Come enjoy Southern hospitality amid the vibrant color of azaleas and spring flowers, *Stepping into Spring*, during the 63rd Annual Cape Fear Garden Club Azalea Garden Tour® in the beautiful coastal community of Wilmington, North Carolina. An official event of the North Carolina Azalea Festival, the tour is one of the longest running and most popular garden tours in the South. The 2016 Tour features 13 gardens (12 private gardens and 1 beautiful public garden: The Historic Airlie Gardens). The gardens on this year’s Cape Fear Garden Club Azalea Garden Tour® offer a variety of gardens from large to small, formal to natural and coastal to artistic flair. From horse stables to the Intracoastal Waterway; outdoor entertainment areas; a garden with no grass but charming surprises throughout; and a contemporary abstract artist that has worked his magic through artistic expression in his garden, this year’s tour offers something to delight every gardener.

The tour opens Friday April 8, 2016 at 10:00 am with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Hugh Morton Amphitheater at Greenfield Lake, 1941 Amphitheater Drive. The natural beauty of Greenfield Lake is enhanced by more than one hundred thirty Cape Fear Garden Club Azalea Garden Belles® in their colorful antebellum dresses with escorts from the Citadel Summerall Guards. The parade of the 2016 Azalea Belles is the highlight of this ceremony along with the introduction of the Azalea Queen & North Carolina Azalea Festival celebrities and entourage. Following the Ribbon Cutting, enjoy the reception at the adjacent Dr. Heber W. Johnson Rotary Garden. Parking is at Legion Stadium, 2221 Carolina Beach Road with free bus shuttle service to Hugh Morton Amphitheater.

The Cape Fear Garden Club® reinvests the proceeds from the Azalea Garden Tour back into our community as beautification and horticultural grants, scholarships
and conservation efforts; including the Battery Island National Audubon Society wildlife sanctuary. The Cape Fear Garden Club has supported the natural splendor of Wilmington with more than $1.2 million in donations in the past 63 years.

Come celebrate the beauty of spring and enjoy the best that the Azalea Coast offers. Tickets may be purchased at any garden during the Tour. For more information, please visit us on Facebook or on our website www.capefeargardenclub.org.

President          Cindy Henry
2016 Chairperson   Kimberly Exum
2017 Chairperson   Caroline Butler

2016 Tour Gardens

Garden 1          Suzanne and Les Edwards
                  Magnolia Farm
                  102 Forest Lane
                  Wilmington, NC  28401

Garden 2          Lale and Paul Lewis
                  1802 Chestnut Street
                  Wilmington, NC  28401

Garden 3a         UNCW Kenan House
                  Kathy and Zito Sartarelli
                  1705 Market Street
                  Wilmington, NC  28401

Garden 3b         UNCW Wise Alumni House
                  1713 Market Street
                  Wilmington, NC  28401

Garden 4          Teresa Hill
                  537 Wayne Drive
                  Wilmington, NC  28403
Garden 5  Fran and Jim Summerlin
        2312 New Orleans Place
        Wilmington, NC  28403

Garden 6  Airlie Gardens
        300 Airlie Road
        Wilmington, NC  28403

Garden 7  Mrs. John M. Camp, Jr.
        6328 Greenville Sound Road
        Wilmington, NC  28409

Garden 8  Lisa and Steve Schnitzler
        4000 Chapra Drive
        Wilmington, NC  28412

Garden 9  Barton Hatcher
        5761 High Grove Place
        Wilmington, NC  28409

Garden 10 Linda J. MacRae
        4901 Trailing Vine Lane
        Wilmington, NC  28409

Garden 11 Sherrel and Eddie Bunn
        1301 Johns Creek Road
        Wilmington, NC  28409

Garden 12 Drs. Cynthia & Scott Colquhoun
        1104 Merchant Lane
        Carolina Beach, NC  28428
2016 Ticket Sale Locations

A Proper Garden – 2 Ann Street, Chandler’s Wharf – 910-763-7177

Ace Hardware – 3516 S College Road-910-395-1904

Azalea Festival Ticket Office – 5725 Oleander Drive, Suite B-7-910-794-4650

Craft Hardware – 7002 Wrightsville Avenue, Wrightsville Beach-910-256-4782

dragonflies – 4107 Oleander Drive-910-796-9997

Farmer’s Supply – 2025 Oleander Drive-910-763-4664

New Hanover County Arboretum – 6206 Oleander Drive-910-452-6393

Occasions.....Just Write – 313 North Front Street, The Cotton Exchange-910-343-9033

