ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN



Summer 2024

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN VOLUNTEERS



Congratulations to these Volunteers Of the Month

January **Amber Malloy**

February **Hayes Doane**

March Wanda Bokoski

April **Tom Baydala**

And to Gainesville's Volunteer of the Quarter

Mike Hogan

Marge Smith Named 2023 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. At this year's festive luncheon, the Garden proudly named Marge Smith as the 2023 Volunteer of the Year.

Marge started volunteering as a docent when the Children's Garden was opening in 1999, 25 years ago. She also spent some time with the horticulture department as a Garden Maintenance volunteer and at the reception and information desk in those early years. During that time, the Garden was renovating the Gift Shop, which caught her eye. Marge found her spot in that Gift Shop where she volunteers to this day, every Tuesday. She says "I love being in the Gift Shop because people share their excitement about their visit and what a beautiful Garden we have...and I couldn't agree more!"



Marge also now helps as an administrative volunteer in the Volunteer Office where she mastered the database and procedures, saving me countless hours a week! She inputs new volunteer applications, monthly hours and all of the awards, along with updating records. Her past work as a bookkeeper and accountant makes

Marge the perfect fit for this role.

A Centennial volunteer since 2001, she is a three-time Volunteer of the Month, donated 200+ hours in 2004, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2022, and 2023 and was a Root of the Garden in 2004. She loves traveling, visiting other Gardens, and of course checking out those gift shops along the way. Congratulations and thanks to Marge for her years of service to the Garden!

Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Jo Ann Bertrand

The Garden's Lifetime Achievement Award is not an annual award. In fact, in the Garden's 48 year history, there have only been eight members inducted into this special club. The award is reserved for volunteers who not only provide outstanding service to the Garden but who continue that service for years without fail and is only presented when a volunteer truly stands alone in his or her support, reliability and commitment to the Garden over the course of decades. This year at the March 2 Thanks for Giving luncheon, that special recognition was presented to longtime volunteer Jo Ann Bertrand.

Jo Ann began her service in the Conservatory in 1995, only a few years after it opened, under the tutelage of Stephanie Van Parys and Ron Gagliardo. Among the first roles was a 7:00am to 8:30am Tuesday sweeping shift before the Conservatory doors opened for the day, and she later added watering the plants in the lobby, feeding the birds, repotting plants, and taming the vines. After the departure of Stephanie and Ron, she has continued to volunteer with David in the Greenhouses, John in the Conservation Greenhouses, and Paul in the Conservatory.



David Ruland states: "For as long as I can remember, she has always been a steadfast supporter of the Garden and our mission with an especially strong devotion to the Conservatory. Her volunteer work in the Gardens Under Glass has taken many twists and turns over the years with new staff and assignments, and she has always stepped up to the challenge and happily helped where needed. She has also built lasting friendships with all of the staff, past

and present, with her caring demeanor and the occasional breakroom treats that go a long way in brightening our day."

John Evans adds: "Always kind, willing to share, and eager to learn, she is a pleasure to work with. I hope to have many more years of working with her and hope that we give her as much as she gives us."

And Paul Blackmore says: "I have known Jo Ann since I started at the Garden in 2003 when she was my very first volunteer. She is an enthusiastic member of our team with a positive, 'let's get it done' attitude toward all projects, big and small, and is one of the most committed volunteers I have ever encountered. She has also made significant donations to the Garden, in particular during the Orangerie renovation in 2005. She donated the funds to purchase all new pots that year. I would be hard pressed to think of a more deserving candidate for this prestigious award."

For 30 years of service to the Garden, and for the friendships and the lives she touched, we proudly salute Jo Ann Bertrand with the 2024 Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Garden's Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees



1997 Flossie Dodge

1998 Marjorie Bolen

> 2000 Alex Hitz

2003 Sig Guthman

2007 Jim Corley

2010 Sally Wright

2013 Kathryn LaTour

2019 Nancy Waterfill

2024 Jo Ann Bertrand

Centennial Club

Congratulations to our 2023 Centennial Club Class!

