

SPRING 2024

SEASONS AT CIENER

A Newsletter for Friends of
Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden

2024 Spring Plant Sale

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

8:00AM - 12:00PM



Find the perfect plant for your garden! Join us in-person for the Spring Plant Sale. Shop a selection of native plants, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials for sun and shade. All proceeds benefit future development of the Garden.

Members of Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden Foundation receive a 10% discount on their purchase.

Questions about your membership status? Interested in learning more about membership? Representatives from the Foundation will be in attendance at the Spring Plant Sale to answer your questions.

PJCBG Members: Shop the plant sale early during the members only Pre-Plant Sale on Thursday, April 11 from 3:00pm-5:00pm.

[View Plant List](#)

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Preview the Spring Plant Sale

BY ADRIENNE ROETHLING, GARDEN CURATOR



Twice a year, we get to share a little bit of the garden with you. The Spring Plant Sale will be filled with plants that have been admired for years while growing in our displays. Some plants are new to the market and several plants are of North American native origin. This spring's plant sale will be held on Saturday, April 13 from 8am to noon.

Plants of North American native origin are plants that are, in some cases, an improvement of the species. For example, *Monarda didyma* or bee balm has become a disappointment in the landscape. The old standard bee balm has two strikes against it. First, the plant runs and takes over a large area. Secondly, it's prone to powdery mildew. The southeastern region is hot and humid where the mildew thrives. Yes, these factors have control measures but a lot of today's gardeners are looking for low maintenance. Thankfully, the market is now filled with plants that may be dwarf, will not spread and are powdery mildew resistant. I call that a win, win. At the plant sale, one can find a purple and a hot pink variety.

Monarda 'Balmy Lilac' has more pink tones than lilac. The blossoms come with the same richness of nectar and with the abundance of blooms to attract many pollinators. The other is *Monarda* 'Balmy Purple', both from a new series, called...Balmy!! 'Balmy Purple' bee balm has rich, raspberry purple flowers. The Balmy Series will reach 2' x 2' when mature and will flower for several weeks from late spring through summer. Something to keep in mind is not all plants behave the same.



Powdery mildew could still occur if plants are crowded or planted with not enough sun. Also, really rich soils will make the plants happy, too happy if you know what I mean. They like full sun, good drainage and are not fussy about soils.

You can also find two shrubs on the plant sale list that are of North American native origin with smaller habits compared to the species. For those who have downsized or are looking for container plants, look at the new dwarf *Fothergilla*, Legend of the Small® bottlebrush and one that's been around awhile, *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Munchkin' oakleaf hydrangea.



Legend of the Small® bottlebrush still possesses the same bright white flowers, the blue-green leaves in summer followed by amazing orange-red fall color. 'Munchkin' hydrangea was discovered as a dwarf seedling. After years of trialing, this dwarf hydrangea has matured to 3' tall and wide'. The cone-shaped heads produce white florets that turn a light cinnamon brown until winter. In fall, the leaves turn red offering one last hoorah. As a bonus, the twigs exfoliate and show off reddish bark and branches.



Preview the 2024 Spring Plant Sale ... Cont'd

Another plug for the plant sale is a northern popular plant that make southerners jealous. It's a lilac that is ideal for the southeast, Syringa 'SMNSKTP' or Baby Kim™ lilac. It's another plant made for smaller gardens. Baby Kim™ gets 3' x 3' and has an explosion of blooms. The cone-shaped inflorescence produces purple buds that open pale purple and is super fragrant. It is maintenance free, grows best in full sun and supposedly, deer resistant.



I had to go with some non-natives, well, because seeing them in the garden makes me happy. A new magnolia to hit the market is Magnolia 'Stellar Ruby'. This is a new improved magnolia crossed between two evergreen, Chinese native magnolias.



Magnolia figo, or banana shrub has pale yellow flowers that smell like ripe bananas and Magnolia figo ssp. crassipes, a raspberry-purple flowering form. Now, you get the same fruity fragrance on a purple flowering banana shrub. The flowers are also much larger in size too.



In year's past, the crowds arrive early with nearly a sellout in the first two hours. Don't wait, come early and afterwards, enjoy the gardens while you are here. In some cases, plants can be ordered if they sell out. Also, the remaining plants will be available for purchase for one more week during Gift Shop Hours (April 15-19). All proceeds benefit the future development of the Garden.

Membership

Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden is located in the heart of the Kernersville historic downtown district. Memberships support the Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden Foundation 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 Evening" lectures, discounted rates for classes and workshops, preferred registration to outings for members, discounts to over 300 gardens throughout North America and the Cayman Islands through the American Horticultural Society, and more!

