

GGG

Granville Gardeners Gazette

Promoting Education and Recreation through Gardening Activities

Oxford, North Carolina

www.thegranvillegardeners.org

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COVERED DISH SOCIAL

Monday May 26, 6 p.m. at United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall,
105 W. McClanahan St., Oxford



We always have a great good time at this social – eating, drinking, socializing, and swiping plants! Bring a good appetite and a covered dish for an evening of fun sampling the many kinds of savory dishes, salads, and desserts the Granville Gardeners are known for.

Also on the menu: The Famous Annual PLANT SWIPE!

To participate: Bring a plant, the more desirable the better, and put it on the display table. Each person is given a number. The rules are announced, a number is called, and the person with that number chooses a plant. When the next number is called, he or she may take the plant already chosen or may choose one from the table. And so on. A chosen plant can be swiped 3 times – it stays with the third swiper.



President's Notes

05.06.2025

As I write this, our April Expo is now in the past. Another successful event thanks to all the hard work from you. I would be interested in any of your comments regarding the event. What did you like? What would you think could make the event better? As soon as we have the final financials, they will be shared. But first take, we did well.

For those of you that have not experienced the covered dish social, you are in store for a wonderful time. It is a food event not to be missed. And wait until you have been through a plant swipe!

This past weekend my wife and I took in the annual Art in the Garden show in Hillsborough. If you have not experienced this, it is worth the drive. The art is wonderful but a walk around the garden makes it. You have one more opportunity this coming weekend May 10th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. There is no cost to go, and you don't have to register.

David Quinn

Note: Look for a report, including photos, about the April Expo in the June issue of the GGG.

Happenings

May 12. (Mon.) Triangle Orchid Society Spring Orchid Auction. 7:30pm. JC Raulston Arboretum, 4415 Beryl Rd., Raleigh. "An auction of unusual and hard to find orchids. These will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Prices generally are well-below retail prices. Purchasers may use cash, check or credit card." Free and open to visitors at the JC Raulston Arboretum, For more info: [Triangle Orchid Society](#).

May 13. (Tues.) Evening Garden Stroll. 4pm–7:30pm. JC Raulston Arboretum, 4415 Beryl Rd., Raleigh. "The gardens will remain open until 7:30 pm on Tuesday, May 13. A free public tour of the Arboretum will be offered at 5:00 pm, departing from the Bobby G. Wilder Visitor Center. No advance registration necessary." More info here: [JCRA Evening Stroll](#).

May 14. (Wed.) The Midweek Program: Texture in the Garden. 3pm–4pm. JC Raulston Arboretum - free online program. To register: [JCRA Midweek](#).

May 16-18. (Fri.-Sun.) Spring Garden Party at Juniper Level Botanic Garden. 9am-5pm. Juniper Level Botanic Garden, 9241 Sauls Rd, Raleigh. "Stroll lush gardens, shop unique plants and soak in spring's beauty. More than 3,000 blooming plant varieties will be on display – from peonies and irises to cacti, hostas and aroids. Enjoy "Gardening Unplugged" talks, enter the DIY floral hat contest and uncover hidden garden gems." Free and open to the public. For more info: [JLBG Open House](#)

May 20. (Tues.) Native Plant Solutions: Perennials to Fill the Gaps (online). 12pm-1pm. "Shannon Currey, outreach educator at Izel Native Plants, in collaboration with Izel Native Plants, will tell us about dynamic fillers—desirable species that can be used to close gaps, fill any new ones that arise, and provide seasonal color. Learn how to use these plants to reduce the need for weeding and mulching, and to create beautiful, resilient, lower-maintenance plantings." Free. To register: [Duke Gardens](#), or 919-668-1707.

May 21. (Wed.) The Midweek Program: Deeper in the Garden – Roses. 3-4pm. Free online program. Register at [Midweek in the Garden](#). JC Raulston Arboretum.

