

GGG

Granville Gardeners Gazette

Promoting Education and Recreation through Gardening Activities

Oxford, North Carolina

www.thegranvillegardeners.org

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AROUND THE WORLD IN GARDENS

By Maria Hristova-Kazmierski, Granville Gardeners Member

Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7 p.m., Granville County Expo Center, 4185 U.S. Hwy 15 S, Oxford, NC

About the Program

Come on a journey not quite around the world but to nine different countries with spectacular gardens, including an ancient 400-year-old garden in Japan and the Akureyri Botanical Garden in Iceland, one of the northernmost botanical gardens in the world, just 52 miles south of the Arctic Circle!!! While there, we'll cross the whalebone gate in the botanical garden in Skrudur, the oldest botanical garden in Iceland. We'll visit the famous Butchart garden in Canada and "the Happiest Garden in the world" located in a small town of Akaroa, New Zealand. All this, and much, much more!

About the Speaker

Maria is a long-time member of our garden club and is known for her annual herb workshop given in her beautiful herb garden. She was born in Bulgaria, was educated in Poland, and received her master's degree in Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Warsaw. She and her husband moved to the USA forty years ago, and their two sons were born in Tucson, Arizona. Before retiring in late 2023, she was a project manager running oncology clinical trials for Eli Lilly, Merck, and other companies. She goes on mission trips to Bulgarian orphanages, and she's helping the Women's Center in Raleigh. Hobbies include gardening, cooking, reading, listening to classical music (especially when her son plays with different symphony orchestras), and traveling. She has been to amazing gardens in USA, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Northern Macedonia, and Greece. In 2025 she has plans to visit beautiful gardens in nine additional countries!

By Maria Kazmierski and Marty Finkel

Photos by Maria Kazmierski

President's Notes

01.26.2025

I don't know about you, but I'm done with January. I don't remember this much cold weather consecutively ever. As I write this, the temps today should get to 50. Finally, a day I can get into the yard without having to wear multiple layers of clothes.

Our Expo is just three months away. This is our club's primary fund raiser, and everyone in the club benefits from it. The Expo committee is hard at work to make this an exciting and successful event. More detail is forthcoming – stay tuned! We can always use help. Even if it's for just a few hours. So please volunteer.

We still need someone to coordinate the AV setup with our program speaker. This doesn't take much time and is a key to a timely meeting. Please see me or any member of the board if you can help.

David Quinn

Member Marketplace

Any members of the Granville Gardeners who sell agriculture or plant-related products are invited to send a description of your business, including up to 3 of your own photos, to be included in this space. Send descriptions to the editors by the 26th of the month.

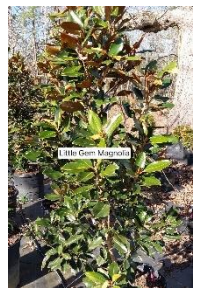
Name: Joyce Cifers- Dalton Mill Nursery

Location: 2566 Dalton Mill Rd; Bullock, NC 27507

Phone: 919-482-9883


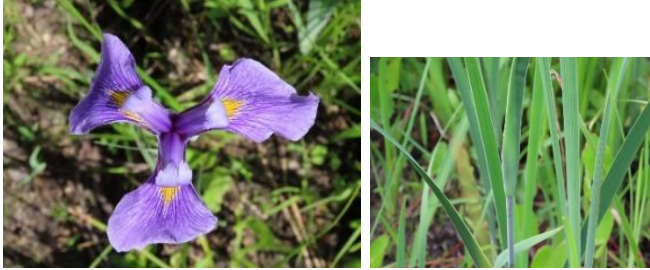

We are enjoying such beautiful Spring weather after all the snow and extreme cold. So nice to be able to get out and enjoy the fresh air. I have many native grasses and sedges available along with lots of the companion perennials. This is a partial list of what we have: Carex Pennsylvanica, Chasmanthium latifolium, Eragrostis curvula-Weeping Lovegrass, Juncus Inflexus, Muhlenbergia capillaris-Pink Muhley, Little Blue Stem, and many more. Please call to schedule an appointment to make your selections.