[Click here](#) to join or renew your membership online. Not sure of your membership status? Email gardens@pjcbg.org



April Plant of the Month

Narcissus ‘Maria Gertrude’ -cyclamineus daffodil



The spring season has arrived a little early this year making in the second time in 16 years. Daffodils are a much better bulb to grow in the south as they return with the same vigor and quality as their first year. There are over 10,000 varieties making up 13 divisions, miniatures and species, all ranging in colors of salmon, orange, yellow and white. Another draw is they are deer and critter resistant. Deer, squirrels and voles do not like the bulbs as they possess crystals that are toxic. Narcissus gets their name from the Greek word narco, or narcotic as describing the toxicity. They also get their name from a young man in Greek mythology that bowed his head down to look at his reflection in a nearby stream.

From our good friends, Brent and Becky’s Bulbs brings many new varieties of tulips and daffodils this year. April’s plant of the month is Narcissus ‘Maria Gertrude’ a cyclamineus daffodil. The cyclamineus division are daffodils where the flower petals that reflex away from the cup. ‘Maria Gertrude’ has bright golden yellow petals that bend backwards allowing the vibrant orange cup to shine. It’s an early to mid-spring season performer that will last for up to 2 weeks in ideal conditions. Because they bloom before leaves emerge from the trees, it’s a great choice for some shade or full sun. Expect ‘Maria Gertrude’ to get 12” tall.

Join or renew your garden membership during April and your name will be included in a drawing for a Narcissus ‘Maria Gertrude’.

News From the Wyatt & Dolores LeFever Garden Gift Shop

BY JILL JEREZ, GIFT SHOP ASSOCIATE

Hello, all my garden-loving friends! Are you looking for a little Spring in your step? Need a reason to give in to “false Spring”? Wait until you see our new rain gauges, chimes, bird feeders, and garden stakes that sparkle in the sun.

Garden Shop Hours
Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays
10:00am - 4:00pm
Saturdays, May-June
10:00am - 2:00pm



Need a little Spring fling? In garden lingo, we call that “seed casting”. Find all your “garden sprinkles” here! We have a variety of seed kits, seed mixes in tins, and our own seeds harvested right from our Garden.

Traveling this spring and summer? Pick up a t-shirt and represent your favorite botanical garden. Color options include sage green and stone blue, and we have sizes from adult small to XXL.

And here’s a bonus tip. Want to save a little on your garden bling, so you have more \$\$\$ to spend on plants? Check out the Clearance nook.

You’ll find it all in the Dolores and Wyatt LeFever Garden Shop.



Volunteer with Us!

It takes many hands to help a garden grow. Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden's volunteers contribute their talents, enthusiasm and energy to many different areas within the daily and seasonal functions of the Garden. Our dedicated volunteers enjoy the beauty of nature, while playing important roles from horticulture to special events and educational tours while they generously give their gift of time to the Garden.

Current Opportunities

Gardener - Works in the garden to help maintain displays through mulching, light pruning, deadheading, weeding, and planting seasonal displays

Ambassador - Welcomes visitors and assists during public programs and events such as plant sales, concerts, symposia, etc.

Crafty Cultivator - Creates holiday blooms and other seasonal displays that will be admired by thousands of visitors each year.

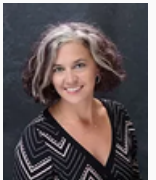
Docent - Lead guided tours and provide educational services to scheduled groups including elementary students, senior citizens, garden clubs, and more.



To view the few volunteer description and application, click on the title of each opportunity. Email questions and completed applications to gardeninfo@toknc.com.

Host Your Event at the Garden

BY DIANA DAY, CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST



Are you looking for a space to hold a Networking event, a Club Meeting, or a Corporate Awards Dinner? Our 2,400 square foot ballroom will hold up to 150 of your guests for dinner, and up to 200 for a cocktail style event. Take advantage of the 1,500 square foot patio terrace in the warmer weather and let us set up the bistro tables for your Networking Event. The scenic views of the garden are breathtaking and the perfect backdrop for any gathering.

The facility is equipped with an AV system that is included with every rental. The 160" screen and 42" tv screens are placed so all your guests can see the presentation from their seat. Presenters can use one of three different types of microphones that are amplified throughout the ballroom and on the patio terrace.



Limited availability remains in Spring and Fall 2024, we are booking holiday parties for December 2024 now.

[Submit an inquiry online](#) or call our Customer Experience Specialist, Diana Day at 336-996-7888 to schedule an appointment to tour the facilities at the Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden.



Prom Portraits Spring 2024:

Planning to take prom portraits in the Garden this spring? Please take note of the following rules in place for 2024.

