

WINTER 2022

SEASONS AT CIENER

A Newsletter for Friends of
Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden

Passionate About Gardening

BY ADRIENNE ROETHLING, DIRECTOR



If the last two years have taught us anything, it's that we've learned to adapt. Just like the plants in our displays, adaptation is key to survival. While we are slowly climbing over this hump, we've encountered some ups and downs, complete misses, and home runs. It's all part of the learning process as we look forward to a promising new year.



Taking on the role as Director was an exciting opportunity for my career. Fundraising has not been part of my background, but even without knowing it, every day was a fundraising opportunity. It's not about putting money in our pockets, but more so finding the people who share our passions. We added more volunteers which meant adding more lights for the Spectacular Holiday Blooms.

A big thank you goes to volunteers who collectively put in over 1000 hours last year alone to make flowers out of plastic bottles. Over 3500 people visited the light display and plans are well under way for Christmas 2022.

Have you heard of the "Storytime Series" or the "Movie on the Lawn"? During 2022, we will have something to offer all ages.

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Passionate About Gardening ... Cont'd

The plant geek in me still exhibits a passion for our collections and quality displays. Our friends from the JC Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, NC donated over 100 plants which will be planted shortly. One of our areas of focus is showcasing plants throughout the winter months. Guests who expect to see flowers when visiting a garden will be greeted by evergreens, conifers, plant structure, and ornamental bark. A chance flower or two will also enhance your senses. If you visit the Garden now, the fragrance of wintersweet, *Chimonanthus praecox*, will hit you in the face. The light yellow form is planted on our Patio Terrace while the darker yellow form is planted in the Japanese Garden Vignette. While you are in the Vignette, pay close attention to the electric bark on many of the Japanese maples or the graceful habit from the weeping Alaska cedar. The Kitchen Garden too, has never looked better. Because of the mild winter, cool season vegetables in the raised beds look outstanding and the ornamental kale are showing off in the containers.



Callitropsis nootkatensis 'Glauca Pendula'



Acer palmatum 'Sango kaku'

Every day is a new learning curve regarding the state of the pandemic. As we tire of wearing masks indoors, our outdoor Garden continues to be a place of peace, hope and respite. Currently, there is no admission fee, but donations are always welcome which allows our Garden to grow. If you visit often, consider becoming a member. Your membership can cover registration fees for most classes and discounts in the garden shop or plant sales as well as perks when visiting 300+ member garden through the American Horticultural Society's reciprocal program.

As we transition into 2022, we are excited to see old and new faces, further expansion of our garden displays and programs, and getting back to normal. We are so very grateful to those who have given their time and financial support, we know that we cannot do this without you!

News From the Wyatt & Dolores LeFever Garden Gift Shop



The Wyatt & Dolores LeFever Garden Shop is CLOSED during the month of January for inventory.

The Garden Shop will reopen on Tuesday, February 1 with new hours.
Tuesdays - Fridays, 10am-4pm
Select Saturdays, 10am-2pm

We look forward to welcoming you back in February with a wonderful selection of garden gifts.



A Four-Season Garden: Winter “Proof”

BY JOSH WILLIAMS, GARDEN MANAGER

Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden is a four-season garden. Throughout the entire year, there is beauty to be found and appreciated.

In this first part of January, I want to highlight a few plants that exemplify the beauty in the Garden during the winter.



Edgeworthia chrysantha

Edgeworthia chrysantha or Paperbush - A 7' x 7' deciduous plant. A stunning silhouette of stems gives plenty of winter interest. In January, the tips are adorned with a plethora of creamy yellow flowers that have a strong, Gardenia-like fragrance. *Edgeworthia* grows best in light shade, moist but well-drained, organic soils

Aspidistra elatior 'Snow Cap' or Snow Cap Cast-iron plant - A 30" tall, evergreen ground cover. Loves deep to moderate shade and spreads slightly slower than other varieties. I have fallen in love with this plant this winter. Even though it has no showy flowers or fragrance, it pulls me into a woodland garden with its solid diamond white tips, and a toughness and vigor that never lets that color falter. I can spot them from a mile away, cutting through a leafless forest. It plays so well with other woodland staples - from the larger Rhododendrons to all of the dainty spring ephemerals - making it a true four-season plant.



Aspidistra elatior

Chimonanthus praecox or Wintersweet Shrub - A 15' tall, 12' wide deciduous shrub. In January, bare branches are covered in yellowish and showy, fragrant flowers. This one can be found on the Patio Terrace, where it benefits from reflected heat. Its proximity to the buildings allow us to enjoy the sight and smells without traveling to far out into the cold.



Chimonanthus praecox

January Plant of the Month

***Helleborus xnigercors* 'COSEH 830' -Gold Collection® Ice Breaker Prelude Christmas rose**

Helleborus xnigercors is a cross between the Christmas rose, *Helleborus niger* and the Corsican hellebore, *Helleborus argutifolius*. This hybrid results with no seedlings as it is a sterile form. Though, not related to roses at all, some say the large, star-shaped flowers resemble that of a wild rose. Its common name, Christmas rose, means that it typically blooms during the Christmas season. Here in the Piedmont of North Carolina, expect blooms in January and February. Beginning in January, numerous, large sepals (modified flowers), open pure white, standing on 6-8" stalks just above the palmate (consisting of joined leaflets, like the shape of your hand) emerald green leaves. Sepals fade to green extending the flower season for several more weeks. Gold Collection® Ice Breaker Prelude Christmas rose has been growing in the garden since 2015. Growing best in partial shade with the sharp drainage, expect plants to reach 18" wide at maturity.



