

WARBLER

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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TWO VISIONARIES WITH A HISTORY OF INSPIRING OTHERS

Andrea Sprott, Garden Curator, Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden

Two highly accomplished Southern women named Elizabeth, who were born within three months of one another, made Ridgewood Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, one of the most famous addresses in gardening history. While that may sound far-fetched, it really is true.

One Elizabeth wanted to know all there was to know about birds; the other wanted to know all there was to know about plants. Both possessed keen observation skills and a deep love of learning. Their respective passions drove them to excellence. They were highly regarded in their fields, and a big part of their journeys was sharing their knowledge with—and inspiring—others along the way.

In my work as Garden Curator at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden, I have come across dozens of references to Elizabeth Clarkson's garden in Elizabeth Lawrence's research and notes. Small three-ring binders of lined paper are filled with hastily penciled lists of plant names, regularly punctuated by "E.C." or "E. Clarkson." These binders are Lawrence's bloom journals—where, nearly daily, she recorded everything in bloom.

As I read through these lists, I can almost see the two Elizabeths strolling through Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary, Clarkson calling attention to a freshly unfurled bloom, Lawrence busily scribbling its name in her pocket-sized notebook, as she asks more about the plant's habit, origin or length of flowering. I imagine they inspired one another to always find out more; discoveries await those who seek.

Their curiosity of the natural world set them apart from all others, and from one another. Clarkson was a leading scholar in backyard bird life, tapped by local and national government for the valuable information she gathered by being so in tune with the natural world just outside her door. Lawrence was an internationally celebrated garden writer with "encyclopedic knowledge" of plants whose writings—now considered classics in American garden literature—are as fresh and relevant as if they'd been written today.

CONTINUED INSIDE



Elizabeth Clarkson (far right) with Fred Truslow and his wife Mildred, circa 1964.

Fred Truslow was a highly regarded bird and wildlife photographer whose work was featured in National Geographic magazine. Mr. Truslow's photographs also appeared in Audubon, the publication of the National Audubon Society, and in The Living Bird, the annual publication of Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology.



Elizabeth Lawrence with her nephew-in-law, Roger Way, Jr, circa 1976.

Roger has shared some of his favorite memories of "Aunt." One was a request to drive a friend of Aunt's from Columbia, SC, to Charlotte, NC. Roger had no idea who he would be chauffeuring until he pulled up to the curb and met his passenger—Eudora Welty! They had a lovely drive, and he is still thrilled to have had that one-on-one time with the Pulitzer Prize winning author (and avid gardener).

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Well Rooted in Our Past

Knowing we are well rooted in our past gives me confidence as we face the future together.

For the past 50 years, the Wing Haven Foundation has used our resources to share the legacies of Elizabeth and Eddie Clarkson—and more recently Elizabeth Lawrence—locally, regionally and nationally. Our founders provided us the natural resource of our campus to improve life in our region through education, exploration, respite and more. I invite you to read the articles of how their legacies, passion and vision are being shared today as we collaborate in innovative ways with others in the community.

As we embark on a new fiscal year, we are poised to embrace new opportunities in an ever-changing world. We will focus on executing the steps laid out in our new Strategic Plan to support our mission. For example, we aim to increase recognition and relevancy through

expanded educational offerings and program collaborations—with a focus on outreach efforts—to promote and reflect a more diversified Wing Haven community. We will also continue to shape the Wing Haven visitor experience for edification and education that the gardens provide, to name another.

We are so fortunate to have such incredible green spaces to share. Our staff looks forward to this journey with you as we work to protect and preserve these gardens and the tremendous legacies of their creators for future generations.



Barrett Sloan Ranson
Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I transition to Board President of the Wing Haven Foundation, I have fond memories of a place dear to my family. I look forward to our work to preserve such a special place in the heart of Charlotte. As a child, I had the benefit of knowing Elizabeth and Eddie Clarkson. They were great friends of my grandparents and parents. Ironically, my grandmother and mother are named Elizabeth. I look to the three Elizabeths as the ones who planted the seeds of my love of gardening and nature.

The Clarksons, along with a forward-thinking group of people, created the Wing Haven Foundation 50 years ago to maintain the gardens and bird sanctuary in perpetuity. Charlotte and in fact, the surrounding region, are the beneficiaries of their vision and stewardship. They gave our community the living legacy of Wing Haven. They intuitively knew the importance of nature and our need to be in the natural world. I am proud to see the gardens I played in as a little girl thriving, open to all and providing a peaceful respite within its gates. Please come stroll the gardens!



Susan Barrett
Wing Haven Foundation Board President



Original corms of fall-blooming hardy cyclamen (*Cyclamen hederifolium*) grow in the gardens of both Elizabeths to this day, showing their keen botanical interests.