- You are permitted to take prom pictures only on the date of your prom.
- Prom pictures will only be permitted in the Pattern Garden & Tropical Garden. No one taking prom photos will be allowed on the Patio Terrace or Event Lawn.
- The Garden's parking lot will be reserved for our private event guests only. Parking is available in the lot at the corner of S Main St and Harmon Ln

Please follow the following Garden photography policies while visiting:

- No glitter, confetti, chalk or powder sprays
- Carry out what you bring in
- No stepping in plant beds
- No picking flowers, stems or leaves
- No pets
- No smoking or vaping



Cap & Gown Portraits Spring 2024:

All professional and non-professional Cap & Gown portrait sessions must make an appointment at least 48 hours in advance. A \$50 photography fee will be charged that includes a 90 minute time frame to take portraits in the garden.

Limited availability remains for Photography sessions this Spring 2024 make your appointment online or call our Customer Experience Specialist, Diana Day at 336-996-7888 to schedule your photography session.

Please follow the following Garden photography policies while visiting:

- No glitter, confetti, chalk or powder sprays
- Carry out what you bring in
- No stepping in plant beds
- No picking flowers, stems or leaves
- No pets
- No smoking or vaping





Blossoms & Bites

Saturday, May 11

11:00am-1:00pm

\$45

REGISTER



CL&S Catering

Celebrate the extraordinary women in your life amidst the beauty of nature with our Mother's Day brunch, "Blossoms and Bites." Join us at Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden for a delightful culinary event prepared by Chef Charley Smith.

Chef Charley has crafted an exceptional menu that's sure to please every palate. A selection of savory entrées, fresh fruit, and homestyle potatoes will tantalize your taste buds. Menu options include:

- Salmon croquettes with cheesy polenta cakes
- Chicken tenders with sweet potato pancakes
- Biscuits and brisket gravy
- Vegan banana pancakes with mixed berry compote and portobella mushroom
- Vegan burrito with lentils and potato

Sip on refreshing iced tea, a selection of juice, or mimosa (cash bar), as you bask in the beauty of the Garden in spring. Immerse yourself in the tranquility of the garden atmosphere while creating cherished memories with your loved ones. Guests will have the opportunity to take a special Mother's Day inspired tour of the Garden.

Join us for "Blossoms and Bites" and treat the special women in your life to a memorable brunch experience filled with love, laughter, and the joy of springtime in bloom.





Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden

Discovery Garden Summer Camp

Session 1: July 22-26

Session 2: July 29-August 2

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Registration is OPEN for Discovery Garden Summer Camp.

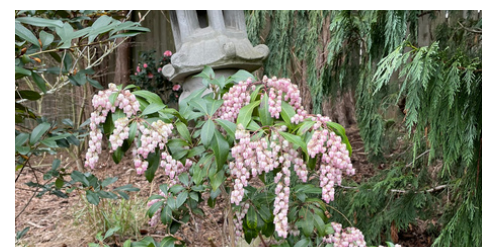
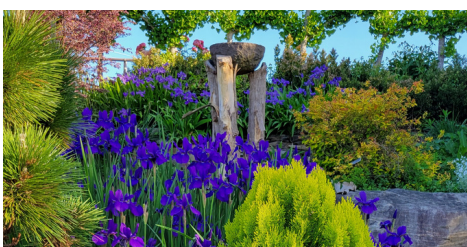
"Discover" the Garden this summer! Rising 3rd-5th graders are invited to join us for a week-long summer camp. Learn about plants and pollinators as we explore the garden through investigation, art, and play.

Sessions in 2024 will be held the weeks of July 22 - 26 and July 29 - August 2 from 9 am - 12 pm.

Registration fee is \$55, limited to 12 campers each week. If a session is full, please add yourself to the waitlist in the event spots become available.

Week 1 is FULL. Limited space remains for Week 2.

Register Week 2





Upcoming Programs & Events

BY KRISTIN MILLER HENNIG, FACILITY MANAGER

As we welcome the warmer temperatures and vibrant colors of spring, there is no better time to get outside and enjoy the beauty of our natural world. I can think of no better place than Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden to get outside and reconnect with nature. We are thrilled to announce a variety of upcoming events designed to “*Inspire, Enlighten & Connect.*”

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

Smartphone Photography Class: Spring Blooms

Thursday, April 4

5:30pm-8:30pm

\$59 / \$49 PJCBG members

REGISTER



Experience the Garden in spring through the lens of your Smartphone Camera. Learn skills to better understand proper lighting, composition, exposure and selecting go-to photo apps to enhance your photographs. Students will put their new skills into practice by going outside and taking photos of tulips, daffodils, and other spring blooms. Finally, students will learn tips to share on social media (i.e., Instagram) and if desired, how to get a following of your photos on your page. This class benefits both the iPhone or Android photographer. All levels welcome. In the event of inclement weather, the class will be rescheduled to April 11 from 5:30pm - 8:30pm.

