

# GGG

## *Granville Gardeners Gazette*

Promoting Education and Recreation through Gardening Activities

Oxford, North Carolina

[www.thegranvillegardeners.org](http://www.thegranvillegardeners.org)

March 2025, Volume XV, No. 3



### **Planting for Pollinators: Annuals, Perennials, Herbs, and Grasses**

by Jason Holmes, Curator of the Doris Duke Center Gardens

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

#### **About the Program**

Jason will discuss what it takes to create an attractive and abundant garden for our pollinators. He will give you tricks and ideas of how to create your own, look at it in a year-round perspective and suggest some great plants to choose from.

#### **About the Speaker**

The Duke Gardens spring/summer education catalog describes Jason as “a walking encyclopedia and plant enthusiast.....” He is the curator of the Doris Duke Center Gardens. He and his team take care of the Page-Rollins White Garden, Spring Woodland Garden and the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden. Jason has always had a passion for plants and has been gardening at Duke for twenty years. During this time, he has traveled to many different gardens around the country, and a good part of his broad scope of plant knowledge comes from these experiences. He enjoys traveling to National Parks with his family. He enjoys teaching others about history through civil war reenacting.

By Jason Holmes and Marty Finkel

Photos: Debbie Roos, Agricultural Extension Agent, Chatham County Center, NC Cooperative Extension

## JCRA February Plant Auction Bid Winners

The bid for 'Richard' Boxwood was won by Lynn Duncan



The Savanna Iris plant went home with Diane Holtaway



The Vietnam Golden Cypress bid was won by Joyce Cifers



The 'Yellow Twig' Japanese Cedar bid went to Kerry Carter



Joyce also won the bid for the red-barked dogwood



## Get Ready for Spring in the Pollinator Garden by Debbie Roos

**Note: This advice applies to all gardens, not just pollinator gardens. Great advice from Debbie.**

In typical Carolina fashion, we had snow last week and spring weather this week, but soon spring will be here to stay!

There is plenty to do to get our gardens ready and I outline it all in my article [Spring Chores in the Pollinator Garden](#).

Spring chores in the pollinator garden include weeding, planting, mulching, and removing aggressive spreaders. The biggest activity is cutting back the plant stems from last year's blooms. Gardeners who want to provide habitat for bees and other pollinators know it's important to include nesting and overwintering habitat in their garden and landscape, so they let last year's stems stand through the winter. Now is the time to cut them back!

Since approximately 100 species of bees in North Carolina nest in stems and wood, it's helpful to understand a little about their life cycle to be able to provide what they need through stem management in the garden. How and when you cut back your plants can have an impact on our stem nesting bees.

See lots of photos and [learn all about stem-nesting bees and how best to help them](#) on Cooperative Extension's Growing Small Farm's website.

There's one more chore that we save for early spring...

What if I told you I have an annual early spring ritual where I devote time to purposely removing and destroying praying mantid egg cases from my pollinator garden?

Why would I want to remove praying mantid egg cases? Because unfortunately the most common praying mantid in most North Carolina landscapes is the invasive non-native Chinese mantid (*Tenodera sinensis*), and they can be a menace in the garden. They produce the egg cases that I seek out and destroy. The Chinese mantids are so large and abundant they kill bees, butterflies, mice, small reptiles and amphibians, and even birds. In fact, Chinese mantids have been documented feeding on over 20 species of small birds, including hummingbirds. They also displace our native mantids.

I've written an article on Cooperative Extension's Growing Small Farm's website and included lots of photos to help [explain the differences between the native and non-native mantids and how to decrease populations of the destructive Chinese mantids](#).

### Pollinator Gardening Articles on Cooperative Extension's Growing Small Farms Website:

[Spring Chores in the Pollinator Garden](#)

[Provide Nesting Habitat for Native Bees Through Plant Stems in Your Garden](#)

[Challenging the Conventional Wisdom About Praying Mantids](#)

[More Articles...](#)

[Pollinator Paradise Demo Garden Website](#)

Happy gardening,  
Debbie

Debbie Roos, Agricultural Extension Agent, Chatham County Center, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, 919.542.8244

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## President's Notes

Greeting Fellow Gardeners,

I hope some of you have been able to get out in the garden during some of our warmer days!