I was reading in Leaf and Limb newsletter that now is the time to plant trees. We have a few feature plants available like Jane Magnolia, Little Gem Magnolia, Weeping Cherry, Osmanthus Fragrans, Crimson Queen Japanese Maple, and Edgeworthia. These are in small quantity so contact me quickly if you're interested in any of these. These are in 7 to 15 gal containers for more instant gratification. The Edgeworthias have buds on them, so you can enjoy blooms this year.



JCRA Plants for February 2025 Auction

Tim Alderton, JCRA Research Technician extraordinaire, chose this month's plants with Rob because Sophia was busy having her baby, a girl. Congratulations, Sophia! They did a super job – just look:

 <p>'Richard' Boxwood (<i>Buxus harlandii</i> 'Richard')</p>	<p>This is an edited description from Nurseries Caroliniana: It has the same notched tip leaf of <i>B. harlandii</i>, but the leaf is not as long and is twice the width. The color is an excellent dark glossy black-green with the same growth habit. It can reach proportions of 4-5', but it will take some time to get to that size. It can easily be maintained at a 2-3' size with some judicious pruning. It does great in full sun or shade. The only problem is that it leafs out very early in late winter or very early spring, and the new growth can be hit by a late frost. Give it a light shearing to remove the burnt tips. It's perfect to use as a small border hedge in a parterre design.</p>
 <p>Savanna Iris (<i>Iris tridentata</i>)</p>	<p>Savannah iris is a perennial native to just 5 states in the southeastern U.S.A. with showy blue-purple fragrant flowers from May to June. It is 12 to 20" tall by 12" to spreading in a colony by rhizomes. This one is more purple than blue. Plant in moist to wet conditions in sandy soils in partial sun to light shade, or in a container with an inch or so of soil over the rhizome. It will grow in drier conditions, but if dry for too long it doesn't bloom well. It's also good in a water, rain, or bog garden. Deer resistant.</p>
 <p>Vietnam Golden Cypress (<i>Cupressus vietnamensis</i>)</p>	<p>This rare evergreen conifer has juvenile, transitional, and adult foliage all at the same time, and this odd trait makes it a conversation piece. It was discovered in Viet Nam in 1999 and is only the second new conifer discovered since 1948! It's rarely found in the nursery trade. Its blue-green juvenile foliage turns more golden in summer, especially on the tips. Its shape is pyramidal while young with mature trees becoming flattened on top. It grows to 35 to 45' tall (6-10' in 10 years) and 10 to 20' wide. Plant in sun to dappled shade in moist average (or gritty, or rich, or rocky) well-drained soil. This tree is very rare in the wild and in cultivation, and growing it helps protect it from extinction.</p>

 <p>Japanese Cedar (<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> 'Yellow Twig')</p>	<p>This dwarf Japanese cedar is named for its yellow stems on new growth. The foliage is a beautiful shade of green that holds in the winter. It's slow growing, with an estimated height up to 12', width 4 to 5' (Plant Delights Nursery's 10-year-old specimen is 6' tall). Plant in full sun in slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil.</p>
   <p>Siberian Dogwood (<i>Cornus alba</i>)</p>	<p>Native to eastern and central Asia. Its form is upright and loose -- can be pruned to grow as a small tree. Its red stems are bright accents in fall and winter. The NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox warns “. . . The plant is weedy, and its suckering can make it difficult to remove. Please consider your planting site carefully.” It prefers full sun to partial shade in moist, well-drained soil. New stems have the best blood-red color. Remove the oldest stems in the spring. When allowed to sucker into thickets, it prevents erosion, works as a screen, makes a hedge. When stressed it's susceptible to many diseases, including dogwood anthracnose, powdery mildew, leaf spot, canker, root rot, and leaf and twig blight. Borers may become a problem. This shrub is more vulnerable to diseases in hot summer climates. (Photo shows variegated form, <i>C. alba</i> 'Argenteo-marginata' – our plant has the green leaves of the species.)</p> <p>Its white fruits attract birds, and the stems provide nesting sites. Flowers are visited by bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. It is deer and rabbit resistant.</p> <p>Other common names include Red-barked Dogwood, Tatarian Dogwood.</p>