May 22. (Thurs.) Hybrid Lunchbox Talk. Carolina Ghosts, Synchronous Shows and Foxfire Lights: The Bioluminescent Insects of North Carolina. 12-1pm. NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. “In this presentation, entomologist Dr. Clyde Sorenson will introduce the substantial diversity of fireflies and other glowing insects, their ecology, and their conservation.” Free, but registration is required for either online or in-person participation, go here: [Fireflies](#)

May 28. (Wed.) The Midweek Program: Dealing with Deer (and Other Four-legged Pests). 3–4pm. Free, online program from JC Raulston Arboretum. Register here: [Dealing with Deer and Others](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

June 7. (Sat.) Maria’s Annual Herb Workshop. 4-6pm. 3645 May Apple Ct., Wake Forest. Rain date: Saturday, June 14, 4-6pm. This year Maria will focus on “cooking with herbs.” You won’t want to miss it!! Call, text, or email Maria or Kat (we’re in the directory) so Maria will know how many to plan for.

June 9. (Mon.) The Giant World of Miniature Orchids. 7:30pm. The Triangle Orchid Society presents Tomas Bajca of Florida on miniature orchids. Free and open to the public at the JC Raulston Arboretum Education Building, 4415 Beryl Rd., Raleigh. For more info: [Triangle Orchid Society](#).

June 12-13. (Thurs.-Fri.) Southeastern Plant Symposium. 8am-8:30pm, Thurs., 8:30am-4:30pm, Sun. JC Raulston Arboretum, 4415 Beryl Rd., Raleigh. In-person and online. Fee: from \$200. For schedule, more info, and to register: [Southeastern Plant Symposium](#).

June 17. (Tues.) Pollinator Paradise: Cultivating Gardens That Support Bees, Butterflies, and Beyond (online). 12pm-1pm. “Join Dr. Neeti Bathala, professor, author, gardener and graduate of Duke’s Nicholas School of the Environment, for an engaging lecture on the vital role of pollinators in sustaining ecosystems and food production. Discover native plants and flowers that attract and nourish a variety of pollinator species and gain practical insights into designing year-round blooming gardens—even in small spaces or containers. Participants will also learn how to take actionable steps for conservation and participate in citizen science by reporting pollinator observations.” Free. More info at [Duke Gardens: Cultivating Gardens that Support Pollinators](#). Try registering at that website, too, or (in this case, perhaps easier to call): 919-668-1707.

June 24. (Tues.) Healing Ukraine: Botanical Gardens in a Time of War — a Model of International Collaboration (virtual). 12-1pm. Free online webinar. “With Emilee Weaver, Manager of Therapeutic Horticulture at North Carolina Botanical Garden, Tony Allison, Board President of Partnerships for Nature, a US non-profit organization that works closely with Ukrainian botanical gardens and Dr. Andriy Prokopiv, Director of Lviv University Botanical Garden in Ukraine. Join us for a timely webinar about Ukrainian botanical gardens and their critical role during the ongoing war with Russia. Since the Russian invasion in early 2022, Ukraine’s botanical gardens have been serving as centers of respite, recovery, environmental education, and nature healing. Leaders from several Ukrainian gardens will describe their current focus on Therapeutic Horticulture, utilizing U.S. expertise provided primarily by North Carolina Botanical Garden to assist the traumatized population of their country, including veterans and displaced families. Ukrainian botanical garden leaders will provide vivid images of their gardens and their work and will discuss the crucial support from US partners. The webinar will conclude with a question-and-answer session and will explain how you can assist these efforts.” Free, but registration is required: [Healing Ukraine: Botanical Gardens in a Time of War](#). Or register by calling 919-668-1707.

June 26. (Thurs.) Hybrid Lunchbox Talk: Information in Bird Song. 12-1pm. North Carolina Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. “Focusing on songbirds that occur in North Carolina, this talk will first cover basics of bird song biology including the song structure, the functions of song, and how birds learn and produce it. Then examples will be given of the surprisingly many kinds of information that can be contained in song about a bird’s identity, history, and current status.” You may attend in-person, or online. Free. For more information and to register : [Information in Bird Song](#).

