

Garden Names and Descriptions

Garden Description work should begin now. Captains will work with owners to develop a name for the garden and a 100-150 word bulleted list describing the gardening. The list should include the answers to the questions noted below. This garden description will be printed in our booklet. When you have received the information from your owners, please edit and send to Susan Parker and Becky Large, Garden Coordinators by Wednesday, February 28, 2023.

This year, we would like to focus more on descriptions of the garden with facts about the garden's composition rather than a story about the owners. This type of description will allow us to advertise the Tour in a different way. For example, we could say, "If you have large trees and want to see what grows well in heavy shade and dry soil, you want to see this garden."

Descriptive information wanted:

How did the garden begin? Was this a new home purchase with a yard foundation comprised of landscaper debris and red clay OR was this an older garden inherited from previous owners?

What was the main soil available to the beginning garden? How do they describe their soil now? How was the soil amended over time?

What is the water supply for the plants: automatic irrigation, hoses, drip irrigation, rain barrels, a stream through the garden?

How does the sun move through the garden? What parts get full sun all day? Which areas have shade for more than 6 hours? Is it dry shade, wet, or damp shade?

Are there natural features near the garden that impact plant growth such as a lake, creek, hill, wooded area, etc.? Are there focal points within the garden that draw a visitor's eye? Are there any specialty plants that were planted with a specific purpose in mind?

Does the owner have a background in horticulture or a related subject? Do you do your own garden maintenance? How much time, after the garden was established, do you spend on maintenance on a weekly basis?

If the garden owners want a more traditional garden story, you are welcome to have that available during the tour.

Additional information needed:

10-15 plant names that you and your owners would like to highlight on the tour. Common names are fine. Our plant id cards will also have the scientific name, a photo, and a QR code to the North Carolina State Extension Plant Toolbox.

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/>