By Marty Finkel

Photo credits: Richard Boxwood – left: Nurseries Caroliniana, right: NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox (NCEGPT) Jim Robbins CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Savannah Iris – left: NCEGPT Tom Austin CC BY-NC 4.0, right: same

Vietnam Golden Cypress – JCRA Photo Collection

Japanese cedar – Plant Delights Nursery www.plantdelights.com

Siberian Dogwood – top: NCEGPT Nikolas Tikov CC BY-ND 2.0, middle: NCEGPT Nathanael Drayton CC BY-NC-ND 2.0, bottom: NCEGPT Steve James CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Making a Difference

Rob Thornton served as chair of the JC Raulston Arboretum Board of Advisors for the past two years and is honored for his service in the Winter 2024 – Vol. 27, No. 2 issue of the Friends of the JC Raulston Arboretum Newsletter. In the article “Nurturing New Growth with the JCRA Board of Advisors,” Amy Beitzel writes:

One of the highlights of Rob’s term as chair has been two back-to-back successful years of fundraising efforts on NC State’s Day of Giving. The matching gift challenge issued by the JCRA board members supported the expansion of our summer internship program, bringing eight student interns in 2023 and nine in 2024. In addition to his board leadership, Rob volunteers weekly honoring the legacy of J. C. Raulston who was a supportive and inspiring mentor. Rob fondly describes this labor of love as his “therapy time” in the gardens.

In thanking Rob for his devotion to the JCRA, Beitzel says that the JCRA has flourished under his steadfast leadership. That being said, what are the responsibilities of the board? Again, quoting her:

The Board of Advisors plays an important role in advancing the JCRA’s reputation as a leader in horticultural education and research. Board members advocate for new programs and projects, foster our relationship with the university, strengthen partnerships, and expand our outreach to engage with new audiences. The board’s focus on education and industry involvement ensures that the JCRA remains vibrant and inspiring for visitors, students, and industry professionals.

Rob’s dedication to increasing the GG NCSU horticulture scholarship continues as he reliably brings five plants every other month for auction at the meeting. The whole concept was his brainchild, and he approached Mark Weathington, Director of the arboretum, with the request for an ongoing donation of rare and unusual plants from the arboretum’s collections to be auctioned for additional revenue for a horticulture scholarship. They worked out the details, and the rest is history!

By Marty Finkel, from source cited
Photo by Maggie Thornton



"Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... **these are one and the same fight.** We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all."

__Ban Ki-moon, 8th secretary-general of the UN

DON'T FORGET OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

My friend David Poulos in Pittsboro sent these photos taken the morning after the January 10 ice-over-snow event.



First photo: Eating bird pudding made by Peg, David's wife. Other photos: Eating shelled sunflower seeds. Peg's bird pudding has been included in earlier GGGs but I couldn't find it. Use this one:

Wild bird dough Recipe by [Julie Zickefoose](#) sent to me by email – corrected by the author from the recipe printed in the Audubon online Magazine News article of Nov. 17, 2023

Mix together:

- 2 c unmedicated chick starter crumbles
- 2 c quick oats
- 1.5 c flour
- 1.5 c cornmeal

Melt together in microwave: 1 cup lard (you can use vegetable shortening, but my birds clearly prefer lard) and 1 cup peanut butter.

Directions: In a large mixing bowl, slowly add the melted fats to the dry mixture while gently stirring or mixing on low until it's damp and crumbly. Store in mason jars in a cool place.

Serving: Provide a half cup of dough once a day as a winter or early spring treat (in temps below 55 degrees Fahrenheit only). Place either on a dry, flat surface or, ideally, a small dish with a cover to protect from rain and squirrels.

