

HURLEY PARK NEWSLETTER

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BY MARGO MACINTYRE, CURATOR

LESSONS FROM A SUMMER RETREAT

Every summer for the past 9 years I have attended the Cullowhee Native Plants Conference at Western Carolina University. This granddaddy of all native plant events began as an attempt to educate the general public and nurseries about the environmental damage being done by the collection and sale of our native plants. Out of this conference grew the native plant movement that has given us many excellent nurseries that provide beautiful nursery-propagated wildflowers and native trees. Our awareness about the need to buy plants that we know were **not** ripped out of forests and fields is much greater. Also, there are now many plants available to us that we knew little about (as ornamentals) 13 years ago.

One of the themes of this year's conference was the question about what plants are truly "native." There are many conflicting opinions about "natives versus exotics," and the issue will probably never be resolved. There are purists on one end who believe that native plants are those which existed in a region (say North Carolina) before colonists arrived. In the middle of the road are the folks who claim naturalized plants as native, along with the purist's plants. Naturalized plants are those such as Oxeye daisy, Queen Anne's lace, daylilies, etc., which came with the colonists. This definition certainly adds many plants to the palate. On the other end of the spectrum are people who think native plants are any plants that will grow with little human intervention, regardless of origin. There are many fine lines and it could get pretty nit-picky.

In the same vein is the more heated discussion of invasive exotics versus "native" ecosystems. The information shared on this subject at Cullowhee was frightening and also a bit controversial. We all know the effects caused by the introduction of kudzu, Japanese honeysuckle, multiflora rose and Chinese wisteria. It is obvious now why they were poor choices for introduction. There were probably good reasons for introducing each of these plants. The surprise comes in learning that there are many more recent introductions which are already causing major problems in every region of the country. Some of the most surprising are Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*), Porcelainberry vine (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), and First Breath of Spring (*Lonicera fragrantissima*). All of these plants have berries that are spread by birds and seem to come up readily in other places and make it difficult for indigenous species to prosper.

The Annual Hurley Park plant giveaway has included several plants that spread rapidly, which is partially the reason we offered them for giveaway. I would not call them pests, but we do have to divide them often. We enjoy sharing our "extras," and this is one of the most rewarding aspects of gardening on any scale. In the future, more research will be done and potential problem plants won't be shared.

What can each individual gardener do to limit the damage caused by invasive exotics? The first thing to do at home is to control these plants, which could take months or years of commitment and labor. After 9 years of effort, the Chinese wisteria in Hurley Park is under control. We have also tried to control privet, Japanese honeysuckle, eleagnus, and many other escapees. These plants no longer reside in named gardens in the Park. The other easier thing to do is to avoid planting known "villains." Sometimes it is hard to know what plants can cause true problems until it is too late. We are disposing of our Porcelainberry vine and replacing it with something better, so that the Park and surrounding areas will not have this problem to contend with.

AND NOW THE GOOD NEWS

One year ago the Salisbury City Council voted to give control of the area of City Park below the dam to Hurley Park. The area adds another 3.18 acres to the 15 that made up the original Hurley Park. The area has been a favorite play space for several generations of Salisbury children. The Hurley Park Committee and Landscape Architect, Jane Ritchie, are making plans to enhance the area and at the center of these plans is the importance of the play space. The goal of the new plans is to blend the new area with the existing part of the Park while maintaining the open areas. We will keep everyone posted on the progress of this new project.

THE HURLEY PARK STAFF AND COMMITTEE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

Juanita S. Williams and Leon Williams in honor of Gordon and Carolyn Hurley and Jim and Gerry Hurley
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Daphne Beck in honor of Tonya Mabe
Mr. and Mrs. Webster Collett in honor of Dick Goodman's 50th Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Stanback in honor of Margo MacIntyre and Daphne Beck and the Hurley Park Staff
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Hurley in honor of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. J. Ray Wilson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Fred. J. Stanback, Jr. in honor of Mary Hanford on her 95th Birthday

Memorials

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Mr. and Mrs. Perry D. Hood in memory of Jeffrey Neil Crocker
Mr. Richard A. Bradshaw in memory of Selma Reeves Choate
Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Stanback, Jr. in memory of Carroll Thornton Overton, Margaret Thomason and Joseph H. Frye Jr.
Salisbury Transit and Public Services Administration and Management in memory of Howard Thomas Fowler
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Barger in memory of Joseph H. Frye, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Helms in memory of Melvola Graven and John Diehl
Dorothy S. Walmsley in memory of Stanley Franklin Roberts
Jane M. Ritchie in memory of Robert Franklin Hornstein, Sr.
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Mr. and Mrs. Don Bowden in memory of Eva Cates
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Mr. and Mrs. James F. Hurley in memory of James A. Cobb, Douglas Duncan Tennent, Carroll Thornton Overton, Robert Auten, Margaret Freeman Peeler, Jane Norvell Wagoner, Morton D. Rochelle, Jeffrey Neil Crocker, William L. Lippard, Jr., James Crawford Cox, Joe Lon Sims, Robert Franklin Hornstein, Sr., Hesta Kitchin Crawford
Rowan Medical Society in memory of Dolores Eletson Svejcar
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Mr. and Mrs. Tomme T. Gamewell in memory of Hesta Kitchin Crawford