Each member receives a library card to check out books from the Sheffield Botanical Library, a coupon for 50% off one 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 the Garden couldn't do all that we do without each of you.

Bev Adkins Aliya Aguirre Karen Ahrens Yvonne Arrington Erin Ash Tom Bavdala Ann Bentsen Jo Ann Bertrand Peggy Black Stan Bokoski Wanda Bokoski Denise Bomberger Ann Bonislawski Anne Boyte Pat Bras Kathy Bronaugh Joan Brown Shawn Burns Janet Cantrelle **Bret Carruthers Bettie Cheek** Jerry Jones Clark Kim Cody Jeremy Cohen Stephanie Cooper **Christine Cotter** Rosemary Cox Sally Crowe Johnette Crum Penny Crump Cathy Curley Paul Cushing Jessica Dark Laura Deming **Debbie Demoss** Hayes Doane

Donna Doetsch

Jenny Fierro

Tatyana Fershtat

Chris File Jana Flury Mary Flynt **Bob Fox** Cyndy Franklin Rick Fritz Kathy Gallo Vince Gallo Jim Giambrone Pat Gianelloni Barrie Gibby Eve Goldstein Elise Halpern Mary Ann Hart **Donnie Hayes** Stacy Heath Deedi Henson Elaine Hentschel Sally Hilton Linda Hirsch **Bob Holmes** Louise Horney Susan Hurley Regina Imbsweiler Lin Inlow Sandra Jones Gene Kalin Cindy Kelly Sheri Kennedy Anne Kerner Steve Kilgo Kathryn King Diane Korzeniewski Jo Kroger Ling-Ju Lai Keelan Lang Carolyn Lantelme Kathryn LaTour

Mary Lawton

Marj Leinbaugh Randi Lewis Mark Lewis Katie Lindquist Mikki Lockwood Ning Lu Claudia Macdonald Ken MacLean Jim Mallory **Amber Malloy** Lynn Malone Laura Martin Carrie Mayhan Mike McDonough Theresa McDugald Bill McMahan Barbara McRoberts **Angie Meadows** Burrelle S. Meeks Charlotte Miller Agnes Miller Landers **Greg Mills** Jeanne Muhlberger Barb Musolf Pat Musolf Debbie Newsholme Bruce Newton Allison Nicolle Olivia Niemczuk Jack Nolen Merideth Northcutt Carolyn Packard Teresa Parrish Venetia Perry Lisbet Phillips Roy Pinkston Lynda Pollock Lenard Poole **Bob Powell**

Alice Pugh Rebecca Rahm Stan Rav Patricia Robinson Amy Rothenberg Andrea Rutherfoord Bhavani Saravanan Rachel Scott Denise Siegel Susan Slemenda Marge Smith David Smith Alice Soder Raenell Soller Holly Sparrow Heidi Stani-Wolski Michael Stanley Judy Steffy Renee Steineke Larry Strain Sa Su Tricia Sung Heather Tangren Margaret Turk Trace Ussery Beth Vaughan Ken Vesey Sally Walpole Lu Wang Nancy Waterfill Jack Weeks Clark Weisner Alice Wertheim Paula White Jaye Wojohn Susan Wood Sally Wright Chuck Young Loretta Zusel Marlene Zwier

The 200 Hour Club

Since 2011, we've had 160 volunteers give over 200 hours of service at least once. For 2023, 30 volunteers achieved this measure of service, an all-time record!



1st Year

Jerry Jones Clark, Stephanie Cooper, Jim Giambrone, Sheri Kennedy, Barb Musolf, Debbie Newsholme, Amy Rothenberg

