



# WARBLER

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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### BRINGING IT BACK “HOME”

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

When Elizabeth Lawrence’s family comes to visit, they occasionally bring something that once belonged to their famous aunt. On May 19, they brought a figurative and literal treasure trove. I could not believe how many things came back “home”: two wrought iron bridge lamps, by which Elizabeth no doubt spent countless hours reading in her living room; a couple of wool blankets that surely kept her warm on chilly late nights as she wrote in her studio; a bamboo alto recorder from the 1930s that she played with “The Pipers” in Raleigh; and—the group of items that nearly brought me to tears—her original gardening tools.

Right after we retrieved all of the riches from the back of their minivan, Elizabeth’s family had to get back on the road. As they were leaving, Elizabeth’s niece-in-law, Fran, turned to me and said, “We’re thrilled to think of you using Aunt’s tools in the garden again!” It would have been unthinkable (not to mention absurdly rude) to blurt out what was whizzing around my mind, which was something along the lines of, “Are you NUTS?! NO WAY am I gonna use these tools; they’re

priceless!!” Thankfully, my mental filter was intact in that moment, and, still starstruck by these banal yet amazing objects, I replied with a distracted smile, “Yeeaaaah.” I may have had the presence of mind to add something about keeping them inside, but I kind of doubt it; I was simply blown away. The rest of the afternoon was spent getting to know the new (old) additions to the house.

CONTINUED INSIDE



### WING HAVEN SELECTED FOR PRESERVATION PROGRAM

*Susan Evans, Development Director*

Wing Haven is proud to announce that last fall, it was one of 56 institutions in the United States selected to participate in the Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program.

CAP helps organizations improve the care of their collections by providing support for a general conservation assessment of the site’s collections and buildings. Throughout the process, Wing Haven staff and volunteers worked with a team of preservation professionals to identify preventive conservation priorities. The final assessment

report will help Wing Haven prioritize its collections care efforts in the coming years.

“Receiving this grant and completing this report is part of Wing Haven’s long-term strategy to help us establish a master maintenance and preservation plan for the two historic gardens of Wing Haven—Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary and the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden,” said Executive Director Barrett Ranson Shannonhouse.

CONTINUED INSIDE

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Members and Friends,

As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded how rooted Wing Haven is in Charlotte's history. As the city continues to grow into a thriving metropolitan area, I value the places that remind us of our community's history.

Three different gardens make up Wing Haven today—Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary, the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden and the SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden. In 2027, Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary will celebrate its 100th Anniversary. As we approach this significant milestone, we reflect on its founders, their hopes for the gardens and the responsibility the board and staff have to preserve the Clarkson's and Elizabeth Lawrence's historic properties as well as continue to nurture the newer, native SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden.

We have the good fortune today of sowing the seeds for the future, in harmony with education in nature, preservation and environmental

stewardship. I have a deeper appreciation for the gardens and an understanding of our role to protect these local historically significant treasures. We are grateful to our donors and sponsors who support our mission and enable us to achieve these goals in many ways as referenced in this edition of our annual report. Join us in our work and enjoy the abundant bounty of these gardens' histories as we continue to conserve and preserve this regional resource rooted in history.

Barrett Ranson Shannonhouse  
Executive Director

## BIRDING: CONTINUING ELIZABETH CLARKSON'S LEGACY

Andrea Funk, Director of Education & Community Engagement

Elizabeth Clarkson was an avid bird-watcher and a life-long student of ornithology. She wrote a book entitled *Birds of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County*, co-sponsored the founding of the Mecklenburg County Chapter of the Audubon Society, and protested against the use of DDT in Charlotte—a pesticide she correctly insisted harmed the birds. Elizabeth also corresponded with renowned ornithologists and was well known in the birding community on a national level. Elizabeth kept a record of all the birds she saw in her garden in her birding journal which can be found on Wing Haven's website.

Today, we continue to educate and encourage the public to learn more about our local birds. One way we do this is through our programming. Here are some of the birding inspired programs we have done in the past year and that we host on a regular basis:

- From October through May, we offer a *Bird Walk* on the second Monday of the month.
- Come hone your citizen scientist muscles at our annual participation in the *Great Backyard Bird Count*.
- Over 140 campers at *Camp Wing Haven* learned about birds and birding from Mecklenburg Audubon Society volunteers this summer.

