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EDUCATION FEEDS THE SOUL

Jill Goodrich, Director of Education & Outreach

"Just like a barn in an old field, that's how you want your soul to grow, get more beautiful every day." Recognize that quote? If you have ever been a guest visiting the garden or experiencing an adult tour, you certainly heard it as part of the welcome video we share in our (newly named) Elizabeth "Pepper" Dowd Education Building. Elizabeth Clarkson is actually quoting her dear yardman, Uncle John Steele, as he looked back at a picture of her house when it was first built in 1927. He was describing how much the garden had grown and the beauty of it all—at least that's how I interpret it.

Uncle John's words bring about a sense of fulfillment, a sense of calm, a sense of wonder

—all desired outcomes we seek in delivering our many forms of education to adults and children alike. Whether an exploratory lesson on insects with a young child in our SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden or an in-depth tour of Elizabeth Lawrence's studio provided on a virtual platform, each program intends to provide an experience for our guests to grow. In all that we do and all that we provide, we want to inspire a love of, care for, and passion for the natural world. By doing so, the soul grows, and when the soul grows, that love, care, and passion continues to circulate from one person to another, from one community to another.

CONTINUED INSIDE



Volunteer Jeff Bassett (back left) teaches the scholars of Freedom School all about gardening.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Members and Friends,

Building on the legacy of the gardens has been a joy for many as we have looked to the past to guide the direction of Wing Haven's future. Today, thanks to the leadership of current and past board and staff, we are firmly grounded in the Charlotte community as a resource for environmental education and restoration in nature.

As we collaborate with other organizations, we continue to carry on the legacy by honoring the original charter for use of these beautiful spaces. Read the excerpt from the 1971 Wing Haven Foundation charter at winghavengarden.org/legacy.

As you will see from the various articles, we have strengthened our outreach programs with special partnerships that honor the Clarkson's wishes for this unique place in an ever-growing urban city. We continue our preservation and education efforts and are delighted by the community's response. We have unique

opportunities to share the gardens in ways that enhance Wing Haven's legacy in the present.

Please join me in thanking outgoing board members Susan Barrett, Shirley Kosmicki and Ellen Wade. Thank you to our donors, leadership and volunteers for helping us with the work we do to continue sharing the legacy.

Barrett Sloan Ranson Executive Director

Barrett

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Barrett Ranson, Executive Director

We are delighted to welcome new members to the Wing Haven Foundation Board: Carlo Balistrieri, Cathy Hunter and Ian Kutner.

Carlo has a background in garden curation, horticulture, garden design, restoration and preservation. He served as Vice President of Preservation for the Garden Conservancy, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to preserving outstanding American gardens and holder of the easement on the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden. He has served as Head of Horticulture and as Executive Director for several notable gardens. Carlo is also a lawyer with several decades spent in private practice.

lan is a longtime member of and volunteer at Wing Haven. He has two children he brings to the gardens often to explore and learn. A graduate of Cornell University, lan currently teaches at Providence Day School. For more than 15 years, he has led Wing Haven Students of Service – a group of 10-12 hard-working Providence Day students that helps with garden maintenance monthly during the

school year. "Today's youth want to make an impact and feel connected to what they're doing; they don't want a one-and-done experience. They feel a connection, and that's what it's all about," says lan.

Cathy Hunter has volunteered on Wing Haven's Auxiliary Council since 2019, during which time she served as Adult Education Chair and most recently as Vice President. Cathy has also been involved with PEEPs (Preschool Environmental Education Program) since 2010 and helps with the Story Time & More program. "Jim and I moved to Charlotte in 2009, and I started volunteering for Wing Haven right away ... I had recently completed my Master Gardener certification and was anxious to get back into the garden after moving," said Cathy. "My favorite aspect of Wing Haven is that it is a peaceful place to enjoy one another while being in Nature." Cathy has a BA from the University of Virginia and formerly worked in Accounting.

