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I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority.

E.B. White



Spring Shop Week

**Members' Day Tuesday, April 22, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wednesday - Saturday, April 23-26, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Get expert plant advice from our friendly volunteers & free programs in the Nursery Shop starting at 10:30 a.m.
No Registration required.**

Wednesday: Spring Planting in Wonderful Containers
with Tom Harvey and Brian Caldwell of Terra Bella Vessels

Thursday: Drought-Resistant Ground Covers
with Sherry Hall, Chair of the Wing Haven Nursery Groundcover Department

Friday: Gardening Organically, The Wing Haven Way
with Jeffrey Drum, Wing Haven's Garden Curator

Saturday: Feeding and Attracting Birds to Your Own Backyard
with Dia Steiger, Wing Haven's Executive Director



GARDENERS' GARDEN TOUR 2008

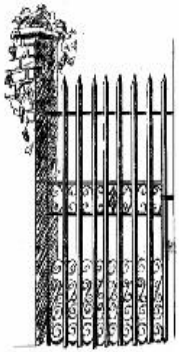
**Saturday, May 10th, 10 am – 4 pm
Sunday, May 11th, 1 – 5 pm**

featuring

**Wing Haven Gardens & Bird Sanctuary
The Elizabeth Lawrence Gardens
And 7 Charlotte Gardens**

**Advance Tickets \$20 (through May 9th)
Tickets \$25 during tour hours ♦ Tickets available only at Wing Haven**

more on page 4



Thoughts from Behind the Garden Gate

MORNING CAROL

On a spring morning, like a child
That loves all creatures great and small
I feel akin and kind to all
The little creatures of the wild.
With every bounding lamb I leap
Up through the flesh in which I sleep;
I hear the hidden field mouse cry;
I feel the heartbeat of the hare;
And no bird rises on the air
But I put forth my wings and fly;
Nothing that lives but we are one...*

Today I had the pleasure of introducing a small group of adults to the garden...it was a cool March morning, filled with purpose and the promise of the coming season. The Weeping Cherries in the Upper Garden have just the slightest tint of pink, assuring us that in only a few days their cascading branches will be covered in bloom. All along the garden paths, the Mahonia are laden with berries, berries that will ripen just as the Catbird returns to the Garden in mid-April.

The flocks of Robins and Cedar Waxwings that visited us so frequently this winter have gone now. The pair of Brown Thrashers has re-claimed their space in the Sasanqua above the Main Gate—the space in which they'll rear their young. Throughout the garden the cheerful chatter of the Carolina Wrens fills the air, and the White-throated Sparrows feed constantly in preparation for their return to their Northern nesting grounds. The Cardinals' plumage is brilliant now, and the males are busily sparring for garden real estate in the hope of securing a prime nesting spot.

Our Wing Haven gardeners—Jeff, Damou and Danny—have worked tirelessly during the winter months to prepare the garden for a busy spring. The beds are neatly mulched and the paths swept clean. Last year's tired fronds have been removed from the ferns to make way for the emerging fiddle heads, and even the Epimedium foliage has been clipped to the ground to showcase the delicate yellow flowers preparing to open.

As the garden comes into full bloom, please take the time to enjoy. Come savor this season of promise and lose yourself in the magic of Spring. We hope to see you in the garden soon and often.

Dia Steiger
Director

**Elizabeth Clarkson always saved verses that were meaningful to her and from that collection of poems and quotes chose a number to place in the garden. This poem by James Dillet Freeman appears in its entirety near the Oval Pool.*



It's mid-March at Wing Haven and you would know it just by walking the garden paths—our spring bulbs are everywhere in the garden. Many Crocus (we have several of the old species in the garden) are in full bloom—they started blooming in late February. The Ipheion, commonly known as the Star of Bethlehem, is blooming now. It spreads around by seed and its bulbs multiply rapidly. It is common in older gardens and sometimes will spread over the whole lawn area. Quite a pleasant mass of very pale blue, but if you use chemical lawn weed control, you will lose this bulb in grass areas.

