

# GGG

## *Granville Gardeners Gazette*

Promoting Education and Recreation through Gardening Activities

Oxford, North Carolina

[www.thegranvillegardeners.org](http://www.thegranvillegardeners.org)

May 2024, Volume XV, No. 5



## *Covered Dish Social*

**Monday May 27, 5 p.m.** at United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall, 105 W. McClanahan St., Oxford

Bring your favorite entrée, side dish, salad, dessert – or mystery dish!  
Everything else will be provided, including iced tea and water

### **ALSO**

**It's time for the JCRA plant auction!** Rob is bringing five desirable, enviable, unique plants chosen especially for the discerning gardeners among us. So be prepared to have fun, bid wildly, and spend, spend, spend!

Due to the length of time the auction takes, we will **not** be having the crazy, chaotic, and no-holds-barred *plant swipe* this year – thus you will get home earlier.

## JCRA PLANTS FOR THE MAY 2024 AUCTION

A fabulous forever five collection has been assembled by Rob and Tim. Despite Sophia's lack of participation on the choices, the guys came up with plants you won't want to be without.

### Holly Fern



Don't let the elegance of this spectacular **holly fern** (*Cyrtomium falcatum*) fool you into thinking it's hard to grow – **it isn't**. It's robust, hardy, and just gets better the longer you have it. Plant it in a moist, humus-rich shady location, stand back and admire. Its native habitats (Southern Asia) are hardwood forests with moist, cool, well-drained soil. It's evergreen here, but winter-damaged leaves can be removed in the spring. Its mature size is about 18 – 24" tall by 2 to 3' wide. It's resistant to deer and rabbits and tolerates heat and humidity (not dry soil) once established. You need lots of these – really.

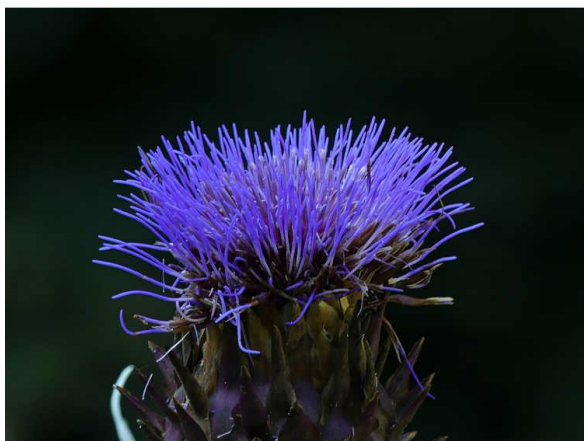
### 'All the Rave' Raven's Toad Lily



Oh, my, how can a garden be without **toad lilies**? There are numerous species and cultivars, and this beauty – **Tricyrtis ravenii** -- was discovered in the high mountains of Taiwan in 2006. Tony Avent (Plant Delights Nursery) traveled to Taiwan in 2008, located the plant, and took cuttings. After testing at the nursery, plants were propagated by seed, grown out, and released to the public in 2023 as 'All the Rave'. It starts flowering at the nursery in late July, and continues until frost with arching branched stems ending in panicles of 1" wide flowers of white with purple flecks...one of the longest flowering toad lilies they grow. It has grown into a 6' wide patch of 36" tall plants in 15 years. Morning sun to light shade in moist, humusy soil should suit it fine.

By Marty Finkel from NC Extension Gardener Toolbox, personal experience, and Plant Delights Nursery  
Photos: Top: NCECGT Gardening in a Minute CC BY-NC 2.0; Second row: JCRA Photo Collection

## Wild Artichoke



**Wild artichoke** (*Cynara syriaca*) After spending the better part of an hour researching this plant, I found nothing except that it is from the Mediterranean region. So I used Cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*) from the NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox although it's not the same plant, it's similar: "Cardoons need rich, well-drained but moist soil and full sun to grow. They may go dormant in hot summers and will die back in winter. . ." Mulch to help survive over winter. It has a large, deep taproot. *C. cardunculus* is an invasive species in NC, but I could find no information about our auction plant, *C. syriacus*.

