Wing Haven has touched many hearts and souls over the decades. The gardeners of origin, the creators of Wing Haven, Elizabeth and Eddie Clarkson developed their expansive garden thoughtfully and with love from the moment they moved into their Ridgewood Avenue home as newlyweds in 1927. In ten years’ time, they had purchased eleven parcels and the gardens grew to three acres. Since that time, Wing Haven has meant many things to many people with generations of visitors and volunteers being touched by the gardens and its mission, and in turn, leaving their own special mark in garden beds, paths and programs.

The late Anne L. Van Every Glenn, or “Pokey” as she was known, was no exception. Pokey, the daughter of the late Philip Lance Van Every, was a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer and garden docent, served on the Wing Haven Foundation Board, and was a supporter of all things Wing Haven. Pokey had a special interest in the Rose Garden due to her mother Carolyn ‘Pinky’ Quincy Johnson’s love of roses, in particular the climbing Pinkie Rose, the perfect rose to train on columns, trellises and arbors.

In 2018, the Rose Garden will get a much-needed rejuvenation and restoration thanks to a $50,000 gift from the Philip L. Van Every Foundation in memory of Anne ‘Pokey’ Glenn. The gift will be used to assess and amend the soil, replace plant material and purchase new garden benches and arbors in keeping with the design of Wing Haven. This lasting gift will delight and inspire generations of visitors young and old. Wing Haven is grateful to the Philip L. Van Every Foundation for its generous support and advice in this project.

Founded in 1961, the Philip L. Van Every Foundation continues a long legacy of philanthropy; enriching the lives of North and South Carolinians through its generous support of worthy non-profit organizations working to strengthen their communities.

Wing Haven Foundation
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2017/2018

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A LASTING GIFT OF ROSES

Wing Haven was recently recognized for excellence in transparency with a Gold Seal on our GuideStar Nonprofit Profile! GuideStar is the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. Each year, more than eight million visitors and a network of 200+ partners use GuideStar data to grow support for nonprofits. In order to get the Gold Seal, Wing Haven shared important information with the public using our profile on www.guidestar.org. Now our community members and potential donors can find in-depth information about our goals, strategies, capabilities, and progress. We’re shining a spotlight on the difference we help make in the world!
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings from Wing Haven!

It was a busy fall with children’s programs, events, lectures, a plant sale and symposium. We were thrilled to visit with members and welcome newcomers to the gardens. We continue to open the garden gates for exploration and restoration to visitors from across the country and internationally. It is truly an exciting time for Wing Haven.

As the Wing Haven Foundation approaches its 50th anniversary, it is a great time to take stock of what this organization has accomplished over the years. It’s also a time to reflect on how we serve our donors and share our mission. This process also begs the question, where can Wing Haven make even more of a difference in the community? We would love to hear from you on what you love about Wing Haven and any ideas you have on how we can have a greater impact in the community by sending us an email at admin@winghavengardens.org.

A big focus for the board and the staff has been to determine how we are relevant in the Charlotte area and beyond, what can we give back to this community while being true to our mission and the founders’ desires for the gardens. Many of you are aware we are enhancing and enlarging the children’s garden so we can improve our programming and serve more children and their families.

Additionally, we have improved some brick paths at Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary to be handicapped accessible and safer for all visitors. I am pleased to share we received funding from The Dickson Foundation, Jane Williamson and Nancy Elberson to complete this project in early Spring of 2018. This effort has allowed us to partner more closely with the medical community in Charlotte as a place to bring those that need the healing a garden offers and a beautiful place to enjoy nature and the outdoors. Please come take a stroll through the gardens and enjoy the restored pathways and tranquility the gardens provide.

Lastly, we are working to restore the gardens and water features at Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary. With the help of the Garden Committee, House and Grounds Committee and Wing Haven staff, restoration has begun, particularly around the Oval Pool (see below).

I invite you to visit our website for offerings this Spring and the months to follow. We hope to see you often and bring your friends.

Barrett Sloan Ranson
Executive Director

Correction - 2016/2017 Annual Report Listing
Member Level Patron: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Faut

FROM THE GARDEN: WING HAVEN GARDEN & BIRD SANCTUARY

Winter is a great time for planning, planting, pruning, and completing garden projects. Wing Haven (WH) is no exception. The Garden Committee has replanted the Oval Pool garden after the improvements to its paths and terrace to make it handicapped accessible. Members Ann Betzold and Kathy Purser — longtime volunteers, Garden Committee members and garden designers — brought their talents to the rehabilitation of the Oval Pool garden. Working from memory of longtime members and historic photographs as well as extant plant material, they and the Garden Committee fine-tuned a plan and ordered the necessary plants. In a much-appreciated gift to Wing Haven, Ann Betzold drove to a specialty boxwood nursery in Virginia to source blight-resistant boxwoods appropriate to Elizabeth Clarkson’s original design along the terrace of the Oval Pool. Garden Committee volunteers, with help from the House & Grounds Committee as well as our garden staff, took on the planting.

Once again, the Oval Pool is framed by boxwoods and the beds have groupings of autumn ferns, hydrangeas, and other shade loving plants. As the weather warms this spring, ground covers will be added along with a few other plants to complete the design. Elizabeth Clarkson’s view from the dining room window is beginning to look as it once did and as these plantings mature it will be reminiscent of her vision for that garden.

