Promoting and protecting the natural and cultural history of the southeastern coastal plain
When Dan Cathy was 6 years old, he met a little girl named Rhonda. Unfortunately, she had a serious case of “cooties” so he basically stayed away from her. Naturally, about nine years later he realized that through some sort of mystery of nature she had blossomed like a beautiful flower and they began dating. They wed in 1973, after he had completed his first two years at Furman University. Shortly after their marriage, they moved to Statesboro, where they would complete their educations at what was then known as Georgia Southern College.

As a married couple they moved into In the Pines Apartments in Statesboro. A local dentist, Dr. Hunter Robertson, and his wife Margaret soon befriended the young Cathys. The Robertsons were known for their warmth and care and became surrogate parents for students from the college. Dan noticed immediately that the Robertsons had a beautifully manicured yard, and because of his love for gardening, he became the Robertson’s “yard boy.” Margaret paid him $2 an hour to mow, rake, trim and anything else that needed to be done. They were very flexible with Dan’s academic schedule. Today Dan is still very proud of the fact that under his care the Robertson’s yard won the Yard of the Month award.

Dan can’t think about his experience at Georgia Southern without thinking about the Robertsons. Although Dr. Hunter and Margaret have both passed away, Dan and Rhonda have decided to remember them by purchasing and naming the Native Azalea Garden at the Botanical Garden in their honor. Margaret always had a great love of both camellias and azaleas, so the selection of the Native Azalea Garden seemed like the perfect choice. Naming this garden for them means the Robertsons will always be a part of the University and the Garden, as well as in the hearts of the many, many students they took under their wings.

From the Director, Carolyn Altman

Clearly, the Garden’s most important resources are the people who love it! Rather than me going on about all they do to grow this beautiful place for now and the future, I will let their actions tell the story. This issue is just a start, far from inclusive, and I look forward over the months – years – to showcasing the efforts of the many people and organizations who work together to make the Garden special. Please thank them for their efforts, and I thank you for yours.

Alum Dan Cathy Remembers
Dr. and Mrs. Hunter Robertson with Native Azalea Garden

Since August, Garden Educators have shared the wonders of the Garden with . . .

828 GSU students
26 ASTERS teachers
15 FROM PLACES TO PEOPLE teachers
1,500 ASTERS school children

& More!

“Learning about the southeastern coastal plain became an exciting adventure.”

Jack Havenar, student of ASTERS teacher, Regina Collins at Trinity Christian School

The Garden’s ASTERS program trains teachers and students in hands-on inquiry-based science.
Bulloch County Historical Society Funds Cottage Project

Garden lovers know that Bland Cottage, former home of Dan and Catharine Bland, is the heart of the Garden. Time takes its toll however, and the former tenant farmer’s house, lovingly improved by Mr. Dan and Miss Catharine, needs shoring up, painting inside and out, new flooring, and a number of other repairs. Thanks to an important gift from the Bulloch County Historical Society, the Garden will soon be able to start fixing up the little white heart pine cottage.

The Bulloch County Historical Society’s grant provides a significant start toward realizing the vision for Bland Cottage, which includes repair of the building and displaying many of Mr. Dan’s wonderful objects and writings. Miss Catharine also left behind notebooks filled with her beautifully flowing handwriting, and visitors will be delighted with observations and thoughts by them both. Their story tells the story of life in Statesboro and on the Coastal Plain. The Garden looks forward to sharing that story with visitors who call Bulloch County home and all those from far and wide who love gardens and history. “Savannah tells the port part of the Coastal Plain story,” says Garden Director Carolyn Altman. “The Garden will share the rest of the story, through the Rural Life Exhibit in the restored Weathervane Barn, the Oak Grove One Room Schoolhouse, and now the Bland Cottage renovation. We are so grateful to the Bulloch County Historical Society for their vision and support.”

Improvements to the cottage will be made as funds are available. Those interested in supporting the Garden’s efforts at preserving and sharing Bulloch County’s history can call Carolyn Altman at 871-1149.

---

Cottage Foundation Stabilized!