The Leucojum has nearly finished up now; they line the sidewalk in front of the house for nearly 230 feet! These bulbs are also planted throughout the garden in large masses. My favorite bulb at Wing Haven is the Scilla hispanica—huge drifts of blue and white with a little pink here and there. My first visit to Wing Haven was over 20 years ago, and my most fond memory was seeing thousands of Scilla in bloom, carpeting the ground and outlining many paths. A few yellow daffodils pop up here and there. Old pictures of the garden show long rows of yellow daffodils—at that time, perhaps in the 1940's or 50's, they were taller than the boxwood hedges. Of course, now it's too shady in those areas.

There are also wide, strap-like leaves up throughout the Upper half of the garden. This is the Lycoris incarnata, commonly called the Surprise Lily (pink). Along the Lower Garden path is the Lycoris radiata (red) that flowers after the pink Lycoris have bloomed. It's important to note that the foliage comes up thick with no blooms this time of year and in late summer, after the foliage goes away, the tall bloom spikes pop up. (The other common name for the Lycoris is the Naked Lady!)

Next we must remember the pink and white tulips in the Main Garden. Mrs. Clarkson planted a mass of tulips each year—as the hybrids do not repeat very well in our heavy clay soils. Tulips are also planted in pots throughout the Main Garden.

The Arum italicum grows from a tuber—much like a bulb—and has arrow-shaped green and white variegated leaves. It grows rapidly all winter. Then as it warms up, its leaves die down and a spike of bright orange seeds catches your eye!

Come by the garden soon and often—there is so much here that will please your sense of sight and smell. The birds' spring songs are a pleasure to hear. You should leave refreshed and ready to tackle the world again.

Jeffrey Drum
Garden Curator



~ ELIZABETH'S JOURNAL ~



Wing Haven's House Committee, chaired by Mildred Harris, has spent many hours organizing the correspondence that Elizabeth and Eddie Clarkson exchanged with one another as well as with other family members and friends. The following is a letter that Eddie received from his father Heriot Clarkson upon his appointment to the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1923.

State of North Carolina
 Supreme Court
 Raleigh

HERIOT CLARKSON.
 ASSOCIATE JUSTICE.

May 31st 1923.

Mr. Edwin O. Clarkson,
 Forest City, N. C.

Dear Edwin :- I was sworn in
 yesterday as associate Justice.
 your mother was with me and
 the Court Room was packed.
 It is a great thing to have so
 high an honor and the people of
 the state have been so kind
 & good. It was been a long &
 hard journey to be here. I went
 in a law office in 1880 at
 sixteen & now I am a judge
 of the supreme Court. what great
 laws we have that a poor
 boy can rise. Regards to Mr.
 webster. with best wishes & love

Yr. aff. Father
 Heriot Clarkson

Gardeners' Garden Tour 2008



This pool, one of three connected by streams and waterfalls, brings movement and a sense of purpose to this hillside garden.

It's never too early to start making plans to attend Wing Haven's 15th annual Gardeners' Garden Tour. Mark your calendars, the dates this year are May 10 and May 11, Mother's Day weekend. We are thrilled that along with Wing Haven seven private gardens will be featured this year as well as the Elizabeth Lawrence Garden.

The gardens are all unique and inspiring. There are wonderful and surprising designs, unusual plants, several water gardens, an amazing waterfall, incredible container plantings and plenty of ideas to help us through the drought.

Please don't miss this year's Gardeners' Garden Tour—it is full of enchanting gardens that everyone will want to see. Advanced tickets are \$20 through May 9th, \$25 during the tour. Tickets are available only at Wing Haven.



This office complex and gardens have been designed to work together in harmony with the environment.

We need your help!

If you are interested in volunteering for the garden tour, please contact Susan Cook (704-552-7482) or Ruth Mary Jones (704-554-8822).

Shifts are 3-4 hours each and are a lot of fun—work with a friend or get acquainted with someone new. Also, a Garden Tour volunteer gets her/his tour ticket for half price.



IN THE NURSERY...