TWO VISIONARIES, *continued from cover*

There was nothing simple about either Elizabeth, or the gardens they spent a lifetime creating. At first glance, one might see a bird lover who loved pink; and a plant lover who graciously welcomed people through her garden gate. But do not be deceived; there is so much more to these two women named Elizabeth. They—and their gardens—are intricately layered and complex, and very different.

Many years ago, I had the distinct honor and pleasure of showing Lynden Miller, preeminent garden designer from New York City, around Elizabeth Lawrence's garden. I was awestruck by her view of Wing Haven as a whole. "In terms of public gardens, you really have *everything* covered here. You have the other garden for birds and wildlife, the children's space for growing vegetables and engaging the next generation, and this historically significant garden for the study of plants. How wonderful!"

How wonderful, indeed. And all thanks to two Southern visionaries named Elizabeth with a history of inspiring others.



Elizabeth Clarkson with bluebirds, circa 1940.



Elizabeth Lawrence with lily of the valley, circa 1950.
Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Rogers & Warren Way III

HOW BOOKS INFORM... IN SO MANY WAYS

Reavis Thornton, Head Gardener, Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary

When sitting down to write this article for this issue of the *Warbler*, I first googled the word “legacy.” Webster’s dictionary defines legacy as “something **transmitted** by or **received** from an ancestor or predecessor, or from the past.” There was no internet for Elizabeth Clarkson to use during her lifetime, but she collected hundreds of books to help answer almost anything she wanted to know. Today, her books help me when I want to know more about Elizabeth’s life and Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary. These books tell me what interested her, and what she wanted to learn.

For instance, there is a beautiful book in the living room titled *The American Birds of Dorothy Doughty*. Dorothy Doughty, an English artist, modeled a line of birds for Royal Worcester known as “Birds of America.” In the 1950s, Ms. Doughty stayed with the Clarksons to observe and study some of the birds. The two bird sculptures on the mantel are from this line—gifts from Ms. Doughty—and were directly inspired by her visit.

The bookcases in the living room hold many antique leather-bound books. There are books on antiques, a love and hobby of Elizabeth’s; books on music, which she studied at the New England Conservatory of Music (she often played the Steinway baby grand piano received as a wedding present from Eddie); and books on history and art show many more of her interests.

The upstairs hall has shelves filled with books on architecture, literature and travel. One book on metalwork shows her interest in designing the beautiful iron gates in the garden, and the books on architecture helped inform the design of the house.

Her sewing room bookshelves hold some of my favorites—most of these books are on gardening. Many books on herbs show her great interest in growing herbs for medicine and fragrance, as well as for culinary use and biblical symbolism. There are many books on garden design, including a collection from her friend and neighbor Elizabeth Lawrence, who inscribed them to her. These books contain many notes and marked passages that she felt important.

Her bedroom contains what must have been the books she kept closest so she could take them from the shelves and read in bed. Here you find most of the books on her beloved birds, as well as many religious books and bibles in which she found comfort.

Elizabeth’s books are sometimes an overlooked part of her life that helped guide her and, ultimately, her living legacy: Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary. I can’t help but think of a quote by the street artist Banksy: “They say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing and a second time, a bit later on, when somebody says your name for the last time.” Elizabeth Clarkson definitely lives on.

I googled “Elizabeth Clarkson Wing Haven” and found more hits than I could count. That’s a lot of information that has been **transmitted** and **received**, ensuring that Elizabeth Clarkson’s legacy—and all that Wing Haven has become—will continue for many years into the future.



A shelf of old leather-bound books in the living room (pictured right) show many of the Elizabeth Clarkson’s interests. Books in her bedroom were ones she used often, shown by their well-worn condition (pictured above).



A VERY SPECIAL GIFT FOR THE ELIZABETH LAWRENCE HOUSE & GARDEN

Andrea Sprott, Garden Curator, Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden

It was a dying wish of Susan Richardson Whisnant Carpenter that a very special collection of her books be donated to the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden. The collection includes nearly 750 volumes by or about female gardeners, garden writers, garden designers, landscape architects and plantswomen. When Susan's family contacted me about this collection, I thought it absolutely appropriate—and a testament to their friendship and shared passion of gardening—to accept the offer.

The shipment of twenty-five banana boxes filled with books arrived October 1, 2017, four months prior to Susan's passing. The boxes could not be unpacked immediately, as there was nowhere for them to go. All of the bookshelves in the house were already filled, and this fascinating collection needed its own dedicated space.

Incredibly, Susan's children generously sponsored the building of specially-designed bookcases to house the collection.