Improvements to Bland Cottage have begun! Tim Stillwell, construction mastermind and former City of Savannah horticulturalist, had a special place in his heart and sharp ideas in mind for the stabilization of the cottage. He poured concrete slabs, built block piers, and now the cottage is sitting firm, just as Dan and Catharine meant for it to be.

Farmer J.J.: Children’s Learning Garden Expert

When it is time to plant produce in the fall and spring gardens, who donates a generous variety of plants? Farmer JJ! Who provides valuable gardening information which helps produce a beautiful, productive garden? Farmer JJ!

JJ Lee of Lee Family Farms, is a fifth generation row crop and produce farmer who has donated hours of service to the Garden. He uses opportunities at the Garden to educate children about how the food they eat is produced and to encourage them to support local farmers at the Farmers Market. This is where JJ and his wife Vikki can be seen every Saturday selling their delicious produce and healthy, hardy plants. In addition, they are always available to assist at the schools their children, C.J., age 7 and Cooper, age 3 attend. Thanks J. J. and Vikki!

“There are fewer family farmers every year. If we don’t teach the young ones, who will?”

J.J. Lee
Of course you can find us on Facebook!

Keep up with what’s happening at the Garden, from blooms to festivals to festivities by becoming a friend of Georgia Southern Botanical Garden on Facebook!
Henry Akins, Volunteer: Rip Roaring & Raring to Go!

As a recent retiree, I needed something to be involved in outside of my daily tasks of living, gardening, landscaping, and interacting with family, friends and church. Being one who loves the outdoors, plants and nature, I ambled in one day to the Georgia Southern Botanical Garden in hopes they could use a volunteer. My reception was gracious, but guarded, since many had volunteered but had since dropped by the wayside. After assuring them of my serious intentions, it was agreed that I should report on Tuesdays. Thanked the staff with whom I had spoken and left with a lilt in my step, because I just knew I had found a home there.

Tuesday finally rolled around. As anxious as I was, I arrived earlier than the 10 AM we had agreed upon, rip roaring and raring to go! Not sure of what they had gotten themselves into, Carolyn Altman, garden director, gave me the grand introduction and tour of the vast array of venues and facilities. We talked, looked and discussed the plants and flowers as we walked and worked.

My first assignment consisted of going over some of the Bland Papers, memorabilia, and collections stored in The Bland Cottage with the idea of cataloging them so that we might know what we had. I have had many functions in the office from stuffing envelopes for our mailings to members, to preparing behind the scenes for our public functions. Certainly, my interest in gardening has grown. I have aided Bob in his plantings for the fall. I have lifted plants from the soil and repotted them for the winter greenhouse. I have had the opportunity to propagate from cuttings, both hard wood and soft wood to increase the plants available for the garden. I began with coleus followed by hibiscus, Mexican heather, snapdragons and many others. I spoke with Carolyn about this. Her response, “Do you know how much money you have saved?”

I would imagine as time rolls on that more responsibility will be added. I have had a blast and I am doing what I love. At the same time I am providing a needed service to a worthwhile cause. It gives me the satisfaction of enlarging my parameters and knowing and interacting with wonderful folks who love and whose desire is to produce a garden that the community might embrace.
Thank You to our Sponsors
Andrews Klean Korner
Fairy Tale Tents & Party Rentals
Georgia Eagle Media
Holiday Inn Statesboro
Northland Cable
redpower
Statesboro ENT & Sinus Center

Plant Sale
Members Only: Fri., March 30 3 p.m.-6 p.m.
Public: Sat., March 31 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Morgan Boesche, his wife Suze and their children began historical reenacting a decade ago at Wormsloe Historic Site in Savannah. For over two years, they presented a weekly program depicting a day in the life of Georgia colonists circa 1741. At the festival, Morgan and Suze will share their woodworking, spinning and weaving talents.

Heritage Crafts

Music
GSU Brass Ensembles throughout the day.
GSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble at 2:15 p.m.

