Conservation Gardening 101 Series Instructors

Landscape Design Principles and Landscape Installation

*with* Becca Wait, NCBG Education Center Curator

Becca Wait is the curator of the Allen Education Center landscape and entryway gardens. A Chapel Hill native, Becca has a background in farming and has worked on several small farms in the area and managed her own farm in Bahama, NC for 3 seasons. She has worked as the assistant manager at the Carolina Community Garden and as a summer intern at the Coker Arboretum. Since then, she has worked as a horticulturist at both the JC Raulston Arboretum and the Keith Arboretum and completed a master's degree in landscape architecture at NC State.

Native Plant Selection-Perennials

*with* Chris Liloia, NCBG Curator, Habitat Gardens

Chris Liloia is a Curator at the North Carolina Botanical Garden. She is responsible for the care of the habitat gardens and maintains NCBG's carnivorous plant collection. She is knowledgeable in the cultivation of native plants and creation of sustainable gardens that are beautiful and brimming with biodiversity. Prior to joining the NCBG staff in 2000, she worked in ecological restoration in NJ and in south Florida. She earned her B.S. in Natural Resource Management, Conservation and Applied Ecology from Rutgers University.

Native Plant Selection-Shrubs and Trees

*with* Dan Stern, NCBG Director of Horticulture

As NCBG director of horticulture, Daniel Stern oversees the development, maintenance, plant records and labelling for over 15 acres of cultivated gardens between the NCBG's main site and the Coker Arboretum. Dan also oversees the Garden's “Conservation through Propagation” activities including seed collection, cleaning and storage; the operation of our greenhouse and nursery facilities; and our plant sales. Dan worked at NCBG in various roles from 1996-2008 while pursuing a BA in Biology at UNC-CH. Upon completion of that degree, Dan began studies in the Longwood Graduate Program at the University of Delaware where he received the 2009 Louise Roselle Fellowship in Public Horticulture and completed a MS in Public Horticulture in 2010. From 2011-17 Dan worked for the American Public Gardens Association managing their Plant Protection Program which engages public gardens in the early detection of serious pests and diseases, and develops materials to educate the public about the importance of plants and forest health and the negative impact of invasive species. Dan returned to NCBG as the director of horticulture in 2017.
Weeding, Mulching and Seasonal Maintenance

*with* Ainsley Briggs, NCBG Curator, Children’s Wonder Garden, Herb Garden, Plant Families Garden and Totten Center Landscapes

Ainsley Briggs is a curator at the North Carolina Botanical Garden managing the Children’s Wonder Garden, Herb Garden, Plant Families Garden and Totten Center Landscapes. She has worked extensively in all other areas of the Botanical Garden. Having a background in greenhouse growing and professional gardening throughout Orange and Durham County, she has abundant knowledge of nursery plants, native plants, exotic invasive plants, and common weeds.

Pruning and Long-Term Maintenance of Woody Plants

*with* Geoffrey Neal, Curator, Coker Arboretum

Geoffrey Neal has worked in private gardens, residential landscapes and independent garden centers for the past 25 years. He is an ISA certified arborist and has been a part of the NCBG Horticulture Department since 2011.