In the late summer of 2019, the bookcases were built and installed in my office—the room that was originally Elizabeth's mother's bedroom—by local fine cabinetmaker Adam Jochim. It was so thrilling to finally unpack the banana boxes and get the books on the shelves! There was more work to do, as the collection needed to be processed, categorized, alphabetized and organized. Many thanks to ELH&G archive volunteers Noel Schepp, Carol Ambrose and Yaya Viale for their time, talents and assistance with this project.

It is with deepest gratitude to Susan and her family, for thinking of us in the first place, and for making all of this possible. I know Elizabeth would be thrilled that this very special collection is here in her home.

In 2015, Susan also donated 250 volumes to help recreate Elizabeth Lawrence's original horticultural library, which is owned by the Cherokee Garden Library of the Atlanta History Center in Atlanta, Georgia.



HISTORY IN THE (RE)MAKING: AUGUST 11, 1957 & AUGUST 10, 2019



Photo of Elizabeth Lawrence at her garden gate courtesy of the Charlotte Observer Collection at the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room



Photo of Kristin Hauder courtesy of Joe Swift

Roots volunteers work hard at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden, but they have fun, too! On August 10, 2019, Kristin Hauder (pictured, right) came dressed for a morning of weeding in the garden, as well as a photo op. The now iconic photo of Elizabeth Lawrence (left) was originally published August 11, 1957, with her inaugural article of her column "Through the Garden Gate" for the *Charlotte Observer*.

Kristin is in the garden most Saturday mornings, weeding the paths and between the bricks around the pool. Kristin works for Ally Financial, Inc. Each year, Ally offers their employees a certain number of hours off to volunteer, and then pays the beneficiary institution for the employee's volunteer time. We love working with Kristin, she does a great job, and she loves being here. It's definitely a win-win-win!

YOUR GARDEN LEGACY

Susan Little Evans, Development Director

Thank you! Your gifts preserve and protect the legacies of two remarkable visionary women—Elizabeth Clarkson and Elizabeth Lawrence. For decades, Wing Haven has been a place of refuge for wildlife and people, a place of environmental study, and an inspiration for gardeners.

I am always thrilled to learn when many generations of the same family—children, parents and grandparents—have all been a part of Wing Haven over the years as tour docent, garden volunteer, student, camper, member or board member. My own mother, an excellent gardener, was a nursery volunteer for over 30 years and brought me here as a child. I shared the garden with my children years later.

A few years ago, I was excited to meet the young man who stopped by the Wing Haven information booth at Rountree Nursery and told me he had changed his major to environmental science after his experiences here. And to hear about the intern who changed her major from video game design to agroecology after helping Curator Andrea Sprott at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden. I remember an excited elementary school student who attended the SEED Wildlife Garden grand opening with her teacher after she learned about Mrs. Clarkson and Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary through “Elizabeth’s Wish,” the story of how the Clarksons’ garden became a bird sanctuary. You, our members and friends, have made it possible for Wing Haven to be a gift to this community, inspiring all ages then, now and in the future.

From 1927, when Elizabeth Clarkson began Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary, to 1949 when Elizabeth Lawrence moved to Ridgewood Avenue and began her extraordinary experimental garden, to 2018 when we opened the SEED Wildlife & Children’s Garden, countless visitors have been inspired by these amazing legacies. When you join The Clarkson Society, your passion for gardens and environmental education provides a living legacy here at Wing Haven.

Influenced by Elizabeth and Eddie Clarkson’s seminal planned gift to the Wing Haven Foundation in 1970, The Clarkson Society was created to honor those who have followed the Clarksons’ lead by making provisions for the Wing Haven Foundation through their long-term financial and estate planning. Gifts can be unrestricted—to be used for general operations—or restricted—to be used for a specific purpose, such as the Wing Haven Endowment, the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden, or the SEED Wildlife & Children’s Gardens.

Now more than ever, we treasure our connection to nature—and to Wing Haven. You can share your passion for gardens—of history and learning—with future generations.

See details on our website Support page or contact Susan Evans (704.331.0664 ext.108 or susan@winghavengardens.org) to learn more about planning your garden legacy. If you make provisions for Wing Haven in your estate, please let us know so that we may properly thank you, learn more about your garden legacy wishes, and include you in The Clarkson Society recognitions and special events.