Julie says to be sure to use the unmedicated chick starter because it will add nutrients the dough lacks. She noticed that when bluebirds ate excessive amounts of the old recipe, they developed gout, and one of her readers wrote that the mix had too much fat and not enough calcium. Adding the unmedicated chick starter, which contains protein, and not feeding in warm weather, corrected the problem. You can get unmedicated chick starter at farm and feed stores.

Julie offers Zick Dough in a hanging feeder covered by an acrylic dome. The large domes help deter squirrels, and to discourage starlings and house sparrows, she advises hanging the feeder near a window with lots of activity.

Don't feed the dough in late spring or during the summer; it's too rich.

NOTE: Julie is an author and illustrator of five books on birds and nature. She has a background as a natural history illustrator and has been a field biologist with the Nature Conservancy's CT Chapter, and delivered natural history commentaries on NPR's *All Things Considered* for five years. She is now Advising Editor of *BWD Magazine*, having been involved with its predecessor, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, since 1986. Her natural history blog (Julie Zickefoose on Blogspot) has run since 2005, and averages almost 50,000 unique pageviews per month.

A friend gave me her book *Letters from Eden* many years ago, and it's one of my most treasured books.



By Marty Finkel from "This Addictive Homemade Suet Will Keep Your Birds Returning for More" by Julie Zickefoose, Audubon News Nov. 17, 2023

Photos: David Poulos (see other photos at CamerArt.com)

To-Do List for February

- If you didn't get your garden assessment done last month,
 - continue planning where you want to put new beds,
 - put a stake in plants you that didn't do well that you want to take out or that you want to relocate,
 - look around for shrubs and trees that need thinning and/or pruning. Broken limbs and limbs that cross and rub against each other should come off
 - plan color combinations of annuals and perennials that look great with the colors of your shrubs.
 - On nice days this month, consider making raised beds for growing vegetables (many good plans on the Internet) and filling with soil.
 - Consider making a cold frame to extend the season before and after main-season gardening
- Direct seed snap and snow peas, beets, carrots, lettuce, onions (seed, sets, and plants), radishes, Irish potatoes, and spinach this month. Start broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower seeds early this month for transplanting in late March.
- Plant strawberries.
- Plant asparagus crowns now through early March.
- If you're making a new bed, till the whole bed – don't only dig individual holes - get a soil test, and till all the recommended amendments in. Kill the weed seeds (check with your county extension agent) and life will be easier. Don't work the soil if it is too wet: get a handful of soil and squeeze it. If it stays in a lump after you open your hand, it's too wet. It should crumble through your fingers.
- To get the central NC planting calendar for annual vegetables, fruits, and herbs from the Extension service – search online for “AG-756 NCSU ([Central NC Planting Calendar](#)). Download the chart and keep it handy.
- If you want to use a pre-emergence herbicide for control of summer weeds (spurge, mulberry weed, oxalis, Japanese stilt grass and others, read label), it should be broadcast this month (remember Minda Daughtry's January 2017 program, “Yes, You Can Control Weeds.”)
- Prune fruit trees later this month and/or early March as they begin to grow. [Training & Pruning Fruit Trees in NC](#). Blueberries can be pruned now through early March.
- Cut back butterfly, abelia, rose of Sharon, hibiscus, and beautyberry bushes. Bush and tea roses can be pruned now. Find excellent brochures on late winter pruning online and at the Extension Centers.
- If you have hardy lantana, wait until you see new growth appearing before cutting back.
- Cut back ornamental grasses anytime this month. Divide large clumps & replant. Mow liriope and mondo and divide if needed.
- Plant bare-root roses.
- Clean up camellia blooms.
- Lawns: Control cool-season weeds – chickweed, hairy bittercress, henbit -- & treat by removal or post-emergent herbicide (above 40 degrees). Pre-emergence crabgrass herbicide can be used about the time forsythia blooms. Fertilize cool-season grasses with 1 lb. 30% slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 sq. feet (or follow soil sample instructions if you had one done).
- Spray fruit and other trees and shrubs with horticultural oil when temperature is 40 degrees or higher for a 24-hour period to control scale, mites, and aphids and suffocate their eggs. It is one of the safest controls available. Always follow the label for mixing and spraying instructions. Lime sulfur can be combined with the oil to spray dormant trees/shrubs; if leaves are present, the combination spray will burn them.