- Last year we were fortunate enough to virtually host Curtis Smalling, Conservation Director at the North Carolina Audubon Society during our annual lecture series. Curtis presented on two lecture topics, *The Birds in our Lives and How They Live* and *Know Your Nests*. These informative lectures are available for purchase on our website.
- With help from the Mecklenburg County chapter of the Audubon Society, we were a host site for the 2022 National Audubon Photography Awards Traveling Exhibition.
- Last spring we offered an adult workshop on *Birding Basics*. Next February we will host an adult workshop on *Backyard Birds*.

We hope you will join us in celebrating Elizabeth Clarkson's passion for birds and the environment at one or more of our upcoming programs. Visit the Happenings page on our website for dates and ticket information.



The birds became familiar with the Clarksons, and they would feed "their birds" with this repurposed tin painted pink, Elizabeth's favorite color.



Campers learn all about birding with Shannon Wright (back right) from the Mecklenburg Audubon Society.

## A HAVEN FOR HEALING

Sarah Tanke, Development & Office Associate

Gardens have a long history of providing healing and a place of sanctuary for animals and people alike.

The origins of therapeutic gardens date all the way back to ancient Egypt, where royals were often prescribed “garden walks” for their maladies. After WWI and WWII, veterans were often placed in occupation therapy or mental health care programs that took place in greenhouses and gardens. This environment allowed veterans to disconnect from certain traumas of war through the perceived sense of safety and the welcomed distractions found in the garden.

Today, we have a term for this experience of healing found when we pass through the garden’s gates—therapeutic horticulture.

In many ways, Wing Haven is founded on the idea of therapeutic horticulture and the restorative power of gardens. Elizabeth Clarkson, while recuperating from undulant fever, spent time outside on a cot that Eddie had set up for her. During this time, she discovered her love for birds and found healing in nature. She experienced the effects of passive therapeutic horticulture.

While the essence of this practice has been around for ages, therapeutic horticulture (and the more structured horticultural therapy) is actively emerging in the medical mainstream as a proven treatment modality for a wide variety of illnesses and disabilities.

More and more people are visiting the gardens to find healing, and there’s research to prove that it’s working. Consider these benefits:

- In a garden we can reconnect to nature and its ephemeral beauty. With each passing bloom and subsequent decay, we are able to identify the transition of time into a new season. There are ample opportunities for memory recall through this strong orientation to time and the seasons, particularly in those suffering from memory and cognition impairments, Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, etc.

- Working in a garden gives the opportunity to regain strength after an injury or illness. We can build fine and gross motor skills planting seeds of varying sizes or regain hand strength with the use of pruning shears.
- Time spent in a garden can also help to improve our social and emotional health, be it through reconnecting with loved ones on a walk or making new connections while volunteering. We can find remedies for social isolation and loneliness in a garden.

“You never know who will need the garden the most.”