THE CLARKSON SOCIETY

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Jeanne Thompson Duncan*	Dr. Dianna Lynne Smith
Sara O. Ellett	Andrea and Herb Sprott
Mary Weeks Fountain	Mary Theresa Tomlinson*
Barbara B. Hiestand*	Mary Claire and Dan Wall
Steve and Keith Jones	Paige M. Waugh
Dr. and Mrs. Gary Levinson	

*bequest received

TWO NEW TAX BENEFITS TO DONORS, THANKS TO THE CARES ACT

► **Universal Deduction for Donations Up to \$300**

The CARES Act will allow individual taxpayers who do not itemize their charitable giving, to deduct charitable donations of up to \$300 on their 2020 federal tax return, even if they take the standard deduction.

Married-filing-jointly taxpayers will get an above-the-line deduction of up to \$600.

► **Raise of the Charitable Giving Deduction Cap**

For those who are able to itemize their deductions, and therefore directly write off gifts to charity, the CARES Act will expand the limits on charitable contributions from 60% up to 100% of 2020 adjusted gross income.

These are truly substantial changes to the tax treatment of donations. The window for taking advantage of these changes closes on December 31, 2020. Consult your tax advisor for additional details.

RAISING CARETAKERS

Erin Welty, Education Coordinator

Every time a visiting class or group takes a children's tour of Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary, we show an old photo of the Clarksons' house on 248 Ridgewood Avenue in 1927, when Eddie and Elizabeth had just moved in. We describe how the land around the house was red clay, with barely anything growing. "How amazing it is," I like to remind visiting students, "how the land around this home looks so different now, and full of life! How much time—observing, researching, planting, replanting and planting again—must have been poured into the Clarksons' garden to make it the three acre sanctuary that it is today?"

In the same vein, every time I hear Andrea Sprott, Garden Curator of the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden, share about the work of Elizabeth Lawrence, I am struck by Lawrence's persistent care for her garden that is carried on today in new forms and by new people. With every plant identification discovery made possible by Lawrence's detailed notes, every bulb original to her that blooms anew, and every visitor who gazes wide-eyed at the vast variety of plants growing in her garden today, it becomes perennially evident that one gardener's care and time can continue to yield new fruit long after their passing.

Next to two gardens with such rich histories of caretakers and community support, the Student Environmental Education and Discovery (SEED) Wildlife Garden seems especially young. Now in its third year of life, the SEED Wildlife Garden is only just beginning to grow into its own identity as a garden. The native perennial

plants in SEED have grown up tremendously over the past season, in keeping with the saying that the first year plants sleep, the second they creep, and the third they leap! New growth has abounded, new bird life has moved in, and the dream of a hands-on native plant garden bursting with life has become a true reality. It is only because of a hardworking community that the SEED Wildlife Garden's growth is possible. Skillful SEED Garden Group volunteers, Scouts contributing Eagle Scout and Gold Award projects, and so many generous in-kind donors have given their time and resources for the growth and health of this young garden, joining their hands to Wing Haven's long legacy of dedicated gardeners.

And yet, those who diligently plant, water, and weed in the SEED Wildlife Garden are not the only caretakers at work—there are also those essential caretakers who, like the garden itself, are just now growing up. The many children who create art, explore plant life, identify wildlife, and listen for birdsong in the SEED Wildlife Garden are creating powerful relationships with the natural world in the process. In 50 years, we may not remember the many caretakers—students, volunteers and staff—who have given their time to the SEED Wildlife Garden in the same way that we remember Eddie and Elizabeth Clarkson or Elizabeth Lawrence today. It is our hope, however, that the children who have been impacted by the power of gardening at Wing Haven will carry with them the lessons of caretaking, equipped to care deeply for the land in their own corners of the world.



We see you! The wildlife observation platform is the perfect place to search for birds and other wildlife.



In a moment of magic, a painted lady butterfly (*Vanessa cardui*) lights on a young man's finger.

LEGACY OF LEARNING

Jill Goodrich, Director of Education & Outreach

The gardens of Wing Haven are the physical legacy of one couple's love of each other and the natural world in Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary, one woman's quest for horticultural discovery in the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden, and a hands-on learning and space for exploration and discovery for a community in the SEED Wildlife & Children's Gardens. These gardens provide the backdrop for another enduring gift: the legacy of learning.

In the words of the romantic poet William Wordsworth, "let nature be your teacher." Indeed by observing the physical world and experiencing it through all five senses, one can gain a tremendous amount of knowledge. The laws of nature provide best practices in caring for itself. Formal or organized education is not always necessary. In fact, Elizabeth Clarkson was a self-taught ornithologist and environmental activist ahead of her time. Expanding on her efforts to share knowledge with national and local leaders, scientists, local children, friends and visitors, the Wing Haven Foundation decided years ago that it would offer regular educational programming to help sustain the life of the gardens themselves. Although programming started organically through informal tours and small gatherings, educational offerings grew steadily and most recently exploded in breadth and depth.