2nd Year

Bev Adkins, Penny Crump, Theresa McDugald

3rd Year

Paul Cushing, Lin Inlow, Marj Leinbaugh, Mikiko Lockwood

4th Year

Elise Halpern

5th Year

Chris File, Agnes Miller-Landers, Marge Smith, Clark Weisner, Marlene Zwier

6th Year

Bhavani Saravanan

7th Year

Janet Cantrelle, Kathy Gallo

8th Year

Diane Korzeniewski, Jim Mallory

9th Year

Susan Slemenda

10th Year

Sally Crowe, Charlotte Miller

11th Year

Roy Pinkston

12th Year

Johnette Crum

The Roots of the Garden The Top Hours Award

Diane Korzeniewski

With 335 hours, the top hours in the Gainesville Program in 2023, Diane has now earned her third Roots Award. Starting in 2005, ten years before the Gainesville Garden was even open to the public, she has made Centennial Club every year. She also is a 200+ hours volunteer for the past nine years, a Volunteer of the Month in 2012, and a Volunteer of the Quarter for Gainesville in 2018. She received the second ever Volunteer of the Year award from Gainesville in 2019. Helping out in the Greenhouses and with events, she also writes the Gainesville section for the volunteer newsletter.

Chris File

With 345 hours, Chris started volunteering in 2012 in the Orchid Center, an easy fit for this Orchid Specialist whose love of these plants came from her mother who regularly won blue ribbons for her orchids and had "the greenest thumb of anyone I've ever known," Chris says. She added the docent role in 2018 and is one of our go-to docents for Orchid Center tours. She has helped on docent committees, including the cookbook group and the food committee. A Centennial since 2013, 200+ hours in '17, '18, '19, '22 and '23, and a Volunteer of the Month in both 2013 and 2021, Chris this year earns her third Roots award, having received the distinction in 2019 and 2022.

Paul Cushing

With 347 hours and receiving his first Roots Award, Paul started volunteering decades ago, while in high school, with the City of Atlanta Greenhouses on the property that later became part of the Atlanta Botanical Garden in 1976. Developing a fascination with plants, it led him back to the Garden Volunteer program in 2017. He regularly volunteers two days a week in the greenhouses and with the orchid collection in particular. He also served as an attorney with the Garden's law firm, later joined the Board and is now a Lifetime Trustee. Paul is a regular member of the 200-plus hour club and was the Garden's Volunteer of the Month for March 2023.

Janet Cantrelle

With 536 hours last year, Janet began volunteering in April 2016 in the Discovery and Garden Maintenance roles and also helped with the Chihuly glass cleaning that summer. She now spends her time in the Woodlands for GEM duty and chatting with visitors on the Tree ID and Amphibian Discovery Stations. She also leads tours as a Docent and tends to plants and displays in the Orchid Center and even helps with exhibit install in that space. She is a regular Centennial, a 200+ hour volunteer since 2017, a Root of the Garden the past 7 years, a Volunteer of the Month in both 2017 and 2021 and the Garden's Volunteer of the Year for 2021.

Charlotte Miller

With 547 hours, earning her ninth Roots Award, Charlotte goes beyond the call of duty as she volunteers for nearly every staff member and department. Beyond her usual roles as a Docent, Garden Maintenance volunteer, Discovery volunteer, class assistant, amphibian and greenhouse volunteer, along with many others, she also helps tremendously with events from the membership and development department, like the Garden of Eden Ball. Starting as a volunteer in 2013, she has made Centennial Club every year and 200+ hours since 2014, providing over 5000 hours of service over the past 11 years. She is a two-time Volunteer of the Month in 2015 and 2018, and our Volunteer of the Year for 2018.

Meet the Volunteers of the Month

January 2024 Amber Malloy



With an ever-present smile and bubbly sense of humor, Amber Malloy brings energy, enthusiasm and a can-do attitude to her role as a Garden GEM. A proud first year Centennial volunteer, she is a devoted Master Gardener with an impressive plant knowledge who often treks through fields and woods leading plant rescues with the Native Plant Society. Her enthusiasm is infectious, and staffers say she dedicates herself to whatever task she's given, often staying hours after staff has gone for the day. For her positive and professional attitude, her dedication, incredible knowledge and all-around sense of fun, the Garden salutes Amber as January Volunteer of the Month.

