Inside:

What’s Blooming in the Garden?  PAGE 8

C. morefieldii Conservation Research  PAGE 10

Take our Alabama Native Plant Quiz!  PAGE 17
A Note to Our Community:

Welcome to your new Garden Columns!

We are delighted to be sharing with you the first issue of the relaunched Garden Columns, now published as the Garden’s own magazine.

Just like in our former newsletter, you will find information and articles about what’s going on at the Garden. The Garden Columns will give you an inside look at the mission activities happening at the Garden every day. We aim to bring you in-depth stories, unique perspectives, and stunning photographs. You will hear from staff members and volunteers, learn more about our partnerships and research projects, and discover all of the fun new ways you can get involved.

The Garden is here to help you connect with plants. Everything we do seeks to inspire you to find joy in nature, discover the beauty and wonder of our environment, and even take action to protect and steward the green spaces around you. We hope this magazine does a little bit of all of that.

Thank you for supporting the Garden, and happy reading!

The Garden Team

Butterfly Fact #1
The Purdy Butterfly House is home to about 25 different butterfly species!
Hello everyone!

In the spring and summer months, the Garden is a delight for the senses: colorful flowers burst from their buds, the fragrance of fresh blooms wafts on the breeze, and the buzz of pollinators fills the air. Each day, new wonders emerge, waiting to be discovered. Surround yourself with the flurry of thousands of butterfly wings in the Purdy Butterfly House, or enjoy a moment of peace as you rest in the cool shade of the Fern Glade. Wherever your stroll through the Garden takes you, you are sure to find something surprising, unique, and inspiring.

Among the leaves and the blooms, there are so many exciting things to discover, and we are thrilled to be bringing you two new experiences to explore this season:

Beginning in June, you can learn and play in larger-than-life structures that reveal the connection between birds and people during our newest exhibit, Uncaged: Birds, Nature, and You!

Beginning in July, as night falls, you can experience the Garden’s living collections like never before in Night Blooms, an enchanting journey through a dreamscape of botanical lanterns.

With so much to enjoy at the Garden right now, this issue of the Garden Columns celebrates the joy and excitement of the spring and summer months. In these pages, you will find exciting new research in plant science and conservation, helpful tips for your own landscape, a guide to what’s blooming in the Garden, and so much more.

We hope these stories and images inspire you to spend time outside this season, whether at the Garden or in your own backyard.

See you at the Garden!

Sue Wagner

2020-2021 Board of Directors
David Bier, Chair
Warne Heath, Vice Chair
Carol Tepevaugh, Vice Chair
Tharon Honeycutt, Treasurer
Janet Brown, Asst. Treasurer
Leta DeMaoribus, Secretary
Elaine Alsplach
Penny Billings
Gary Bolton
Carla Bossard
Lynn Carden
Lynn Collyar
Mary Grace Evans
Mary Griffith
David Harbarger
Hank Isenberg
Kim Lewis
Terry Lewis
Eric Mills
Lana Ritch
Reba Rogers
Jeff Showalter
Beth Sippel
Brendy Smith
Kathi Tew

What’s Inside
Page 8
What’s Blooming in the Garden?

Page 10
Featured Story: Worth the Hike

Page 14
My Top 10 Favorite Things About Summer Camp

Page 17
Quiz: What Alabama Native Plant Are You?

and more!

Visit Us:
In Person: 4747 Bob Wallace Ave, Huntsville, AL 35805
Online: hsvbg.org

Contact Us:
Phone: 256-830-4447
Email: info@hsvbg.org

Who We Are
Open year-round, the Huntsville Botanical Garden contains diverse ecosystems to explore within its 112 acres. From grassy meadows to woodland paths, aquatic habitats to stunning floral collections, the Garden invites guests of all ages to discover the beauty and wonder of the natural environment.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Garden is an ArbNet-accredited arboretum and a member of the American Public Gardens Association, the North American Plant Collections Consortium, the American Horticultural Society, and Botanic Gardens Conservation International.