Volunteer Spotlight

Our talented and hardworking volunteers are one of the great strengths of Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden. These dedicated volunteers are vital to the operations of the Garden, and enjoy the beauty of nature while generously giving their time and talents in all aspects of the Garden. Here is a look back at some of their accomplishments in 2021.



Top (left to right): Boy Scouts from Troop 600 planting the Discovery Garden, Lori Chludzinski and Gail Steele 'planting' tulips for the Spectacular Holiday Blooms, Volunteers planting the Annual Border
Bottom (left to right): Butterfly houses made by Eagle Scout Jake Priddy, Steven Barnes working in the Woodland Garden, Carol Penney leading a song during Storytime in the Garden, Girl Scouts from Troop 2469 'planting' flowers for the Spectacular Holiday Blooms as part of a service project

Membership

Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden is located in the heart of the Kernersville historic downtown district. Memberships help the Garden provide valuable educational opportunities to people of all ages and help in the development of new garden spaces as we continue to grow. Individual/Family Memberships are \$50 annually. Member benefits include a 10% discount at the Garden's Plant Sales and the Garden Gift Shop, free admission to the Garden's "Lunch and Learn" and "Summer Thursday" lectures, discounted rates for classes and workshops, preferred registration to outings for members, free subscription to Better Homes & Gardens or Martha Stewart Living compliments of American Public Gardens Association, discounts to over 300 gardens throughout North America and the Cayman Islands through the American Horticultural Society, and more! Join or renew your membership online and your name will be entered into a drawing for our Plant of the Month. Congratulations John & Cindy Largen, our December winner. They will receive a strand of hand-crafted tulip lights like those displayed during our Spectacular Holiday Blooms.



Upcoming Events

For more information or to register for our events, visit our website, www.cienerbotanicalgarden.org or call 336-996-7888.

Lunch & Learn Conversations: Simple Propagation Techniques

Thursday, January 20, 12:00 - 1:00pm

\$5 / Free to PJCBG members

[REGISTER HERE](#)



It's never too early to start thinking about the spring growing season. Join Josh Williams, Garden Manager, as he discusses the best practices for propagating plants. He will share tips on propagating from seeds and cuttings, so you can prepare to grow strong vegetable and annual seedlings. Bring your questions, this will be a lively conversation!

**This Lunch & Learn will be held in-person and via zoom. The zoom link will be emailed to registrants in the confirmation email.

Director's Choice Tour

Wednesday, January 26, 10:00 - 11:00am

Wednesday, February 23, 10:00 - 11:00am

\$10 / \$7 PJCBG members

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Explore Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden from the Director's point of view. Adrienne Roethling, Director, will select a new topic each month and take you on a unique tour of the Garden. Past tours have featured the plants of the Japanese Garden Vignette and a behind the scenes look at the Spectacular Holiday Blooms.

Curious to know what this month's topic will be? Join us to find out!

Kindermusik Playdate at the Garden

Tuesday, February 1, 10:30 - 11:30am: Let Me Call You Sweetheart

[RSVP HERE](#)



Join us at the Garden for a KINDERMUSIK PLAYDATE! Grown-ups and children from infants to 6-year-olds will have loads of fun together singing, dancing, playing instruments, and listening to a story.

FREE, recommended for ages 6 and under. Taught by Master Kindermusik Educator, Carol Penney.



Upcoming Events ... Cont'd

For more information or to register for our events, visit our website, www.cienerbotanicalgarden.org or call 336-996-7888.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, February 9, 12:30 - 5:00pm

Monday, March 7, 11:00am - 3:30pm

Monday, June 27, 11:00am - 3:30pm



Roll up your sleeves and help save lives! Each pint of blood we collect can help save up to three lives and will touch the lives of so many more. What a great way to pay it forward and make an impact on people in our community and across the country. Use RapidPass to complete your pre-reading and donation questions online, to reduce the time spent at the drive by 15 minutes. Blood donations will be tested for sickle cell trait from self-identified African American donors. To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Lunch & Learn Conversations: Vegetable Gardening 101

Thursday, February 17, 12:00 - 1:00pm

\$5 / Free to PJCBG members

REGISTER HERE



What should I plant in my kitchen garden? When should I plant my garden? How and where should I plant my garden? Josh Williams, Garden Manager will answer these questions and more as he shares what it takes to have a successful and fruitful kitchen garden. Topics to include intercropping, companion planting, square foot gardening, crop rotations, permaculture, soil building processes, biological controls and more! Come find out how it's all connected, and how these lessons learned can be applied elsewhere around the home and garden.

**This Lunch & Learn will be held in-person and via zoom. The zoom link will be emailed to registrants in the confirmation email.

Girl Scouts In Bloom

Saturday, March 19, 9:00am - 1:00pm

\$7/Girl Scout, \$7/Adult

REGISTER HERE



Join us at Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden to learn about gardens and flowers while participating in hands-on activities. This event is open to Junior Girl Scouts, Troop Leaders, and their parent chaperones. Girl Scouts will explore the Garden and complete requirements towards earning the Flower and Gardener badges and participate in activities to earn the custom Ciener Botanical Garden Patch! Current Girl Scouts and their chaperones only – please no siblings. Timed entry, allow for at least 2 hours to complete all activities.

**This event will follow all local and GSCP2P COVID-19 guidelines.



2021 Giving

We would like to thank all the donors who have supported the Garden throughout this past year

Trellis Society (\$1,000+)

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