Take the train to a scavenger hunt, tug of war and other fun children’s activities!
GET OUT IN THE GARDEN!
Spring Festival & Plant Sale

Hike the new walking trail, dance to the Glow in the Dark String Band, and settle down for some great symphony music at the Garden’s Spring Festival, Saturday, March 31st from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

“We have something for everyone to do in all parts of the Garden,” said Garden Education Coordinator Kathy Tucker. “There will be music everywhere, activities for children, and even the Garden Express train to take children from one fun thing to do to another. The Garden is gorgeous at this time of year, with everything in full bloom. We encourage everyone to wander through the Garden and enjoy music from GSU ensembles, a contra dance under the pavilion, science and art projects for kids of all ages, and more.”

The Garden’s popular Plant Sale will feature plants especially chosen for their uniqueness and their ability to thrive in Coastal Plain growing conditions. “These are better, more unusual plants than you can get at a big box store,” said Garden Assistant Director Bob Randolph. “I select the best and most exciting plants to really make your garden extra special – and successful. Even better, you can stroll around the Garden and see examples in our collections before you buy.” Randolph and other gardeners will be on hand to answer questions throughout the sale.

The event will culminate with a performance by the 50 member Georgia Southern University Wind Ensemble at 2:15. Bring a blanket, lawn chair, some refreshments and friends and enjoy a great concert from the Garden’s new concert lawn.

Everybody Wins!
GSU Students Make Festival Fun and Learn Valuable Skills

Events at the Garden would not be possible without the help of Dr. Brent Wolfe’s Recreation and Freshman Year Experience classes. At the Fall Festival, groups of students prepared and implemented activities for children based on the festival theme, Treasures of the Garden. The Spring Festival’s activities promise to be just as much fun!

“I think it’s important for GSU students to be involved in service opportunities: Students are part of Statesboro and participating in service-learning opportunities invests students in their local community. Participating in service-learning projects also promotes positive town-gown relationships allowing students to meet their neighbors and Statesboro residents to see how selfless and serving college students can be.”

Dr. Brent Wolfe
Itea virginica ‘Little Henry’
This versatile plant, commonly known as Dwarf Virginia Sweetspire, offers light fragrant white summer blooms that attract butterflies. Rich green summer foliage changes to a brilliant orange and red in the fall, giving this mounded shrub multi-season appeal. ‘Little Henry’s compact shape requires little maintenance and is good both massed and in mixed borders. Native Habitat: Swampy, boggy areas of the coastal plain. ‘Little Henry’ is a cultivar of the native Virginia Sweetspire shrub.

Chionanthus retusus
Commonly referred to as Chinese Fringe, Chionanthus retusus is native to eastern Asia but cultivated in North America as an ornamental tree. Chinese Fringe trees can grow up to 25 feet in height, with leaves that are 1-5 inches long. Showy, white flowers that are 1-5 inches long bloom and cover the branches from late May to mid June. Female trees also grow a dark blue fruit, which matures from September to October. Chinese Fringe trees are very adaptable and easy to grow, making them a perfect addition to any garden or yard.

Magnolia stellata ‘Water Lily’
Also known as the Star Magnolia, Magnolia stellata is a native of Japan. The shrub can reach 15 to 20 feet in height with a spread of 10 to 15 feet. The leaves are four inches long and can turn a showy yellow in the autumn months before falling. The flowers are star-shaped, white, and fragrant, blooming in late winter or early spring, before the leaves appear. Star Magnolia makes an excellent flowering tree for small spaces and is great for patios. The specific cultivar featured at the Garden is the ‘Water Lily’, which is a small shrub that grows up to 15 feet tall and may flower slightly later than other types of magnolias.

Assistant Director Bob Randolph has chosen wonderful plants for success in our climate and soil conditions.

Take One Home!

Spring Plant Sale
Magnolia Circle “First Choice” Plant Sale
Not a member of the Magnolia Circle? Join Today!
Thursday, March 29th
5:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.
Members Only Plant Sale
Friday, March 30th
3:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.
Open to Public Plant Sale
Saturday, March 31st
10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.
Q&A with Brian Hulsey, redbpower

What does your company do and how long have you been in operation?

Armed with a logistics degree from Georgia Southern, an advertising degree from University of Georgia, electrical studies certificate from OTC, a low voltage and high voltage license, a South Carolina and Georgia license, over 15 years of experience, a passion for efficiency, electricity and sustainability, redbpower Company offers powerful low & high voltage electrical solutions and services. Our clients include: businesses, factories, schools, churches, governments, homes and one gorgeous botanical garden.

