



For Immediate Release
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North Carolina Botanical Garden director wins national conservation award

CHAPEL HILL – Dr. Peter S. White, director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has won the 2014 Star Award from the Center for Plant Conservation for his service to the conservation of the flora of the United States. The award was presented on May 8 in conjunction with the Center for Plant Conservation’s national meeting and 30th anniversary celebration, held at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, Minn., and recognizes individuals who demonstrate the concern, cooperation and personal investment needed to conserve imperiled native plants.

“Peter’s leadership in academia, applied science, and his institutional vision has advanced conservation science,” said Kathryn Kennedy, president and executive director of the Center for Plant Conservation.

The award honored White’s work with patch dynamics, an approach to ecosystem and habitat analysis which emphasizes that each area of an ecosystem is made up of a mosaic of small ‘sub-ecosystems,’ as well as his work on invasive species and preserve design.

“Peter helped pioneer the concept of a conservation garden and inspired peers across the nation to greater service and broader collaborations,” Kennedy said.

White, a trustee on the board of the Center for Plant Conservation, is a plant ecologist and professor, and for the past 28 years, the director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

“I am so happy to have served the CPC board all these years, to have served with the inspirational Kathryn Kennedy, and to be the director of a Garden that was among the founding group of this amazing project. Our entry sign proudly announces “A Conservation Garden” and our homepage declares to all that we are “A Center for Plant Conservation Garden” with a link to make sure all interested parties can find CPC,” White said.

The Center for Plant Conservation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve and restore the imperiled plants of the United States to secure them from extinction. It has established a network of 39 leading botanical institutions across the country. By developing standards and guidance, conducting hands-on work and raising awareness, the Center and its partners strive to accomplish the research and restoration work needed to return these plants to their natural habitats. The Center coordinates the National Collection of Endangered Plants, securing seed from nearly 800 of America’s most vulnerable native plants, and is working on hundreds of restoration projects. The Center’s program is managed by their national office in St. Louis, Mo. For additional information about the Center for Plant Conservation, visit www.centerforplantconservation.org.

About North Carolina Botanical Garden:

The North Carolina Botanical Garden is part of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Their mission is “To inspire understanding, appreciation, and conservation of plants in gardens and natural areas and to advance a sustainable relationship between people and nature.” Learn more about the North Carolina Botanical Garden at ncbg.unc.edu/.

Visitor information:

North Carolina Botanical Garden is located at 100 Old Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill, NC. It is open weekdays, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., (administrative offices, gift shop, exhibits open at 9 a.m.); Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. (June – Aug., open to 6 p.m. on weekends). Admission is free.