Wing Haven offers hands-on learning weekly in the SEED Wildlife & Children's Gardens. More in-depth experiences inspire youth through camps and workshops. Seasonal programming for all ages captures all that is horticulture, ornithology and wellness as it relates to nature. Featured speakers share their knowledge with the community through adult education programming. Volunteers give to the gardens and gain through organizational hosted classes. Our education program is solid; the model works—always with growth in mind.

Recently, the first nine months of the fiscal year showed great impact—providing more and better environmental education opportunities for garden guests, program participants and eager volunteers. Then, the public health crisis. Our educational formula was tested, not because of a lack of interest in the community or too few volunteers to facilitate, but due to a pandemic. A pandemic! Few could have

predicted that scenario, or prepared for how to manage it from a programmatic perspective. With little notice, the gardens' gates closed. On one side, the lack of visitors and garden guests was only our loss; left alone, nature thrived. Wildlife enjoyed the quiet space all to themselves and flowers continued to bloom in abundance. On the other side, the inability to engage with visitors here on campus hampered our educational mission.

Those who attended our Symposium last fall, learned from one of our speakers, National Geographic Explorer Alizé Carrère, that adaptability is a hopeful and forward-thinking approach to change. Rather than become paralyzed by the public health crisis, and despite the need to temporarily close the gardens to visitors, Wing Haven began to adapt. Utilizing science as a foundation, we updated our guidelines for safe and effective learning and exploration, we revamped some of our programming to a virtual platform, and we remained engaged with our community through the use of technology. Our ultimate goal is to allow individuals the chance to unplug and reconnect with nature *in person*, we had to adapt to the current situation.

Slowly and thoughtfully, we emerged to once again provide hands-on learning in the gardens. With the support of generous donors who helped with scholarships and extra supplies, the education team was able to provide our popular summer camp programs without missing a beat. Camp redesign allowed for the cultivation of learning in and for the natural world with added safety protocol. Our traditional Camp Wing Haven remained sold out and our Spanish bilingual art-meets-nature camp saw the highest number of children registered yet. The resilience of the human spirit and the grace of nature was never more visible or audible than in the children during camp.

My hope is that with the continued adaptation to some virtual platforms and the ability to provide a safe environment for community members to physically visit and experience the gardens, the legacy of learning will live on no matter the program format.

To learn more about educational opportunities and programs at Wing Haven, visit winghavengardens.org.



Local high school students enjoyed a workshop at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden with National Geographic Explorer Alizé Carrère, as part of the 2019 Wing Haven Symposium, "Inspired Thinking: Outside the Box(wood)."

SHARING TALENTS AND KINDNESS: THE LEGACY OF WING HAVEN VOLUNTEERS

Stefanie Myer, Marketing & Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteering is not a new concept. In fact, volunteering dates all the way back to the medieval times when communities would selflessly give their time to the poor and sick. Through the ages, volunteers have performed many important roles, such as firefighter, doctor, humanitarian work, and more.

Likewise, volunteers have played a key role in Wing Haven's legacy since before the Wing Haven Foundation was created in 1971. Friends and neighbors began assisting the Clarksons for the first time in the early 1960s. For many years, friends and neighbor Elizabeth Lawrence served as hosts when the Clarksons' garden was on tour.

Mildred Harris, who moved across the street from Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary in the late 1960s, was a close friend of the Clarksons and among the first volunteers here. Mildred remembers seeing busloads of children getting dropped off at Wing Haven and wondering what they were all doing. Elizabeth Clarkson explained to Mildred that they welcomed schoolchildren for tours through the garden which she always led herself. Once tour groups became larger and more frequent, Elizabeth invited Mildred and Kathy Shonts to assist her with these tours. Then in the early 1970s, The Nature Museum Guild (affiliated with the Charlotte Nature Museum, now Discovery Place Nature) listed Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary as one of the locations where their members could earn volunteer hours. Wanny Hogewood and around 15 other volunteers joined Mildred and Kathy as docents, hosts, and shop volunteers. They were the first core group of volunteers at Wing Haven.

In 1983, Wanny became our first Curator/Director and worked here for 10 years. Fast-forward nearly forty years to February 2020, when Wanny shared her story as part of our Growing Roots program—a weekly opportunity for volunteers to remain engaged during the winter months, and discover new skills or learn about Wing Haven history. Wanny recalled that volunteers were instrumental in the creation of the Wing Haven Foundation, and were the backbone of acquiring new members, as well as organizing and implementing each plant sale and docent training. During her time here, Wing Haven had become known in many garden circles as a wonderful place to volunteer, and in the early 1980s, there were around 150 active volunteers. That number grew to around 400 by the 1990s, just a decade later.