On the cover:
A young guest finds a quiet moment of curiosity and joy while exploring in the Garden.

Butterfly Fact #2
Butterflies can’t smell! Instead, they have taste receptors on their feet.

Greetings from our CEO

Sue Wagner
Events & Exhibits at the Garden

JUNE 11 – OCTOBER 31

Butterfly Fact #4
During Peak Butterfly Season, the Purdy Butterfly House is home to around 1,200 butterflies at a time.

Youth & Family Programs

JUNE – JULY

SUMMER CAMPS
See page 15 for more information!

JUNE
8, 22, 29 Firefly Garden Hike
18 Family Campout in the Garden (Members only)
19, 25 Flowers | Seeds to Sprouts

JULY
6, 13, 20, 27 Firefly Garden Hike
9, 17, 30 Pollination | Seeds to Sprouts

AUGUST
13, 21, 27 Trees | Seeds to Sprouts
17, 19, 24, 28 Nature Academy

SEPTEMBER
4, 17, 24 Soil | Seeds to Sprouts
7, 9, 11, 21, 23 Nature Academy
23 Monarch Release

OCTOBER
1, 15 Family Campout in the Garden (Members only)
4-8 Fall Break Camp
12, 14, 23, 26, 28 Nature Academy
8, 22 Scarecrow Trail Night Hike
22, 30 Fall Leaves | Seeds to Sprouts

Butterfly Fact #3
We raise around 18 different butterfly species on-site at the Garden.

MAY – SEPTEMBER

Peak Butterfly Season
JUNE 11 – OCTOBER 31

Uncaged
Birds, Nature, & You
JULY 21 – SEPTEMBER 26

Night Blooms
Presented by PNC
SEPTEMBER 4 – OCTOBER 31

Festifall and Scarecrow Trail
MAY
19, 26 The Golden Hour
26 Meet & Greet the Artist | Joann Bugg
31 Memorial Day (Free admission for military personnel and immediate family)

JUNE
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 The Golden Hour
12 Butterfly Release

Adult Programs

JUNE
3, 10 Selecting Native Plants that Thrive in Summer 🌺
5 Home Propagation 101 🌻
17 Ahead of the Curve: New, Rare, & Unusual Plants 🌻
26 Keep the Animals Out! 🐨

AUGUST
5, 12, 19, 26 Understanding & Improving Garden Soils 🌲
28 Leaf Castings 🌸

SEPTEMBER
8 Divide & Conquer: Getting the Most Out of the Plants You Have 🌾
9, 11 Selecting Native Plants that Thrive in Fall 🌾
9, 16 Pruning for the Homeowner 🌾
18 Morning Bird Walk with Herb Lewis 🌾

OCTOBER
5 The Introvert’s Garden: Hedges, Thorns, Prickles, & Poisons 🌾

Youth & Family Programs

JUNE
20 Father’s Day (Free admission for dads)

MEMORIAL DAY (Free admission for military personnel and immediate family)

JUNE
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 The Golden Hour
12 Butterfly Release

MEMORIAL DAY (Free admission for military personnel and immediate family)

JUNE
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 The Golden Hour
12 Butterfly Release
What’s Blooming in the Garden?

The Huntsville Botanical Garden is full of interest and variety year-round, and the stunning colors in the spring and summer are simply not to be missed! Here are some of our favorite must-see blooms and lush vegetation you can enjoy this season, including when and where to find them in the Garden.

“Hydrangeas are the quintessential summer garden shrub, and everybody should have at least one! They are very easy to grow, especially the native varieties. The first year after you plant them, make sure they get plenty of water and research when to prune, and they will bloom every year!”

Elaine Alspach, Garden Volunteer and Board of Directors Member

“Coneflowers are awesome perennials that attract pollinators like bees and butterflies. When the flowers fade, the seeds also provide food for the birds. Coneflowers come in beautiful bright colors like pink, purple, yellow, and orange, so they look great in any landscape!”