## 'Head Over Heels Desire' Hibiscus



## Paperbush



Red flowers against burgundy foliage, a compact, mounded form that reaches 3 – 4' tall and wide in full sun, that attracts pollinators – what more could you ask for? Oh, yes – water regularly until well established, then only in prolonged dry conditions. **Head Over Heels® Desire™ Hibiscus** (*Hibiscus moscheutos* 'Head Over Heels Desire') is here for you.

Who can resist the beauty, fragrance, and form of the **Paperbush** (*Edgeworthia chrysantha*)? Most of us have at least one in our garden, and if you don't, here's your chance. With silvery buds from late summer into fall, it often begins to bloom in December, continuing into March. Expect a mature bush 7—9' tall by 12' wide when grown in partial shade and rich, moist soil. Cut some flowers this winter and perfume your house!

Photos: Top right: JCRA Plant Collection; Left: Plants of the World Online Kew Science  
Next row: left: Star® Roses and Plants; Right: Marty Finkel

## Highlights of the 2024 GG Expo

Saturday was a very cool day, but that didn't deter Expo-goers. There were crowds of people at times, and there were lulls, and it seemed there was something for everyone. The Granville Gardeners' tables were fully stocked with herbs and other plants from J&B Herb and Plant Farm and with plants grown and donated by GG members.

We were ready to go – GG greeters at information tables, and young volunteers



Marty at entrance table



Mary Ann at arena table



Assigning volunteers



Orders: Ready to go!



Plants: Ready for customers



Raffle: Ready for business



Everything's off the truck



Customers – YES !!!



Rob's figs are a hit!



Yes, I really NEED these plants



## Arena vendors



## Outside vendors



## Food Trucks



**RAFFLE! And the winners are . . . .**



**Happiness is**



**A good story**



**A food truck lunch**

Thanks to all the GG members who worked so many hours to make our Expo a success again this year, to our generous sponsors, to our educational sessions speakers, to the vendors, the food trucks, the non-GG volunteers, to our GG plant donors, and to anyone I may not have mentioned.

Report by Marty Finkel  
Photos: Marty Finkel



**Q: Is there a new kind of dandelion? I've noticed a lot of weeds that look like them but have smaller flowers.**

**A:** You are probably seeing Asiatic hawkbeard (*Youngia japonica*), which is listed as an invasive weed. As you can see from the photos, the rosettes from which the stalks grow and those of dandelion are very similar. Unlike dandelion, Asiatic hawkbeard releases a milky sap when cut.



Asiatic hawkbeard



Common dandelion

This weed grows anywhere – including full sun, part sun and all degrees of shade, including deep shade. Contrary to a lot of weeds, it can move quickly into wooded areas. It can grow in moist and dry soil, and in clay and loam. It has all kinds of strategies to stay alive and to reproduce; for example, even if mowed frequently until it's very short, it will send out new flowers within days of mowing. The flower stalk varies in height from about 6" to 3'.

Also, it's easy to overlook them because their ordinary whorls of fuzzy, light green leaves can blend in with lawns, flower beds, and native foliage. They come up in mid to late winter here and flower in April and May. This plant is an annual, but it reproduces several times a season and seeds are blown far and wide by the wind. Dandelions are perennials.

Where did it come from?? From Eastern Asia and Australia, and it has been spreading around the world for about a decade. In addition to wind dispersal, the seeds could have been brought in on soil or packing material, on people's shoes, or in other ways. When you see the plants, pull them up or treat with herbicide. Just cutting off the flower to keep it from going to seed won't help because it will just send up another flower stalk.

Another weed with similar basal rosette and flower is sowthistle. In hot weather, these annual plants bolt to 3 to 4' tall. They spread by reseeding via wind and/or water. Control: often by mowing.