Pender Pines Garden Center – 20929 US Hwy 17, Hampstead-910-270-2706

The Plant Place – 6114 Market Street-910-791-9594

The Stone Garden – 5726 Market Street-910-452-1619

The Transplanted Garden – 502 S 16th Street-910-763-7448

Touché – 201 North Lake Park Boulevard, Carolina Beach-910-458-5006

Wild Bird & Garden – 3501 Oleander Drive, Hanover Center-910-343-6001
Mrs. Harley Vance, then president of the Cape Fear Garden Club, introduced the tradition of the Azalea Belles participating in the Azalea Garden Tour in 1969. Seven young ladies wore hoop-skirted antebellum dresses that year as their costumes for the Confederate Ball.

Through the years, the Azalea Belles have come to symbolize the festival season as much as the honored azalea. They enhance the beauty of several activities during the North Carolina Azalea Festival, but their primary duty is to act as hostesses in the gardens featured on the Cape Fear Garden Club Azalea Garden Tour©. In 2015, there were over hundred thirty belles. Three local dressmakers create the beautiful antebellum gowns worn by each belle.

Azalea Belles must be sponsored by a member of the Cape Fear Garden Club. Priority is given to daughters and granddaughters of the Cape Fear Garden Club members, followed by high school seniors and juniors. Priority is also given to girls who attend school or reside in New Hanover County.

Karen Smith – Chairperson, Linda McCall and Heda Waldrep - Co-Chairs, Azalea Belle Committee, (910) 620-6958

Schedule and Appearances:

January
16 Azalea Festival Children’s Art Contest, TBD-time and place
26 Belle Applications distributed

February
2 Postmark for Belle Applications due
10 Acceptance letters mailed
18 CFGC Daughters and Granddaughters fittings
19-23 Dress fittings for all Belles
28 Garden Owner’s Wine & Cheese Party

March
10 Belle Orientation at Wrightsville Beach Baptist Church, 6:30pm
13 Enchanted Princess Children’s Tea, Coastline Convention Center, 2pm to 4pm

April
1 Azalea Festival Art Contest at USO Building, time TBD
1-5 Plant an Azalea Week Kick Off Ceremony
2 Belle Rehearsal-10am @ Greenfield Lake
3 Belle Tea at NHC Arboretum, 2pm to 4pm
TBD Trip with NC Azalea Festival Committee to invite Governor, Raleigh, NC
6 Queen’s Coronation Ceremony, Convention Center, time TBD
8 Azalea Garden Tour Ribbon Cutting, Greenfield Lake, 10am
8-10 Azalea Garden Tour, 3 shifts per day, 10am to 6pm
8 Azalea Festival Celebrity Luncheon, Cape Fear Country Club, 11:15am
8 Ogden Elementary School visit with Queen, 8:30am
8 Brigade Boys & Girls Club visit with Queen, time TBD
8 Hospital visit with Queen, Princess and Entourage, time TBD
8 Juried Art Show Ribbon Cutting, 5-7pm USO Building
9 Azalea Festival Parade, 9am to 12noon (Arrive at 8am)
9 Home Tour Ribbon Cutting, 12:30pm
9-10 Coin Show, American Legion, Pine Grove Dr, Opening Ribbon Cutting, 10-11am
10 Patrons Party, Cape Fear Country Club, time TBD
2016 Garden Descriptions

1. Suzanne and Les Edwards-Magnolia Farms
102 Forest Lane, Wilmington 28401

Hidden away behind the entrance wall is this fabulous 20-acre equestrian estate. Magnolia Farms was originally owned by Suzanne's grandparents who built the home, then by her parents and now Suzanne and Les enjoy this wonderful farm. The circular drive welcomes you to the entry filled with huge planter boxes and a lovely fountain. Stroll under the arbor by the koi pond tucked beside the steps to the outdoor entertaining area. The centerpiece is a pool along with an outdoor fireplace, lounge, grill and large pergola with dining table, lighting and fan. Down the pool steps, surrounded with tropical plantings, is an antique covered wagon filled with potted plants. A picket fence, behind the wagon, defines the garden area complete with a children's playhouse, planting beds and many delightful items of whimsy. Continue through the wagon wheel gate and down the road past the riding ring to the stables. A large outdoor kitchen and dining space is perfect for relaxation and enjoyment after a day's ride.