OUR TEAM IS GROWING

We welcome Ellen Baesel (lower left) as Wing Haven's full-time Operations Manager. Ellen is a Michigan native, but has lived in Charlotte since graduating from Michigan State and brings 15 years of experience in project management, planning and operations. Her work with Wing Haven is wide ranging: from purchasing, to handling plumbing or irrigation emergencies, to scheduling work in the gardens or on our buildings, to human resource duties. These are just some of the jobs that keep her busy. Ellen says "but the best days are when I can be out in the garden!"

Linda Nelson (center) also joins the Wing Haven team as part-time SEED Gardener helping care for and interpret the SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden. She recently served as SEED Intern as part of her CPCC Horticulture degree program from which she will graduate in 2022. She also holds a certification in Native Plant Studies. An experienced Senior Manager in training and development in the healthcare software industry, Linda has created a second career for herself in horticulture, urban agriculture, and landscape design.

David Sullivan (lower right) is our new part-time gardener at Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary. David had previously volunteered in the garden before accepting this position. You can find him Thursdays through Saturdays helping out in all aspects of garden maintenance.

Please help us welcome them to the Wing Haven team!







SHARING ELIZABETH LAWRENCE'S LEGACY WITH YOU

Andrea Sprott, Garden Curator, Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden

As I write this—on a sunny, hot and humid day in mid-July—it is hard to believe more than two years has passed since our last in-person offering of the "Imbibe & Inspire" program here at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden. Starting this month, we once again welcome participants through the garden gate for this special curated tour, complete with adult beverage! The program is now offered on the first Thursday (instead of the third), and this month's took place on what may end up being the hottest and most humid day of July. More than half of the tour was enjoyed from the airconditioned comfort of the enclosed terrace, but was (hopefully) no less inspiring. For those who cannot attend in-person or live too far away, don't fret! We are offering the tour virtually as well. This hybrid approach is a new model for us; we strive to deliver the same high quality program you have enjoyed the past two years. For those of you who are unfamiliar, "Imbibe & Inspire" is a limited capacity oncea-month special curated tour of whatever is of interest at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden. I so enjoy giving these tours, as they are the best way to share Elizabeth's legacy, her plants, her garden and her home with all of you.

Speaking of her home, we are working toward having a volunteer host/interpreter on-site during garden open hours so that we can open the house to visitors. When a host/interpreter is on-site, they will greet you at the door to the enclosed terrace, to share this historic property with you. The terrace, with an exhibit outlining the life and work of Elizabeth Lawrence, will be open, as well as her studio and the living/dining room. In these rooms you will see some original furnishings and many personal items that have been generously placed on permanent loan by Elizabeth's family members. Every item that comes "back home" brings Elizabeth better into focus, and adds such depth to the visitor experience!

TOP PHOTO: In the beginning of July, Andrea discovered one of Elizabeth Lawrence's original plant tags that belonged to this stunning bulb, Lilium henryi. This was, or is, a very special plant tag, indeed! Read her post "A Single Bulb, A Legacy in Bloom" to find out why.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Elizabeth Lawrence's family members have generously placed several of their aunt's original furnishings and personal items on permanent loan. Each piece is a "new" snapshot into the history of Elizabeth Lawrence, and is such a benefit to have in her home.

Recently, I have further fleshed out the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden blog page (winghavengardens.org/el-blog) with easier access to "What's Blooming" month-by-month, as well as more posts on all things Elizabeth Lawrence. A new post drops once or twice a month, so be sure to check it often! This is yet another way we share the incredible legacy of one of this country's preeminent garden writers.

We would love to see you come through the garden gate and enjoy all this property has to offer. If that isn't possible, we look forward to offering as much as we can virtually. In *all* ways and by *all* methods, it is truly an honor and a privilege to share Elizabeth Lawrence's legacy. Thank you Wing Haven donors for helping to make all of this possible!





GROWING COMMUNITIES

Andrea Funk, Volunteer Coordinator

We wouldn't be able to maintain our unique garden spaces without the help of volunteers. Most of the garden volunteers work in teams that help maintain areas in Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary, SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden, Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden, as well as Wing Haven Nursery! Volunteer chairs coordinate the majority of these teams, which have become supportive communities united by a love of gardening.