Rebecca Turk, Director of Learning and Public Engagement at the Garden

“I enjoy the water lilies because they are a surprise of color every year. Water lilies are the jewel of the Garden throughout late spring and summer with their varied bloom times, hardiness, and varieties. The hardy water lilies stay in the pond all season and are the first to bloom. The tropical water lilies put on a show at the end of the summer when temperatures are warm, and the night bloomers light up the night.”

Sherry Hoyt, Lead Gardener at the Garden

“Ferns are everything plants should be. Some are evergreen, some are deciduous, some are lacy, and they all have individuality. They are so different, yet all in the same family. You just have to be patient to grow them.”

Peggy Patch, Garden Volunteer

When: May
Where: Bush Azalea Trail, Harbarger Hydrangea Border

When: June/July
Where: Tweetsville, Native Plants Teaching Garden

When: June/July
Where: Damson Aquatic Garden

When: August
Where: Fern Glade

Fun Fact:
Some water lily flowers only open in the morning or in the evening to attract insect pollinators.

Fun Fact:
Peggy’s secret ingredient for beautiful, lush ferns is fish emulsion. Fertilize with fish emulsion in the spring, and watch your ferns grow!

Butterfly Fact #5
Every butterfly in the Purdy Butterfly House is native to our region.

Coneflowers

Water Lilies

Ferns
Beneath the shade of the trees, the June morning air still feels cool as Tracy Cook treks carefully through the undergrowth at Monte Sano State Park. Her eyes scan the landscape, and spread out around her, the other members of her field team are doing the same. Somewhere nearby, camouflaged amongst the greens and browns of hundreds of other plants, hidden by the kaleidoscope of dappled sunlight streaming through the canopy, a delicate draping vine grows, and they are here to find it.

Suddenly, a shout breaks through the quiet morning. “Tracy! I think I got it!”

The reddish-purple hue. The trailing growth across the rocky terrain. The angle of the leaves positioned just so along the vine. The plant is *Clematis morefieldii*, more commonly known as Morefield’s leather flower, and the hunt for its location is more than an exercise in plant identification; it’s a step towards securing the species’ survival.

Native to northern Alabama, northwestern Georgia, and southern Tennessee, *C. morefieldii* has been listed as a federally endangered plant species since 1992. In the few locations where it exists in the wild, urban development and invasive plants threaten to destroy any remaining plant populations. But conservation efforts to protect the species are stunted by a lack of genetic information about the plant.

That’s where Tracy Cook and her team come in.

“*C. morefieldii* needs our help,” says Cook, who serves as Director of Plant Conservation and Curation at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. “This little guy is tough as nails. It is a species that lives in a difficult habitat that can survive storms and natural disasters, but despite it all, it is endangered because of human activities. We need to take action to prevent the extinction of this incredible native plant, but to do that effectively, we need to know more about it first.”

Understanding a plant species’ genetic makeup allows plant conservationists like Cook to decide how to protect a plant based on the species’ unique DNA. In order to learn more about the DNA of *C. morefieldii*, Cook is leading a project to document and protect as much of the plant’s genetics as possible. This multifaceted project to save *C. morefieldii* includes efforts to locate where the plant still exists in the wild, ethically collect diverse samples, analyze the plant’s DNA sequence, and propagate it to introduce more genetic diversity into the species. The samples of *C. morefieldii* will then be preserved in plant collections at botanical institutions across the country, including at the Huntsville Botanical Garden.

It’s certainly no small task, but Cook and her team are up to the challenge. After completing over 150 hours of fieldwork in the summer of 2020, the project team is currently focusing on studying and caring for the plant samples they collected.

“Saving an entire species is definitely not an easy or simple undertaking,” says Cook with a smile. “But if we can help save this incredible native plant from extinction, without a doubt, it will all be worth it.”

