

## Upcoming Events

### April 1-2, 2006 Fourth Annual Flower and Garden Show (Sat. 8-4 and Sun. 1-4)

The Salisbury Station, 215 Depot St.

Thirty vendors will be present with all kinds of things for the garden, sunroom, and porch. Look for our table with information on Hurley Park. There is a \$3.00 entry fee and food will be available.

### April 20, 2006 Special Waste Recycling Event (10am-2pm only)

Rowan County Recycling Processing Center, 1102 North Long St., East Spencer

A chance to recycle pesticides, auto batteries, appliances, paint, motor oil, antifreeze, oil filters, hard drives, laptops, computers (monitors \$5 each)

If you bring in an old mercury –filled thermometer you will receive a free digital thermometer.

### April 21-22, 2006 Salisbury's First Annual Earth Day Celebration and Sustainability Showcase

A two day event with many conferences and workshops that address the issues of sustainability, live entertainment, and nature walks. Plus a showcase featuring sustainable products and practices. We will have a table that features the sustainable practices of Hurley Park. For more information please visit Catawba College's Center for the Environment's website at [www.centerfortheenvironment.com/earthday06.asp](http://www.centerfortheenvironment.com/earthday06.asp), or call 704.637.4727.



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# Hurley Park Newsletter



SPRING 2006

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## Robertson Foundation Grant Makes Stream Bank Stabilization A Reality

Last May, Hurley Park received a grant from the Blanche and Julian Robertson Foundation to stabilize the stream bank. The project began in January with dredging the pond. The City of Salisbury's Street Division conducted the dredging and began by removing the sediment out of the stream. Once the path was cleared, the track hoe made its way into the drained pond and cleaned out the leaves, sediment, and any trash that had collected in the pond basin. This took several days and was an extremely messy job. It was difficult to look at the park the day they started the dredging. Daphne and I returned from the Green and Growin' Show in Greensboro and stopped at the park to take a glimpse of their progress. They had laid down a path of gravel for the track hoe, the grass was all torn up, and the dump truck and track hoe were having their way with the Park. We knew it was for the good of the Park and things would eventually go back to normal, but boy was it hard to watch. When I would talk to Daphne about the torn up grass, the battered birch trees, and the mutilated wax myrtles she always said they make new ones everyday. Somehow I found comfort in that and knew that whatever damage occurred it could be repaired.

George Morris, from Riverworks (a construction company based in Raleigh specializing in environmental restoration) came a few days later to help us install the coir fiber logs and wire that would stabilize the stream bank. We began the morning off with a lesson on staking and tying down the coir fiber logs. First the wire had to be cut to the proper size and staked along the bank. The wire will help deter the muskrats from tunneling into the bank, causing it to erode and eventually collapse. Once the wire was installed, the coir fiber logs were rolled down the bank and staked at the water line. While one person was holding up the log the other person tied the log down with rope attached to the stakes. The next log was lowered down and married to the one before it to make a log that ran continuously down the bank. And that's it! It was incredibly easy to do.

Bill, Clyde, and Ken from the Landscape Division came down and helped for 2 days. While a couple of us continued to work on the bank closest to the pond, the other group worked with George on the bank next to the first Chippendale bridge. This part of the stream bank was badly eroded and has needed attention for years. In this section, the coir fiber logs were stacked 3 high and staked and tied in the same way as the others. Then the area behind the logs was backfilled with soil. Essentially we built a wall out of the logs. Then George cut a bunch of stems from a red twig dogwood that needed to be removed for the project and stuck the stems in between the coir fiber logs. This process is called live staking. The stems from the red twig dogwood will eventually sprout, anchoring their roots into the logs. This is just another way to further stabilize the stream bank.

Once the Street Division finished dredging the pond they brought in truck loads of soil and filled in the ruts created by their equipment. Then they removed all the gravel they had laid down and found the path again. If that wasn't nice enough, they decided to put more pit gravel down, packed it down, and graded the soil away from the path to improve drainage.

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**Stream Bank Stabilization Cont...**

One aspect of the project that I enjoyed was how several different City departments worked together. I felt like everyone worked well together and we were very efficient. I hope that every department continues to work together in the way that I experienced with our project.

After they finished the cleanup Daphne and I reseeded the area and laid down straw. Some seeds collected from perennials in the Park were scattered along the bank. Like the cherry on top of a sundae, we finished the project by floating the fountain back out in the middle of the pond, and yet another improvement was made to the Park for all of us to enjoy.

To view more pictures of the stream bank project please visit our website at [www.salisburync.gov/hurleypark](http://www.salisburync.gov/hurleypark).