Over the years, what started as a small group of hosts and tour docents in the 1970s has expanded to over 20 volunteer areas, and we still have around 400 active volunteers each year. Our education programs, plant sales, and events have all expanded to meet demand, and we rely heavily on the help of our volunteers to make each of these a success. Thanks to the support of our Roots Volunteers, the legacy of Wing Haven remains present today, and will continue into the future. As Roma Tison, a Master Naturalist who has been volunteering at Wing Haven for decades as an Education Facilitator said, "Enthusiasm attracts enthusiasm." When volunteers share their passion with others or greet visitors with a smile, these little acts of kindness encourage them to return to Wing Haven as a visitor and, at times, a new volunteer.

Help us carry on the legacy of Wing Haven's two historic gardens and our newest children's gardens. Apply to volunteer winghavengardens.org/volunteer or email Stefanie Myer, Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator, roots@winghavengardens.org.



Kathy Shonts (pictured above, center, in 1988) and Mildred Harris (pictured below, with Eddie Clarkson, circa 1990) led dozens of tours of schoolchildren through Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary.



ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS Gifts designated for Wing Haven annual operations received between July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Thank you for your kind and generous support!

Please contact the Office at 704.331.0664 x108 with corrections or questions.

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The Tent Guys
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Thomason

Mr. Reavis Thornton
Unit Paving Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. David K. Wagoner
Mr. & Mrs. Warren W. Way III
Mrs. James J. White III
Ms. Lindie Wilson
Witherspoon Rose Culture
Zio

Matching Gifts & Volunteer Grants

Albemarle Foundation
Ally Financial, Inc.
Bank of America
Duke Energy
Morgan Stanley
Thrivent
Wells Fargo

STRETCH YOUR IMPACT!

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!

Evelyn "Patti" McGee has been an amazing ambassador for the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden for nearly twenty years, and played an integral role in preserving this Southern garden, as well as Pearl Fryar's garden in Bishopville, South Carolina. A nationally celebrated advocate of the horticultural arts, Patti helped guide the transition of the property from private ownership to public garden—and beyond—by serving on the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden Advisory Council for eight years. Among a long list of achievements and accolades, she cofounded the Lowcountry Garden Club and the Charleston Horticultural Society, served on the Board of Directors of the Garden Conservancy from the inception of the organization until 2015, and was recognized by the Garden Clubs of America for her work in advancing horticulture.

Five years ago, Patti and her husband Peter moved from downtown Charleston to Sullivan's Island, where she has created a beautiful garden filled with many of her favorite plants. Among them are a few botanical treasures from Elizabeth Lawrence's garden.

We are so honored and grateful for Patti's encouragement, expertise and support throughout the years.

"If we can't understand the past, what hope do we have for the future?"

- Patti McGee

Traditional Home magazine,
September 2006

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In Memory Of

Louis Bledsoe

Mr. & Mrs. Henry James, Jr.

Robert Bushorn

Ms. Thia Powers

James "Jim" Cobb, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Henry James, Jr.

Norma Cowell

Mr. & Mrs. Henry James, Jr.
Mille Fleur Garden Club

Ed and Jeannette Davis

Mr. Daniel Davis

Joanne Dickson

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Belk, Jr.

Mrs. Robert W. Bradshaw, Jr.

Mrs. James Clardy

Dr. & Mrs. Harold Ragan Howe, Jr.

Ms. Annelle Kelly

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Winget

Rom Duncan

Ms. Carol Hicks

Dr. & Mrs. Gary Levinson

Anne "Pokey" Glenn

Mrs. Robert Nix

Joyce Gossett

Mr. & Mrs. James Van Hall

Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd E. Hartsell, Jr.

Julia Hicks

Dr. & Mrs. John Snow Glover

Barbara Hiestand

Ms. Peggy G. Irons

Ms. Caroline Ragan

Mrs. L. G. Walker, Jr.

Michael Kill

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Price

Jake Lucas

Mr. & Mrs. Henry James, Jr.

Cynthia C. Mitchener

Mr. John Mitchener and Mr. Heath Massey

Mary Peronto

Ms. Nancy Higgs

Evelyn Pharr

Dr. & Mrs. Pressly Gilbert

Kathryn Preyer

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel T. Wall

Mary Nisbet Purvis

Mrs. & Mrs. Henry James, Jr.

