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WING HAVEN SYMPOSIUM SET FOR OCTOBER 16-17

Presented to the community by Wells Fargo, this year's symposium, *Inspired Thinking: Outside the Boxwood*, brings nationally recognized guest speakers in an enriched two-day format designed to excite and inspire. Whether you participate in an intimate workshop, enjoy light conversations and garden ambience during the cocktail hour, or enjoy the thought-provoking messages of our dynamic presenters, we hope you will come away encouraged to embrace new ideas.

The four women selected to impart their knowledge and challenge our thinking are keen observers of the natural world, just as Elizabeth Clarkson and Elizabeth Lawrence were in their own ways. Alizé Carrère is a National Geographic Explorer specializing in the human adaptation to our changing environment. Tara Douglass is a

small business owner who showcases her talents for clients seeking practical gardens using sustainable solutions and organic practices. CeCe Haydock is a LEED accredited landscape architect who shares stories of famed gardens around the world. Abby Bristow offers a fresh project management perspective that is so critical to the success of urban landscaping. Together, these speakers will pique your interest beyond anything you've experienced at a Wing Haven symposium.

Tickets for each event are available online at winghavengardens.org/symposium. Register today and invite a friend so that the conversation may continue.

Presented to the community by











FROM THE DIRECTOR

Wing Haven Today

The change of season brings expansion and growth to our organization. Wing Haven has evolved into three tree-canopied gardens, each unique in its own way, inviting visitors to discover, learn or just rest in the sanctuary of nature. We observe with delight children of all ages enjoying everything that Wing Haven represents today—thriving green spaces that are unique to the region. Elizabeth Clarkson once said "a garden should inspire," and our hope is that both Elizabeth Clarkson and Elizabeth Lawrence would be pleased with how their gardens are growing and being shared.

The start of a new fiscal year brings a fresh strategic plan to chart our path for the next five years. It serves as a road map, if you will, for the board, staff and volunteers as we work to plant seeds of inspiration for future generations to know and love Wing Haven and understand the importance of nature and its many benefits. We will finalize an action plan over the next few months and look forward to continued efforts to be a resource in the Charlotte community and beyond.

To help us achieve our goals, we have promoted Stefanie Myer to full-time as Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator. Additionally, Education Coordinator Erin Welty joins the team full-time, bringing us to a staff of nine full-time employees and three part-time. Today each team member sows seeds now and for the future of this timeless treasure we call Wing Haven.

Our work—in sharing Wing Haven's gardens and their roles in the region and their positive impact on quality of life—is vital. To each of our supporters and volunteers, an enormous thank you! We look forward to celebrating 50 years of the Wing Haven Foundation and continuing our work together to educate and inspire.

Barrett Sloan Ranson Executive Director

Barrett



SEEING A SOUTHERN GARDEN WRITER'S GARDEN... TODAY

Andrea Sprott, Garden Curator, Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden

Steve DelVecchio (who gardened with Elizabeth Lawrence for many years) once said, "Everything about Elizabeth is really complex. Nobody can see both sides at any one moment. It's really complicated. Everything about her is that way." The deeper I delve into my work as Garden Curator of the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden, the more deeply those words resonate.

The largest and hardest part of my job is seeing the property through Elizabeth's eyes and interpreting it as honestly as I can for the public. Visitors should see Elizabeth in the concrete and tangible, as well as feel her in the abstract. In other words, the garden should emanate her in every way possible—not just in layout, materials and plantings, but also in feel.

The most straight-forward way of connecting visitors with Elizabeth and bringing her into the garden is through her writings. A handful of seasonally curated quotes are displayed strategically throughout the garden. Quotes are chosen to highlight her brilliance with prose and design; her connections with other gardens and gardeners; her vast

knowledge of plants and literature, and her honed wit. Visitors "hear" Elizabeth in her own space, connecting on a more visceral level through her words and her garden.

I wanted to further engage today's visitor, to give them a more specialized personal experience, to give them the opportunity to get an even better sense of Elizabeth and her complexities. In January, I started creating a monthly handout that spotlights six plants of interest and includes a more in-depth quote from Elizabeth's writings of each. Visitors are given a copy of "Garden-worthy Gems," further bridging the past with today, inspiring visitors to see this garden, their own garden and other gardens through a different lens.