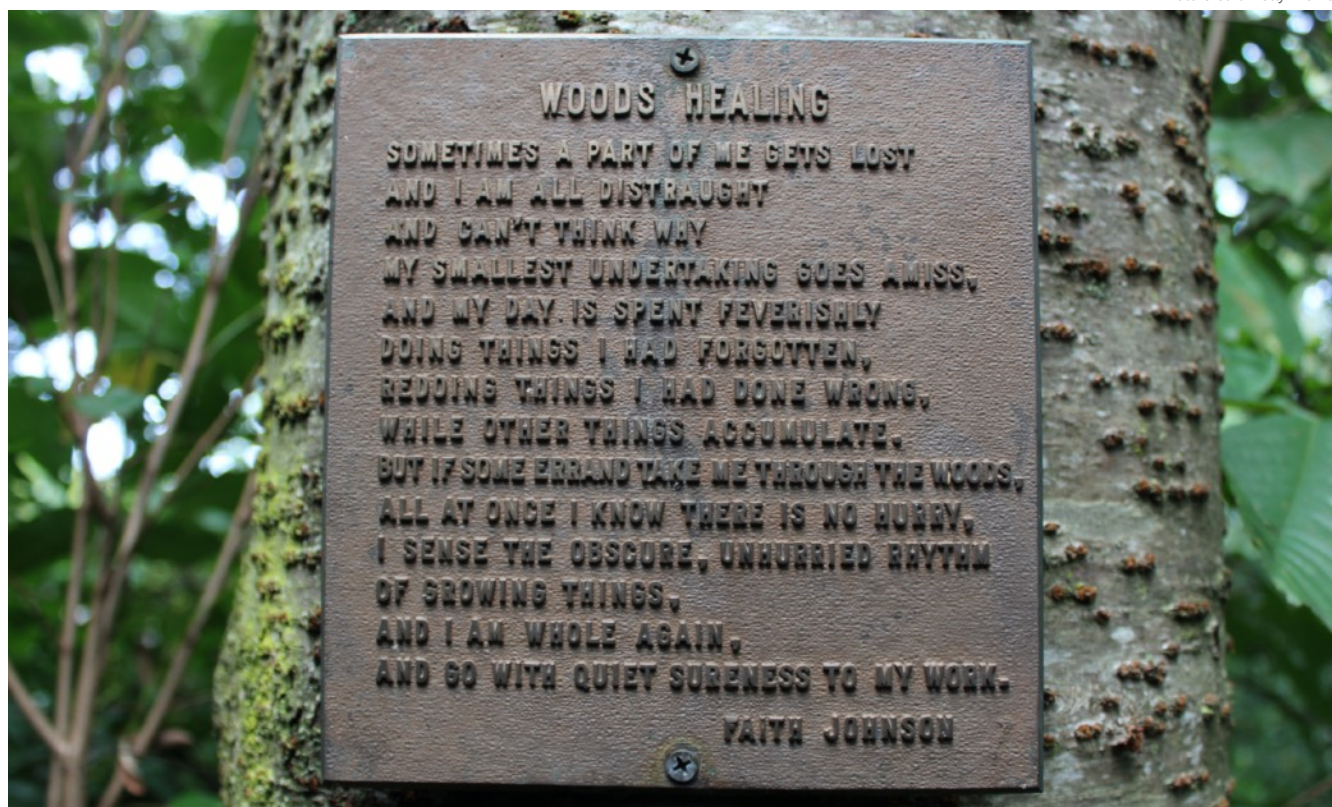
Elizabeth and Eddie knew when they named their garden that its intention and design would always be that which is defined in its title—to serve as a haven, or a place of safety or refuge. While we know their dream was originally intended for birds and wildlife, they must have known humans would undoubtedly benefit from its sense of safety and retreat as well.

The Clarkson’s welcomed guests into their garden every day and rarely turned away a visitor who wanted to come inside. Elizabeth once said, “You never know who will need the garden the most.” She understood, maybe through her own experience in the garden, that there was meaning and value to time spent inside the garden’s walls.

When we carry on the legacy of Elizabeth Clarkson and Elizabeth Lawrence’s gardens, we also carry on an important legacy of compassion and healing for wildlife and for ourselves.

*Sarah is a Horticultural Therapist - Registered (HTR) through the American Horticultural Therapy Association.*

Photo credit: Betty Thomas



## BRINGING IT BACK “HOME”

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The lamps immediately went back to their original spots on either side of the fireplace. The wool blankets originally lived on a daybed in Elizabeth’s studio. In the absence of a daybed, they were draped over the backs of two armchairs in the living room. The soft colors and texture add warmth and intimacy to the space. I have yet to find the perfect place or method to display the alto recorder, so it is stored away with other recorders that once belonged to Elizabeth. As for the gardening tools, for now, they are on display in the studio, leaning against a closet door.

I am still struck by the decades of wear on the wood handles of the forged iron loppers. (Yes, you read that right—*forged iron* loppers.) The rounded yet somehow still sharp points of the business-end of the hand weeder tell me it has seen some quality time in the garden. There is also an iron rake, a long-handled four-prong cultivator, and a two-prong weeder hoe. These tools are *sturdy*. They were built to last a lifetime, if not longer. Their presence in this space silently bridges the worlds of the writer with the gardener, the inside with the outside, the past with the present.

To think that Elizabeth Lawrence—*our* Elizabeth Lawrence, who is listed among the top 25 gardeners of all time—used *these* tools to cultivate the ground of this one-third acre lot that inspired so much of her writings, for which she is internationally celebrated and revered... that’s as close to having her appear in the flesh as I can imagine. (Thoughts like that make me want to put everything she owned in display cases as secure as the popemobile.)

Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteer host/interpreters, visitors are invited to tour the house most Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons. In addition to introducing visitors to Elizabeth Lawrence, her life and life’s work, host/interpreters share stories behind these items—and many others—that Elizabeth’s family has brought back “home”. The opportunity to share more of Elizabeth Lawrence, her life and life’s work is so impactful, and further deepens the understanding of the significance of one of this country’s greatest writers of garden literature.