SCARRED BUT SMARTER

We are gearing up for our Spring Sale, which is right around the corner, starting April 22 with Members' Day, and running through April 26. All of us gardeners are licking our botanical wounds after the beating our gardens took in 2007. But we are wiping away the tears, composting the casualties, dusting off our shovels, and getting ready to face this year head-on, armed with heightened awareness of everything Mother Nature has to offer.

The severe heat and drought in 2007 may have left our landscapes scarred, but this year we will garden smarter! That is the mindset in the nursery, as we focus our attention on more hardy, drought-tolerant plants, while still seeking more unusual and interesting things to liven up all of our gardens. If your garden is anything like mine, there are now some open holes, or, as I like to say, opportunities aplenty, ready for new horticultural treasures. So come and refresh your garden and your spirit!

Andrea Sprott

Spring Migration



It's already happening. We're starting to see a few Warblers in the garden. All across North America, one of the sure signs that spring is on the way is the return of the migratory birds. They often travel at night, using celestial and magnetic cues for guidance. So it's not at all unusual to awaken to the sound of birds who weren't in the garden yesterday.

Although fall migration can be a drawn-out process for many species, spring migration is urgent. For each species there is a specific time when the birds need to arrive in their breeding areas. The strongest males are the first to travel in order to stake out the prime territories, often in the same location where they nested the previous year. When females arrive, they select the males that occupy the best habitats for raising young. The pair must

then construct a nest, incubate eggs, and raise their brood in the short period before it is time to start the journey back to the wintering range.

Here at Wing Haven we look forward to the return of the Catbird and Rufous Hummingbird. We often see a variety of Warblers pass through the garden during spring migration—this week the Black and White Warbler has been spotted in feeding in the worm bowl just outside the kitchen door. We're right on the edge of his breeding range—perhaps he'll decide to summer with us. In recent years, we've also spotted the Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting on their way to their summer breeding grounds.

Free Flowering Trees from the Arbor Day Foundation

North Carolina residents who join the Arbor Day Foundation by April 16, 2008 will receive two each of white flowering dogwoods, flowering crabapples, Washington hawthorns, American redbuds and golden rain trees (6- to 12-inch trees, shipped postpaid). Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication and *The Tree Book*.

"These compact trees were selected for planting in large or small spaces," said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "They will give your home in North Carolina the beauty of lovely pink, white, and yellow flowers—and also provide winter berries and nesting sites for songbirds."

To become a member and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE FLOWERING TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410 by April 16, 2008. North Carolina residents can also join online at www.arborday.org. Questions? Call 888-448-7337.



When you visit Wing Haven this spring, take an extra moment to notice the bountiful tulips planted throughout the garden. We are especially grateful to **Steve Waddell, of Rountree Plantation**, for his donation of hundreds of tulip bulbs. Rountree is a generous local patron of Wing Haven in many ways, and we are grateful for their support.

PEEPS

Preschool Environmental Education Program

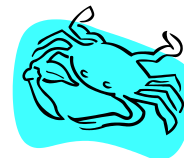
Each month during the school year 234 youngsters participate in our PEEPS program. Each class meeting revolves around a particular theme for the day with the introduction and sharing of a new book during circle time, and interactive garden walk and a hands-on activity. In February, Mecklenburg County Park and Rec staff brought some of their reptile friends for the children to meet.

Our PEEPS program started years ago as a volunteer outreach to the children at the Chapel of Christ the King, and this year—thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers—our PEEPs come from 7 of Charlotte's inner city preschools. Volunteers for the 2007-08 academic year include Ellen Archer, Susan Cook, Suzanne Creasy, Tere Ey, Ann Hodges, Suzanne Hughes, Cindy Matz, Ali Price, Kate Reilly, Barb Smelser, Jessica Stanfield, and Sandee Wagoner.



If you have a few hours to give, why not take advantage of this fulfilling volunteer opportunity? If we fail to teach today's youngsters to love nature, we can't expect tomorrow's adults to see the value of preservation. For more information, please contact the Wing Haven office (704.331.0664).