February 2024 Hayes Doane



A longtime Garden member, last year Hayes Doane spotted a posting for docent training in Clippings and decided the time was right to get involved as a volunteer. Soon she was happily leading tours for children and adults, accruing Centennial hours in that first year. With a background in education, Hayes has also become a valued helper with children's programs. Described by staff as "a happy spirit who can take the pulse of a class and get large groups settled with grace and authority", she is a natural at interacting with the students in a positive, fun way. With a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her face, Hayes has become a valued volunteer in just a short time and so is recognized as February Volunteer of the Month.

March 2024 Wanda Bokoski



One of the Garden's most devoted and valued volunteers, Wanda Bokoski has been a fixture at the Garden since 2003 when she first signed on as a docent. Through the years, she has led hundreds, if not thousands, of school tours and has been a regular helper with countless events and children's programs. This Perennial Centennial has endeared herself to staff and other volunteers alike with her willingness to tackle any task, always with a smile and a word of encouragement. Some of her favorite roles lately have been with family programs like Storybook Time and Young Sprouts. Staff has come to depend on Wanda and her positive energy and neverending enthusiasm to save the day. The Garden gratefully honors Wanda for her years of smiles and service and names her, for the third time, Volunteer of the Month.

April 2024 Tom Baydala



Tom Baydala is one of those volunteers who always goes above and beyond. What's a little rain (or a deluge) when you are counted on to unload an 18 wheeler of plants on a recent Tuesday? Horticulture staff says this long-time GEM never hesitates to pitch in, always with a smile, a joke and a laugh. Long a vegetable gardener, Tom began volunteering in the Edible Garden in 2017 and has been a Centennial ever since. A man of many interests from cooking and baking, especially his grandmother's pierogies, to stamp collecting, birdwatching, traveling and especially anything involving the grandchildren, Tom is by all accounts husband, father, grandfather and friend extraordinaire. The Garden staff calls Tom a volunteer extraordinaire and salutes him, for the second time, as Volunteer of the Month.



By Jenny Stephens Gainesville Volunteer Coordinator



Spring has quickly turned to summer here at the Gainesville Garden with so many beautiful blooms on display. Everyone is always excited about our What's in Bloom display. Our horticulture team puts together five gorgeous blooms from the Garden each week that offer all guests a small peek at what our beautiful garden has to show, from beautiful scarlet red Crocosmia 'Lucifer' to the amazing Stokesia laevis 'Purple Parasols'. Guests are so excited to learn a little about each of these blooms and see them out in the Garden as they take their stroll.

Our Education Coordinator has been hard at work producing amazing crafts and activities for our younger Garden guests. From Homeschool Workshops to Girl Scout Badge Day to Curious Saturdays, you will always find something for children to do at the Gainesville Garden. Fairytale Fridays are back on the second Friday of the month May through July. In July, we will be holding our one-week Garden Magic Camp. It's always a delight to see the amazement in a youngster's curious eyes as they discover new things about the Garden.

Now that the parking lot expansion is complete, we can begin to utilize it for the many larger events that are in the works, including our two concerts this fall. **Shawn Colvin and Keb' Mo'** will be performing on September 29 and **Old Crow Medicine Show** will be on October 11. We are excited to welcome guests back to the garden for concerts after taking a hiatus during the pandemic.

We just hosted our first annual **JuneFest**, a celebration of June blooms and pollinators. A grand time was had by all, from so many new visitors to guests we see regularly. The activities and entertainment did not disappointment. Some activities throughout the event included performances in the Children's Garden by Miss Gail & the Jumping Jam Band to a wandering bubble fairy to demonstrations about beekeeping and monarch butterflies.

As a reminder, lasting through October 13th, artist Alex Heveri's exhibit of **Glass in Flight** will be on display in the Garden. Guests will be wonderstruck by the magnificent glass and steel sculptures, from bees to dragonflies to hummingbirds. There will certainly be something on display to grab anyone and everyone's attention.

Come out and visit us in Gainesville!

News from the Volunteers at

Atlanta Botanical Garden, Gainesville

By Diane Korzeniewski



Volunteer numbers and activities are growing...like the weeds after the rain. When we Gainesville volunteers are in the Garden we not only get questions, but a lot of compliments. It's always nice to hear that visitors love being here as much as we do.