## WING HAVEN’S COLLECTIONS INCLUDE...



(Above) Archive Collections include documents, like these stored in archival cases of records, correspondence and photos kept by Lindie Wilson during her tenure at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden. Elizabeth Clarkson’s sewing room now serves as the storage room for the Clarkson’s archival records.

(Far top right) Our Living Collections consist of all types of plants; from structural plantings such as the Willow Oak in the White Rose Garden of Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary to the smallest of bulbs like the *Galanthus elwesii* (Elwes’s snowdrop) which Elizabeth Lawrence planted in her garden in the fall of 1964.

(Far bottom right) Other Collections include original statuary like St. Fiacre which Elizabeth Clarkson placed as the focal point when looking out their dining room window at the Oval Pool. Among this collection at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden is a Victorian Era swinging bench that Elizabeth brought from her Raleigh garden.

### ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS

The Society of American Archivists defines archives as **non-current records of individuals, groups, institutions, and governments that contain information of enduring value**. Archival records are:

- From primary sources
- Created by individuals, groups, and institutions in the course of their work
- Often unpublished and not intended for publication
- Raw and uninterpreted
- Selected for preservation due to their historical association and/or the usefulness or significance of the information contained therein

For our two historic properties, this includes:

- Manuscripts/writings
- Correspondence
- Photos
- Drawings
- Scrapbooks
- Clippings
- Lists
- Orders, invoices and receipts

For the Wing Haven Foundation, this includes:

- Founding documents
- Records
- Deeds of ownership

# WING HAVEN SELECTED FOR PRESERVATION PROGRAM

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The CAP award to Wing Haven includes \$7,200 for consultation and site visits from skilled assessors and results in a comprehensive report that outlines recommendations for improving collections care and building preservation. The CAP program is administered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation's mission is to save cultural heritage for future generations, protecting it from decay and destruction.

Limited to museums and historical properties, CAP assessments offer a study of all the institution's collections, buildings, and building systems, as well as its policies and procedures relating to collections care.

Over the course of a year, throughout the application and award process, Wing Haven researched and collected data, answered detailed questionnaires, formed a committee of staff and volunteers for planning and advice, and hosted a three-day site visit by collections and building assessors. The assessors together examined the Clarkson and Lawrence historic homes and gardens, living and nonliving collections, and reviewed organization policies and practices.

The final CAP assessment assists by:

- Providing recommendations and priorities for collections care specific to Wing Haven's collections
- Facilitating the development of a long-range preservation plan or conservation plan
- Serving as a case statement for future collections projects

The 139-page CAP report and findings will help Wing Haven to prioritize, plan and budget for work that supports projects that safely preserve historic records and buildings, make records more available to the public and allow for future scholarship, enhance visitor experience, safety and accessibility, and inform future interpretation and programming.

With help from Wing Haven Foundation Endowment and Legacy Campaign donors, we will work with partners and grantors over the coming years to accomplish the priorities as outlined in the CAP report and subsequent conservation plan. For example, restoration work on the Lawrence (c. 1948) and Clarkson homes (c. 1927), physical and digital collections care, and more.

In spring of 2024, we will have a second opportunity to consult with the assessors to report on progress, request further advice, and address any challenges that may have arisen.

Special thanks to CAP assessment volunteers Carlo Balistrieri, Susan Barrett and Lydia Skardon for their support, time and advice.

## LIVING COLLECTIONS

A living collection is a **group of plants grown for a defined purpose, including for reference, research, conservation, education or ornamental display.** This includes:

- All original/historic and significant plantings
  - Plantings that contribute to the original intent/mission of each of our properties:
- Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary
  - Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden
  - SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden

## OTHER COLLECTIONS

We have other first source items that originated with our historic properties that require conservation and preservation.

Other **garden collections** include all original:

- Built garden features (including walls, paths and stone work)
- Water features (including fountains, pools, spigots and bird baths)
- Ornamentation and statuary (including gates, sun dials, plaques and decorative finials)

Other **interior collections** include:

- Original furniture
- Books
- Decorative furnishings
- Textiles
- Various personal effects (including garden tools)
- Musical instruments



# A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Tracey Roode, Education Coordinator



PEEPs Class  
Fall 2022

Young children in the Preschool Environmental Education Program (PEEPs) visit the gardens and the Clarkson House for the very first time. PEEP's started in 1996, and is our longest running outreach program.



Harvest at the Haven  
October 2022

In addition to learning all about growing and harvesting vegetables, young attendees at *Harvest at the Haven* also participated in a Terra Forma art installation by Crista Cammaroto and learned how to connect to the natural world around us. Many thanks to the Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs for selecting Wing Haven as the garden host for the installation.