GRANVILLE GARDENERS SCHOLARSHIP

Granville Gardeners are very proud of our Granville Gardeners Scholarship Endowment, which as of 6-30-24 had a market value of \$37,071.19, providing a yearly scholarship of more than \$1,000. This is something any club would be proud to attain. You might ask, how did the club get to this point?

The idea of helping a student in the CALS horticulture program started with the suggestion from GG members Charlie & Rose Mary Easton, who as NCSU donors, felt a scholarship would be beneficial to a CALS student. President Tom Jordon presented this idea to the club and they were off and running. Tom tells of the many ways they earned money, including selling catered fried chicken or fried fish plates on the National Guard Armory lawn at 105 Spring Street in Oxford and holding the many plant sales on the lawn of the old Agriculture Extension building (now the Granville Co. Board of Elections). These sales involved most of the club members.

As Tom recalls, they started with about \$100.00 for a CALS student. In 2012 the present scholarship was established through the college to provide an annual scholarship that rotated between the two-year Institute and the four-year undergraduate program for students enrolled in Horticulture Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Granville citizens were to be given priority. Sophia McCusker was our 2017-2018 scholarship recipient; she now has the title of Nursery Technician at the JC Raulston Arboretum and, with Rob Thornton, chooses the special plants for our scholarship auction.

Along with our founding member, Tom Jordon, Marty Finkel is a long-time worker and supporter of the scholarship fundraising. Funding now comes from our GG EXPO and the money garnered from our bi-monthly JCRA plant auction. In the summer of 2024, the club gave \$5,000.00 to help build the scholarship.

Jim and I have the honor to represent our club as committee chairs. We always look forward to our next winner, hoping that the person will be a Granville resident, but knowing if not, they will be deserving and well qualified.

Thanks for the club's support.

Kay and Jim Nutt

Grayson Black, 2023-24 GG NCSU Scholarship Winner

Grayson Black won our scholarship for his second year at NCSU College of Agriculture and Life Science in 2023-2024; his field is Horticulture Science Management, Turfgrass Management. Grayson said he chose NCSU because of the great opportunities it has to offer. His program at CALS gives him the opportunity to pursue his career and network with industry professionals. His choice of turfgrass management with a concentration in landscaping and ornamentals will allow him to take over his dad's landscaping business.

Beside his studies, Grayson has been able to network with many people in the horticulture industry. He is a member of the horticulture competition team for NC State, and he competed in three events this year. He is also an Ag Institute ambassador and helped with several recruiting events.

Grayson says he is honored to receive the Granville Gardeners Scholarship. He thanks the membership for continuing to fund this scholarship and states it has further motivated his pursuing the career in landscaping. He knows his family is proud and he feels blessed for their support during his time at NC State University.

By Kay Nutt

Happenings

February 6. (Thurs.) General Public Tickets Sales for Art in Bloom (March 19-23). If you would like to go as a group Friday, March 21 for the member rate of \$40, contact Kat Ravenel ASAP (before tickets go on sale for the public). This is an annual fundraiser for the museum. To get an idea of what it is, look at these photos from previous years: [Photos of Art in Bloom](#). To read more about it, go here: [Art in Bloom](#).

February 11. (Tues.) iNaturalist with Robb van Epps. 7-8:30pm. Sponsored by NC Wildlife Federation, this hybrid talk can be attended in person (in Charlotte) or online. Those who register will receive a link to the recording once it is posted. Free. Register here: [Learn to ID Plants, Fungi, and Animals with iNaturalist](#).

(The Projects and Activities Committee is planning a field trip for plant identification with iNaturalist later in the spring. This webinar would be a good introduction to have before the field trip.)