A visitor once told Elizabeth Lawrence, "Now I can say I have seen the garden of the famous Elizabeth Lawrence!" To this, Elizabeth replied, "You have not seen my garden, you have only seen it today." In that same spirit, I encourage visitors to return often, as this garden is always changing. It is complex. Nobody can see all aspects at any one moment. It is complicated. Just like its creator.



from left to right: December 18, 2018, April 9, 2019, June 5, 2019, August 6, 2019

Below: an excerpt from "Gardenworth Gems" for the month of June "A garden is like the sea or mountains, different every hour of the day as well as every season of the year."

- Elizabeth Lawrence

from a talk given to the Charlotte Woman's Club on garden design, May 1968

Eg and human

Elizabeth Lawrence House &

Aesculus parviflora bottlebrush buckeye

"Twenty years ago Henry Hohman sent me the bottlebrush buckeye from the Kingsville nursery. It bloomed the second summer, and ever since has bloomed punctually the second week in June. The flowers are like foxtail lilies, tall spikes of fuzzy anthers. It is not really a shrub for a small garden; it needs room to develop as the plants (imported from Holland!) are allowed to do at Callaway."

the Charlotte Observer March 9, 1970

The very same shrub sent by Mr. Hohman in 1950 still blooms every year, although with the climate changing, blooming now starts a week or two earlier.

Garden-worthy Gems



THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR

Erin Welty, Education Coordinator

This summer was the inaugural growing season of the raised beds we installed in our Children's Garden last fall, and what a summer it was! You may have seen the towering corn stalks, forests of tomato plants, and, a crowd favorite, the tremendous pumpkin plant, king of its corner of the garden. Wing Haven and E-ART-H Kiddo campers, students visiting for tours, visitors strolling the garden on sunny afternoons, and even Wing Haven staff had the opportunity to experience the delights of a perfectly ripe 'Sungold' tomato, a slice of honeydew melon, or a tender baby eggplant. The Children's Garden even surprised us with an unplanned summer squash plant that grew out of the neglected ground behind the lattice fence marking the future sight of Children's Garden restrooms. The charming squash vines meandering across the fence turned heads

weather crops and helped with harvesting. At our upcoming Harvest at the Haven in October, we will finish the story of the season's plantings by harvesting what's left and preparing the beds for winter. Even the beds themselves have a special story—the beautiful cedar boxes provided by Matt Kokenes of Microfarm Organic Gardens were assembled in our Children's Garden by a local Boy Scout for his Eagle Scout project just weeks after he served as a youth counselor at Camp Wing Haven.

The produce we enjoyed this summer and fall was thanks to a community of helping hands, big and small, of those who care about Wing Haven and have a love for things that grow. The same spirit of community infuses the entire SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden. After one year of watching these new gardens



and drew smiles (as well as photos) as much as any planned planting in the beds. I like to think that our little Children's Garden took on a life of its own this summer.

The most thrilling part of our summer harvest was the story behind the literal fruits of our labor. That story included the many helping hands—in and out of the garden—over the past year and beyond. In the spring, we welcomed children and their families for our annual Backyard Gardening Workshop, where we planted the seedlings that would yield the summer's fruits—with help from our friend and partner Microfarm Organic Gardens. Wonderful volunteers helped us tend the beds as the plants grew. Camp Wing Haven participants pulled up old plants, started seeds for cool-

grow, we are now starting to see the real fruits of our labors. In the blossoms of native plants in the SEED Wildlife Garden, the burst of red among tomato vines in the Children's Garden, and the smiles of children and their families who have found a new place to connect to nature, I see the work of an incredible community of supporters and friends. Is that not what Wing Haven has been about from the beginning? The next time you stroll through the raised beds in the Children's Garden, take a good look at what's growing. If anything looks ripe for the taking, give it a taste. I hope that you, as I do, taste the love that has been poured into this place by so many for so long.

EDUCATING, SHARING AND BEING PRESENT

Jill Goodrich, Director of Education & Outreach

Be present. Many of our educational programs, workshops, experiences, encounters, and garden management practices look to the future through planning and preparing. Yet, nature tells us to be present. Yes, change is inevitable and time always passes, but when we make the effort to be present, we give ourselves the opportunity to stop and smell the roses. Simply put, when we slow down and enjoy the beauty and wonder of the natural world, our lives are enhanced.