Homeschool Explorers  
January 2023

In January, the *Homeschool Explorer* students learned all about clouds and the sky. They used weather vanes to tell which way the wind was blowing and (correctly) predicted that it would rain that evening. Our monthly *Homeschool Explorer* program provides an opportunity for children to learn about and appreciate nature at all ages.



Naturalist Egg Hunt  
April 2023

It is wonderful to see families who volunteer together such as these brothers Cale and Walker who, with their mom, worked at the annual *Naturalist Egg Hunt*. This much-loved event, where families learn about birds and their eggs on a seek-and-find scavenger hunt and enjoy crafts is a nod to Elizabeth Clarkson's long tradition of sharing her knowledge of birds with local children.



Girl Scout Badge Day  
May 2023

In the same garden woods and fireplace area that Boy Scouts held meetings back in the Clarkson days, Girl Scouts work to earn a badge at our biannual *Girl Scout Badge Day*. One hundred ninety-seven (197) girls earned their badges at Wing Haven this past year.



Camp Wing Haven  
Summer 2023

After learning about Elizabeth Lawrence and her passion for plants, Wing Haven campers design their own 'quirky plants' inspired by some found in our gardens, such as mouse-tails (*Arisarum proboscideum*), snapdragons (*Antirrhinum sp.*) and snail vine (*Cocholiasanthus caracalla*).

# ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS Gifts received between July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Thank you for your kind and generous support!

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\*bequest



FY23 Board President Lydia Skardon helps mulch the SEED Wildlife & Children's Garden during a staff and board workday.

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## In Memory Of

**Julia Upchurch Alexander**  
Vic and Mary Grady Bell  
Elizabeth Cobb  
Nancy and Charles Conner  
Miriam and Barry Green  
Renee and Nat Hyde  
Dee and Joe Marley  
Jane and Jay Obst  
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Nancy Townsend  
Kay Weatherspoon

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Holly and Towner Blackstock  
Katharine and Michael Cowan  
Virginia A. Davis  
Dr. Kandi W. Deitemeyer, the  
Central Piedmont Foundation  
Board of Directors, and the  
Office of Institutional  
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Anne Denton  
Jennifer and Amos Flynn

Chris, Sara, and Owen Geurtsen  
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Gubbins, Ann Mozingo, Susan  
Patterson, Sally Thomas, Kathy  
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Gale Pacific, the Board and  
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## YOUR LEGACY AT THE GARDENS—THE CLARKSON SOCIETY

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEYS, ACCOUNTANTS AND FINANCIAL ADVISORS



Morning dew on Chrysanthemum "Little Pink Daisy" at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden

Clarkson Society members are friends who confidentially share 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 you need.

### Address:

Wing Haven Foundation  
260 Ridgewood Avenue  
Charlotte NC 28209

### Tax ID Name and Number:

Wing Haven Foundation, Inc. Tax ID# 56-1014180

### Language:

I give and devise to Wing Haven Foundation, located in Charlotte, NC, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or percentage or asset) to be used for its general support (or for the support of endowment or a specific garden or program).

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

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Junior League of Charlotte  
The Kooken Family Foundation  
Morgan Stanley  
Truist  
Wells Fargo

## SAVE THE DATE: FALL PLANT SALE, OCTOBER 11-14

As the colors change from greens to oranges, we're reminded that fall is the perfect time for planting trees and bulbs! Shop Wing Haven's Fall Plant Sale for everything you need for a happy and healthy garden! We will be open 9 am to 5 pm daily from Wednesday, October 11 (Members Day), through Saturday, October 14.

Back by popular demand! We will once again have our Nursery Shop open with a variety of items for garden and home. While you're browsing, grab a jar or two of Wing Haven's delectable honey while supplies last.

Our Plant Sales are an important source of revenue for Wing Haven's three properties. Thank you to everyone who shops and/or volunteers with us during our sales. We appreciate your support!