I've been fortunate enough to see the fruits of these communities—volunteers offering one another rides, bringing meals when a member of their team is sick, gathering socially outside of

Nursery volunteers work hard to make each and every Plant Sale a success—from ordering plants to receiving deliveries as well as working shifts during each sale!

volunteering, and getting together to learn more about gardening. For example, Linda Nelson our new gardener in the SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden recently organized a trip for the SEED Garden volunteers to visit the Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens.

A special thank you to our volunteer chairs and the members of their respective teams! Our volunteers really know how to grow communities.



The Herb Garden volunteers brave the heat to care for the plantings in the historic Herb Garden and the garden beds in front of the Clarksons' House.

ACTION IN THE CLARKSON ARCHIVES

Andrea Funk, Volunteer Coordinator

Thanks to a hard-working summer intern and a few dedicated volunteers, we've made some progress in the Clarkson archives this summer.

Madison McManus (pictured), an undergraduate student in history from Barnard College, helped us better preserve some of our correspondence collection by rehousing the materials in archival folders. She also scanned Elizabeth Clarkson's original slides and wrote the beginning of a finding aid during her time with us this summer.

It is not uncommon to find one or more pressed flowers or leaves among the early letters (1920s) that Elizabeth sent to Eddie while she was in Uvalde, Texas and he was living on Clement Avenue in Charlotte. It has been exciting to find these quintessential Elizabeth Barnhill touches among the archives.





EDUCATION FEEDS THE SOUL

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Wing Haven's educational offerings reach communities across the region—and with our continued virtual programming, we reach amateur and professional horticulturists and ornithologists across the country! As a matter of fact, our data revealed that 643 zip codes were represented by participants in our in-person and virtual programming this year, which demonstrates the breadth of our reach!

This past year brought about an increase in our intergenerational learning. More adults accompanied children during Story Time & More and Seasonal Children & Family events than ever before. School children and garden clubs returned in droves for tours of our gardens led by passionate docents. Three types of camps brought in record-breaking numbers of nature-lovers. We expanded wellness programs to include outdoor yoga and qigong. Virtual programs covered bold and new topics that reinforced the importance of the natural world that we share.

Outreach opportunities grew to include volunteer experiences for adults with disabilities. We also enjoyed greater engagement with The Nest Academy and offered partnership events with like-minded organizations such as Charlotte Wildlife Stewards. Wing Haven was excited to participate in the first-ever Charlotte Earth Day event at First Ward Park, at which Elizabeth Clarkson was honored!

It's not just these experiences and opportunities that continue to grow the Wing Haven legacy. It's the magic of our three gardens that fills the spirit and feeds the soul. We take great care in sharing our passion for nature with our guests and providing experiences with intention—an intention to grow the soul.

This past year, 37% more adults participated in Children & Family events and programming, such as Story Time & More (pictured right). Author and Foundation Board member Lawrence Gordon (pictured right) often reads to participants.

We saw significant increases in attendance this year: E.ART.H Camp—31% increase, Seasonal Children & Family Events—65% increase, and our Children's Tour experience (pictured below right)—750% increase, bringing us back to our "normal" numbers.

Author, podcaster and plant personality Ellen Mary of the United Kingdom (pictured below, fifth from left) shared her experiences and knowledge on mindfulness in the garden during a springtime workshop. Workshops and tours accounted for the largest increase in adult education program participation.







"I just wanted to let you know we had a great time during our tour...

[The docent] did a terrific job and we all had a lot of fun.

Everyone said they would like to come back and bring others with them, myself included!"

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By simply completing a matching gift form (online or paper) you can double, or even triple, the impact of your gift! Contributions of any amount help us to maintain our three public gardens and provide year-round nature-based programming for all ages.

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To become a Clarkson Society member, one confidentially shares an intention to make a gift in a will or trust naming Wing Haven Foundation as a beneficiary. Making a planned gift to support the gardens and our education programs is simple. Here is all the information needed.

