservation Safeguarding Nursery. In eleven months of volunteering, she has already donated over 160 hours of her time and is a delight to have around. "What I like most about volunteering is watching our visitors experience the same pleasure I feel when walking through the Garden paths. I love sharing their enthusiasm!" Thanks, Susan, for jumping in as a valued volunteer in Gainesville!

Gainesville Third Quarter  
Stan Ray



Stan Ray is fairly new to the Gainesville Garden but is a long-time member and volunteer at the Atlanta Garden. "I met Ann Crammond, an early director of ABG, in 1980 and was inspired by her vision of a world-class botanical center. Shortly thereafter my wife and I became members and often visited the Garden and participated in events as it grew from its early beginnings," explains Stan. Retiring in 2020, he began volunteering at Atlanta's Garden Lights event before moving to Gainesville in 2022, joining the volunteer ranks as a greeter at the Gainesville Garden. The staff values his welcoming manner, calling him a "positive force" and "the gold standard of greeters." Thanks for joining us, Stan!

# What's Growing in Gainesville

By Jenny Stephens  
Gainesville Volunteer Coordinator



The Gainesville Garden is in full bloom right now---so lush and vibrant. The summer exhibit is lending quite a big hand to that with its beautiful colors. If you haven't been to Gainesville to see **La Calavera Catrina**, please do; the last day for the exhibit is August 27th. The artist, Ricardo Soltero, was at the Garden for Lite Bites. He is an amazing artist and a genuinely nice guy. Members were able to ask many questions about his work and life, as well as take a stroll with him through the Garden looking at each of the ladies.

Our summer exhibit is a great lead in for our Scarecrows this fall. Members of the community will be able to construct pieces related to La Calavera Catrina or Dia de Los Muertos to display in the Garden throughout the month of October. We can hardly wait to see all the creative designs.

July was a big month for Gainesville with our final **Fairy Tale Friday** on July 14. It was quite a treat to see so many young visitors dress up as princesses, princes, dragons and such. They had a blast participating in the Fairy parade with music and bubbles and so many smiles and giggles. The volunteers loved it just as much.

**Garden Magic Camp** was also in July. The goal of the **Garden Magic Camp** was to foster a fun creative environment for kids to get excited about the science and magic of nature with STEM-based activities. Our Education Coordinator Rebecca Abdou had so many great activities planned for the campers. She was assisted by several volunteers who were ready for the fun as well.

August brings the 2023 Great Southeast Pollinator Census, counting pollinators throughout Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina on August 18 and 19. The Great Southeast Pollinator Census is a citizen science project created by the University of Georgia. Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina residents will be counting all of the pollinators that they can find in their gardens, neighborhoods and habitats. This event is a great opportunity to learn more about the different types of pollinators in our environment.

Our parking expansion should be completed by the end of fall. We are excited about all of the possibilities that will open up for us, from expanded programming to the return of concerts. It's looking like 2024 will be a great year for the Gainesville Garden.

News from the Volunteers at

## Atlanta Botanical Garden, Gainesville

By Diane Korzeniewski



### Getting to the other side of FREEZE damage.

This has been the topic of conversation about our personal yards, ABG, and pretty much wherever we go this summer. I got questions about damaged gardenias while swimming laps at the pool the other day. Cannot escape it. We came out of it, slowly. It has been rewarding to see growth sprouting from the ground and green leaves out of bare branches. Some plants just aren't themselves bloom-wise this year. We are all in the same boat, so there is a certain amount of camaraderie developed from this bad experience. Here at the Gainesville Garden this spring, we just pitched dead plants from the nursery. Ethan climbed the dumpster to push them in. It was sure sad to see them go, but we're looking forward to new plants growing and filling the empty spaces.



Now it's the hot summer, with its own set of challenges. Volunteers have stayed busy as we got ready for summer: changing out display pots, potting, weeding, and answering visitor questions...yes, sometimes about the Big Chill! Children's activities are increasing and Members' Day was a big hit. Garden life goes on, even without hydrangea blooms.