*Pictured: Leslie Perlik (left) and Patricia Olinger pose during one of the Nursery Volunteer work days prior to the 2022 Fall Plant Sale. If you're interested in joining the ranks, register as a volunteer on our website.*



# THANK YOU SPONSORS & PARTNERS

## Food Truck & Music in the Garden

Sept 2022

### Silver

Blackhawk Hardware  
Ellen Kelly Homes/Helen Adams Realty

### Bronze

Bartlett Tree Experts

### Partners

The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery  
winestore

## Al Fresco Fall Dinner

Oct 2022

### Title

Wells Fargo

### Platinum

Blackhawk Hardware  
Bragg Financial Advisors  
Knight Residential Group  
Peaceful Ponds

### Gold

Brandon Lawn Real Estate  
Capitol  
Lowry Insurance  
Neiman Marcus  
Robert Q. Ranson Family  
Endowment Fund

### Sanctuary

Jorie and Jim Andrews

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Charlotte Council of Garden  
Clubs  
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Garrett P. Nelson Studio  
Montgomery Homes  
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### Heirloom

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Susan and John zumBrunnen

### Bronze

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Founder Sport Group  
Gatewood Healthcare  
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Harkey Tile & Stone  
Lofin & Company Printers  
R. Runberg Curiosities

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Ann and Bob McDade  
Jane and Nelson Schwab

### Partners

The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery  
winestore

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Peggy Everett  
Greta Hord  
Lindsay Jones  
Ted Lee  
Trudi Norris  
Murray Parker  
Mary Russell  
Ashley Stewart  
Emily Williams

## Lecture Series

Jan - Mar 2023

### Title

Blackhawk Garden Center

### Silver

Bartlett Tree Experts  
Peaceful Ponds

### Bronze

Atlantic Landscape Supplies  
Foard & Company PA  
Living Color Gardens

## Sip & See

April 2023

### Title

Garrett P. Nelson Studio

### Partners

winestore  
Young's Premium Foods

## Gardeners' Garden Tour

April 2023

### Title

Blackhawk Garden Center

### Silver

Atlantic Landscape Supplies  
Ellen Kelly Homes/Helen Adams Realty  
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SouthState Bank

### Bronze

Bartlett Tree Experts  
Classic Landscape  
Eastover Collection  
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Lat Purser & Associates  
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### Partner

Pasta & Provisions

## Tea Time in the Garden

May 2023

### All Things Annual

Amanda Roth

### Partners

Daniel Coston Photography  
Suarez Bakery  
Young's Premium Foods

# INFUSION FUND

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



**Infusion Fund**  
A Partnership for Arts + Culture



### Multimillion Dollar Commitment

City of Charlotte

### \$1.5 million and above

Bank of America  
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### \$600,000 - \$1 million

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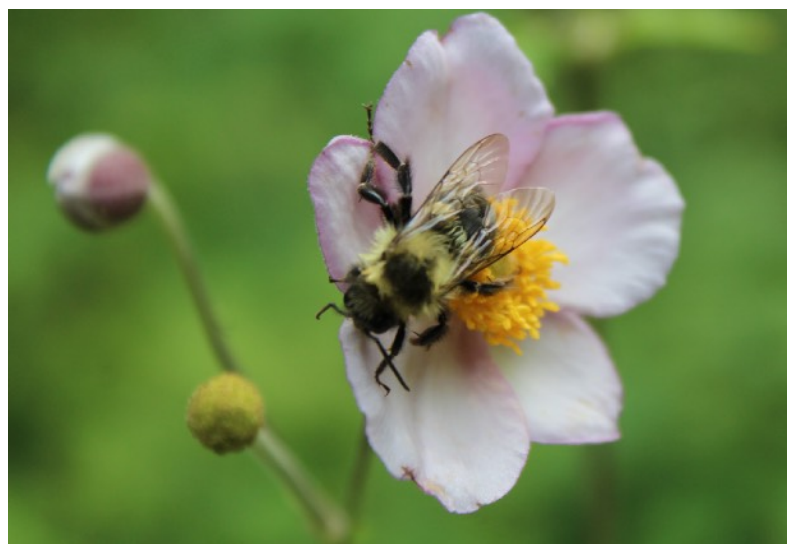


Photo credit: Betty Thomas

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Continued thanks to our one-time and multi-year pledge donors who made generous gifts to the Wing Haven Foundation Endowment.