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Wing Haven Foundation 260 Ridgewood Avenue Charlotte NC 28209

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Please contact Development Director Susan Evans 704.331.0664 ext. 108 with any additional questions or to discuss your personal legacy at Wing Haven.



Bird houses in the SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden Photo © Betty Thomas

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The Wing Haven Foundation Al Fresco Fall Dinner benefits Wing Haven's two historically significant and nationally recognized properties on Charlotte's Ridgewood Avenue and the SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden, and celebrates our mission of cultivating sanctuary in nature, environmental stewardship and the legacy of Southern horticulture.

Guests will enjoy an artisan-style progressive dinner inspired by garden legacy and heirloom ingredients, an interactive Terra Forma art installation, live music and silent auction.

Limited ticket event available first by invitation to current members and donors. \$280 per person. Sponsorships available. More details online.

WING HAVEN FOUNDATION



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Thank You! We are humbled with the outpouring of support for the recently completed Legacy Campaign: Celebrating 50 Years of the Wing Haven Foundation. Thank you for helping us to celebrate 50 years of cultivating and sharing knowledge with an understanding that we are all part of nature. These founding principles, that two women visionaries fully embraced and shared in different ways, result in what Wing Haven is today.

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THE ENDOWMENT FUND IN ACTION.

IMPROVING VISITOR EXPERIENCE

As part of The Dowd Foundation's lead gift to the Legacy Campaign, The Elizabeth "Pepper" Dowd Education Building was dedicated in May 2022 and is in the process of being refurbished and repaired to enhance guest experience in this key entry point to the gardens. Built in 1987, the Education Building also serves as a rental venue for meetings, retreats and private events.

Endowment funds have allowed Wing Haven to update this much-used building with two large TV monitors on articulating mounts for varied viewing options, advance video streaming capabilities, and high quality presentations. New paint and fabric shades have refreshed the main room; new carpet will be installed in September. The kitchen and hallway will be updated with new Luxury Vinyl Plank flooring and the two accessible bathrooms will be updated with reglazed wall tile and new faucets and sinks. Work is scheduled for completion by September 14th.

TOP PHOTO: A new plaque adorns the Elizabeth "Pepper" Dowd Education Building.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Susan Dowd Barrett (left) assists as Pepper Dowd (center) does the honors during the Legacy Celebration on May 11, 2022. Photo © Daniel Coston Photography





LEGACY CAMPAIGN continued

\$5,000 - \$9,999 Mary and Ray Boardman Gay Boswell in honor of James Coker Fort Mr. & Mrs. William K. Burton Lynne and Colby Cathey Katie and Tim Coff Davidson Garden Club Charlie Elberson and Lou Kinard Kathy and Tom Ewing Elizabeth and James Hagan Claudia and Andy Heath Anne Henderson Katherine Hill Susan and Jim Holloway Shirley and Matt Kosmicki Amy and Rob Lovett Dee Dee McKay in memory of Peter McKay Dee Dee and Bill Maxwell Sheryl Mayberry Ann and Brent Milgrom in honor of Jane McColl and in memory of Susan Kelly Janet and Lowell Nelson in memory of Kathryn Preyer Anne and John Oxrider Mimi and Bailey Patrick

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Victoria Thornbury

Ridgely and John Phillips

Cathy and Roy Reynolds

Peggy and Pope Shuford

Dr. Chandler Thompson

Cordelia G. Thompson "Dede" in memory of

Anonymous (4) Ms Frances Alexander Ellen and Bill Archer Jane Avinger Mr. & Mrs. Connor Barrett

Mr. William Barrett Betsy and Bill Blue Angela and Ralph Breeden in honor of Pepper Dowd and Jane McColl Ann and David Burton Courtney and Rob Christensen Kathryn V. Clancy Gina and Herb Clegg Ann F. Copeland Mr. & Mrs. Roddey Dowd III Susan Little Evans

Mary Dewey Faison Mary Weeks Fountain Molly and Henry Froelich Tricia and Donny Harrison, Jr.