2. Lale and Paul Lewis
1802 Chestnut Street, Wilmington 28401

The charming entry to this home is uniquely staged with a wrought iron screen and bench, antique post box and chandelier. A graceful three-tiered fountain is strategically positioned in the side yard. As you enter the walled back garden, note the beautiful Japanese maple in the lush plantings on the left. An old pecan tree provides shade for the patio which is perfect for dining alfresco. The dining table looks onto the fire pit area that features an interesting combination of benches and chairs for seating. A back corner incorporates herbs and lettuces around a grass lawn surrounded by trees to make another unique spot. The lovely walk to the side door is lined with antique camellias that have been limbed up and underplanted with ferns and flowers. Scattered through this area are many creative fairy gardens to admire. The homeowner's love Japanese maples and have planted many dwarf specimens throughout. Wonderful ornaments and design elements have been included in this space to enhance your enjoyment.

3a. University of North Carolina-Wilmington
Kenan House
Kathy and Zito Sartarelli
1705 Market Street, Wilmington 28403

Since 1969, Kenan House has served as the official residence of the UNCW chancellor and is used extensively by the university for entertaining alumni and friends of the university as well as dignitaries and visitors. While the downstairs is designated for public university use, the upstairs is reserved for the private residence of the chancellor.
The Kenan gardens are classic Southern style, featuring azaleas and dogwoods, along with multiple sculptures placed among manicured boxwoods. A brick wall and iron gates totally enclose the property. The courtyard garden is filled with seasonal white blooms, a handsome circular fountain and benches that provide a respite from the bustle of downtown living.

3b. University of North Carolina-Wilmington Wise Alumni House
1713 Market Street, Wilmington 28403

This elegant neo-classical revival style house serves as the alumni home for UNCW. Built in 1908 by Edwin Cameron Holt, it was purchased in 1916 by Jessie Hargrave Kenan Wise. Her heirs deeded the home to UNCW in 1969. Entering the wrought iron gate you are awed by the size of the magnificent live oak dripping with Spanish moss and large plantings of southern indica and Encore azaleas. The sweeping front porch and towering columns frame the house. An enormous old Pieris japonica has a place of honor in the front. Stroll through the plantings to the sunken garden enclosed by a low stonewall and boxwood hedge with red maples anchoring four sides and a large Lady Banks Rose trailing gracefully over the white wooden fence. The centerpiece is a lovely old three-tiered fountain. Step back in time among magnificent dogwoods, windmill palms, camellias and azaleas in a true Southern garden.

4. Teresa Hill
537 Wayne Drive, Wilmington 28403

Stately oaks shade the entrance to this attractive home, providing a shaded canopy for farfugium, holly and arborvitae ferns. Notice the unusual Japanese climbing fern on the trunk of the oak. Colorfully planted antique urns flank the front entrance, complemented by a set of pots filled with rosemary topiaries. Evergreen ligustrum makes an attractive screen along the driveway leading to the back of the home. French doors lead to a delightful pergola shaded terrace. A fabulous outdoor kitchen, part of a multi-level patio, will tempt your inner chef. Raised perennial and vegetable beds are perfectly sited nearby. The lower level and dining areas are warmed by a handsome stone fireplace. Brick edging around bluestone paving is the design element that ties the terrace, kitchen and dining patios together. Descend the stone steps past the large cast iron plants to the park-like setting that flows under cypress and a large tulip poplar to Burnt Mill Creek at the back of the property.