ONGOING:

Saturdays. Oxford Farmers Market. 7am-12pm every Saturday from May 3 until Oct. 25. Corner of McClanahan and Lanier Streets in Oxford, across from the police station. Our own Judy M., Danny and Cindy D., and Vickey T., have booths at the market. More info: [Old Oxford Farmers Market](#)

Saturdays. Oxford Armory Farmers Market. 9am-1pm. Oxford Armory (outside), 105 W. Spring Street, Oxford. A partnership between the City of Oxford, N.C. Cooperative Extension of Granville County, and the Oxford Armory Farmers' Market Board, the Armory Market will be open every Saturday until Oct. 25. For more info: [Armory Farmers' Market](#)

Ripe for Revival Mobile Market. Tuesdays, 3-4:30pm. Outside Tobacco Wood Brewing Co., 17 Wall St., Oxford. "Fresh and local produce, protein, dairy, and eggs can be found on the mobile market." Follow on social media, or sign up for weekly newsletter, to receive the weekly produce list. For more info: [Ripe for Revival Facebook Page](#), [Ripe for Revival Instagram Account](#), info@ripeforrevival.com

From Farm to Fridge. "The Granville County Library System (GCLS) has partnered with local farms, farmers, organizations, groups, and food banks to address food insecurity in Granville County... At any time, refrigerators located at the South, Stovall and Thornton branch libraries and a food pantry located at the Berea Branch can be stocked with healthy choices of fruits, vegetables, and non-perishable food items—you name it! And these items are "FREE" to anyone who has a need. For more info: [Farm to Fridge](#), or call the library branches at Berea: 919-693-1231, South Granville: 919-528-1752, Stovall: 919- 693-5722, or Thornton: 919-693-1121.

Seed Library. "The Granville County Library System (GCLS) is pleased to offer free seeds through our seed library program. Our Berea, South and Thornton branches feature flowers, vegetables, and herb seeds to help foster improved access to "healthy food." For info: [Granville County Seed Library](#) or contact the library branches at Berea: 919-693-1231, South Granville: 919-528-1752, or Thornton: 919-693-1121.

March to Nov., Second Saturday of the month. NCBG Tour. 10am-12pm. NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. "From March to November, join our skilled volunteer Garden Guides on the second Saturday of the month for a guided tour of the North Carolina Botanical Garden. Each month offers a glimpse into what's happening in our unique native plant gardens – from spring wildflowers to fall color – and what makes the NCBG one of the premier conservation gardens in the US. Tours are one (1) hour and space is limited!" \$6 (\$5 Members). For more info and to register (limited space), go here: [Second Saturday NCBG Tour](#)

Member Marketplace

Any members of the Granville Gardeners may list their garden/farm business in Member Marketplace by sending in the print-ready copy with up to four photos by the 25th of each month.



WHO WON THE APRIL AUCTION BIDS FOR THE JCRA-DONATED PLANTS?



Salvia 'Newe Ya'ar' The bid for this sage developed for distinctive culinary properties PLUS successful growing in hot and humid climates went to Robin Word.

Photo: JCRA Plant Collection, <https://jcra.ncsu.edu>



Sinningia 'Apricot Bouquet' This fragrant, all-summer blooming, hardy (questionable) African violet cousin went to Christi Henthorn.

Photo: Verdant Nursery, <https://www.verdantnursery.com/>



Coral honeysuckle 'Blanch Sandman' is a glorious, hummingbird attracting vine full of flowers spring to summer and went home with Laura Bullock.

Photo: Brushwood Nursery, <https://www.brushwoodnursery.com>



Forrest St. John's Wort's bright yellow flowers will attract pollinators all summer in Joyce Cifers' garden.

Photo: JC Raulston Arboretum, <https://jcra.ncsu.edu>



Hardy Bird of Paradise tree has to be seen to believe how spectacular it is in full bloom – bringing a bit of tropical paradise to Judy McHugh's garden.

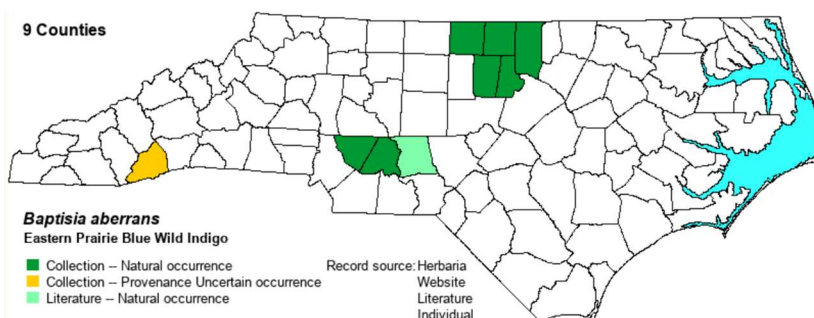
Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder, <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>