Gibbs and Bryan Ives Mr. & Mrs. James D. Kennedy Mr Will Kennedy Maureen Kivney

Loftin & Company Printers Kelly and Luka Loik Sally and Joe Lucas in honor of Sally and Henry James

Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Lucia Francie and John Mangan in memory of Mary Frances Chapman Posey and Mark Mealy

Audrey and Larry Mellichamp Dick Metzler Rolfe Neill in memory of Dana C. Baker

Rebecca and Andrew Nesbitt Pebbles Nix in memory of Pokey Glenn Mary L. O'Connor Leslie and Paul Perlik Elizabeth Way Rogers Brenda and George Rohe Noell and Jim Schepp

Deborah and David Schmitz in memory of Alice Honea Mary Davis and Skip Smart

Jeanie White in memory of Bob White Margaret and Ward Williams

Un to \$999

Anonymous

Linda and David Bentley in memory of Skippy Dennis Geraldine Blake Janet Bradshaw Judy Bratton Sally R. Brown

Jane and Gilbert Browne in honor of Frannie DeWitt Browne Camille and Wil Coers Fairley Bell and Dan Cook in honor of

Barrett Shannonhouse Mary Keller Costa

Gaither and Robert Deaton Nancy Dooley

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Floss in memory of Marilyn Wick Rowland

Reth Gilbert Diane Gileta in memory of Joan Ficarrotta Ruth Ellen and Thold Gill

Jill Goodrich Jennifer and Vic Grainger Christina and John Hanna Beth and Bill Hobbs Doris and Steven Hurr Lib Jones and Tom Nunnenkamp

Elizabeth and Patrick Kelly Deborah Klein Carol Koball

Barbara Lake in honor of Dr. & Mrs. E. R. Harris Sarah Beth and Todd Lankford Sarah P. Lathrop Nancy S. Little

Ralph Lowrance David Luttenberger in memory of Marilyn Wick Rowland

Lil and Al McAulay Blythe and Matt McAulay Robin Thorp McCoy

Susan Mitchell Stefanie and Matthew Myer Linda Nelson in memory of Mae Nivens Katherine Paul in memory of Haskell Eargle

Danny Perez Lorraine Piephoff Missy and Bill Plyler Michelle Pounds Jane A. Rudisill Damou Sako

Anne M. Sheffield Cissy and Rush Shull III Andrea Sprott in honor of Courtney Christensen Marty and Jim Stenhouse Jr. Barry and Leslie Teague Meg and Paul Thomason in honor of Patricia Chesser Gary and Judith Toman Susan and Bill Tome in memory of Linda Johnson Kristine and John Wahr Bobby Ward Mr. & Mrs. Roger Way Jane Weaver Sherrie Webster Frank Welling in memory of

Marilyn Wick Rowland

Dr. Thomas H. White in memory of Sue White

Frin Welty

Dana and Joe Woody

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Legacy Campaign Cabinet

Honorary Co-Chairs

Honorary Cabinet Katherine M. Belk Pepper Dowd Dale F. Halton Sally and Henry James, Jr. Jane S. McColl

Campaign Committee

Doug Anderson Susan Barrett Laurie and John Bond Frannie DeWitt Browne Kathy and Tom Ewing John Phillips Mary Claire Wall Paige Waugh















CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Sherry and Van Hall. Executive Director Barrett Shannonhouse, Brian Caldwell and Robert Shore. Wanny Hogewood and Pepper Dowd. Frannie Browne and Patty Barnhardt (front). Anne and John Barry. Sarah and Lawrence Gordon with Charlie and Caton Morris. Legacy Celebration Photos © Daniel Coston Photography

LEGACY BY THE NUMBERS

\$8.044M in the Wing Haven Endowment managed by The Foundation for the Carolinas as of June 30, 2022.

\$348,550

DESIGNATED FOR THE LINDIE WILSON STEWARDSHIP FUND FOR THE ELIZABETH LAWRENCE HOUSE & GARDEN

\$7.015M

RAISED

\$11

PLANNED GIFTS TOTALING \$815,310 OR 12% OF ALL

Where Will the Money Be Used

The 50th Anniversary (1971-2021) Legacy Campaign is an endowment effort and the earned income generated will be used to support our strategic objectives.