Tracy Cook is the Director of Plant Conservation and Curation at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. The *Clematis morefieldii* project is funded by an award from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, provided for under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act. The project is also supported by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands and State Parks Divisions, the Land Trust of North Alabama, the Nature Conservancy, the University of Alabama in Huntsville Department of Biological Sciences, Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance, and HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology.

**Butterfly Fact #6**
The average lifespan of a butterfly is 3-4 weeks, but some species can live up to 10 months or more.
An American fringetree (Chionanthus virginicus) blooms in the sun outside the Anderson Education Center. Also known as a white fringetree, this deciduous shrub is native to Alabama.
My 10 FAVORITE THINGS About Summer Camp

By Noah Smith, Age 9

#10. I get to be outside every day. There is way more room to explore than in my backyard at home!

#9. I met my friend Daniel. He likes bugs, just like me!

#8. Once during free exploration time, Daniel and I found a big rock hidden under a bush. When we turned it over, we found so many worms! The instructor brought everyone over to see it was fun to show our friends what we found.

#7. Our instructor that day was Miss Sadie. She is so nice and funny. She always has something cool to show us!

#6. Miss Sadie helped us do an experiment. We planted seeds in two different containers to see which one grew better. It was really cool to watch the seeds grow all week long.

#5. At the end of camp, I got to take the seeds home! I put them on my windowsill in my bedroom. Now they can get lots of sunlight and grow even more.

#4. One day, we went inside the butterfly house to learn how caterpillars become butterflies. Suddenly, a giant yellow butterfly landed on my arm! It was so close that I could see its antennae. I had to stand very still so that it wouldn't fly away.

#3. Another day, we went to the Herb Garden. The basil leaves reminded me of Grandma's cooking. I can't wait to tell her about it next time we visit her.

#2. Miss Sadie said that because I like bugs so much, maybe I will grow up to be a scientist who studies insects. She wrote it down for me: it is called an entomologist. I think that must be the coolest job in the world!

#1. Mom and Dad keep saying, "It sounds like you're learning a lot!" I guess I am. All I know is I can't wait to go back next week!

Butterfly Fact #8
Butterflies need two kinds of plants: nectar plants and host plants. The nectar plants provide the butterfly with food, and the host plants are where the butterfly will lay eggs.
May
- Allow spring foliage to die back to encourage perennial growth.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs like camellias, azaleas, and forsythias.
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs like dahlias, gladiolus, and lilies.
- Plant all summer veggies and annuals by the end of the month.
- Mulch flower beds to help control weeds and give your garden a polished look.

June
- Stake any plants that need extra support.
- Make more plants by taking cuttings of new growth.
- Learn more about propagating plants in our class, Home Propagation 101, on June 5!
- Feed your plants with fertilizer.
- Take steps to control weeds, pests, and disease.

July
- Deadhead faded flowers to promote re-blooming.
- Beat the heat by watering early in the morning and in the evening.
- Get more veggies by planting a second crop of edible plants like green beans, zucchini, and squash.

August
- Stay cool indoors and care for your houseplants.
- Start planting your fall vegetable garden for a bountiful harvest.

September
- Start planning your fall plantings.
- Divide your perennials to save money and have even more plants to enjoy.
- Learn more about dividing plants in our class, Divide & Conquer, on September 8!

Quiz Time!
What Alabama Native Plant Are You?

What is your favorite season?
A. Spring
B. Summer
C. Fall
D. Winter

How tall are you?
A. 5’ and below
B. 5’1” to 5’5”
C. 5’6” to 5’11”
D. 6’ and above

How would you describe your style?
A. Simple and understated
B. Fun and spunky
C. Delicate and romantic
D. Polished and timeless

What is your favorite way to spend a spring day?
A. Sitting in the shade with a cool breeze
B. Soaking up the sunshine all day
C. Taking in the soft light of dawn
D. Any activity as long as I am outdoors!