As I write this, we are 57 days away from our Expo! The team has been working very hard to pull all the details together to make this a memorable event. If you haven't already - and have time - please volunteer. Even for a few hours, it can help us out.

I am excited that a solution for our meeting audio needs may have been found. Danny will purchase it for the club and I hope it goes into service in our next meeting. This will help both our presenters and our members enjoy our wonderful programs.

As many of you know, some minor changes have been made to our club By-Laws. Many thanks to Kat, Marty and Mark for their feedback. All of you should have received an email from me with the new By-Laws attached. I hope you have had time to review them. We will put this up for a vote in our next meeting.

David Quinn

## Member Marketplace

**Name: Joyce Cifers- Dalton Mill Nursery**

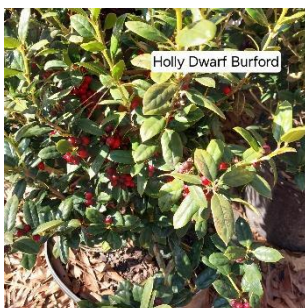
Location: 2566 Dalton Mill Rd; Bullock, NC 27507

Phone: 919-482-9883

Snow, snow, snow, and cold temperatures have been the norm for the past few weeks. I'm sure you are ready for spring just like I am. We have many native grasses and sedges available along with lots of the companion perennials. In addition, we have Helleborus, Heuchera, Hosta, and Phlox. If you like hollies for the beautiful red berries, we have Needlepoint, and Burford. We also have Camellia that have buds.

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.

Please call and schedule an appointment to make your selections.



## March To-Do List

**Frost dates have been revised.** The last frost dates for Granville Co. are April 1 through 15 according to several sources, updated 2024 (NOAA, NCSU Extension). Ideally, start seeds indoors 6 weeks before this date. If you missed it, start now. The probability of a frost occurring after the spring date or before the fall date is 30%.

- Starting vegetable seeds: Most require a temperature of around 70 degrees to germinate, so put them in a warm place or provide bottom heat. When seedlings break ground, transfer to shelves about an inch under fluorescent lights or put against a window that receives direct sun all day (south exposure).
- Plant these **seeds** directly into the ground (**follow the link** for planting date guides from NCSU extension): snap beans, beets, Chinese cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Swiss chard, sweet corn, dill, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuces, mustard, bulb & green onions, parsley, parsnips, snow, snap, & green peas, Southern field peas, radish, rutabaga, spinach, sunflower, turnips.
- Set **transplants** of these directly into the ground: collards, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuces, green onions, onion bulb sets, parsley. Check dates for transplanting broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, Swiss chard, Chinese cabbage
- Use a pre-emergent herbicide to control weeds
- After danger of freezing temperatures, plant crocosmia, dahlia, gladiolus, and lilies
- Re-pot houseplants that need larger pots so they will be ready to move outside after danger of frost
- Continue to monitor houseplants for mites, aphids, soft brown scale, & white fly. Insecticidal soap is effective and safe to use. Follow label directions and spray upper and lower leaf surfaces, stems, trunks.
- Remove winter mulch from subtropicals (ginger, crinum, lantana), clean area, and apply new mulch
- Remove old foliage from hellebores and epimediums (fairy wings, barrenwort) so you can see the flowers better. It's not necessary for the health of the plants. Compost the leaves.
- Divide and transplant or share with others: asters, astilbe, ajuga, oxalis, bleeding heart, phlox, hostas, Shasta daisy, daylily, coral bells, rooftop iris, strawberry begonia.
- Keep plenty of food and clean water out for the birds
- Fertilize perennials, shrubs, and trees with an organic slow release fertilizer. Note: Most well-established plants do not need fertilizer. Those planted this past fall will benefit from fertilizer as well as those that weren't growing well last year.
- Cut back ornamental grasses early this month if not done in Feb. Many started new growth in February.
- Shrubs that bloom on new wood should be cut back and shaped if needed.
- Continue to plant cool season vegetable seeds: kale, kohlrabi, leaf and butterhead lettuce, mustard, onions, radishes, spinach, beets, turnips. They will be ready for setting out in 4 – 6 weeks.