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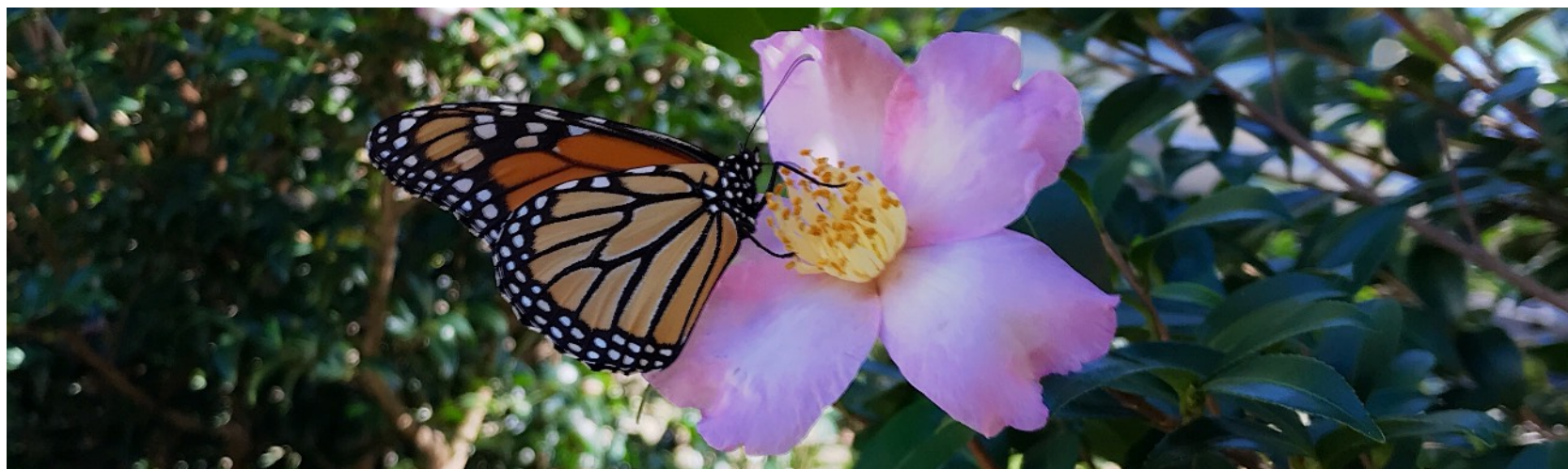
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Judy Bratton  
Sally R. Brown  
Jane and Gilbert Browne in honor of  
Frannie DeWitt Browne  
Camille and Wil Coers  
Fairley Bell and Dan Cook in honor of  
Barrett Shannonhouse  
Mary Keller Costa  
Gaither and Robert Deaton

Nancy Dooley  
Anne Flint  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Floss in memory of  
Marilyn Wick Rowland  
Beth 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  
Darnou 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  
Erin Welty  
Dr. Thomas H. White in memory of Sue White  
Dana and Joe Woody



# Pleasing Palettes: NEW & NATURAL

## 2023 WING HAVEN SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Space is limited. Register online at [winghavengardens.org](http://winghavengardens.org) by October 6.

Presented to the community by Wells Fargo, this year's symposium, **Pleasing Palettes: New & Natural** celebrates the legacy of the Wing Haven Foundation with an event highlighting Wing Haven's vision to inspire a passion for the natural world. Enjoy the national perspectives of leading horticulturist and award-winning author **Kelly D. Norris** speaking on "New Naturalism" and a presentation and live demonstrations by renowned floral designer **Michael Walter** of Lexington Gardens (NYC) at a half-day coffee greet, book signing, symposium and luncheon at the Charlotte Country Club.

### New Naturalism

Kelly D. Norris



Kelly will share his inspiring, ecologically-sound vision for home gardens created with stylish yet naturalistic plantings. Plantings that mimic the wild spaces we covet—far from the contrived, formal, high-maintenance plantings of the past. Touching on plant biology and ecology, he will share tips on how to design and grow a lush, thriving home garden by harnessing the power of plant layers and palettes defined by nature, not humans.

### Finding Inspiration at Home and in Your Garden

Michael Walter



Michael designs a variety of beautiful botanical combinations from arrangements for individuals to large-scale corporate installations, and often uses natural and faux elements in his creations. Michael will share his expertise and hope to inspire the audience by creating tabletop designs from mystery boxes—combinations of china, backyard greenery, and natural materials from Wing Haven and local gardens.

### Symposium Workshop: Garden to Vessel

with Michael Walter

Join Michael for a private workshop in Wing Haven's Nursery, where he will share how to create beautiful and sustainable arrangements from local flora that could easily be found in your own garden, large or small, and from other elements already available in your home.

Participants will leave with their own beautiful arrangement. All materials will be provided. Separate ticketed event—limited to 18 participants.



**Individual sponsorships  
and tickets available.**

Scan the QR code to  
register today.