February 12. (Wed.) Plant Propagation. 3-4pm. Johnny Coley, Cooperative Extension Horticulture Agent for Granville and Person Counties, will give the presentation. Thornton Library. Free. Contact (919) 603-1350 for more info.

February 13. (Thurs.) It's for the Birds, Bees and Butterflies – How to Create Biodiversity in Your Yard. 12-1pm. Presented by Barbara Driscoll, Co-Chair, New Hope Bird Alliance Bird-Friendly Habitat Committee at NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. Free; preregistration required for either the in-person or the online option: [Create Biodiversity in Your Yard](#), or call 919-962-4882.

February 22. (Sat.) Intro to Gardening in the South. 9am -12pm. JC Raulston Arboretum, 4415 Beryl Road, Raleigh. A morning lecture series on ornamentals, vegetable gardening, and insects. Free. Read more about it and register here for either online or in-person option: [Gardening in the South](#). Or call 919-515-3132.

February 27. (Thurs.) Residential Restoration – Experiments with Piedmont Prairies. 12-1pm. Presented by Preston Montague, Durham-based landscape architect. Free. Registration required for either online or in-person option: [Piedmont Prairies](#), or call 919-962-4882.

"The garden year has no beginning and no end." - Elizabeth Lawrence

"Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace." —May Sarton

"Hope is one of the essential tools of a farmer or gardener." —Amy Stewart

"Flowers are the music of the ground from earth's lips spoken without sound." — Edwin Curran

"People from a planet without flowers would think we must be mad with joy the whole time to have such things about us." — Iris Murdoch

PLANT OF THE MONTH

'SNOW SHOWERS' BULBOUS TOOTHWORT (*Cardamine bulbosa* 'Snow Showers')



Cardamine bulbosa is a little-known US **native**, and we mean really little-known. Amazingly, it hails from every state east of Colorado (except Maine), yet is completely missing from our winter woodland garden landscape palette. This selection from Halifax County, NC, has proved to be the best garden plant. After seven years in our garden, it has formed a 10" tall x 18" wide patch smothered with stalks of dangling [white flowers](#) topping the green, quarter-sized leaves. Blooming starts in early February (NC), and continues for well over a month. Like all good spring ephemerals, it sleeps through the summer months, returning the following winter. Text edited from Plant Delights Nursery www.plantdelights.com

SOME OTHER PLANTS IN BLOOM THIS MONTH – Asterisk indicates native (*)

Note that bloom times vary, depending on climatic and meteorological conditions, and many plants bloom several months in a row (and sometimes rebloom). *Source: JCRA Showtimes for January.*

Flowering maple	Pearlbush
Harland's boxwood	Forsythia
Fritillaria verticillata	Flowering quince
Snowdrop	Colchicum
Fragrant winterhazel	Spiked winterhazel
Crocus	Candytuft
Alabama croton	Star anise
Spring star flower	Blue isu tree
Winter jasmine	Summer snowflake
Winter aconite	Winter spicebush
Darley heath	Chinese fringe flower
Trillium*	Creeping veronica
Grape hyacinth	Spirea
Daffodil	Pasque-flower
Alabama snow-wreath	False yellow crocus
Azalea	Asian pieris
Squill	Japanese flowering apricot
Flowering cherry trees	Sweet box
Mexican plum tree	Cherry laurel

Photos of Some Other Plants in Bloom this Month



Camellia 'Snow Blizzard'



Glory of the Snow



'Don Egolf' Redbud



'Alida' Iris



Lilac Daphne



Ruby Giant Crocus



Douglass's toothwort



Yellow Daphne



Winter Daphne 'Mae-jima'



Diane' Witchhazel



Golden Paperbush



Star-shaped Fairy Wings



'Ice 'N Roses Hellebore



'Christmas Snow' Viburnum



'Yellow Queen' Hyacinth



'Picture' Saucer Magnolia



Alpine Wallflower

Chosen by Marty Finkel from the February JCRA Photo Collection