

# Boxerwood Garden Notes

January 2016

## Upcoming Events

February 6,  
Saturday, 8am  
Birding at  
Boxerwood

February 9,  
Tuesday, 11:30,  
Boxerwood  
"Talking Native  
Plants"  
Upper James River  
chapter of the  
Virginia Native Plant  
Society  
Free and open to the  
public

February 11,  
Thursday, 2pm  
Volunteer Gathering  
plus a Winter Walk in  
the Woods at  
Boxerwood  
Come join us!

## Happy New Year, Everyone -

By now I think all of you will have received a notice about the upcoming symposium, "**GROW 2016: A Celebration of Native Plants.**" Our steering committee has been working on this for about a year now and we are quite excited about the lineup of speakers. **As a reminder, the proceeds from this event go directly to Boxerwood, so here is your opportunity to support Boxerwood and learn something at the same time!**

I've heard Rick Darke speak several times and have been impressed. His new book, written with Doug Tallamy, [The Living Landscape, Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden](#), is sure to be a classic. His lecture at GROW will expound on this theme. Darke proposes that we can all have a layered landscape, one that not only echoes nature by providing cover, shelter and food for wildlife, but also provides space and nurture for humans as well. He is also a well-known photographer and you will be entranced and inspired by his photos.

We have two speakers coming from the Smithsonian. Dr. Dennis Whigham is a Senior Botanist at the Smithsonian Environmental

Research Center who specializes in native orchids. Walk through Boxerwood right now and you will see the single striped leaf of





To stay current with the happenings at Boxerwood, check out our website, [www.boxerwood.org](http://www.boxerwood.org), our facebook page, Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden, or our blog, [Boxerwoodblogspot.com](http://Boxerwoodblogspot.com)

several Putty Root orchids. Orchids depend on certain fungi in the ground to survive and have also developed complex and elaborate methods to attract their pollinators. These two factors go hand-in-hand and make them particularly susceptible to changes in their environment. There are over two hundred beautiful native orchids in the US and Canada and more than half of those species are endangered. Dr. Whigham was instrumental in founding the [North American Orchid Conservation Center](#). His talk will introduce us to these fascinating plants (again, beautiful photos) and their life cycles.

James Gagliardi is the head horticulturist for the habitat gardens at the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian. I had the opportunity to stroll through this garden over New Year's and it still looked beautiful. I am envious of all the plant signage; every plant was labeled, something I aspire to here at Boxerwood. Gagliardi is also the editor of the excellent Smithsonian book [Encyclopedia of Garden Plants for Every Location](#). He'll be speaking to us on, what else, gardening for habitat.

I hope I will see you at the symposium. If you haven't registered yet, go to the website, [www.grow2016.com](http://www.grow2016.com). The Early Bird fee will go up another \$10 on February 1st, so sign up now.

## Faith

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### Faerie Forest Coming to Boxerwood...

We are developing a Faerie Forest in the Pioneer Forest here at Boxerwood. It will be another nature play area where young and old can

construct structures for the little band of fairies and elves that live in that part of the woods. The grand opening of the Forest will be the highlight of the Faerie Forest Festival to be held here at Boxerwood in conjunction with Earth Day on Saturday, April 23. If you would like to join our planning committee for the Festival or have any ideas you would like to share, please contact me, [faith@boxerwood.org](mailto:faith@boxerwood.org). We also are looking for vendors and sponsors for the event.

#### Eco Book Club...

Our next book is a classic, Annie Dillard's **Pilgrim at Tinker Creek**, a series of essays ruminating about the natural world, specifically, a creek outside of our own Roanoke. We'll be meeting at Boxerwood, Wednesday, February 10 at 3:30pm in the Founders Wing. Please join us!