5. Fran and Jim Summerlin
2312 New Orleans Place, Wilmington 28403

In just six years, this stunning property has been reclaimed from brambles and weeds to its current exquisite beauty drawn from the artistry and horticultural talents of its owners. The serenity of a gravel garden with a raised seating area is to the left. To the right, crepe myrtles form an alley leading your eye to an impressive specimen of Butia capitata or jelly palm. Follow the woodland path that wanders through varied plantings to a secluded vegetable garden where an array of garden gloves punctuates each raised bed. Keep following the stone path and note the colorful marbles tucked into the wooden fence. The homeowner loves hydrangeas along with camellias and hostas which, with a multitude of other plants, form the basis of the design. Continue to the center of the back garden to discover a stone fire pit for gatherings on cool evenings. An iron fence is cleverly positioned to form a planting bed around the vine-covered deck. The homeowner’s art is displayed on the balcony of her studio overlooking the pool, which is beautifully sited in the interior courtyard. Enjoy a multitude of plants and vistas as you view this gorgeous property.
6. Airlie Gardens
300 Airlie Road, Wilmington 28403

Filled with over 100,000 azaleas, statuary and camellias, this magnificent 67-acre quintessential southern garden includes the 465 year old Airlie Oak and ten acres of fresh water lakes. This historic garden is a valuable cultural and ecological treasure of Southeastern North Carolina and has delighted visitors for over 100 years. With grants from the Cape Fear Garden Club, the beauty of Airlie continues to grow for all to enjoy.

7. Mrs. John M. Camp, Jr.
6328 Greenville Sound Road, Wilmington 28409

An offset brick walk leads you to a striking bluestone entry. A formal grass patio on the right is lined with clipped boxwood hedges and two matching metal benches. The handsome entry to your left is framed by an intricate iron trellis depicting kissing fish that was designed by the owner. Variegated ivy spills over the sides of antique pots. Continue down the brick path lined with lush plantings of cherry, camellia, azalea, hellebores and boxwood. An interesting combination of mondo grass and bluestone cut in formal shapes forms the landing for the brick lined grass path to the back terrace. Perfectly sited on axis to the house and the grass path is a charming lead sculpture and fountain. The bluestone veranda is framed by the same metal trellis as the entry and is edged by a low podocarpus hedge. Perfectly spaced boxwood are positioned along the grass terrace with all white annuals as the only color accent used in the plantings. Through the arbor is a newly installed swim spa for the owner’s exercise. The coppery tone of the exfoliating crepe myrtle is stunning in late afternoon in the glow of the setting sun. This garden is perfection in an elegant small space.

8. Lisa and Steve Schnitzler
4000 Chapra Drive, Wilmington 28412

More than 200 azaleas form the base of this 1.3-acre garden that was first planted in 1978. The original gardener kept meticulous records and maps of each plant added to the landscape. The current homeowners have treasured and carefully maintained these plantings over the last 10 years. A raised herb bed is located along the side of the garage while a border of equisetum or horse tail lines the house at right angles. The bottle garden, with its beautiful glass reflections, showcases some favorite perennials and annuals. During our cool winters, the greenhouse is the perfect space to protect tender plants. A picket fence outlines the pool area and deck while under the shade of the arbor, an antique metal glider and table bring fond memories of earlier times. The fire pit next to the pool provides warmth on cooler evenings. The elevated chicken coop is a quaint addition, and the chickens provide fresh eggs to share with neighbors and friends. Nestled by the back stairs is a small stone pond filled with koi that are shaded by water lilies in summer. The legacy of mature plantings provides year round enjoyment for the homeowners.

9. Barton Hatcher
5761 High Grove Place, Wilmington 28409

As one turns onto this street, this garden summons you to admire and enjoy the richness of its plantings. The owner is a contemporary abstract artist and sculptor who was inspired by his grandfather, also an artist and his mentor. Like his paintings, there is a riot of color at every turn, which is the reason he was chosen to receive the 'Beauty Spot' award for “Outstanding Landscape” from Cape Fear Garden Club in 2015. The different textures and colors of foliage and leaf shapes provide accents throughout. Succulents, tropicalls, perennials, evergreens and annuals each have a unique place. Every bed contains fascinating combinations of plants, pots, statuary and “found” elements that have been transformed into art. The beds are edged with wood that has been painstakingly curved to the desired shape by making hundreds of ‘kerf’ cuts. Look closely at the number of slices needed to achieve this result. This garden will always be evolving as the owner’s
10. Linda J. MacRae  
4901 Trailing Vine Lane, Wilmington 28409

