

Garden Column for the Salisbury Post  
Carolyn Glasgow-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

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There are several beautiful, public gardens within a couple of hours drive from Salisbury. I took advantage of a guided tour of the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill this past weekend.

The garden is part of the University of North Carolina and encompasses several sites:

- the display collections (which I toured), the information center(Totten Center) and Piedmont Nature Trails located off Old Mason Farm Road in Chapel Hill
- Coker Arboretum
- Battle Park and Forest Theatre and
- Mason Farm Biological Reserve and other natural areas

During my tour of the display collections, I quickly realized my allotted time of one hour could not do the garden justice. My tour guide, Chuck

James, who was very knowledgeable and has been volunteering at the garden for the past seven years, invited us all to come back in the spring when the mountain section is at its peak.

He explained to us that this is a teaching garden, funded by the state and our taxes. It is a conservation garden "preserving the native plants for future generations". He wanted us to remember the dangers of the acronym H I P O. H= habitat destruction, I= invasive exotics (can compete with native

plants), P= pollution (herbicides, sprayed along roadsides), and  
O= over collecting

The Botanical Garden includes an herb garden with 30 different types of rosemary, a medicinal herb garden and a poisonous plant garden.

There is a coastal section, or sand hill, where they have controlled burns each year to simulate the natural fires that occur in this region. There is a shade garden, a perennial garden, aquatic beds and an extensive carnivorous plant collection.

The garden was first opened to the public in 1966 and has grown to over 600 acres. There is even a log cabin tucked in the wooded area where Paul Green, the playwright for *The Lost Colony* and several Broadway plays, did his writing.

Native plants are for sale in the garden April through October and there are numerous tours and programs to enjoy year round. I found the web site informative and current; [ncbg@unc.edu](mailto:ncbg@unc.edu) or call 919-962-0522 for more information.

Carolyn Glasgow is a Master Gardener Volunteer with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service in Rowan County. For archived garden columns or other information, visit the Rowan County Master Gardener web site at [www.rowanmastergardener.com](http://www.rowanmastergardener.com) , e-mail [Darrell\\_Blackwelder@ncsu.edu](mailto:Darrell_Blackwelder@ncsu.edu)