



## **Congratulations to these Volunteers Of the Month**

July  
**Jeanne Muhlberger**

August  
**Debbie Newsholme**

September  
**Alice Pugh**

October  
**Patricia Robinson**

November  
**Elaine Hentschel**

December  
**Stephanie Cooper**

## **And to Gainesville's Volunteer of the Quarter**

**Amy Rothenberg**

## **Thanks For Giving Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**

**Saturday, March 2  
11:30 a.m.**

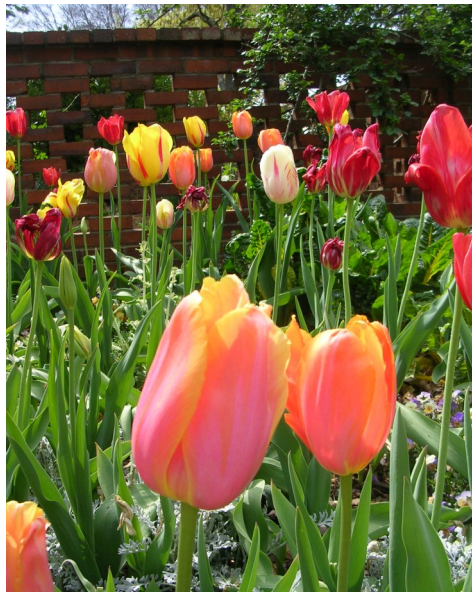
**Day Hall**

All volunteers are invited and  
are welcome to bring a guest.

### **RSVP:**

<https://atlantabg.wufoo.com/forms/thanks-for-giving-2024-rsvp>

## **Volunteer Opportunities Abound As Spring Approaches**



Looking for ways to start logging  
volunteer hours for 2024?

Even though it may be winter  
outside, the Garden is busy, with a  
number of events and activities  
coming up needing volunteers.  
Orchid Daze runs through April 14,  
the Flower Show is February 23-  
25, Vanilla Sunday (always fun!) is  
March 3, and there are spring  
break activities scheduled

April 1 through 5.

Contact Josh Todd to  
sign up to help.

Then before you know it,  
*Alice's Wonderland Returns*  
opens May 11!

## Meet the Volunteers of the Month

### July 2023 Jeanne Muhlberger



A Plant Hotline volunteer since November 2013, Jeanne Muhlberger has spoken and emailed with literally thousands through the years, patiently answering their questions and sharing Garden information and garden advice. Jeanne eagerly brags on the Garden's first class Hort Team, to whom she often goes for answers.

A knowledgeable Master Gardener herself, Jeanne regularly takes horticulture classes at UGA and is, in fact, a Certified Plant Professional. A Centennial volunteer since 2015, she enjoys being part of the team of volunteers at the Garden which offers "the best volunteer program ever!" For sharing her knowledge with so many, the Garden honors Jeanne as July Volunteer of the Month.

### August 2023 Debbie Newsholme



After a 51 year working career in health care education, Debbie Newsholme was ready for a change. She knew she needed to find a way to stay busy and productive so soon joined the Junior League of Atlanta where volunteering is a mission. Placement with ABG piqued her interest right away and led to a meeting with Josh Todd.

That was 2022. Today Debbie co-chairs JLA's Garden group of 38 volunteers, regularly helping Ally Pratt with her Family Programs, as a Docent, in Discovery Stations and starting soon in the Membership Office. Last year she logged 190 hours, and she loved every minute. For making the Garden such a big part of her retirement life, Debbie is saluted as August Volunteer of the Month.

### September 2023 Alice Pugh



A smiling face around the Garden since 2006, Alice Pugh doesn't know how to say "no"... which puts her in good company among Garden volunteers and makes her one of Josh Todd's favorite people! A regular and trusted docent and greeter for years, she remains always ready to help with events like Garden Lights, Scarecrows, Kinder in the Garden and family programs galore always with a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her face. A Centennial since 2008 and Volunteer of the Month back in 2012, she has proven to be one of the Garden's most reliable, energetic and beloved volunteers and so is recognized again as September's Volunteer of the Month.

### October 2023 Patricia Robinson



Patricia Robinson started her Garden volunteer life in 2018 as a Greeter. "I loved welcoming visitors to 'our' Garden!" It wasn't long before she branched out, training as an OKRA, then for Discovery Stations and, just this past year, as a Docent, recording enough hours to be in Centennial Club every year since 2018. These days she gives tours regularly, works Discovery Stations and Outdoor Kitchen evenings and especially loves working events like the Garden of Eden Ball and Garden Lights. "I am an expert at s'mores!" she laughs. For always being cheerful, engaging, positive and fun to be around, Patricia is named October's Volunteer of the Month.