Enthusiastic about our planet, our community and our service, the boys have been seen on Extreme Home Makeover: Savannah Edition and named Best Electrician in the Boro for 4 years. Brian Hulsey, vice-president, is included in this year’s Statesboro Herald 40 Business Leaders Under 40, is a member of Bulloch Leadership, the Savannah Bicycle Coalition, Small Business Development Center’s Fasttrac program, Statesboro Home Builder’s Association and the City of Statesboro Planning Committee.

What's your background, where are you from, why do you live in Statesboro?

Born and raised in Bulloch County, my family goes back generations. My roots are deep. I grew up in Denmark while going to Brooklet Elementary and Southeast Bulloch High School – so did my wife, Christy. In fact, I met her in kindergarten!

Upon completing a half year travel around the country that included backpacking Yosemite and visiting six National parks, I knew that I wanted to return home to marry my wife and raise a family. Although the concerts in Red Rocks are amazing, the fauna larger than life, the mountains steep, and the camping phenomenal, I craved the pines of South Georgia, the countryside of my youth. I am a nature lover who likes to beach-it, run, bicycle, camp, work on obsolete vehicles, and share it all with my children. Statesboro lets me accomplish all of these things. It’s sublime!

What’s your connection to the Garden?

Beyond adding receptacles at the Garden for events and repairing the Heritage Fountain, my wife (who is President of redbpower) and I have attended Wine, Moonlight, and Magnolias for years. Beatrice (4) and Whitaker (3) are regular pupils in the Children’s Learning Garden, too. It delights them to play, explore, and discover all the magic the Garden has to offer – the fragrances, the colors, the sounds. Their favorite thing is, well, digging in the dirt! They have been to parks, farms and play grounds from here to Paris but find the enchantment of local blooms, the taste of native vegetables and student farmers fun and exciting.

Why are you an Annual Sponsor of the Garden?

redpower is an Annual Sponsor of the Garden because it is a rich resource that embodies my professional and personal values. It is a microcosm of history, lush scenery and landscape. It’s an invigorating bubble of fresh air with local blooms that offer a colorful, crisp view of our past – my family’s past and my family’s future. The Garden is rosy, sparkly, enchanting and pure while relaxing and raw. It is important. It is everything my company stands for and everything I believe in… from living in our natural habitat to tending things the right, honest, good, sustainable way.

As members of this community, this is our single favorite place in town. We hope the sponsorship enriches our environmental responsibility and inspires it in others. We hope the sponsorship allows the Garden to grow to all it dreams and aspires.
Lunch & Learn

Buon Appetito! The Lost Art of Flavor

Thursday, April 26th

The charismatic co-owner of Frali’s Gourmet in Savannah, Franco Marra was a restauranter in Italy for over a decade, and will discuss generations-old practices of preserving and presenting the best of the harvest.

$20 per person, includes lunch. Program will begin at noon at the Heritage Pavilion. Pre-registration is required. Call 912.871.1149 or send a check made payable to Georgia Southern Botanical Garden to PO Box 8039, Statesboro, GA 30460.

Thank you and Good Luck to Deborah Harvey!

If you’ve enjoyed the look of our newsletters over the last few years and the interpretive signs in the Garden, you have Deborah Harvey to thank. Deborah has left the university to concentrate on her own graphic design business, and we will miss her. Thank you Deborah, for being such an important part of the Garden’s “look”.

Children’s Learning Garden
Tuesdays, Now through May 1st
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ages 5-11

• Free

Children learn how to successfully manage their own garden in an environment of camaraderie and fun.

Thank you, Brent and Becky’s Bulbs…

For donating hundreds of spring bulbs for the Garden, and to Terry Bartels and Henry Akins for helping Bob plant them!

Brent and Becky’s Bulbs
www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com

Thank you Sponsors!

Your support enables us to provide programming, outreach and enrichment to our community.

Georgia Eagle Media
Andrews Klean Korner
Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs

Thank you Sponsors!