At the present time, our outlook on education is as rich as the soil that blankets Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary. Indeed, the past tells us the soil was nothing like it is today; it was once dense, red clay. Over time, it was cultivated with patience and hard work, and enriched with growing things—above and below the soil—and thus became a garden. The concept of using the garden as a place to enlighten others about the wonder and importance of nature was developed with the first friendly stroll through the garden. Elizabeth Clarkson often shared her beautiful "backyard" with the inquisitive

child or friendly neighbor. Personal tours eventually bloomed into formal tours requiring volunteer guides, and neighborhood gatherings became community events. Children's education became a cornerstone of the Clarkson legacy. The desire to inspire others morphed into regular

"I can't thank you enough for welcoming the Garden Buds Club to Wing Haven. It was a big experience for them and, based on their comments, it expanded their horizons."

children.

- Carla Vitez, naturalist and Roots volunteer helping with Winterfield Elementary

round. Currently, we offer three large scale events for children of all

days of citizen science on the importance of birds, and an entire

in bloom; quarterly talks inspired by the life and work of Elizabeth

Lawrence; monthly bird walks for seniors; and a 12-week lecture

series featuring diverse speakers and topics. We also offer one-day and multi-day trips and retreats beyond Charlotte, and—every other

year—an inspirational Symposium attracting gardeners, designers,

For our youngest guests, we offer monthly story time, weekly nature-

homeschool students, five seasonal family events, two large-scale

Scouting events, six weeks of camps, and multiple environmental

education classes each week throughout the school year for at-risk

planners, educators and other interested participants.

inspired art workshops, a monthly nature program just for

ages: a day of outdoor activities alongside like-minded partners, four

month showcasing nest box awareness. For adults, we offer bi-weekly

wellness in the form of yoga; monthly garden walks highlighting gems

Children's education became - Carla Vitez, naturalist and a cornerstone of the Clarkson legacy. The desire to inspire others morphed into regular educational programs and events. When the Elizabeth Lawrence

House & Garden came under the Wing Haven umbrella many years later, we were reminded of the deep roots of learning through garden literacy, design and Southern horticultural practices for experienced and amateur gardeners.

More recently added under the Wing Haven umbrella, the SEED Wildlife Garden and recreation of the Children's Garden has brought an explosion in the participation of guests and the creation of new experiences for children and families. All these guests are guided on an educational quest via exploration, discovery, imagination and observation.

So where are we today with education and outreach? We are busy like bees in the hive; there is a constant buzz about Wing Haven year

The tables represented in the State of the Haven report reveal that over $1,800^{1}$ adults and nearly $2,400^{2}$ youth took part in educational programs or events in some capacity this past year. For our adult volunteers, we provide education beyond what inspires them each time they pass through the garden gates. Our winter time Growing Roots series invites all volunteers to trade in their trowels and garden gloves for a chance to listen, learn, and grow their knowledge of gardening and the Wing Haven story.

Through all of our education and outreach offerings, as well as through our three gardens, our hope is that we inspire visitors to enjoy the natural world, even if for just a moment. Focus, feel, think. Slow down. *Be present*.

In the words of poet Mary Oliver, "Pay Attention. Be astonished. Tell

about it." I think she is telling us to be present and share our experience. After all, isn't that education?

Please contact Jill Goodrich if you are interested in learning more about educational opportunities, events, and programs for adults or children: jill@winghavengardens.org, 704.331.0664 ext. 103.



 $^{^{\}rm 1}\textsc{Total}$ Adult Education participants plus Adults participating in Children's & Family Education.

Elizabeth Russell, Elizabeth Duperier and Amy Cole (pictured, left to right) enjoyed learning about the many fragrances of spring daffodils during the March Imbibe & Inspire tour at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden.

² Total Youth participants in Children's Education as well as Children's

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT AT THE ELIZABETH LAWRENCE HOUSE & GARDEN

Stefanie Myer, Marketing & Volunteer Coordinator

In 2008, the Wing Haven Foundation purchased the historic home and garden of Elizabeth Lawrence, an award-winning author, landscape architect, and one of the South's preeminent gardeners. Elizabeth Lawrence's garden became known as a sort of "living laboratory," expertly designed and filled with great diversity of plants offering something in bloom in every season. The property was previously owned by Mary Lindemann "Lindie" Wilson, who recognized its importance, and thus had been rehabilitating it for nearly twenty-three years. After acquiring the property from Lindie, Wing Haven staff and volunteers have continued her hard work in further rehabilitating the garden to showcase its original design and intent