Cooking with Dee



Shrimp and Crab Bisque

One lb. crabmeat
One lb. shrimp
½ lemon
3 T. olive oil
2 leeks, finely chopped
1 clove garlic
1 ½ cans tomato sauce (14 oz can)
Dash cayenne
2 tsp. sugar
½ tsp. dried thyme
1 – 1 ½ cups stock
1 cup fat free half 'n half
3 T. unsalted butter + 3 T. flour blended to a paste
Salt and pepper to taste

In a stockpot, sauté the leeks in the olive oil until translucent. Add the garlic and one can of the tomato sauce. Stir until combined. Add the cayenne, sugar, thyme and a few dashes of black pepper. Add the butter and flour paste along with the stock and the rest of the tomato sauce. Whisk to blend so there are no lumps. Continue cooking. It will start to thicken. Turn heat down and allow to simmer for about 20 minutes.

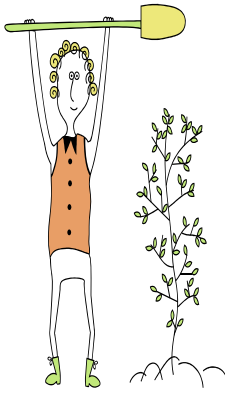
Add the crabmeat and the cream and gently combine. Add the shrimp last and cook for about two more minutes. Cut the heat off and allow to rest and slightly cool. The shrimp will finish cooking.

When serving, reheat gently so the shrimp doesn't get tough.

Serve with sour cream cornbread or blue and yellow corn muffins.

Clean crabmeat of any shell bits and rinse well. Squeeze the juice of half a lemon over the crabmeat and set aside. Clean and devein the shrimp and set aside.

Geary's Garble: AKA: Nuthin' in Particular . . .



Greetings fellow Wingers. Welcome to spring...the birds are chirping, building nests, plants are responding to warmer, longer days...but I keep wondering...what's really under that mulch, under the leaf litter, under the pine straw? Remember last fall, last summer? How could we forget? How would we ever forget the days of searching the blue skies for even single rain cloud. What would next spring bring us?

Are the plants really there, that we so wearily put to rest last fall? In January I was elated to see the early snow drops appear as they always do...usually a little earlier but they came. Not long ago the Cornus mas "Golden Spring" showed her early yellow blooms. And then Edgeworthia chrysantha burst forth its almost over-powering fragrance. Camellias have been more glorious this year than I can remember recently. And the tiny trout lily, daring to send up its mottled green leaves and perky yellow flowers. Even Daphne odora, nick named the dying shrub...has dared to bloom and thrive...for a change! The list goes on, as does the audacity, the boldness of these plants to bloom and grow despite the cruel conditions of last season.

As a gardener, I feel as though I'm a bear coming out of hibernation. A hibernation that started for me last July after meeting the earth in a rather uncoordinated move resulting in a broken elbow. A move that stopped all gardening tasks dead, as dead as the absence of rain stopped our plants. Stopped them dead in their roots! Some plants were taken out of their misery quickly...usually the ones planted too late in spring, others died a slow death...and no amount of water could save even if you could have watered...I had a 15 year old Cryptomeria japonica "Sekkan sugi" bow out stubbornly from the side border. It left a hole in my heart...but yes, it does create a planting opportunity...not until fall though! I'm still a bit groggy, as perhaps some of our plants are. Warily testing the earth, to see if it's safe to come out, safe to till the garden, put seeds of hope into the earth, put forth a new spring leaf. I don't know about you...but I think it's safe...I'm optimistic. Most plants are so tough, and I think gardeners are too.

So, get the sleep sand out of your eyes, and dust off your shovels. Go outside and reacquaint yourself with your garden. You both will be better for it!

By the way, about the birds chirping etc....they should be required to get permits for nest building and inspections should be required. Just think, a new tax revenue stream! They always start too early, build them in bad places (over Sharon Road, I mean, where is the poor baby going to take his first flight?), and build them badly! Doves are the worst. I'm always thrilled when the doves arrive to build on my arbor over the driveway...but they always build it right before a long cold rainy spell with high winds. And we all know what kind of nests they build, bad ones. I was pleased to note that mom and nest were still there after a recent bout of rain and wind. I just wish they were better builders...oh well.