Sowthistle

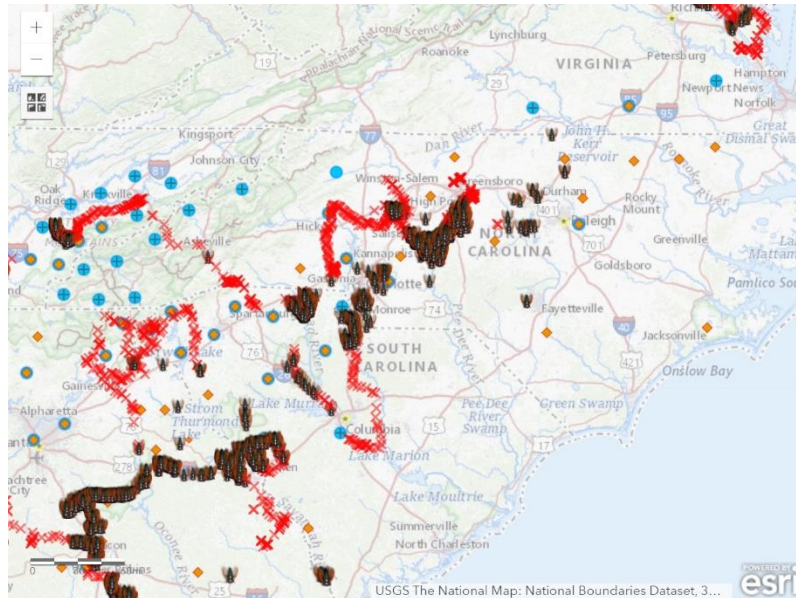
By Marty Finkel from a 4-30-24 article by Amanda Wilkins, Lee Co. Agriculture Agent

*Photos: Top:* Asiatic hawkweed on left in Amanda's article; in center by Thomas Glasglow, Craven Co. Horticulture Agent; Dandelion on left by H. Zell CC BY-SA 3.0, Extension Gardener Toolbox

*Bottom:* Both by J. Neal, NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox

**Q: Will we get cicadas from both broods that are emerging this spring?**

**A:** Here in North Carolina, we will see only Brood XIX, or the 13-year cicada, and they are mostly in the west-central and western parts of the state. The other brood, XIII, or 17-year cicada, is mostly in Illinois. It's been over 200 years since these two broods have emerged at the same time! [Note: Think of broods as family lines. Broods I – XVII, are families of the 17-year cicada, and broods XVIII – XXX, are families of the 13-year cicada.]



From this map it looks like the closest they will come to Granville Co. is mainly just north and west of Durham. (USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Data Set, 3 . . . )



© MATT BERTONE 2

A 17-year-old cicada (Brood VI; *Magicicada septendecim*)

Dr. Matt Bertone, Director of the Plant Disease and Insect Clinic, has a great article (updated 4-19-24) about these cicadas, “The Cicadas Are Coming! Fear Not, Though” on the NC Extension Plant Disease and Insect Clinic site. He writes:

“When the ground reaches a certain temperature (about 64°F, or around May in NC), the nymphs that have been underground — slowly sucking sap from tree roots — dig their way up to the surface. There they molt into an adult and the noise and mating commences.

Once they emerge, the males make a characteristic call using a tymbal organ. [These calls](#)\*\* are species specific and attract females of the same species; multiple species of periodical cicadas will emerge in this brood. These calls are deafening on their own, but when millions are “singing” it becomes a wall of sound. Once they have mated, females use their drill-like ovipositor to cut into the branches of various trees and woody plants, laying hundreds of eggs inside.



After a few weeks, the adults will die out and the young will hatch from the branches and drop to the ground below. There they burrow next to a root, and tap in for the long haul, feeding on the juices of the plant for thirteen years.

### **So, what are people to do and how will they affect us?**

The first thing to note is that *in the entire world, periodical cicadas are only found in the eastern United States*. So, if you see them, count yourself lucky to be able to witness one of Earth's most amazing phenomena!

Second, periodical cicadas are harmless to humans and pets. Although they may be a nuisance, this boom of insects provides many ecological benefits, especially as food for various other animals. They are nutritious and a welcome glut of food for many organisms ([and even some psychedelic-producing parasitic fungi!](#)).

Finally, while adults and nymphs feed on plants, and females saw into twigs, they rarely do major damage and may actually improve tree health and vigor. In areas with a lot of activity, after the dust has settled, you will often notice trees and other plants with “flagging” symptoms. This is where individual branches or twigs break from being weakened by the egg laying, causing the apical section to break or die off. Unsightly as it is, this can be thought of as merely a “pruning” event, especially for mature, healthy trees. It's even been noted that trees may flush out better the year after periodical cicadas attack them.