PJCBG Members: To receive the member rate, you are to call us at 336-996-7888.

Storytime in the Garden

Tuesday, April 9, 10:00am - 11:00am

Tuesday, June 11, 10:00am - 11:00am



We've partnered with the Kernersville Library to bring storytime to the Garden. Join us on April 9 and June 11 at 10:00am for stories, songs, and activities. FREE, recommended for ages 6 and under.

Lunch & Learn: Lawncare in the Southeast

Wednesday, April 10

12:00pm-1:00pm

\$5 / Free PJCBG members

REGISTER



Do you maintain a lawn at your home? This Lunch & Learn is for you! Join John Knight, Turf Specialist with Town of Kernersville's Parks & Recreation Department, as he talks about the present landscape of lawn care in the Southeastern US. Bring your lunch, the Garden will provide drinks. Advance registration required.

PJCBG Members: To receive the member rate, you are to call us at 336-996-7888.



Upcoming Events ... Cont'd

Earth Day Celebration

Tuesday, April 16

10:00am-12:00pm

FREE



Celebrate Earth Day with Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden and Kernersville Parks & Recreation! Create a poster, learn about native wildflowers, make an upcycled suncatcher, and learn what you can do to protect our planet. Participants are encouraged to bring a recycled plastic water bottle for the suncatcher craft. This is a FREE, family-friendly event. Recommended ages 10 and under.

Pack a picnic and enjoy lunch on the lawn following the event. In the spirit of Earth Day, we encourage a zero waste picnic (ex. reusable water bottles/plates/silverware, cloth napkins, washable snack/sandwich bags). water bottles/plates/silverware, cloth napkins, washable snack/sandwich bags).

Basic Sketching Techniques

Fridays, April 19, May 17, & June 28

10:00am-11:00am

\$12 / \$10 PJCBG members

REGISTER



Come sketch the Garden with local artist Jennifer Edwards! She will guide you in simple techniques for drawing flowers and trees using sketching tools you likely already have in your home. Bring a sketchbook and a few pens (ball point, felt tip, markers) as well as a folding chair and a sun hat. No experience necessary, class will be held indoors if temperature are above 85°F. Advance registration required.

PJCBG Members: To receive the member rate, you are to call us at 336-996-7888.

Kindermusik Playdate with Carol Penney

Mondays, April 22, May 20, & June 17

10:30am-11:30am

FREE

RSVP



Join us at the Garden for a KINDERMUSIK PLAYDATE with Carol Penney! Grown-ups and children from infants to 5-year-olds will have loads of fun together singing, dancing, playing instruments, and listening to a story. Taught by Master Kindermusik Educator, Carol Penney. This program is held inside the ballroom and limited to 18 families. Advance registration required.



Upcoming Events ... Cont'd

Lunch & Learn: Enhance Your Garden Between Peak Seasons

Thursday, May 23

12:00pm-1:00pm

\$5 / Free PJCBG members

[REGISTER](#)



Adrienne Roethling, Garden Curator, will present a collection of annual and tender perennial plants that have enhanced the seasonal displays at Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden. Some provide a bridge during peak seasons, some are essential to pollinators, and some may survive winter now that we are a warmer zone. Learn what you need to know to have a successful garden. Bring your lunch, the Garden will provide drinks. Advance registration required.

PJCBG Members: To receive the member rate, you are to call us at 336-996-7888.

The World Up Close: Digital Macro Photography

Tuesdays, June 4, 11 & 18

5:30pm-8:30pm

\$149 / \$139 PJCBG members

[REGISTER](#)



Learn to take compelling macro photographs, with flora and fauna of the Garden as your subject. Students need to know basic operation of their cameras (how to adjust your settings, use of aperture and shutter). We will get up close and personal in the Garden from the tiniest of insects to water droplets on a petal. We will discuss essential equipment, basic techniques and controlling depth-of-field and what makes a macro photograph better. A DSLR camera with manual settings is needed with a macro lens (your own or rented) or extension tubes for one of your other lenses, diopter or even a telephoto lens. A tripod or monopod and external flash are recommended for macro photography. Beginner and intermediate photographers welcome. In the event of inclement weather, a makeup class will be held on June 25 from 5:30pm - 8:30pm.

PJCBG Members: To receive the member rate, you are to call us at 336-996-7888.





Staff

Adrienne Roethling
Garden Curator

Jacob Melgar
Gardener

Trish Sprague
Gardener

Kristin Miller Hennig
Facility Manager

Diana Day
Customer Experience Specialist

Jill Jerez
Garden Shop