Our new exhibit is beautiful and visitors seem to be enjoying it. Our video in-service on the exhibit was very interesting. The artist fabricates the pieces entirely by herself, and this is only one of her jobs. She is also a lawyer and a public defender. I found that pretty interesting.

Staff treated us to a pizza lunch a few weeks ago. It was a double treat to get together to share...and the pizza was obviously a treat as well.

We did a little work in the new parking lot last month. It has shrubs and perennials planted, and tall annual grasses to hold the soil in place. The grasses needed to be mowed. Our job was to pull out grass around the plantings so the shrubs would not be mowed down. Not only could the grasses hide the shrubs, they hid us as well. Sort of like a Stephen King novel! When Ethan tried to round us up to return to the greenhouse he said he

headed for some moving grass and hoped to find us there. Next time we will have to wear the tall gnome hats the staff wears on Fairytale Fridays!

Always a fun time at the Gainesville Garden.





The Gainesville Garden's Volunteer of the Quarter Mike Hogan



By Jenny Stephens

Mike Hogan began volunteering with the Gainesville Garden Essential Maintenance team in April 2023, coming to ABGG through the local Master Gardeners' program. Mike was nominated by several members of the horticulture staff. One wrote, "Mike shows up every week with a passion for plants, a smile and a kind word. He is always dependable and a very hard worker. We love working with him." Another stated, "Mike always has a positive attitude, works hard and has great attendance."

When told of being selected Volunteer of the Quarter, Mike said: "It has been a privilege to work with the staff in Gainesville. As a GEM volunteer I continue to grow in my horticultural knowledge and skills and learn something new almost every day I volunteer. I love being here!"

Congratulations to Mike and thank you for being an Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville volunteer!



Glass in Flight Continues In Gainesville Through October 13





Docent Doings

By Allison Nicolle 2023-24 Docent Co-Chair

A recently retired friend of mine approached me the other day and asked me what it is like to be a docent at the Botanical Garden. I gave them my short

answer which is that we take visitors of all ages on a tour of the garden and point out interesting facts about plants. But she was actually looking for the longer answer about what is really involved in planning and giving tours of the garden. That got me thinking about what some of those requirements are.

I would say first and foremost, a docent needs to have an interest in plants and a willingness to share that interest with a variety of people. The Garden staff have developed a comprehensive training program that does an excellent job of preparing us for leading various types of tours – everything from curriculum-focused and age-based tours for children to more free-form adult tours. I have learned so much about a wide variety of plants, their adaptations to their unique environments, ways that plants are beneficial to us, as well as plant conservation and research. Every time that I am in the garden I learn something new, and continuing education is fostered through docent updates, refresher courses, guest lectures, and so on. We also learn techniques for engaging visitors through the use of questions, props, demonstrations and so on.

One other aspect of being a docent that we may not think about as much is that we are an ambassador for the plant world and for ABG. It is our job to convey interest and enthusiasm which is hopefully contagious. I think that is especially true for our school-aged visitors. It is so much fun to see children get excited about the chocolate tree or the giant bamboo, the poison dart frogs, or the carnivorous plants. I hope that they go home and share that excitement with their family.

The last thing I think about in relation to being a docent is the camaraderie with fellow docents. We find ourselves coordinating routes before a tour starts, sharing ideas for handling difficult situations, getting to know each other at Docent Update meetings, and so much more. I have developed some wonderful friendships through my involvement with the docent community.

I don't know if my friend will decide to become a docent, but I think she now understands why I enjoy it so much.

Alice's Wonderland Peturns







Loy Xingwen

Research Scientist

By Josh Todd

Loy Xingwen is the Garden's Research Scientist, Ecology, in the Conservation and Research Department. Born and raised in Singapore, Loy moved to



During his time at Emory in 2020, Loy received an NSF Grant to work at the Atlanta Botanical Garden as a paid intern for six months, and then he chose to remain at the Garden as a volunteer until being hired in 2021. In both his PhD program and internship, Loy's focus was on science communication training and analyzing data for the Southeastern Center for Conservation, including working on the cigar orchid and factors that lead to successful out plantings in the wild. While a volunteer at the Garden, he started the Synecology, the Center's annual newsletter, with a focus to inform partners on the Garden's research and applied conservation activities.