# Docent Doings

**By Allison Nicolle  
2023 Docent Chair**



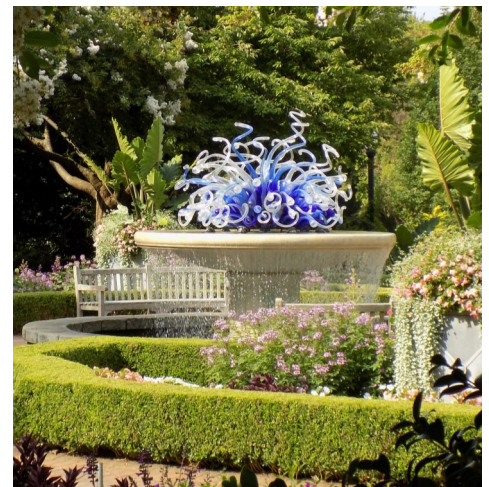
It has been so nice to see the Garden tours, programs and events return to a new normal following three years of COVID-related disruptions. With the increase in tours, it has been especially nice to welcome new children's docents and to help them feel more confident in their new roles. The wonderful new docents that I have worked with have all been understandably nervous and concerned about how to remember all the content and ask the right questions while being friendly and energetic, maintaining order, and keeping to the time constraints. I remember being a new docent and having those same feelings. It is a lot to juggle. For those of us who have been leading tours for a while, I think we would all agree that every group is different so flexibility is the key. For a lot of the children who come on a school tour, it is probably the first time they have been to the Garden, and their excitement is contagious. Although we try our best to teach students a few new things about plants, it's equally important to build on their enthusiasm even if we don't cover all the facts.

Over time, every docent develops their own style and approach to leading tours. We are also a group that is constantly learning. The docent program provides many opportunities for continuing education. First and foremost, the Garden staff members are a wonderful educational resource. Staffers are very generous in sharing their expertise through formal presentations, leading tours of various areas of the Garden, or stopping and answering questions informally. Our regular field trips are also opportunities to learn more about other cultural venues and natural environments in our broader community. And of course, we also learn from each other. As docents, we are a group of people with interesting backgrounds and a wide range of talents and life experiences. We are also a group that enjoys socializing. I can't think of a better way to learn something or meet someone new than over a sandwich, dessert or a cup of tea.

Welcome new docents! I hope you are enjoying your experiences so far, and I'm sure many of you are discovering that being a docent is as enriching to you as it undoubtedly is to the people on your tours.



**SUMMER  
AT THE  
GARDEN**



# NOTES FROM MARY PAT

INSIGHTS FROM MARY PAT MATHESON  
THE ANN AND HAYS Mershon President & CEO



Josh thought it might be interesting for me to share with volunteers a bit about some of my recent travels. I will admit that my role as CEO has provided so many remarkable opportunities to travel the world and see extraordinary natural areas and botanical gardens. I travel for the Garden for multiple reasons – to join donors on our annual domestic and international trips, to attend conferences and to seek out new ideas and exhibitions that might make sense for our Garden.

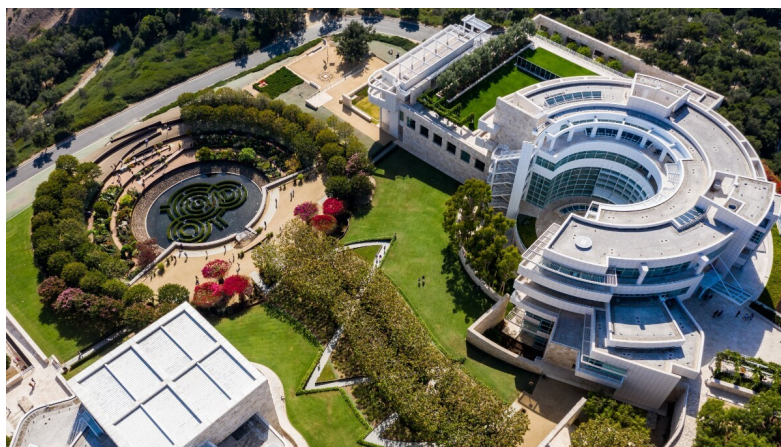
In May, I enjoyed a wonderful donor trip to Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. The first day we enjoyed the marvelous Getty Museum and its Robert Irwin gardens. While the museum itself is filled with gems and beautiful artwork, we were there to focus on the gardens which are whimsical and beautiful. The lower parterre of azaleas sits crisply in a circular pool of water and is enhanced by Irwin's Corten steel trees covered in bougainvillea. I highly recommend a visit to anyone heading to the LA area.

The next day we headed to the Huntington which is a stunning and joyful garden and museum. It was so memorable to me, as I visited their succulent garden over 30 years ago and remembered my wide-eyed stupor at its moonlike atmosphere and massive clusters of golden barrel cacti. It was like visiting another world that was filled with succulent plants of all colors, shapes and textures. It is still mind blowing to this day!

We also enjoyed a brisk walk through the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden with colleague and CEO Steve Winegar who gave us an enthusiastic and informative tour of their native flora. It's a special place where native plants tell the story and the beautiful natural features of the Santa Barbara foothills just enhance the experience.

Of course, any of these trips include foods of the region as well as the diversity of wines one would expect. Truly, there is nothing better than blending our love of gardens, plants, food, wine, regional culture and dear friends all into one trip.

In September, we will travel to Portugal which has become a tourist mecca in recent years and next spring, Morocco. Imagine the history, local culture and diverse landscapes we will see in each country. Perhaps a short slide presentation will show up at one of our future volunteer events, with a promise to keep it short!



*The Getty Center (above)  
Succulents at The Huntington (below)*



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