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Joyner-Benfield Distinctive Land and  
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Loftin & Company Printers  
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R. Runberg Curiosities  
Soil<sup>3</sup>  
Woo Skincare + Cosmetics

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

# STATE OF THE HAVEN 2022-2023

## OPERATING REVENUE

\$1,215,920\*

## OPERATING EXPENSES

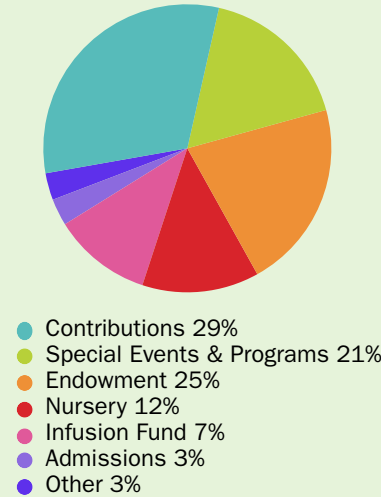
\$1,269,779\*

\* based on unaudited financials

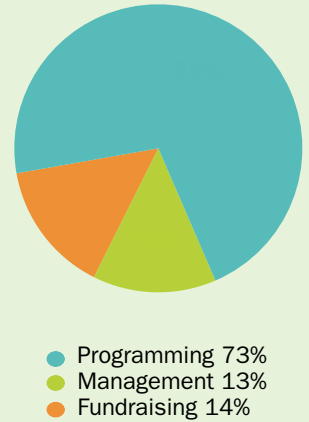
# 23,245

Total Wing Haven experiences

## SOURCE OF FUNDING



## USE OF FUNDING



310  
volunteers donated  
8451 hours



1,397  
Members and donors



3,528  
children and family members  
participated in nature-inspired  
education programs, including

926  
children's tour participants

10

most common bird species  
recorded in eBird by visitors  
and staff this year were:

*Cedar Waxwing*  
*Northern Cardinal*  
*White-throated Sparrow*  
*House Sparrow*  
*House Finch*  
*Eastern Bluebird*  
*American Robin*  
*White-breasted Nuthatch*  
*Ruby-crowned Kinglet*  
*Carolina Wren*



Outreach Education served  
546  
at-risk children, including  
399 preschool  
and 147 K-8



237  
adult education programs,  
offered, including  
18  
wellness programs



305  
plants propagated  
from our two historic  
properties for the  
Legacy Plants Collection



111  
accessioned genera planted at the  
Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden,  
including 44 taxa reinstated,  
and 67 plant trials

400  
pounds of honey  
collected from our  
beehives



144  
vegetables and herbs  
grown from seed and  
planted by children and  
families at the Backyard  
Gardening Workshop

65  
native plants from  
22  
different taxa installed in the SEED  
Wildlife & Children's Garden





260 Ridgewood Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28209  
winghavengardens.org

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PERMIT NO. 2410

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

**OPEN HOURS:**

Wednesday - Saturday 10 - 5



**Infusion Fund**  
A Partnership for Arts + Culture



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

**WING HAVEN STAFF**

- Barrett Ranson Shannonhouse**  
*Executive Director*
- Susan Little Evans**  
*Development Director*
- Ellen Baesel**  
*Operations Manager*
- Andrea Funk**  
*Director of Education & Community Engagement*
- Beth Gilbert**  
*Development Assistant*
- Sarah Tanke**  
*Development & Office Associate*
- Stefanie Myer**  
*Marketing Coordinator*
- Tracey Roode**  
*Education Coordinator*
- Andrea Sprott**  
*Garden Curator,  
Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden*
- Michael Sheek**  
*Garden Curator,  
Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary*
- Damou Sako**  
*Gardener,  
Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary*
- David Sullivan**  
*Gardener,  
Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary*
- Amy Poole**  
*Admissions Host*
- Janet Porto**  
*Admissions Host*
- Beverly Pearson**  
*After-Hours Host*
- Lorraine Piephoff**  
*Accountant*

**YOUR FOREVER STARTS HERE**

Looking for the perfect place for a picturesque and intimate proposal? The natural serenity of the garden provides the perfect ambiance for your special moment.

Our engagement offerings allow private, after-hours access to the gardens for you and your loved ones. Share this unforgettable moment surrounded by natural beauty in all seasons. Full details are listed on our website.

To book your session, contact our Development & Office Associate at 704.331.0664 or email [events@winghavengardens.org](mailto:events@winghavengardens.org)



Photo © Briana Rittenhouse