B. D. Rodgers, Jr.

Mrs. Patricia A. Rodgers

Cynthia Runberg

Mr. & Mrs. Van Smith

Jack Schofield

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Barefoot

Mr. & Mrs. James Marshall

Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Miller

Ms. Katherine Paul

Ms. Janet Specht

Mr. & Mrs. Bill VanDerKloot

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel T. Wall

Dr. & Mrs. Simon Ward III

Dr. & Mrs. Joe H. Woody

Samuel Robinson Sloan

Dr. & Mrs. Gary Levinson

Mens Bible Study Group

Ms. Sue Moore

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce H. Rinehart

Ms. Kay Valaoras

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce D. Voelker

Alice Harrold Lee Vaughn

Mr. & Mrs. Stanford H. Allison

Ms. Elizabeth Boyd

Mr. & Mrs. Derick S. Close

Mr. & Mrs. Todd Edwards

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Fletcher

GSM Services - Joel and Steven Long
and the GSM Family

Dr. & Mrs. Harold Ragan Howe, Jr.

Ms. Karen LaPiana

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Terrell Lathrop

Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Lemaster

Mr. Edward McCool

Mr. James Meleones

Ms. Mandy Rencher

Mr. & Mrs. John Shepard Robinson

Mr. and Mrs. Edison Speer

Mr. Charles L. Wickham, Jr.

Dr. & Mrs. Joe H. Woody

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H. Woollen, Jr.



"Kudos for finding the balance between safety and recognizing the value of kids getting outside and into nature. Your summer camp protocol ... was outstanding and the best I have seen in Charlotte... Thanks for making the health and safety of kids Wing Haven's first priority. Bravo to the educational programming team."

- Kim Tyson

In Honor Of

Susan Barrett

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Harris

Ms. Janice D. Mercer

Susan Cathcart

Ms. Sallie F. Scarborough

Courtney Christensen

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert H. Sprott

Sallie and Derick Close

Mr. & Mrs. Jubal A. Early

Pepper Dowd

Mr. & Mrs. Connor Barrett

Mr. William Barrett

Mr. & Mrs. Roddey Dowd III

Mr. William Kennedy

Mr. & Mrs. James Dowd Kennedy

Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Lucia

Pat Epting

Nicholas Hager

Beth Hagan

The Stephanie and Fred Shuman
Family Foundation

Frieda Hardin

Mr. & Mrs. James N. Holloway III

Dana Hearn

Barbara Hearn

Betty Holloway

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Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Ives

Carole Joyner

Myers Park Garden Club

Zay Kittredge

Ms. Beverly Thomas

Nancy and Tom Little

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Stabingas

Celene Oken

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel T. Wall

Mimi and Bailey Patrick

Mr. & Mrs. Jubal A. Early

Bob Rossier

Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs

Dia Steiger

Mrs. Janie Levinson

Melissa and Paul Tolmie

Mr. & Mrs. Jubal A. Early

Mr. George Van Allen

Mrs. Sally S. Van Allen

Mary Claire and Dan Wall

Laura Allen Charitable Fund

Mary Claire Wall

Mrs. Caroline McArthur

THANK YOU SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Brisket & Brews

Silver

Barringer Construction

Bronze

Craft Tasting Room & Growler Shop
Doc Porter's Distillery

Evening with Umberto Pasti

Title

The Triad Foundation

Silver

Capitol Clothing

Bronze

Reid's Fine Foods
Y2 Yoga



We love our PEEPs (Preschool Environmental Education Program)! PEEPs groups enjoy learning in the Children's Garden.

Food Truck & Music in the Garden

Partners

Assorted Table Wine Shoppe
Olde Mecklenburg Brewery

2019 Symposium "Inspired Thinking: Outside the Boxwood"

Title

Wells Fargo

Platinum

The Dowd Foundation

Gold

Badger Sportswear
Blackhawk Hardware
Burch Mixon Garden Designs
Dickens Mitchener
Jane Schwab Interiors
Knight Residential Group, Inc.
Laurie Durden Garden Design
Lowry Insurance
Rountree Plantation

Silver

Abode Home
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Fountain Landscaping
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Ellen Kelly Realtor/Broker
Helen Adams Realty
Joyner-Benfield Distinctive Land
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Lead Source Marketing

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Mrs. Wendy Strickland
The Tent Guys
Unit Paving, Inc.
Williams Buick GMC
Woo Skincare + Cosmetics

Partner

Zio

Roses and Rosé

Partner

Assorted Table Wine Shoppe

Wing Haven Lecture Series

Title

Blackhawk Hardware

Bronze

Atlantic Landscape Supplies, Inc.
Heartwood Tree Services
Living Color Gardens Inc.