Loy's current role takes him into the field, mostly in the Southeast from the Appalachian Mountains to Florida, to conduct research that helps conservation managers and forms conservation practices and actions. One of his current projects, however, is in Ecuador, where Garden researchers are partnering with the Lovett School, the local Ruiz family, and the herbarium of Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador to study how mountain cloud forests have changed in the last decade. Global warming occurs faster in high elevations, and they expect to see historically lower elevation communities expanding into higher areas, which could out compete high elevation communities with nowhere else to move.

While onsite, Loy crunches the numbers, organizes the fieldwork, and spends time writing grants for the department. Loy also oversees a volunteer, Micah Sharer, who is working on a bee survey. Micah identifies and tracks bee diversity and numbers and their main plant attractors, with the hope to help population numbers.

The mission of the Botanical Garden's **Southeastern Center for Conservation is** "to lead innovative strategies and partnerships to conserve imperiled plants and natural communities."

Its vision is "to become a local, regional, and international hub for the conservation of rare plants and ecosystems. This is achieved through collections management; interdisciplinary research; restoration of priority habitats; educational outreach; and the vigorous pursuit of collaborative opportunities."

When not at the Garden or in the field, Loy lives in Old Fourth Ward with his husband and fluffy dog Luna. You can find him strolling the Beltline or in the kitchen cooking Singaporean food, especially desserts. Stop by the Center for Conservation to say hi, and maybe ask for some recipes!

Notes From Mary Pat



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

Josh asked that I update you all about the Garden's expansion efforts and the timeline for the new projects. I love the timing, as we just presented the Garden's expansion plans to almost 150 donors on June 12th. The excitement and interest is encouraging and rewarding as this project has been a huge undertaking for the better part of seven years.

The idea was "seeded" by a community leader and trusted strategist in May of 2016 when, standing on the Canopy Walk, he remarked that if the Garden and Park were ever to grow to the north, that was the time since property values were escalating rapidly. The idea stuck with me and I began to vet it with a small group of valued advisors who overwhelmingly encouraged us to get moving. The rest, as they say, is history!



Today, we own the properties immediately adjacent to the Garden, including the public storage facility which sits squarely on the newest section of the Beltline. Design documents have moved forward, and we are very excited by the grand vision and elements that will be developed. The big picture includes a new Visitor Center with a Beltline plaza to welcome people coming by foot, bicycle or scooter. There will be a window to the new Garden Café that will enable Beltline users to buy a drink or pastry and sit and relax on the plaza. The Visitor Center will include a gift shop, admissions and security windows, education space and the Garden Café. With a green roof and open-air atrium, the Visitor Center will be an elegant way to welcome guests and members.

The gardens are dramatic, beautiful and creative with three water-focused terraces embraced on both sides by hidden gem horticultural displays that will showcase our Alice in Wonderland pieces as well as Mediterranean plants and a rockery garden.

The Campaign to build the expansion is going well and we have raised \$107 million of a total goal of \$150 million. It's a massive undertaking but demonstrates the generosity of the people, foundations and corporations in our City and their belief in our grand vision of the becoming the City's Garden Gateway.



By late summer next year, we will be in the ground building this dream into a reality. Plan to share in the celebration in late 2027 as we open the Beltline's only cultural destination! This new sustainable entrance is not car centric but micro-mobility centered – where people enjoying the Atlanta Beltline can enter and delight in the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

And finally, should you be confused about how this all works with the existing Garden – just remember my favorite phrase, "one Garden, two front doors".

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

Editor: Susan Wood

Writers: Diane Korzeniewski, Mary Pat Matheson, Jenny Stephens, Josh Todd, Susan Wood