Your support enables us to provide programming, outreach and enrichment to our community.
Bulloch Council of Garden Clubs presents

A TOUR OF HOMES & GARDENS

Proceeds benefit Georgia Southern Botanical Garden

HOMES ON TOUR:
Donehoo Brannen NeSmith Mansion
332 Savannah Avenue
Hodges Home
233 Azalea Drive
Dr. Keel and Dr. Schalue Home
211 Azalea Drive
Hughes Home
201 Azalea Drive

MAY 5, 2012
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Call 912.871.1149 to purchase tickets in advance or visit the Garden’s Office at 1201 Fair Road.

$15 in advance
$20 at Tour Homes on May 5th after 11 a.m.

Limited to 500 tickets.

Artwork by Angela Lord
Meet The Sarahs: The Garden’s Education Assistants

My name is **Sarah Keihany**. I have been a graduate assistant at the Garden for a semester now. Compared to other GAs, I consider myself extremely lucky. Most GAs are stuck inside an office or research lab all day, but I have the chance to go outside and breathe fresh air, interact with kids, and most importantly to educate people on topics like botany or the Garden’s history. My job is both fun and rewarding and I know it will benefit me in the long run.

My name is **Sarah Weitman**. I’m from Springfield, GA and received my Bachelors of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Georgia in 2010. I am currently a Graduate Student at Georgia Southern University pursuing my Masters in Social Sciences with a focus in Anthropology. I am writing my thesis on the use of archaeological survey techniques to map and record the data from cemeteries as a method of preservation. After I graduate, my plans include working for a year with Georgia Child Care Resources, Inc. and then continuing my education to get my PhD. After that I plan to either teach at the high school or post-secondary level or work as a sort of cemetery survey consultant. At the Botanical Garden, I work as the Education Intern where I develop activities used with visiting school groups and offer assistance in other areas as needed. I also am the Site Supervisor at the Botanical Garden for the Main Street Farmer’s Market2Go program. I’m excited to be at the Botanical Garden and it has quickly become my favorite place to be on campus. *This internship is made possible by Jim and Elaine Johnson.*

My name is **Katie Poole** and I’m a public relations major and a history minor from Gainesville, Georgia. I graduate in the spring and I’m so excited to be spending my last semester working as the public relations intern for the Botanical Garden! After college, I hope to either work for a public relations firm or in the marketing department for a museum or other historical site. In my spare time, I love to read, hang out with my friends, and enjoy my last few months as a college student!

Scott Equipment Saves the Day!

The Garden’s golf carts were dying and without them, there was no way of maintaining trails, beds, and buildings. Scott Yardman of Scott Equipment stepped in, and lent the Garden two beautiful carts while he fixed one old one and donated another. The carts are so nice that at first we were afraid to use them, but they have become indispensable. The Garden looks gorgeous thanks to Mr. Yardman’s generosity. Please support Scott Equipment (912-233-3443). When you’re there, please thank Mr. Yardman.
ON THE COVER

Prunus x ‘Okame’, “Okame Cherry” tree

Photo by Julie Churney.

ON THE COVER

G E O R G I A S O U T H E R N

Botanical GARDEN

Promotes knowledge and appreciation of the native plants and animals of the southeastern coastal plain.
Connects people to the natural and cultural heritage of the region.
Inspires environmentally responsible behavior.

Hours

MONDAY – FRIDAY
Garden Gate and Grounds
9:30 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
Bland Cottage, Heritage Pavilion and Weather Vane Barn
9:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.

SUNDAY
Garden Gate, Grounds, Bland Cottage, Heritage Pavilion
and Weather Vane Barn
1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

CLOSED SATURDAYS
and Georgia Southern University Holidays

Phone: 912.871.1149 • Fax: 912.871.1777
Website: www.georgiasouthern.edu/garden

Garden Staff
Carolyn Altman
Director
Julie Churney
Administrative Secretary
Robert Randolph
Assistant Director
Kathy Tucker
Education Coordinator

Student Staff
J. B. Bellamy
Student Gardener
Bradley Eady
Student Gardener
Jake Edwards
Student Gardener
Sarah Keihany
Graduate Assistant
Brandon Mallett
Student Gardener
Katie Poole
PR Intern
Sarah Weitman
Education Intern