One valid concern is that they will feed on, and lay eggs in, various woody plants, so a few commodities might be affected by massive amounts of these insects. We've heard that blueberry growers have seen significant damage in previous years and other woody crops (such as fruit trees — apples, peaches, and pears — as well as grapes) may be negatively affected. This is much more of a concern for younger plants as the damage may be substantial or even lethal. Luckily, they are only out for a few weeks, but for growers who need advice on how to protect their plants, [this fact sheet](#) has some information.”

The cicadas we hear midsummer are the annual ones, and they emerge usually in smaller numbers than their periodic cousins.

Right: An annual cicada, *Neotibicen tibicen*. These are larger, green/black species that emerge each year in the summer.



Report by Marty Finkel: Dr. Bertone's article, quoted. Credit at beginning of article.  
Photos: Dr. Matt Bertone

\*\*Updated link for cicada calls: [click here](#)

**Did you know** that if you get summer-flowering plants in the ground this month they will have time to get their roots established and bloom later this summer? After the spring glories of flowering trees, shrubs, bulbs, and early perennials, gardens often pale in comparison during the dog days of summer. Many of the following plants bloom summer to frost:

For height in the back of the border or right in the middle of a bed, these flowering maples (*Abutilon*) grow to 6 feet, others 4 feet. Sun.



Brazilian bellflower (*Abutilon megapotamicum*) to 6'  
Blooms late summer to frost

'Canary Bird' to 6'  
Early summer - frost

'Fool's Gold' to 4'  
Early summer – fall

**Anemone 'Dreaming Swan'** blooms July – October: tall, clumping variety rather than a spreader such as anemone 'Honorine Jobert': sun. **Anise hyssop** (*Agastache*) 'Crazy Fortune' is a cultivar of the native anise hyssop and blooms July – September. It has variegated foliage: sun. **Swamp milkweed** 'Cinderella' (*Asclepias incarnata* 'Cinderella') is a native and blooms in summer: sun. **Hardy begonia** 'Pink Teardrops' (*Begonia grandis* 'Pink Teardrops') blooms June – September: sun to shade.



Anemone 'Dreaming Swan': 30"

'Crazy Fortune' Anise Hyssop: 2 – 3'

Swamp milkweed 'Cinderella': 50"

Begonia 'Pink Teardrops' 24"

The list of summer-blooming plants is long, so no one's garden should look tired and wan. There are more on the list: bell flower (*Campanula*), balloon flower (*Platycodon*), blackberry lily (*Belamcanda*), hardy orchids (*Bletilla*), angel trumpets (*Brugsmania*), bluebeard, aka blue mist flower (*Caryopteris* spp), vining clematis to lace through shrubs, the many echinaceas, hundreds of daylilies, ornamental gingers, hibiscus, lilies, lantana, Russian sage, ornamental grasses, and many more. And we haven't even mentioned shrubs! And don't forget the brilliant annuals to plug in when other plants fade.

**Canna lilies** are as common as azaleas, but you may not be aware of some with leaves so colorful that they are as dramatic as many flowering plants. Each stem flowers, and after the flower fades, the whole stalk should be removed because the leaves get dull. Stems continue to grow, produce brilliantly colored leaves, and up to 3 flower stalks per stem. Sun. Average moisture – not dry and not wet.



‘Bengal Tiger’: 6’

‘Phasion’: 7’

‘White Tiger’: 3’

‘Red Futurity’: 4.5’

**Sparkling burgundy pineapple lily’s** (*Eucomis comosa* ‘Sparkling Burgundy’) bloom stalk in late summer is like a pineapple, and the dark purple leaves add to the attraction: sun. **Cardinal flower** (*Lobelia cardinalis*) is a showy native: sun to light shade. Attracts hummingbirds and other pollinators. **Joe Pye ‘Little Red’** (*Eupatorium purpurea*) is a native and blooms midsummer to fall. Sun to light shade. Attracts pollinators. **‘Evita’ hardy gloxinia** (*Gloxinia nematanthodes*) blooms August to frost. It is late to emerge, usually around June, so it’s best to mark where it’s planted. Its 1-inch long bells attract hummingbirds.