## Happenings

**March 6. (Thurs.) Walk on the Wild Side.** 11am-12pm. Duke Gardens: Blomquist Garden of Native Plants, 420 Anderson St., Durham. “Join horticulture staff and volunteers on a walk around the Blomquist Garden of Native Plants to learn about connections between people, plants and place.” Free. Registration and more information (*including changes to parking*) can be found here: [Walk on the Wild Side](#)

**March 11. (Tues.) The Small Farmers' Roundtable and Resource Fair.** 10am-2pm. Hosted by the Eva Clayton Rural Food Institute at Vance-Granville Community College, 200 Community College Rd., Henderson. “Join Small Farmers from across rural NC as we discuss legislation, local resources, grant opportunities and more.” Free. Registration required: [Small Farmers' Roundtable](#)

**March 13. (Thurs.) Eating Like a Bird – Native Fruits We Can Enjoy at Our Tables.** 12-1pm. NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. “Mary Jac Brennan, Heartplace Farm Consulting, “will discuss 12 fruiting plants which can be added to your landscape for attracting birds, pollinators, and human beings. Learn how to cultivate these native fruits in your garden and support biodiversity in your landscape and diet.” In-person or online. Free, but must register: [Eating Like a Bird](#)

**March 15. (Sat.) Beginning Birding for Adults.** 8-9:30am. Duke Gardens, 420 Anderson St., Durham. “Build your bird observation skills on a slow stroll through Duke Gardens as you gather a list of different birds that use the Gardens.” Fee: \$10. To read more (*including changes to parking*) and register: [Birding](#)

**March 15. (Sat.) All About Pollinators Workshop and Beginning Beekeepers' Academy.** 9am-1pm. Vance Co. Regional Farmers' Market, 210 Southpark Dr., Henderson. Granville County and Vance and Warren County Beekeepers Associations will offer information on pollination, plants for bees and other pollinators. Fee \$20 (\$10 for beekeeper club members). Get the details and register here: [Pollinators](#)

**March 18. (Tues.) Foundations, Fillers, and Flourishes: Native Sedges for Every Garden** (virtual) 12-1pm. Offered online by Duke Gardens in cooperation with Izel Native Plants. Here's another chance to hear Shannon Currey who gave our October program. (Also see below for an in-person chance to hear her April 10.) Free. Registration and more info here: [Shannon Currey on Sedges](#)

**March 19-23. (Wed.-Sun.) Art in Bloom.** Hours vary by day. NC Museum of Art. 2110 Blue Ridge Rd., Raleigh. See website for more information: <https://ncartmuseum.org/artinbloom/>

**March 20. (Thurs.) Seeds to Sprouts.** 10-11am. Stovall Branch Library, 300 Main St., Stovall. Come start a variety of seeds to enrich your summer. Seeds and planter provided. For more information and to register, call 919-693-5722.

**March 22. (Sat.) Plant Festival.** 10am-12pm. Durham County Extension Master Gardeners, 721 Foster St., Durham. The Durham Master Gardeners will share research-based gardening practices and offer solutions to protect and enhance our environment and community. Last year's exhibitors are listed here: [last year's exhibitors](#). Free. No registration required.

**March 26. (Wed.) Spring Botanizing at Penny's Bend.** 10am-12:30pm. Penny's Bend Nature Preserve, Old Oxford Rd., Durham. (Directions will be sent upon registration.) “Penny's Bend, an 84-acre preserve, has a unique geology and therefore distinct soils that support rare plant species. Join Alec [Motten, professor emeritus] and Paul [Manos, professor of biology, Duke U.] for a relatively easy hike, under 2 miles.” Fee: \$24. To read more and register: [Botany Hike at Penny's Bend](#)

**March 27. (Thurs.) Urban Forestry & Birds.** 12-1pm. NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. Hannah Pursley, Programs Manager, Forests, of Audubon NC, “will offer an introduction to Urban Forestry, highlighting its importance to birds and how we can contribute to its health.” In-person or online. Free, but registration is required: [Urban Forestry & Birds](#)

**March 28. (Fri.) ‘Family Tree’: Film Screening and Panel Discussion.** 6-8pm. Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville Street, Durham. “The 2nd African American Legacy in Gardening and Horticulture Symposium begins on Friday evening with a free film screening followed by a panel discussion... In her directorial debut, Jennifer MacArthur leans into the intimate and visionary process of protecting Black legacies through environmental sustainability.” Free. To read more and register: [‘Family Tree’ Film Screening](#)

