

BE A GARDEN AMBASSADOR

As a member of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia Board of Advisors, you are an important ambassador. There are many ways that you can help to spread the word about the garden:

- casual conversations,
- gather like-minded people together in a meeting or private event and ask for a garden staff member to give a group presentation or our director and/or development director to represent the garden, or
- cultivate new friends of the garden by inviting them to the Gardens of the World Ball, garden events or a tour of the garden.

TALKING POINTS

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia is one of the state's most treasured resources, a unique and beautiful space serving the university and all of Georgia since 1968. Acres of beautiful display gardens, nature trails, a visitor center and conservatory, educational classes and symposia, children's camps, native plant and pollinator certificate programs, garden exhibits, as well as events and family festivals bring horticulture and conservation to life for people of various ages, backgrounds and interests. Admission and parking is free to visitors and the garden is on the UGA bus route.

2022 has already been an eventful year for the garden:

- The inaugural year of Winter WonderLights drew over 45,000 visitors throughout the 32-night event.
- The garden hosted its first annual Georgia Questival, designed around the Alice H. Richards Children's Garden, the event took participants on an adventure to discover the incredible natural history of Georgia.
- The garden hosted donors, faculty, staff and UGA leaders to dedicate the Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum, Discovery and Inspiration Garden and the accessible entrance in a ceremony on April 14.



- The horticulture department held its annual spring plant sale on April 7-10 after introducing a hybrid sale last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The garden sold over \$75,000 worth of plants during the four-day sale.

- The education department held 30 days of field trip programs this spring, welcoming over 2,000 elementary and middle school students from the Clarke County School District and surrounding counties.
- Emily Laske joined the staff as a full-time assistant horticulturist working in the conservation department. Laske helps develop and care for native plant collections for conservation, restoration and education.
- The garden launched a new series of Certificate in Native Plants classes hosted throughout the state. These offerings included a class on native bees held at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center in Blairsville, Ga., as well as a course on native pitcher plants at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell, Ga.
- The State Botanical Garden of Georgia's Conservation Coordinator, Jennifer Ceska, is working with Mercer University to safeguard the endangered Georgia wildflower, *Silene polypetala*.
- Lisa Parrish joined the staff as a full-time curator at the Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum. She oversees the preservation of the permanent collection, including the integration of new acquisitions, and will offer tours and lectures about art and artifact preservation.