## Meet the Volunteers of the Month

November 2023  
Elaine Hentschel



Elaine Hentschel never meets a stranger. Long a member at the Garden, two years ago she joined the volunteer ranks and found the role that was perfect for her as Garden Greeter, welcoming visitors every Tuesday with her trademark smile. Training for Discovery Stations followed, as a good way to learn more about the Garden, and she now fills in there as well, logging enough hours to earn Centennial status each year. Always engaging and helpful, Elaine enjoys meeting Garden visitors from all over the world. She has a knack for connecting with visitors and making them feel special. The Garden salutes Elaine for being such a welcoming ambassador!

December 2023  
Stephanie Cooper



Stephanie Cooper and her husband moved to Atlanta two years ago from Seattle knowing little about their new city except that family here needed them. A gift of tickets to see Garden Lights brought them to the Botanical Garden, and Stephanie says that's when she fell in love with Storza Woods. Shortly thereafter she learned that she could actually volunteer at the Garden, and "I haven't left since!" Now she's a devoted GEM twice a week, thankful that "in spite of my complete inability to identify plants or weeds that I'm asked to pull or trim, they still let me come back!" For her delightful sense of humor and adventure, the Garden names Stephanie as December's Volunteer of the Month.

Gainesville's  
Volunteer of the Quarter  
Amy Rothenberg



Amy Rothenberg began volunteering with the Gainesville Garden's Conservation team in January 2023. She has volunteered with Special Events a time or two, but her main focus has been assisting at the Conservation site. Her dedication, determination, and reliability are through the roof, and it shows in all that she does. In less than one year, Amy has given almost 250 hours of her time to the Garden. We are so happy to have Amy a part of our Gainesville volunteer force.



Remembering  
Jennifer Fuller  
1949-2024

The Garden lost a special friend and volunteer with the passing of Jennifer Fuller on January 11 after a short illness. She will be missed by all who knew her.



# Docent Doings

**By Allison Nicolle**  
**2023-24 Docent Chair**

As docents, we enjoy leading groups of children, teens and adults around the Garden. We share our botanical knowledge and point out interesting facts about the plants in our collection. Our goal is for the guests to enjoy their experience and to hopefully also learn something new. For some of our visitors it may be the first time they have ever been to a botanical garden, whereas others may be experienced gardeners and plant enthusiasts. We try our best to adapt our tours to the audience and accommodate their requests along the way. At the end of a tour, we may get a feeling about how the tour went, however, unless they tell us, we don't really know how successful the tour was from the visitor's perspective.

In preparation for writing this article, I asked the staff if they could share any feedback that they had received from tour groups. They said that although there wasn't a large volume of feedback, overwhelmingly the comments were very positive. For example, one corporate group said, "Thank you so much for a wonderful day. Our tour guide made the experience absolutely incredible. We will all be back soon." A high school group said, "Thank you from the staff and students. The tour was amazing!" And, from an elementary school group, "Such a great tour. The kids were engaged and really enjoyed it."

I know our docents take their tour guiding responsibilities very seriously. Through the regular Docent Update meetings, refresher courses, lectures, and independent study, we are continuously learning and hopefully adding to the visitors' experiences. It's nice to hear that we are making a positive impact.



## Docent Training Now Underway

The nine-class training for new adult and children's Docent began January 17 and will conclude March 13. The new group of volunteers will be ready to begin shadowing shortly thereafter.

Welcome to the new  
Garden Docents!

## OKRA Training March 23

The training session for Outdoor Kitchen Resource Assistants for the coming season will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. until noon. OKRA volunteers assist during weekday evening cooking classes, weekend afternoon cooking demonstrations and at food-centered Garden events. OKRA volunteers are asked to help with two shifts each month during the season, running April through October.



Contact Josh Todd if interested.



# What's Growing in Gainesville

By Jenny Stephens  
Gainesville Volunteer Coordinator

## Looking Back...And Looking Forward!

The Gainesville Garden closed out its sixth year of Scarecrows in the Garden at the end of October. The theme was **Día de Muertos**, following the likeness of the 2023 spring/summer exhibit of **La Calavera Catrina**. Community members and businesses did not disappoint with their designs, with each of them being so colorful and wonderfully creative.

As we moved further into the last quarter of the year, we welcomed back the Holiday Tree Trail for the fifth year. "*My Favorite Things*" was the theme for this year's tree designs. The trees were spectacular!

Another big hit during the holiday season at the Gainesville Garden was the *Hops & Holly: Wreath Making* class. It is one of our most popular classes and sells out quickly. The attendees always have a grand and festive time as they create their own evergreen decoration for their home while listening to fun music and enjoying a cold can of "Hops."

The Gainesville Garden's parking expansion is nearing completion. We are excited to welcome guests back in 2024 for newer and larger events. It's been a long process but the outcome is certain to be as beautiful as the rest of the Garden.

Make plans to come see us for our next exhibit: artist Alex Heveri's *Glass in Flight*, a beautiful display of glass and metal sculptures, that opens April 27. The year 2024 is shaping up to be a big one for the Gainesville Garden!

## News from the Volunteers at Atlanta Botanical Garden, Gainesville

By Diane Korzeniewski



## Wrapping Up 2023 and Getting Ready for 2024

We had a lot of visitors during the Katrina exhibit during the summer and they continued to come to see the fall scarecrows. Many were first time visitors. Docents, wayfarers, greeters, and garden ambassadors got a lot of positive feedback from visitors. We are already looking forward to the 2024 season!

The last of the summer beds and containers are gone, and the plants are tucked in for cold weather, which we are having plenty of. Staff and volunteers have picked up a million acorns (well, maybe not quite so many, but it seems like a million).

The Garden Weasel nut gatherer is one of our favorite tools for the task.

At last the parking lot is just about ready. It includes an edible garden and got its first crop planted recently: garlic. Greenhouse has been increasing its rain lily inventory. We have divided and potted lots of them. Tell all your friends how cool rain lilies are, because we will have lots of them at the plant sale!

Volunteers enjoyed the Volunteer Lunch on Saturday, November 11. Great food, great company, great door prizes and awards. A good time was had by all! Mildred updated us on future events which look very exciting.

Our Holiday Tree Trail was a big hit with visitors through the holidays, and now the New Year is upon us! We are thinking spring! We planted lots of tulip bulbs and are anxious to see them bloom.

The foliage is peeking out already!

We have welcomed a number of new volunteers already this year. As the Garden has grown, so has the need for good volunteers. We're looking forward to the return of concerts in the Garden. At the Volunteer Luncheon, Mildred reported they have submitted a list of possible performers and will see who they come up with. One of the volunteers suggested Taylor Swift; Mildred said she'd be sure to add her name to the list. Always a good time volunteering! We work hard but have some good laughs and make good friends as well.

The plant sale is coming up and we've been busy getting ready. Come see us and get some wonderful new plants!



## ***Check It Out:***

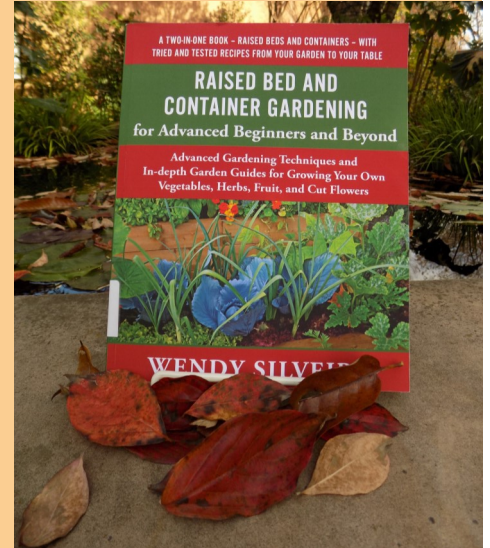
# **New Finds in the Garden's Sheffield Library**

By Michelle Li, Library Volunteer

## **RAISED BED AND CONTAINER GARDENING FOR ADVANCED BEGINNERS AND BEYOND**

by Wendy Silveira

Atlanta is, as they say, full. As more and more condominiums and townhouses appear in the city, it's become increasingly important, if one has a green thumb or aspires to it, to learn how to garden in small spaces. Silveira's book thoroughly covers raised bed and container gardening for those of us who have moved past drop-ins picked up from big box stores. Of interest is the chapter covering hügelkultur, a German raised bed technique that utilizes garden waste like clippings, twigs, and trimmings to make a mound on which your soil sits. As the season wears on, the mound slowly decomposes, providing heat to your plants, as well as acting as a water regulator for those times when Atlanta gets a week straight of rain or three weeks of nothing at all. It seems like a must-try for deck and patio gardens.



## **THE NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL GARDEN: DESIGNS THAT ENGAGE WITH WILDLIFE AND NATURE**

by Kathryn Bradley-Hole

Nature changes, and so do beliefs. Growing in popularity is the idea that our living spaces must work in tandem with the natural world instead of forcing it into order. This book is a feast for the eyes, featuring full-color photos on every single page and highlighting incredible gardens—and biomes—around the world. While it is not a guide on how to help create wildlife corridors and oases for the animals and insects in our areas, it does serve as an inspiration and aesthetic North Star to what our gardens, however large or small, could become.



*From the backlist...*

## **EDIBLE FLOWERS: FROM GARDEN TO PALATE**

by Cathy Wilkenson Barash

Sometimes, the oldies are the goodies—and in this case, this book about edible flowers remains an excellent source of wisdom (and recipes) for those of us who are looking to incorporate more flowers into our food. Barash includes not just recipes for cooking or garnishing with flowers but also gives advice on how to create flower oils, vodkas, vinegars, and other infusions, like flower sugar, flower jelly, and flower butter. Despite some recipes that use dated language (Oriental, for example), the book is a useful addition to the shelf.