**March 29. (Sat.) African American Legacy in Gardening and Horticulture Symposium.** 9:30am-4:30pm. Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville Street, Durham. Organized in partnership with Duke Gardens, NC Botanical Garden, and Durham Library: “Back for a second year, The African American Legacy in Gardening and Horticulture Symposium will explore the unsung historical legacy of African American plantspeople, horticulturists, residential gardeners, and gardening clubs.” Free. Online and in-person. Registration required. Read more and register here: [African American Legacy](#)

### **Save the date:**

**April 5. (Sat.) Durham Master Gardener’s Plant Sale.** 10am until sold out. Durham Cooperative Extension, 721 Foster St., Durham. To see plants sold go to the Plant Sale Committee’s website: [Plants](#)

**April 6. (Sun.) Annual Evelyn McNeill Sims Native Plant Lecture: Adventures in Ecological Horticulture.** 5:30-6:45pm. Reception to follow. NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. “Join us [with Rebecca McMackin, Ecological Horticulturist] to learn how to use ecological insight and experimentation to develop new management strategies – and why careful observation and documentation of the insects, birds, and other wildlife in your gardens is crucial to their success.” In-person or online. Free. Read more and register (required) here: [Ecological Horticulture](#)

**April 10. (Thurs.) Native Grasses and Sedges – Smart Choices for Better Landscapes.** 12-1pm. NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. In person and online. If you missed hearing Shannon Currey’s program at our October meeting, be sure to catch her at the Botanical Garden, where she will be talking again about the benefits of native grasses and sedges. “These extraordinary plants help preserve and build the soil, outcompete weeds, and offer a host of ecosystem benefits.” Free. For more information (*including changes to parking*) and to register: [Native Grasses and Sedges](#)

**PLANT OF THE MONTH: ALABAMA SNOW-WREATH (*Neviusia alabamensis*)**



This shrub is native to the southeastern U.S. and is easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. It grows to 3 – 6' tall and spreads in width by suckers. When it is mature, the stems arch gracefully and the bark exfoliates. It flowers on old wood, so prune after flowering; also, it can be cut the ground in late winter/early spring to rejuvenate and to control the colony. Mature plants can also tolerate some soil dryness.

**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 March.*

- |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Many maples                 | Buckeyes          |
| Stonecresses                | Ornamental leeks  |
| Serviceberry*               | Windflower        |
| Columbine                   | Cobra-lily        |
| Asperula                    | Asphodeline       |
| Barberries                  | Bergenia          |
| Camellias                   | Hornbeams         |
| Spreading Japanese plum-yew | Redbud            |
| Flowering quince            | Glory of the Snow |
| Green and Gold              | Candytuft         |
| Cornelian cherry            | Fumewort          |
| Winterhazel                 | Crocus            |
| Cyclamen coum               | Lilac daphne      |
| Various daphnes             | Some dianthus     |
| Paperbush                   | Fairy wings       |
| Darley heath                | Alpine wallflower |
| Euphorbia                   | Pearlbush         |
| Fothergilla                 | Snowdrops         |
| Witchhazel                  | Narcissus         |
| Spanish bluebell            | Winter spicebush  |
| Summer snowflake            | Deadnettle        |
| Bleeding heart              | Twinleaf          |
| Japanese aster              | Japanese Kerria   |
| Star anise                  | Many various iris |

By Marty Finkel



**Photos of Some Other Plants in Bloom**



Shantung maple



Amur maple



Hardy soap aloe



Three-cornered leek



Panda wild ginger



Jesse starflower



'Snow Blizzard' Pearl bush



Weeping Fuji cherry



Hellebores, JLBG



Silver Bouquet lungwort



Woodland Ruby Anise tree



Variegated Solomon's Seal



Spiketail



Golden Peep dwarf forcythia



Pink Pom Poms redbud



Be My Valentine Epimedium

Photo selection: Marty Finkel

Photos: **From** Plant Delights Nursery [www.plantdelightsnursery.com](http://www.plantdelightsnursery.com) : Jesse Starflower, Silver Bouquet Lungwort, Be My Valentine Epimedium **All others:** JCRA March Plant Showtime.