Joe Swift, one of our dedicated Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden volunteers, says it is special to be a part of the group that cares for Elizabeth Lawrence's garden. After visiting Wing Haven's Fall Plant Sale in 2016, Joe started volunteering with Andrea Sprott, Garden Curator of the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden. Joe spends most of his Saturday mornings nurturing the garden as if it is his own. He is part of a small team working to eradicate a noxious weedy bulb, Nothoscordum fragrans (syn. N. inodorum, N. gracile), an allium relative, that had spread across an entire planting bed, threatening to overtake it completely. They started last spring by removing all of the "keeper" plants, diligently detaching the tiny



bulbs that had seeded and grown deep in between each plant's root system, and then potting up or transplanting them. Then they helped remove and replace ten cubic yards of soil from the bed. More recently, Joe has been helping Andrea carefully rebuild a small rock wall in the bed, the only untouched rock structure left in the garden. This work has taken Andrea and her volunteers many months of meticulous labor to complete, and they're not done yet. This is just one example of the precision work that goes into preserving this historic garden.

Wing Haven's volunteers don't spend all of their time in the gardens working; they also enjoy learning and honing their skills at our adult education programs. During a panel discussion at Wing Haven's 2017 Fall Symposium, Lindie Wilson, Warren Way and Elizabeth Rogers (Elizabeth Lawrence's nephew and niece), and Steve DelVecchio (who gardened with Elizabeth Lawrence after working for the Clarksons at Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary) all gave fabulous personal insight into the life of Elizabeth Lawrence and her garden. This discussion was very informative to Joe, who gained a better understanding of the goal behind their work to preserve this historic property. Volunteers like Joe, who are committed to the preservation and care of our three gardens, are the backbone of Wing Haven. At the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden, as well as Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary, the more you volunteer and spend time in these beloved gardens, the more you feel connected and have a sense of belonging.

This past year, Wing Haven's Roots Volunteers shared over 7,400 hours of their time at one of our three gardens. Whether you enjoy getting your hands dirty outside, sharing your passion for nature in children's education, or giving the history of Wing Haven to our visitors, we have something for everyone. If you're a new volunteer or a seasoned volunteer interested in joining a new area, email Stefanie Myer (roots@winghavengardens.org) for information on how to get involved.

Joe Swift (pictured left and below) spends most of his Saturday mornings working at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden. Tasks recently included pulling porcelain berry vine out of a large Fortune's tea olive (Osmanthus fortunei) tree... by any means possible.

There is always weeding to be done. Volunteers working in Elizabeth Lawrence's garden quickly become weed identification experts, and Joe is one of the most hawk-eyed eradicators in the group!



UPCOMING FALL/WINTER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Roses & Rosé September 19
Fall Plant Sale October 2-5
Harvest at the Haven October 19
Girl Scout Badge Day October 20
Brisket & Brews November 7

ONGOING VOLUNTEER NEEDS

SEED Guides 3.5 hour shifts

Hosts 3.5 hour shifts

Docents as needed

Art-Kiddo Ambassador Mondays, 3 hour shifts

Homeschool Explorer Program Facilitator last Thursdays,

shift length varies



WING HAVEN CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL PROGRAM OF GIVING

Stefanie Myer, Marketing & Volunteer Coordinator

We are honored and excited to announce that we have been chosen to participate in a special charitable giving campaign, sponsored and funded by Target, and you have the chance to help direct a portion of Target's donation to us!

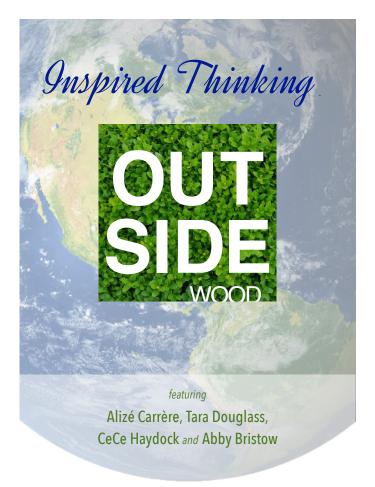
Now through October 6, vote for us through the Target Circle program to help determine how Target's donation will be divvied up. Find out more about Target Circle by going to target.com/circle.

We're asking our supporters to help us make the most of this incredible opportunity. Every vote counts to help us receive a portion of the available Target funds as we continue our mission to inspire passion for the natural world.

Don't forget, as you earn more votes, you can keep voting multiple times during the campaign!

