



Botanical Garden of the Piedmont

We'll Grow Together

Winter 2021



THE GARDEN'S PATHS



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The Garden is open!

The Garden continues to grow! A recent grant from the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, together with support from local partners: Bartlett Tree Experts, J.W. Townsend Landscaping and Leslie Harris LH Gardens, have helped us create engaging and creative rustic small gathering areas for quiet contemplation or just a place to rest and enjoy the views.

In addition, we have instituted a volunteer Garden Guardian workday at the Garden on the first and third Wednesdays of March through December. The Garden Guardians maintain the trails and

socially-distanced seating that make the Garden more welcoming and accessible to serve our community. A bonus for Guardians is that workdays are also learning experiences. They have received training about invasive species, building trails and creating log benches.

The Garden is located at the corner of Melbourne Road and John Warner Parkway. Even if the gate is closed, the Garden is open. Parking is available along Melbourne Road (adjacent to the Charlottesville High School's football field). Use the enclosed Trail map to find your path through the Garden site.



Drone view of the Garden's newest path
Courtesy of Carlton Carroll



Meet Sheryl Lee, Volunteer Coordinator

What inspired you to work with the Garden?

I've been active in the past working with a community of volunteers at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in Santa Cruz, California. We started an informal gardening group there and now I am taking a course in horticultural therapy. So gardens and health interest me greatly and working to get this one started is exciting!

How did you get involved?

When my husband and I recently moved to Charlottesville, I began to look for volunteer work that would provide that feeling of community as well as connection with nature. My sister-in-law suggested I explore the Garden. Before you know it, I was meeting wonderful volunteers and was excited to be a part of the mission of bringing people and plants together in a natural restorative environment. I am excited to meet more volunteers and help to grow this beautiful space.

What type of work have you done?

With my background and my experience at NAMI,

I noticed that when people met in nature, they drew strength and peace from the experience. As a result of my experience and current work with the Garden I am working toward a master's degree in Health and Wellness Coaching and Horticultural Therapy.

What is your favorite thing about volunteering with the Garden?

Every day I learn more about the organization and how hard we are working to bring this community asset to Charlottesville and the entire region.

How do you balance other commitments with volunteering with the Garden?

I am an organized person. I know how many hours each week I have to volunteer, and I try to stick to it. Sometimes it is a little more and sometimes a little less. As I write the volunteer job descriptions, I try to put an idea of expected hourly commitment in them.

Sheryl, we are grateful to you AND your sister-in-law!



Ann Taylor joins the Garden's staff as the Director of Marketing and Philanthropy. Ann and her family moved to Charlottesville from Vero Beach, Florida to take on the second staff position at the Garden. Ann comes to us with over 30 years of marketing and fundraising experience. Her last position was with the Indian River Land Trust, where Ann managed all aspects of the marketing and fundraising, leading two multimillion-dollar campaigns, and the start of a million-dollar endowment fund.

Ann and her family are thrilled to be members of the Charlottesville community. Ann states, the views make her heart sing as she learns her way through the city.



People make a difference in the Garden

Melissa Elliott and her pup Katy enjoy walks on the Garden site. Instead of gifts this year Melissa asked her friends and relatives to donate to the Garden. Thank you, Melissa!

Lisa McEwan is the owner of HotCakes Gourmet. She is offering her talents to help the Garden grow by offering a great dinner for two!



Trees Can Help Sixth Graders Do Better Academically, New Study Says

Reprinted by permission of the Author and Chicago Parent

by Kari Zaffarano

Many studies have found the importance of nature in schools for young children and older learners, but few studied the pre-teen ages. Now a new study has found nature — and trees specifically — can make a huge difference in sixth-graders' learning.

Ming Kuo, associate professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois and his co-authors, compared trees and other vegetation at different distances from schools in suburban, urban and rural communities in Washington state.

“We wanted to offer concrete guidance to landscape architects, principals, and school boards interested in putting the greenness-achievement link to work, giving them clues as to what should be planted and where,” co-author Samantha Klein says.

Trees came out to be the most beneficial of the vegetation they tested.

“I think school boards have always been faced with distributing very limited funds, especially in the poorest areas,” says Kuo. “They might think that, with all the other pressing needs for funding, school landscaping is the least of their concerns. Little do they suspect that a treeless schoolyard may actually be contributing to poor school performance.” Kuo says the need for trees is even more vital right now as schools consider the second half of the school year due to COVID-19.

“One of the big benefits of greenery, and one of the reasons we think it affects academic achievement, is it's a really potent stress reliever,” Kuo says.

Upcoming Events:

February 23, 12:00 PM: A Virtual Brown Bag Round Table Discussion hosted by the Tom Tom Foundation, (champions of innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship in America's hometown). A panel moderated by our Executive Director, Jill Trischman-Marks, will discuss the benefits of the Garden to the community as well as the need for public input to ensure that the built Garden is relevant and welcoming to the entire community.

Guardian Workdays Begin again in March. Sign-up on our website.

Interested in learning more about the Garden? Have a club or group that would like to join a Zoom or socially distanced tour of the site? Just let us know, email us at: info@piedmontgarden.org.

Have your voice heard! Have a voice in designing the future features and programming for the Garden. Complete the online Survey. Visit our website: piedmontgarden.org.

The Ian Robertson Lecture Series will take place virtually in September. The program is designed to span three evenings with a panel discussion and Q&A on the fourth evening. Be on the lookout for your invitation to join us.

The Mission

The Botanical Garden of the Piedmont's mission is to invite all community members and visitors to engage in nature, to educate and inspire through the beauty and importance of plants, to advance sustainability, and to promote human and environmental well-being.

Thank
You

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors:

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Botanical Garden
of the Piedmont

BGP Trail Map



Botanical Garden of the Piedmont
P.O. Box 6224
Charlottesville, VA 22906



You are cordially invited

To Celebrate what you want to celebrate and support the Garden

RSVP by April 30, 2021

When you send the Garden \$100, you will receive a certificate

Each certificate includes the following from
HotCakes' Gourmet Monthly selection:

- Two dinner size entrees
 - Two side dishes
 - Two desserts
- One bottle of wine selected from The Garden collection

Celebrate Enjoy Dinner for two
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Certificates are valid until June 15, 2021. (\$60 tax deductible per certificate.)