Garden News
Georgia Southern Garden
News is published to keep members informed of the Garden’s activities growth, and development.
Newsletter Design and Photographic contributions by Julie Churney

Friends of the Garden
☐ $35 Individual ☐ $50 Family ☐ $75 Supporter/Garden Club

Circle of Friends
☐ $100 Sustainer ☐ $250 Contributor ☐ $500 Sponsor
☐ $1000 Benefactor

Name
Address
City
State Zip

Gift Amount ☐ $30 ☐ $50 ☐ $70 ☐ $_____ In Honor of
- or -
In Memory of
☑ Please send a card of acknowledgement to:
Name
Address
City
State Zip

From (your information):
Name
Address
City
State Zip

☐ Check Payment
Check No. _______ Amount _______
Make checks payable to: Georgia Southern Foundation

☐ Credit Card Payment, Please circle:
American Express • Discover • Master Card • VISA
Name (that appears on the card)
Account Number Expiration Date

Signature of Cardholder

Amount to be charged to the account
Send to: Georgia Southern Botanical Garden
PO Box 8039
Statesboro, GA 30461

Payment Information

Newsletter is printed responsibly on chlorine free, FSC (Forestry Stewardship Certified) paper.
Please Recycle.
Thank you Friends, for your support …the Garden couldn’t grow without you!

The only way to make sense of change is to plunge into it, move into it, and join the dance.  - unknown

Change is necessary to maintain the Garden’s focus on growing the best garden possible. Thank you for your part in supporting these efforts. Georgia Southern University generously supports the Garden, but much of the Garden’s operating revenue and all funds for anything new must come from memberships, donations, honoraria, brick purchase and other sources of income. Thank you for making so much wonderful change possible. The Garden will acknowledge these contributions in Garden News in an new annual listing of new members, honoraria, bricks and other tributes, beginning in the next issue. Thank you for understanding the effort to make the listing accurate, efficient, and significant.

The Longleaf pine and wiregrass ecosystem requires fire to grow and thrive. Thank you to Garden Board Member Ryan Macy (in blue) and Georgia Forestry’s Doug Chassereau (in yellow) for conducting the burn of the Garden’s longleaf area. New growth is already beginning to appear.

Thriving with Fire

Photos by Jean Dixon.
Enter to win a vacation to Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Explore Jackson Hole and its natural beauty while enjoying the luxurious Snake River Lodge and Spa.

Trip includes:

- Airfare for 2 from Savannah
- 6 night stay at Snake River Lodge & Spa
- Medium sized SUV
- $500 spending cash

$20 per ticket

To order, call the Garden at 912.871.1149. Pay by VISA or MasterCard or mail in a form available at georgiasouthern.edu/garden. Drawing on Thursday, April 19, 2012, at the Garden’s fundraiser, Wine, Moonlight & Magnolias. Do not need to be present to win. No trip changes or exchanges. Arranged by Burns World Travel, LTD. Wine, Moonlight & Magnolias tickets are sold separately. For more information visit georgiasouthern.edu/garden

Proceeds benefit Georgia Southern Botanical Garden

Cash Out Option

$2,500
Wine, Moonlight & Magnolias
A benefit for Georgia Southern Botanical Garden

Thursday, April 19, 2012
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Fine wines
Heavy hors d’oeuvres
Music
OTC Hotel/Restaurant/Tourism Management
OTC Culinary Arts
GSU Jazz Combo

A wide selection of wines and beers to taste

1505 Bland Avenue, Statesboro, Georgia
georgiasouthern.edu/garden

Parking will be available at Pittman Park United Methodist Church, 1102 Fair Road. Shuttle service will be provided between the church parking lot and the Garden throughout the evening.

Call (912) 871-1149 to order tickets.

Must be 21 or older to attend.
ID required at the door.

NEW! Patron Tickets
Purchase your ticket at the Patron level for special recognition in the program and at the event. $100 Patron Ticket.

General Admission:
$95 per person through April 14
$105 per person after April 14

GEORGIA SOUTHERN BOTANICAL GARDEN
STATESBORO, GA 30460-8039

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
PAID PERMIT NO. 286
STATESBORO, GA