Pineapple lily ‘Sparkling Burgundy’: 20”

Cardinal flower: 5’

Joe Pye ‘Little Red’: 4’

‘Evita’ Hardy Gloxinia: 12”

Assembled by Marty Finkel with help from Plant Delights Nursery [www.plantdelights.com](http://www.plantdelights.com), the NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox  
All photos: Plant Delights Nursery

## To Do in May

- Put out hummingbird feeders if you didn't get them up in April. Fill with a solution of 1 part sugar to 4 parts boiling water. There is no need to put in red food color.
- Azaleas, climbing roses, camellias, rhododendrons, and other flowering shrubs/trees can be pruned (if needed) after flowering
- Fertilize crepe myrtles with an organic fertilizer for abundant summer blooms (pruning hard in early spring **DOES NOT** encourage more and/or heavier flowering and **is harmful** to crepe myrtles).
- Plant heat loving vegetables (green beans, squash, cucumbers, field peas, butter beans, tomatoes, etc.)
- To help prevent blossom end rot, mulch around tomatoes and peppers, and keep soil evenly moist.
- When cool season vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and green peas, sugar snaps, and snow peas) begin to mature, harvest every couple of days for best quality. Hot weather can cause these crops to be over mature very quickly.
- Plant tender warm season bulbs like canna, caladium, gladiolus, and dahlia now
- Fast-growing clematis should be pruned and trained to prevent it from becoming an unmanageable mess
- Cut back plants not cut back earlier because of danger of frost, including: caryopteris (blue mist plant), perovskia (Russian sage), large salvias; any others with hollow stems or that are susceptible to frost damage.
- If you haven't been mulching all along, prepare for dry weather by putting down mulch now.
- Plant Bermuda, centipede, St. Augustine, and zoysia grasses now.
- To keep annuals blooming all season, deadhead after blooming.

To-Do List compiled by Marty Finkel



## PLANT OF THE MONTH: POSSUMHAW VIBURNUM



Possumhaw viburnum (*Viburnum nudum*) is a **native** shrub that can grow to 12 feet tall and wide that you may encounter at the edges of deciduous woods in full sun to light shade. It grows well in wet areas and is a great rain garden plant. In April – May, it will have flat-topped clusters of fragrant creamy white flowers that attract pollinators. Light to deep pink, blue to purplish black showy berries (photo on right) are present from August through October (if wildlife don't get them first). More fruit is produced when two or more bushes are planted in proximity. Cultivars: 'Angustifolium,' 'Brandy wine,' 'Winterthur.'

### SOME OTHER PLANTS IN BLOOM THIS MONTH

Note that bloom times vary, depending on climatic and meteorological conditions, and many plants bloom several months in a row (and sometimes rebloom). *Source: JCRA Showtimes for April*

Buckeyes  
Horse chestnut  
Yarrow  
Pineapple guava  
Agave  
Allium  
Devil's tongue  
Columbine  
Dutchman's pipe  
Wild indigo  
Crossvine  
Winecups  
Trumpet vine  
Bellflower  
Sweetshrub  
Clematis  
Yellowwood  
Salvia

Evergreen flowering dogwood  
Smokebush  
Crinum-lily  
Deutsia  
Dianthus (pinks)  
Gardenias  
Geraniums  
Daylily  
Kentucky coffeetree  
Hosta  
Iris  
Red Hot Poker  
Lily  
Lespedeza  
Rhododendron  
Rose  
Pomegranate  
Lantana

Photos: Right: Debbie Roos; Left: Jim Robbins CC BY-NC-ND 4.0, NC Ext. Gardener Plant Toolbox

## Some Other Plants in Bloom This Month



Anthriscus  
'Ravenswing'



Native: Tulip poplar



Native: Mountain  
Laurel



Native: Lady Slipper  
orchid



Native: Phlox



Viburnum



Native: Virginia Sweetspire



Native: Big leaf magnolia



Evergreen Solomon's Seal



Native: Ninebark  
(a purple-leaf cultivar)



Butterfly bush



Doublefile viburnum



Chinese foxglove



Native: Dog-hobble (Leucothoe)

Assembled by Marty Finkel  
Photos: Marty Finkel