Thank you for your support, and we encourage you to share your support for us (and your thanks to Target) on social media throughout the duration of the voting!





Wing Haven's founders, Elizabeth and Eddie Clarkson, along with celebrated author and plantswoman Elizabeth Lawrence, inspired passion for all living things through their gardens. Even though their goals were different, they shared non-conformist attitudes and were forward thinking. They were at the forefront of movements before they became trendy; Elizabeth Clarkson realized the great importance of healthy bird and wild life within the larger ecosystem of a garden and nature; Elizabeth Lawrence promoted diversity in plants, challenging her readers to expand their thinking by trying something new, and to look at their gardens through a different lens.

Now Wing Haven invites you to look at your garden and natural surroundings in a new light, to be inspired to think outside the box at a workshop or during a presentation from one of our nationally recognized speakers in this year's symposium.

Whether a giant estate, a rooftop garden in Brooklyn, a multiuse urban natural landscape or a home garden, every green space nurtures... our minds, our bodies, our souls and the earth. We are all part of something bigger. Join us for part or all of this year's symposium, and come away with a renewed sense of discovery and fresh ideas on how to nurture nature in your own life.

Through their individual passions, Elizabeth Clarkson and Elizabeth Lawrence still inspire, helping us to deepen our inherent connection to nature. We are honored and proud to carry their legacies forward with our 14th biennial Symposium.

2019 WING HAVEN SYMPOSIUM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Space is limited. Register online at winghavengardens.org today!

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Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary's Front Garden looks particularly lush and lovely in late May.

Ms Andrea York

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Stretch your impact at Wing Haven! Many companies offer matching gift programs for employees and retirees, and some companies offer volunteer grants giving Wing Haven cash awards when you report your hours spent helping Wing Haven in any way—such as in the gardens, Foundation Office, at events and programs, and more!

A BLOOM 70 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Elizabeth Lawrence planted one bulb of *Lilium henryi* (Henry's lily, pictured right) in her garden near the base of a large pine tree on November 26, 1949. Previous owner and savior of the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden, Lindie Wilson, coveted and protected the historic lily for nearly 23 years. Long since shaded out, it still made just enough energy each year to send up a tall bloom-less stalk. Over the past eight years, Garden Curator Andrea Sprott has been working to bring more light to the lone bulb, to see if it could bloom once again. In 2016, Andrea was met with success, and she and her volunteers have reveled every July since, when its first blooms open. This year, marking its 70th year in the garden, the lily put up a strong bloom stalk, as well as *six more small stalks!* This is certainly one historic bulb worth celebrating.

This is just one of the many stories behind the plants you'll hear at "Third Thursdays: Imbibe & Inspire" tours at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden.

In the News

Find Wing Haven in *The Washington Post's* "By The Way" travel newsletter, which highlights the best things to see and do in Charlotte and other cities around the world.

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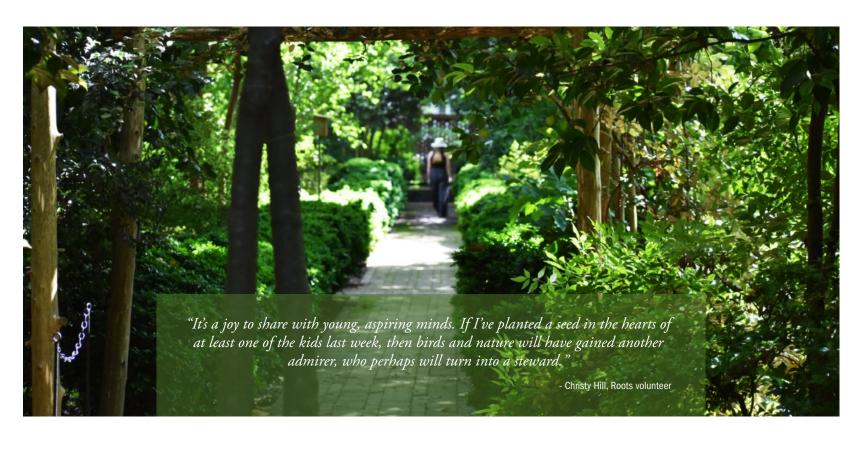
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Silver

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Bronze

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- Debi Preston, Brookstone Schools