Preservation

- Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary including the Clarkson House
- Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden Lindie Wilson Stewardship Fund
- ► Historical Archives Clarkson and Lawrence
- ▶ SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden

WHY WING HAVEN? IN THEIR OWN WORDS: KATIE AND MIKE JAMES

By the time of the Legacy Campaign, Mike and I had supported Wing Haven for many years and I was actively involved serving on the board of the Wing Haven Foundation. We knew the best way to protect Wing Haven and all it offers for future generations was to build the endowment. The Clarksons and people who knew them created this wonderful gift of an urban garden and bird sanctuary and we believe it is the responsibility of those who benefited from their foresight to preserve Wing Haven for future generations.

I became involved at Wing Haven following visits with our three young daughters who are now all in their thirties. My first volunteer activity was as a docent for children's tours. Watching their fascination with the stories and pictures of the Clarksons as well as walking through the gardens and seeing the wonder on their faces captivated me. I'll never forget a little girl who had never seen a squirrel and she just squealed with excitement.

It is hard to pick a favorite area of Wing Haven but I do love the many plaques around the gardens. My favorite is the prayer by Toyohiko Kagawa which in part reads, "I want to be ever a child. I want to feel an eternal friendship for the raindrops, the flowers, the

People

- Education
- Volunteer Programs
- Visitor and Guest Experience
- Marketing

Programs

▶ Educational Programs for Adults and Children

GIFTS AND PLEDGES

- Outreach to the Community
- Sharing of Southern Horticulture Expertise
- ► Environmental Stewardship

insects, the snowflakes....Though my muscles may stiffen, though my skin may wrinkle, may I never find myself yawning at life." In many ways this captures for me the essence of Wing Haven.

The addition of the SEED Wildlife and Children's Garden and the expansion of programming for children is very exciting, particularly now that we have grandchildren who visit Wing Haven. Creating a love of nature in our children contributes to the well-being of our community.

— Katie James



STATE OF THE HAVEN 2021-2022

OPERATING REVENUE \$1,147,072*

OPERATING EXPENSES \$1.121.539*

* based on unaudited financials

Wing Haven reached

22,687

people in the community and beyond







USE OF FUNDING

- Contributions 31%
- Special Events & Programs 17%
- Endowment 21%Nursery 14%
- Infusion Fund 11%
- Admissions 3%
- Other 3%

Programming 72%Management 13%

Fundraising 15%

1,166
Members and donors

311 volunteers spent 6,047 hours

helping out at Wing Haven in many ways. 2,892
people
enjoyed Wing Haven
through virtual
experiences

2,423 children participated

in children participated in children and family education programs, including

655

children's tour participants

327 at-risk children reached, including

252 preschool

and 75 K-8

301

programs, workshops, events and tours offered, including

45 guided tours

65%

increase in children & family seasonal event attendance

25%

increase in adult education participation

IN OUR GARDENS...

560

plants propagated from our two historic properties for the Legacy Plants Collection 145

accessioned genera
planted at
Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden,

including 59 taxa reinstated, and 86 plant trials

149

native species of plant material in the SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden



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

OPEN HOURS:

Wednesday - Saturday 10 - 5

















Wing Haven is supported, in part, by the Infusion Fund and its generous donors.

WING HAVEN STAFF

Barrett Sloan Ranson

Ellen Baesel

Beth Gilbert

Andrea Sprott Garden Curator, Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden

Gardeners, Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary

Linda Nelson

Gardener, SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden

Tracey Roode

Education Coordinator

Stefanie Myer

Andrea Funk Volunteer Coordinator

Janet Porto

Beverly Pearson

Lorraine Piephoff

GARDEN PORTRAITS

No matter the season, Wing Haven's beautiful garden vistas, ever-changing blooms, and seasonal foliage provide the perfect backdrop for your bridal and engagement photography, family portraits and senior photos. Full details listed on our website. To book your session, contact our Development and Office Associate at 704.331.0664 x 101 or admin@winghavengardens.org.



Photo © Cheyenne Schultz Photography