Gardeners' Garden Tour

(event canceled due to statewide requirements)

Title

Blackhawk Garden Center

Bronze

Atlantic Landscape Supplies, Inc.
Bartlett Tree Experts
Lat Purser & Associates, Inc.
Super Sod



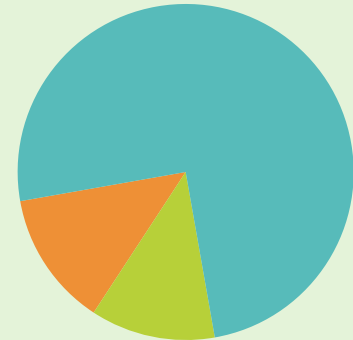
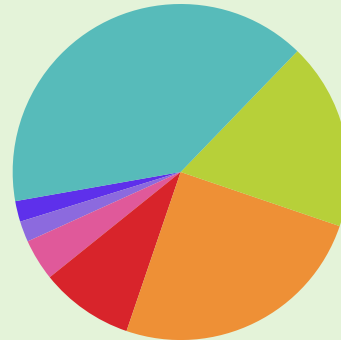
Families explore the bounty of the Children's Garden during "Harvest at the Haven." Photo © Amelia Winchester Photography

STATE OF THE HAVEN 2019-2020

OPERATING REVENUE
\$865,022*

OPERATING EXPENSES
\$836,227*

* based on unaudited financials and includes a CARES Act small business paycheck protection program grant



Wing Haven reached
16,163
people in the community
and beyond

5,349
hours were given by
375
volunteers

2,338
people
enjoyed Wing Haven
through virtual
experiences

2,126
participated
in children and family
education programs,
including
148
homeschoolers

983
Members and donors

382
at-risk children
reached,
including
267 preschool
and **115** K-8

83
programs,
workshops, events
and tours offered,
including
6
summer camps

193%
increase in number of kids
participating in summer camps

54%
increase in participation in
children and family education
experiences

40%
increase in
adult education experiences

IN OUR GARDENS...

2,500
plants installed at
Wing Haven Garden &
Bird Sanctuary, including
500 plants reinstated
to Woods areas

1,100
plants propagated
from our two
historic properties for the
Legacy Plants Collection

146
accessioned genera
planted at
Elizabeth Lawrence
House & Garden,
including **95** taxa reinstated,
and **51** plant trials

6
Girl Scout Gold and Boy Scout Eagle
award projects completed

GARDEN PORTRAITS

Take advantage of Wing Haven's beautiful garden vistas, ever-changing blooms and seasonal foliage as a backdrop for your family photo session, senior portraits, bridal or engagement photography. Full details on our website. To book your session, contact Office Administrator Samantha Wagner at 704.331.0664 x 101 or samantha@winghavengardens.org.



Photo © Amelia Winchester Photography



Photo © Lauren Rosenau Photography

DID YOU KNOW?

Water is essential to attracting birds to your garden. In her book, *Birds of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County North Carolina*, Elizabeth Clarkson wrote: "If only one thing can be done to attract birds to the garden, give them water, either in a bird bath, flower pot saucer, garbage can top, or any shallow pie pan or dish."

All birds use water, winter and summer. Robins (*Turdus migratorius*—pictured below) and Wood Thrushes (*Hylocichla mustelina*—pictured right) use water to make mud with which they build or line their nests.



Photo © Living Art Photography



Photo by Steve Maslowksi, US Fish and Wildlife Service



260 Ridgewood Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28209
winghavengardens.org

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

OPEN HOURS:

Wednesday - Saturday 10 - 12 & 1 - 3*

**by online reservation only; see winghavengardens.org for details.*



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
Development Support

Samantha Wagner
Office Administrator

Reavis Thornton
*Head Gardener,
Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary*

Damou Sako
*Gardener,
Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary*

Andrea Sprott
*Garden Curator,
Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden*

Elizabeth Medearis Myers
*Assistant Garden Curator,
Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden*

Jill Goodrich
Director of Education & Outreach

Erin Welty
Education Coordinator

Stefanie Myer
Marketing & Volunteer Coordinator

Sally Brown
Wing Haven Host

Beverly Pearson
Weekend & After-Hours Host

Lorraine Piephoff
Accountant

THE BEST PLANT SALE IN CHARLOTTE

As leaves begin their kaleidoscopic transition, we're reminded that **fall is the perfect season for planting**. Look no further than the Wing Haven Nursery for everything you need for a happy and healthy garden! Shop from a choice selection of all kinds of plants 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!

Shop for plants in person by appointment only, which will be followed by online-only sales. **Look for details in your mailbox soon.**

ON THE COVER

Roots volunteer and retired photographer Joe Swift captured this image of a common buckeye butterfly (*Junonia coenia*) on New York ironweed (*Vernonia novaboracensis*).

Joe, an avid gardener who is wild about pollinators, has volunteered in the garden at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden for nearly four years.