What colors do you like best?
A. Earth tones
B. Bright colors
C. Pastels
D. Neutrals

Trinity Flower
(Trillium spp.)
You are a trillium! Trilliums can be a bit shy, but once they open up, they bloom beautifully. They love shady spots where they can enjoy a gentle breeze. You can visit the trilliums in the Holmes Trillium Garden, where our accredited trillium collection blooms in the spring.

Bee Balm
(Monarda spp.)
You are a bee balm! Known by many names, bee balm is a bold, energetic plant. Bee balms are social butterflies; they attract lots of pollinators with their bright colors and striking flowerheads. You can find bee balms in the Purdy Butterfly House and in Tweetsville.

Oakleaf Hydrangea
(Hydrangea quercifolia)
You are an oakleaf hydrangea! Their delicate flowers and large foliage provide consistent beauty from spring to fall, and they bloom best when they receive morning sun and afternoon shade. You can see oakleaf hydrangeas in the Harbarger Hydrangea Border and throughout the Garden.

Southern Magnolia
(Magnolia grandiflora)
You are a southern magnolia! With its large, fragrant blooms and broad, glossy leaves, the southern magnolia is the epitome of classic beauty and poise. They grow tall and proud in a variety of conditions and are happy in the sun or shade. You can enjoy southern magnolias in locations throughout the Garden, such as the Parking Garden and the entrance to the Four Seasons Garden.

Quiz Answers:
You’re a Real Bloomer...

Mostly A’s
Mostly B’s
Mostly C’s
Mostly D’s

Butterfly Fact #9
Some butterfly species migrate. Monarch butterflies can travel upwards of 3,000 miles in a year during their migration!
Get Involved:

Thank you to our Corporate Partners!

The Corporate Partner program is designed to strengthen the relationship between the Huntsville Botanical Garden and the corporate community in the Greater Huntsville Area. Through the annual support of these Corporate Partners, we can provide first-class programs that allow children, families, and Garden guests to connect to plants and gain a deeper understanding of the role they play in their own environment.

Principal
Window World

Shareholder
Laughlin Service Funeral Home & Crematory
Redstone Federal Credit Union
Walmart

Underwriter
Aviagen
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
Dynetics
HighTower Twickenham
LG Electronics
OASYS Inc.

Supporter
a.i. Solutions
BAE Systems
Bancorp South
Edward Jones – Financial Advisors, Brenda Armstrong, CFP® | CRPC®
John Butterfield, CFP® | AAMS®
Kitty Davenport, CFP® | AAMS®
MTS
Northwestern Mutual – Shane Stromel, Managing Director
PeopleTree
Van Valkenburgh & Wilkinson Properties
Viva Health

To learn more about the Corporate Partner program, contact development@hsvbg.org.

New Plaque Honors Garden Guild

In honor of 32 years of dedicated service by the many members of the Garden Guild, we are pleased to announce that a plaque has been placed in the Volunteer Tribute Garden. This plaque will serve as a lasting testament to the commitment of these volunteers and our deep appreciation of all the Guild has done to support the Garden and our community.

The Garden Guild was formed in 1988 to support the Garden through fundraising, educational activities, and volunteerism. From 1988 to 2020, the Guild raised over $10 million for the Garden through the Spring and Fall Plant Sales, Galaxy of Lights, and other Garden fundraising events.

The Garden would not be the place of learning, joy, and respite that it is today if it had not been for the support of the Garden Guild. Their countless hours of hard work, unwavering dedication, and passion for our mission have built a strong foundation on which the Garden can grow and thrive for generations to come.

Volunteers continue to be a valued and essential part of the Garden. We welcome anyone interested in volunteering with us to email volunteer@hsvbg.org to learn more about how you can be a part of the Garden, too.
“That beautiful season... Summer.... Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape Lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood.”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow