

HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN

2023 Annual Report













MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear Garden Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the remarkable achievements of 2023, it fills me with immense pride to share with you the incredible milestones we've reached at Huntsville Botanical Garden. Last year proved to be the most impactful yet, marked by significant endeavors and partnerships that have truly elevated our mission of connecting people to plants.

Aligned with our strategic framework anchored by three pillars—
Core Mission Support, Plant Science and Conservation, and Public
Engagement—we saw remarkable growth and impact throughout 2023.

Our commitment to education reached new heights with the resounding success of our STEM Youth Programs, which garnered unprecedented engagement and enthusiasm from our community's young minds. New partnerships were formed with Habitat for Humanity of the River Valley and the McKinney-Vento Program with Huntsville City Schools, underscoring the Garden's dedication to making a tangible difference in people's lives and our community.

The *Cultivate*: Growing STEM Educators program continued to grow, empowering educators by increasing their content knowledge and technical ability to teach plant-based science to students in Alabama's key regions. This program continues in partnership with Birmingham Botanical Garden and Bellingrath Gardens and Home, building confidence in teachers to utilize engaging, hands-on STEM programming aligned with state and local learning standards. We thank our Alabama State Legislature, foundations, and corporations for supporting this impactful program.

The beauty of the Garden unfolded with the wonderful art exhibit, ORIGAMI IN THE GARDEN, from artists Jennifer and Kevin Box featuring 18 larger-than-life metal sculptures inspired by the art of paper folding. These art pieces celebrating nature, peace, and community were a great addition to the Garden from March through August.

In the realm of Plant Science and Conservation, Garden staff are working to research and foster the unique plant biodiversity of our region partnering with scientists, botanic gardens, and universities near and far. The Garden sustained damage to the living collections during the intense frost of early 2023 that resulted in the loss of many plants, especially woody shrubs and trees. As we replant, the Garden will continue to focus on native plants and those of conservation value.

Through these concerted efforts, we continue to connect people with the natural world, igniting a passion for conservation and stewardship. The achievements of 2023 stand as a testament to the boundless possibilities that lie ahead, fueled by the commitment of our community.

Thank you for your support, and see you at the Garden!

Sue Wagner

Chief Executive Officer





Plant Science and Conservation

Horticulture staff worked diligently to assess the damage done to living collections by the intense frost damage of early 2023 that resulted in the loss of many plants, especially woody shrubs and trees. Once an assessment was made, PSC staff went to work planning and replacing woodies in high-priority areas of the Garden. A large portion of the change in plant numbers also had to do with refinement of the database of plant records, increasing data integrity. Coupled with ongoing QA/QCing of historic records, Curation staff were able to refine the database of plant records to better reflect what is truly growing in the Garden.

Plants	2022	2023	% change
Number of plants in the Garden	23,600	21,200	-10.1%
Number of species, varieties, and cultivars	6,579	6,384	-3%
Number of species native to the Southeast	2,933	4,763	62.4%
Number of species of conservation value	672	1,205	79.3%

L'Espalier Society

The purpose of the society is to honor and recognize the individuals and organizations whose outstanding and cumulative giving provides the framework on which our Garden grows. Designation is based on giving from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

La Foret (Forest) \$500,000 & Over CUMULATIVE LIFETIME GIVING

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La Fleur (Flower) \$50,000 - \$99,999 CUMULATIVE LIFETIME GIVING

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