This homeowner, with no previous gardening experience, began her garden by emulating her neighbor. Over the past 14 years, she has become an accomplished plantswoman in her own right. This small property has been skillfully screened and designed, with multiple seating areas and walkways giving it the feel of a much larger space. A good example is the elimination of all lawn to allow her to focus her attention on the plants, paths and art that she has incorporated. Wanting to expand, she developed a dining area with plants, sculpture and wall art where she and her neighbor often share coffee and conversation. An exquisite meditation space was developed in a tiny side area. Sculptures, water features, birdhouses, paintings and seating areas are found everywhere. Look for her “garden jewels” tucked throughout. Whenever inspiration was needed, her friend and fellow garden tour homeowner Barton Hatcher, would stop by, sparking possibilities for new design ideas. The serenity and charm of the homeowner is beautifully reflected in this garden and captured by the plaque ‘Just another day in Paradise’ that hangs on her arbor.

11. Sherrel and Eddie Bunn  
1301 Johns Creek Road, Wilmington 28409

This expansive one plus acre property has been developed by the homeowners into a resort-like haven for family and friends over the past 3 years. Shaded by tall trees, front beds of azaleas have been enhanced with additional plantings and surrounded by a lush lawn. The back shows the homeowners’ boundless energy, talent and enthusiasm. The sparkling swimming pool forms a centerpiece with multiple seating, lounging and dining areas. A former gazebo has now become a shaded bar and hang out. The canopy of an enormous live oak provides protection and shade for one of the seating areas complete with a wooden swing suspended from the branches. The newly enlarged deck better integrates the house into the design. A creatively repurposed metal bar no longer serves drinks but is perfect for repotting plants. A vegetable garden sports two raised beds as well as a collection of garden art. Behind the pool and hedge of Butia or jelly palms, the homeowners’ themselves have built a large green house and work shop. Plants that were shared by her great grandmother, grandmother, and friends provide wonderful memories and have been lovingly placed throughout this garden.

12. Drs. Scott and Cynthia Colquhoun  
1101 Merchant Lane, Carolina Beach 28428

The Colquhoun home is a spectacular location for a garden that is right on the water. Large shade trees underplanted with azaleas, camellias and ivy screen this home from the street. Located to the left of the front steps is a replica of the Eiffel Tower. Burgundy leaved loropetalum is planted underneath Pittosporum, which has been limbed up into small trees. A large loquat shades the gate in the picket fence leading to the back. Beautifully placed next to the lower back terrace is a naturalized pond and plantings. Holly ferns form a ribbon of green along the back of the house. Look up at the colorfully painted ceiling under the deck. Climb the stairs to the upper deck and the stunning outdoor kitchen and eating area. Live oaks frame the view to the water. Can you find the colorful ‘Fish in the Garden’? Stroll to the back fence, inhale the salt air and enjoy the panoramic view from this gorgeous site.
Cape Fear Garden Club, Inc.
2015 Azalea Garden Tour Grant Recipients
Total Funds Granted $75,430

Archie Gardens Foundation
Bellamy Mansion Museum
Bread for Life Ministry
Cameron Art Museum
Cape Fear Academy
Cape Fear Community College Foundation
Cape Fear Group Homes
Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity
The Carousel Center
The Children's Museum of Wilmington
Dorothy B. Johnson Pre-K School
DREAMS of Wilmington, NC
Feast Down East/Wilmington Housing/Hillcrest Community
Friends of Hoggard High Baseball
Friends of New Hanover County Arboretum
Friends of New Hanover County Arboretum-Ability Garden
Hoggard High School CTSO
Island Montessori Charter School
Lower Cape Fear Historical Society-Latimer House
Lower Cape Fear Hospice
Mary C. Williams Elementary PTA
Mary Washington Howe Pre-K School
New Hanover High School PTSA
Oakdale Cemetery
Saint Mary Catholic School
Temple of Israel-Reisman Center
Trinity Grove
Wilmington Christian Academy
Wilmington Green

Standing Grants

National Audubon Society-Battery Island-conservation efforts
Cape Fear Community College Foundation-scholarship endowment
University of North Carolina-Wilmington-scholarship endowment

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