Tea Time in the Garden Apr 2019

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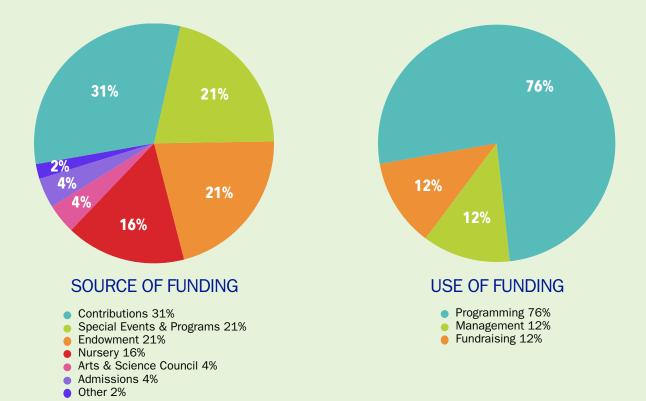
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STATE OF THE HAVEN 2018-2019

OPERATING REVENUE \$842,825*

OPERATING EXPENSES \$824.333*

* based on unaudited financials



You made this happen!

As compared with FY 2018...

- Membership Donations are up more than \$3,000,
- General Donations are up more than 230%, and
- Wing Haven Nursery Plant Sales are up by 6.8%.

Thank You.

CHILDREN & FAMILY EDUCATION

	PARTICIPANTS		VOLUNTEERS		VOLUNTEER
	CHILDREN	ADULTS	YOUTH	ADULT	HOURS
Art-Kiddo	372	-	12	30	42
Camps**	113	-	29	14	944
Children's Tours	749	137	1	22	45.5
Homeschool Explorers	94	47	-	3	7
Other	25	1	-	-	-
Scouting programs	195	99	-	18	54
Seasonal Events	212	189	21	18	111.5
Story Time & More	338	240	10	22	50

TOTAL **2,098**

CHILDREN OUTREACH

	PARTICIPANTS		VOLUNTEERS		VOLUNTEER
	CHILDREN	ADULTS	YOUTH	ADULT	HOURS
Brookstone Explore program					
(pilot)	12	4	-	2	36
PEEPs*	295	32	291	22	176
TOTAL CHILDREN REACHED	307				



DURING FY2019 AT WING HAVEN...

There were $361\,$ youth volunteers

and 2,421 adult volunteers

who gave $7,\!419$ hours of their time.

Thank you to every Roots volunteer for helping us achieve our goals!

ADULT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

ADULTS
257
30
80
53
284
407
16

TOTAL ADULTS REACHED 1,127

COMMUNITY REACH

	ADULTS	YOUTH	TOTAL
On-Site Experiences	13,546	5,189	18,735
Off-Site Experiences	609	970	1,579

TOTAL WING HAVEN EXPERIENCES 20,314

^{*} PEEPs (Preschool Environmental Education Program) reaches 11 classrooms, serving 188 children each month from October - May

^{**} Includes all three camp sessions: June, July and August 2018



260 Ridgewood Avenue Charlotte, NC 28209 winghavengardens.org

Cultivating sanctuary in nature, environmental stewardship and the legacy of Southern horticulture

OPEN HOURS:

Wednesday - Saturday 10 - 5









NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION US POSTAGE PAID CHARLOTTE, NC PERMIT NO. 2410



Wing Haven is supported, in part , with funding from ASC.

WING HAVEN STAFF

Barrett Sloan Ranson Executive Director

Susan Little Evans

Development Director

Beth Gilbert Office Administrator

Reavis Thornton Head Gardener, Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary

Danny Perez

Gardeners, Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary

Andrea Sprott Garden Curator, Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden

Jill Goodrich

Erin Welty

Education Coordinato

Stefanie Myer
Marketing & Volunteer Coordinator

Sally Brown
Wing Haven Host

Beverly Pearson Weekend & After-Hours Host

Lorraine Piephoff

THE BEST PLANT SALE IN CHARLOTTE

As leaves begin their kaleidoscopic transition, we're reminded that fall is the perfect season for planting. You need look no further than the Wing Haven Nursery for everything you need for a happy and healthy garden! We will be open 9 am to 5 pm daily from Wednesday, October 2 (Members Day), through Saturday, October 5.

Shop from a choice selection of all kinds of plants ideally suited to growing conditions in the Middle South, and confer with our volunteers—nearly all gardening experts.

Our Plant Sales are an important source of revenue for our very special properties. Thank you to everyone who shops and/or volunteers with us during our Plant Sales. We appreciate your support!



Photo by Emily Decker Photography