Gifts in memory of Haden Holmes Hurley

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Special Gifts

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon P. Hurley in memory of Daniel Worth Wright-Garden at Middle Stone Steps
American Red Cross/ Youth in Action in honor of Mary Hanford-Cherokee Princess Dogwood
Canterberry Book Club in honor of Anne Courtney Miller Dogwood Tree
Tami Duke, Cindy Graham and Kerry Gardner in memory of Louise Furr - Dogwood Tree
Carol C. Lankford in honor of Betty Smith Corriher - Dogwood Tree

Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Goodnight, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Cook, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Whitton, Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Mickle, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Tomme T. Gamewell, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. Joel S. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Charles, H. Goldman, Mr. and Mrs. R Randolph Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Ned A. Storey, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Caddell, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Smith, Mrs. Al B. Nobles, Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Tatum, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn E. Ketner, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Lynch, and Mrs. Ann R. Glenn in memory of Virginia Byers Frost and in honor of Ann Frost Copeland - Holly Collection Entrance Garden

Mr. Don Clement, III in memory of Nancy Bickett Emerson and Glenn Charles Taylor, Sr. - Redbud Tree

Dr. Wayne C. Koontz, Mark J. Martin, Ronald K. Niederman, Joseph C. Morris, Jim Coleman, John Hamilton, Clyde Leonard, James Davis, Daphne Beck, Barbara Y. Perry, Elaine China, Margo MacIntyre, Elizabeth H. Taylor, Jane O. Riley, Geraldine T. Hurley, and Jane M. Ritchie in memory of the children lost in the Oklahoma City Bombing - Yellow Poplar

Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Rochelle in memory of Haden Holmes Hurley - Yellow Poplar Tree
Dr. and Mrs. Robert B. Tannehill in honor of Sally and J.P. Helms on their 50th Wedding Anniversary - Serviceberry Tree

Mrs. A.J. Gillespie, Jr. in memory of A.J. Gillespie, Jr. and in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Hap Roberts and Stephen Drinkard - Serviceberry Tree

Michelle Rostan-Frenzel, Betsy Kennihan, Liza Dyer, Rachel McGregor, Terri Mitchell, Suzanne Williams, Sharon Dean, Debi Goodwin, and Beverly Buck in memory of Charles and Kathleen Monroe - Greenspire Littleleaf Linden

Gifts

Methodist Connection FUMC and the Morton D. Rochelle Family

Mr. and Mrs. John G. Riley

Ralph Wagoner

Amelia Brier and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Shaw

SOUNDS OF AUTUMN IN THE PARK

We all know what Hurley Park looks like and we notice the flowers, the change of season, the nesting of birds and much more. What is easy to overlook is the treats the Park offers our other senses. On a quiet September morning after a pre-dawn rain I took a sensory walk. I set out in search of the Osmanthus that was blooming and sending out its signal the fall is here. I heard the rainforest-like voices of hundreds of insects or frogs. I stopped in my tracks to try to see what I heard. Of course this only caused the nearby creatures to be quiet. I stood still and one sang out, waited for a response, and sang out again. This went on for a few seconds, then another voice chimed in from somewhere near my feet. Slowly I knelt down, trying to get my ear close enough to the grass to actually see this talker. I saw an ant parade, and a beetle, but never saw whoever was making these sounds. Have these creatures always been in Park, or are they responding to the moisture and change of season? Later in my walk I found a puffball past prime that was almost ready to puff. The ducks, five mallards and a wood duck pair were quietly preening. One wood duck uttered a barely audible whistle as it moved away from me. In the quiet I was able to wonder about the pair of barred owls who chatted with one another, but then moved on to nest elsewhere. I never saw them either. Many seemingly secret things happen in the Park, but a quiet walk and a slower pace can reveal many surprises.

HURLEY PARK SUMMER LECTURE FEATURES N.C. STATE'S J.C. RAULSTON

Our summer lecture this year was one of the most exciting we have ever had. Nearly one hundred were in attendance as Dr. J.C. Raulston, director of the N.C. State University Arboretum and professor of horticulture, told of many exciting plants. Despite the recent dry weather in July, people seemed ready to go out and find many of the wonderful plants J.C. talked about. Others began planning trips to the Arboretum.

Raulston is a practical gardener seeking plants that offer superior form, texture, flowering, and tolerance to the unique conditions of North Carolina. He preaches diversity, since pest and disease problems have a much harder time gaining a foothold when there are not 100 of the host plant growing around one area. There are so many excellent choices that it is a shame to see people using only a few while excluding the rest.

Plant introductions from the Arboretum have been used in several locations in the Park. The most notable of these is the 'Fantasy' Crape Myrtle in the new Frost Garden, which is at the stone steps nearest the rear of Rowan Regional Medical Center. This crape myrtle has incredible red bark, even at a young age. It should be beautiful even in this, its first winter season in the Park. There are dozens of other trees and shrubs that were chosen for use in the Park that we might never have known about without J.C.'s teachings.