I just have to say something about the recent Wing Haven trip to Charleston...let's see how delicately I can put this... We had a lovely, if not lively, highly talented, differentiated group of garden enthusiasts. Most were along willingly, some always come, and some are just so enthusiastic, that they can change clothes in a flash, like Clark Kent! Yes, if you haven't been on a Wing Haven trip, you have not traveled! Did I mention we saw great gardens, ate great food, met great gardeners too??? And as always...what happens on the bus, stays on the bus! he, he, he, he Enough garble.....Go garden!

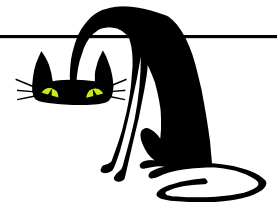
Happy digging,
Geary Mandrapilias

Question: When would Elizabeth Clarkson approve of kitty litter?

Answer: When it is used to protect our water supply!

An article in the AARP Bulletin (January 2007) cited a recent study by the U.S. Geologic Survey that detected trace levels of chemicals commonly found in prescription drugs in 80% of the streams tested nationwide. These levels are an unintended consequence of well-meaning people flushing unwanted prescription drugs down the drain. Now researchers suspect hormones and antidepressants may be responsible for harming fish in our waterways. And germs exposed to antibiotics in the environment may become more drug-resistant.

What's the solution? Recently the Charlotte Observer ran an article that suggested crushing or dissolving the leftover medicine in a little water, then mixing it with a yucky substance—cat litter (used is preferred!), coffee grounds, even dog waste—in a sealed plastic bag and putting it in the trash. Then, for your security, remove and destroy the prescription label from the original drug container before throwing it away.



Calendar

APRIL

Wednesday	April 16	Celebrate Spring at Wing Haven*	3:45 to 4:45 PM
Thursday	April 17	Celebrate Spring at Wing Haven*	3:45 to 4:45 PM
Sunday	April 20	Patrons' Party	6 to 7:30 PM
Tuesday	April 22	Members' Day at the Nursery Shop	9 AM to 5 PM
Wednesday – Saturday			
	April 23-26	Shop Week	10 AM to 4 PM
Thursday	April 24	A House Built of Sticks*	3:45 TO 4:45 PM
Monday	April 28	Birdwalk w/ Taylor Piephoff	9:00 am
Monday	April 28	Spring Greens!*	3:45 to 4:45 PM

MAY

Thursday	May 8	A Gift from the Garden for Mom*	3:45 to 4:45 PM
Saturday	May 10	Gardeners' Garden Tour	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Sunday	May 11	Gardeners' Garden Tour	1:00 to 5:00 PM
Tuesday	May 13	Let's Go for a Swim!*	3:45 to 4:45 PM
Wednesday	May 14	Butterflies Have Wings, Too!*	3:45 to 4:45 PM
Monday	May 26	Wing Haven Office closed	
Thursday	May 29	Flower Power*	3:45 to 4:45 PM

June

Monday	June 2	Breakfast with the Birds*	10 to 11 AM
Tuesday	June 3	Breakfast with the Birds*	10 to 11 AM
Monday-Thursday	June 9-12	Camp Wing Haven I*	9:30 AM to Noon
Monday-Friday	June 16-20	Junior Master Gardener Program*	10 AM to 3 PM
Monday-Thursday	June 23-26	Camp Wing Haven II*	9:30 AM to Noon

***For more information on our children's programs, call Wing Haven (704.331.0664).
Advance registration is required for all programs.**

Have a teen interested in volunteering? There are many ways they can become involved at Wing Haven—helping with children's classes, summer camps or special events. For more information contact the office at 704.331.0664.