To Do in May

- Put out hummingbird feeders if you didn't get them up in April. Fill with a solution of 1 part sugar to 4 parts boiling water. There is no need to put in red food color.
- Azaleas, climbing roses, camellias, rhododendrons and other flowering shrubs/trees can be pruned (if needed) after flowering
- Fertilize crepe myrtles with an organic fertilizer for abundant summer blooms (pruning hard in early spring **DOES NOT** encourage more and/or heavier flowering and **is harmful** to crepe myrtles).
- Plant annual flowers to fill in empty spaces. Close spacing crowds out weeds.
- Plant heat loving vegetables (green beans, squash, cucumbers, field peas, butter beans, tomatoes, etc.).
- To help prevent blossom end rot, mulch around tomatoes and peppers, and keep soil evenly moist.
- When cool season vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and green peas, sugar snaps, and snow peas) begin to mature, harvest every couple of days for best quality. Hot weather can cause these crops to be over-mature very quickly.
- Plant tender warm season bulbs like canna, caladium, gladiolus, and dahlia now
- Fast-growing clematis should be pruned and trained to prevent it from becoming an unmanageable mess
- Cut back plants not cut back earlier because of danger of frost, including: caryopteris (blue mist plant), perovskia (Russian sage), large salvias; any others with hollow stems or that are susceptible to frost damage.
- If you haven't been mulching all along, prepare for dry weather by putting down mulch now.
- Plant Bermuda, centipede, St. Augustine, and zoysia grasses now.
- To keep annuals blooming all season, deadhead after blooming.

Compiled by Marty Finkel

Rumor has it that the endangered Eastern Prairie Blue Wild Indigo - *Baptisia aberrans* – is currently in bloom at Penny's Bend on the Eno. "This is one of a handful of "prairie plants" in NC -- species whose main range lies in high pH prairie-like or glade-like habitats west of the Appalachians. In NC, this is a species of mafic glades, barrens, and wooded margins, even at times in overgrown pastures, but always in sunny and rather dry sites, over diabase or gabbro rocks. At most sites where it still occurs, there are one to many other rare plant species present." ___ Vascular Plants of North Carolina



***Baptisia aberrans*. Photo by Suzanne Cadwell, [CC BY-NC 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)**

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Black Cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*)



This regal native plant is spectacular from May to August with cream to white flowers on wand-like stalks that can get over 4' (often to 6') tall. During the growing season, it can grow 18" to 22" per month. The compound leaves are made up of irregularly toothed leaflets, lending a fine textured look. The clumps of leaves make a lovely groundcover and their texture contrasts well with hostas. August to October is when seed capsules form, and they rattle when shaken. This indicates they are mature and ready to be harvested. Black cohosh is a medicinal plant and is found in rich woodlands from Maine and Ontario to Georgia, and west of Missouri and Indiana. It's most commonly found in the western part of NC. It prefers rich moisture-retentive soils in partial to full shade and can be slow to get established. Ideally, it wants 2-3 hours of morning sun. If light is too limited, it may fail to flower. Plant in an area protected from strong winds.

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 May*

Mock Orange	Peonies
Barbara's Buttons *	Lilies
Solitary Clematis	Yellowwood *
Desert Willow	Bellflower
Squawfeather *	Japanese hornbeam
Canna	Sweetshrub *
Winecups *	Crinum lilies *
Beautyberry *	False red agave *
Henry's barberry	Florida Chocolate Daisy *
Hedgehog cactus *	Echinaceas *
Italian Arum	Dwarf marlberry (<i>Ardisia japonica</i> 'Chirimen')
Many alliums	Various dogwoods, many native
Ajuga	Pineapple guava
Yarrow	Dahlias
Ice Plant	Deutzia
Dianthus	Bleeding heart
Foxglove	Persimmon

Compiled by Marty Finkel

Photos of some other plants in bloom this month



Bear breech



Star of Persia allium



Smoke Tree 'Young Lady'



*Crinum Lily **



*Ozark blue star **



Red horse chestnut



Rocky Mountain Columbine



*Dutchman's Pipe **



*Butterfly weed **



Devil's Tongue



Red-veined Enkianthus



*Baptisia 'Blueberry Sundae' **



Hardy Bottlebrush

Chosen by Marty Finkel from JCRA Showtime for May