**Native Plants for Wet Areas**

Do you have a creek, pond, or an area that just never fully drains in your yard? You might want to consider planting some plants that thrive in wet areas. After the stream bank project I did a little research on native perennials that like to have their feet wet. Here are a few perennials that are at the top of my list.

One of my favorite plants just happens to like a moist environment. **Jack in the Pulpit** (*Arisaema triphyllum*) can be found readily in the forests of the Appalachian Mountains growing close to streams. It is a woodland plant and prefers to grow in the shade. Three large leaves radiating out from the stalk are the first noticeable feature. Underneath these leaves is a flower spike (Jack) hidden in an interesting vessel called a spathe (pulpit) which is usually green streaked with purple. The bloom time is any time between mid-spring to early summer. Later in the summer, or early fall, the flower spike ripens into a cluster of bright red-orange berries. This plant may be difficult to find in your local garden center, but may be purchased on the Internet.

**Turtlehead** (*Chelone glabra*) also prefers a moist, shady environment. It grows 1-3 feet tall and flowers in the summer and continues into the fall. Turtleheads are ideal for low, moist meadows, thickets, stream banks, and swamps. They look great as a mass planting. You can see this plant in the park in the James B. Gascoigne Fern Glade.

Continuing with the shade loving perennials, **Cinnamon Fern** (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) is another perennial for moist environments. It is named Cinnamon Fern for its wooly, cinnamon colored spores on the fronds. The fern can grow anywhere from 2-5 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. It is a good plant for naturalizing wet woodlands and as a background for more colorful plants.

**Cardinal Flower** (*Lobelia cardinalis*) is almost inconspicuous until late spring when it sends up a stem with smaller leaves. By mid-summer, the 1-2 foot tall raceme blooms in spectacular red, tubular flowers, attract-

ing the ruby-throated hummingbird. Cardinal flower will self sow under favorable conditions which include full sun to partial shade and a soil that remains moist throughout the season. Cardinal flower is ideal to use in moist meadows, bogs, and along stream banks. It has been added to the stream bank in Hurley Park and grows well in the Reynold's Magnolia Collection which experiences flooding several times a year.

**Joe Pye Weed** (*Eupatorium fistulosum*) is a large native perennial growing up to 10 feet tall. It has long, lance shaped leaves that grow in a whorl and have a vanilla scent when crushed. The flower heads appear in the late summer and last into the fall. They are pink to purplish, densely packed clusters that attract butterflies. Joe Pye Weed grows best in full sun in moist fields and along stream banks. They can however tolerate dry conditions and are even considered drought tolerant.

Those are just a few of my favorite moisture loving native perennials. There are many more native plants that thrive in our area. Here is a list of other perennials, trees and shrubs that are suited for the piedmont and like it a little wet.



*Arisaema triphyllum*  
**Jack in the Pulpit**

Trees	Small Trees/Shrubs	Perennials
<i>Betula nigra</i> River Birch	<i>Aesculus sylvatica</i> Painted Buckeye	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> Swamp Milkweed
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> Sycamore	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> Serviceberry	<i>Carex scoparia</i> Broom Sedge
<i>Quercus michauxii</i> Swamp Chestnut Oak	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i> Sweet-shrub	<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i> Boneset
<i>Quercus nigra</i> Water Oak	<i>Cornus amomum</i> Silky Dogwood	<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i> Swamp Sunflower
<i>Quercus phellos</i> Willow Oak	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos and grandiflorus</i> Marsh Mallow	<i>Imaptiens capensis</i> Jewel-weed
<i>Salix nigra</i> Black Willow	<i>Itea virginica</i> Virginia Willow	<i>Iris versicolor</i> Blue Flag
<i>Tilia heterophylla</i> White Basswood	<i>Lindera benzoin</i> Spicebush	<i>Juncus effusus</i> Soft Rush

**WEDDINGS**

If you are planning an outdoor wedding, or other ceremony, consider Hurley Park as a possible site. The Park has hosted many weddings over the years and there are still openings for the 2006 calendar year. Please contact Niki Castor at the Public Services office (704-638-5268) for more information and an application for facility use. The application can also be accessed online, along with pictures of the park, at [www.salisburync.gov/hurleypark](http://www.salisburync.gov/hurleypark)

**DONATIONS**

Donations may be made to the Park through The Elizabeth Holmes Hurley Memorial Foundation located at 126 W. Innes Street, Salisbury. Please make checks payable to the Hurley Park Foundation and send to P.O. Box 4354, Salisbury, NC 28145-4354. All donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.