Spring Migration BirdWalk with Taylor Piephoff

Monday, April 28 at 9:00 am

\$10 Wing Haven members;
\$15 non-members

Join Taylor Piephoff for a walk through the garden in search of spring migrants. Enrollment is limited to 12 and Taylor's birdwalks are always very popular. Please call the Wing Haven Office at 704/331-0664 to reserve your space.

Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale



Saturday, May 3, 2008 8a.m.-1p.m.

Regional Farmers Market, in Building A,
1801 Yorkmont Road, Charlotte NC

For more information contact Scott Ewers
scott_ewers@ncsu.edu Mecklenburg County
Consumer Horticulture Extension Agent at:
704-336-4006 or, the Master Gardener hotline:
704-336-4011

DID YOU KNOW.....

Donating long-term appreciated stocks and mutual funds often allows donors to make a bigger philanthropic impact and enjoy greater tax advantages than donating cash or selling the stock and donating the proceeds. Wing Haven can accept gifts of stock, either electronically or in certificate form.

The benefits available to you when making a contribution of stock or mutual funds may include:

- Avoiding federal and state tax on the capital gain;
- Receiving an income tax deduction (federal and most states) for the full market value of your gift if you itemize deductions on your tax return and have held the assets one year or longer;
- Making a larger gift at a lower original cost to you.

Before you make a gift of appreciated securities, however, you should consult your financial planner or tax advisor to determine how the potential tax advantages described here apply to your specific situation

Choose your Catalogs...

Too many catalogs in your mailbox? Log onto www.catalogchoice.org and eliminate those catalogs that you no longer wish to receive. Catalog Choice is a free service that allows you to decide what gets in your mailbox. You can reduce your mailbox clutter and help save natural resources.



Endorsed by the National Wildlife Federation and the Natural Resources Defense Council, Catalog Choice is funded by the Overbrook Foundation, the Merck Family Fund, and the Kendeda Fund.

Foundation Board member Steve Houser, an award-winning teacher at Providence Spring Elementary School, recommends www.takeachildoutside.org to parents, educators and others who want to get children outside and involved with the natural world. The web site is sponsored by the NC Museum of Natural Sciences.

Membership



The members of Wing Haven keep the garden gates open to the public. All are welcome—surely this is one of the most endearing aspects of Wing Haven — everyone is welcome. Your membership support and gifts to the Foundation keep the birds singing in the garden.

Please enter renew my membership in the Wing Haven Foundtion.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Individual \$45

Family \$75

*Patron \$150

Grand Patron \$250

Sponsor \$500

Benefactor \$1000

Founder \$2500

Clarkson Society \$5000

Please send a gift membership in the amount of

\$ _____

from _____ to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

My total is \$ _____ and I wish to pay by:

____ Check ____ Visa ____ MasterCard

Card # _____

Expires: _____

Signature: _____

**Mail your completed form to Wing Haven
248 Ridgewood Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28209**

In Honor Of:

Mr. & Mrs. Sutt Alexander
Barbara Biddix
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Dann
Jeffrey Drum
Dr. & Mrs. John Espy
Mr. & Mrs. John Fitzgibbon
Caroline Gray
Barbara Hiestand
Mrs. Don Jennings
Mary McLanahan
Mr. & Mrs. Bob McDade
Mr. & Mrs. William Neal
Mimi Patrick
Dr. Elizabeth Perry & Associates
Dawn Ridley
Mr. & Mrs. John Roper
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Soloman
Millie Snyder
Debi Timmerman
Mickie Turner
Mr. & Mrs. Al Wall
Mr. & Mrs. Bud Wilkerson

In Memory of:

Donald Brewer
Pat Bursley
Betty Jean Kendall Canupp
Barbara Carson
Katherine Fleming McCleneghan
Carol B. Meyers
David Jennings Rose, Jr.
Beverly G. Welch
Sam Wright

Stymie, beloved pet



Wing Haven



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Charlotte, NC 28209
704-331-0664
www.winghavengardens.com

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GARDEN HOURS: TUESDAY 3-5 P.M., WEDNESDAYS 10 – 12 NOON, SATURDAYS 10 -5 P.M.