As part of ongoing accessibility improvements, the sidewalk beds along the entire front walk on Ridgewood Avenue have been slightly reduced to allow for a uniform brick ‘stepping out’ area to match that on the existing rose bed in front of the Clarkson Home. No longer will passengers find dirt or plants when they open their car door to step out. This should make parking easier as all spaces now have good access. Look for the reduced beds to be planted with an appropriate tree as close to historically accurate as possible. Additionally, the Herb Garden volunteers will continue sharing their gardening talents by planting the beds along the front entrance walk and tending the Front Garden.

Boxwood: As many of you are aware, some varieties of boxwood, a mainstay of Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary as well as many other gardens in Charlotte, have become susceptible to boxwood blight. Wing Haven has sourced the most resistant cultivars for its plantings and recommends that close attention to that for new plantings is warranted. For existing boxwoods, it is recommended that they be pruned during January and February with sanitized pruners. It is important to periodically sanitize your pruners during the pruning process. Despite the effort that involves, proper pruning and resultant improved air circulation for boxwoods, along with choice of most resistant cultivars, appears to be the best way to combat the blight at the moment. Wing Haven’s own volunteer boxwood pruning group, known as the Boxers, employ these methods to care for the boxwoods in the Clarksons’ garden.

Camellias: February is an optimal time to thin and prune camellias for adequate sunlight and optimal air circulation. We spray them with an organic oil treatment to prevent tea scale infestation and for the overall health of the plants.

Rose Garden: We received a generous gift from the Philip L. Van Every Foundation in memory of Pokey Glenn to restore the Rose Garden. We have formed a committee to address some challenges in that garden and help us restore it to its former glory. Much more to come on this project, but look to see the Rose Garden happy and healthy this time next year.

As you can see, we have been quite busy with restoration of the gardens. If you would like to help, we would love to have you join one of the volunteer groups by simply visiting our website under volunteer or contact Volunteer Coordinator Lydia Skardon at roots@winghavengardens.org.
The most common visitor comments I hear in Elizabeth Lawrence's garden are about the plant identification tags. People really enjoy connecting a plant's face with its name. But actually it goes deeper than that. When I watch visitors studying the labels, I see mysteries solved, knowledge gained and wish lists begun. Often, a pen and scrap of paper or smartphone is fished from a pocket or purse. The plant tags are the most basic and obvious method of connecting all records — Elizabeth Lawrence's, previous owner Lindie Wilson's or the digital plants database — with the garden.

Speaking of plant tags, new old things continue to be dug up in the garden. Volunteers Ellen and Bill Archer recently loaned me a few of their metal detectors, which makes searching for Elizabeth's original plant tags a lot easier and even more exciting! Most of the newly discovered tags have even been legible after a bit of gentle work with water and a soft brush. Once a tag is found, washed and can be read, I record its exact location in the garden and search through the thousands of digitized files of Elizabeth Lawrence's index cards. (Many thanks to Noell Schepp for her continued work scanning the card catalog!)

When you visit the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden in the coming months, you will notice a couple of projects underway. First is the beginning of eradication of a noxious bulbous weed (Nothoscordum fragrans or slender false garlic) from the lowest bed behind the house. It spreads by seed as well as thousands of tiny bulbils that shatter off the main bulb when soil nearby is disturbed. While radical, the best “treatment” is complete soil removal. Current placement of all plant material in the bed is being documented, plants dug out and roots meticulously washed, and then potted up or planted in a holding bed. After that, the soil will be removed to a depth of 10” and new soil will be brought in. It is a daunting process, but well worthwhile!

The second project is the restoration of the pool to its original size. In-depth study of several old photographs has revealed that the pool, currently ten feet in diameter, was originally twelve feet. As Elizabeth Lawrence once wrote to her dear friend Linda Mitchell Lamm, “Proportion is ALL.” Restoring the original dimension will reveal even more of Elizabeth’s fingerprint in the garden. The plan is to have both projects done by the end of summer.

It is hard to believe it's been six months since “Elevenses with Elizabeth Lawrence: Celebrating Anniversaries,” part of our 2017 Symposium “Inspiring the Unexpected.” The program was magical from start to finish. I truly believe Elizabeth would have loved every minute of it — especially when we took elevenses (a sip of bourbon) in her honor! The day was wonderful, all thanks to the time, talents, passion and enthusiasm of everyone involved in its planning and implementation. Great gratitude goes to keynote speaker Dr. William C. Welch, for sharing far-reaching connections Elizabeth Lawrence and her plants still make; panel moderators Staci Catron and Susan Hitchcock, for expertly guiding and focusing conversations; all of our panelists, for generously sharing their knowledge, experiences and memories: Emily Herring Wilson, Dr. Bobby J. Ward, Steve Del Vecchio, Lindie Wilson, Elizabeth Way Rogers, Warren Way and Fran Way; Joe Swift, for his documentation skills; and Courtney Christensen, for helping in any and every way possible. Many thanks also to the Symposium Committee and all of those who helped “behind the scenes.” It truly was a day to remember, and such an honor to have so many gathered together sharing their love of Elizabeth Lawrence.

Join me on Third Thursdays for “Imbibe & Inspire”—in-depth tours of what’s new and exciting in the garden. Every tour is different, fun and informative! Register online at winghavengardens.org, or call 704.331.0664.

GARDEN-WORTHY GEMS: PLANTS TO KNOW AND GROW
Andrea Sprott, Garden Curator, Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden

Continuing Elizabeth Lawrence’s use of her garden as a testing ground, new and old plants are constantly added and evaluated. Those featured in this series have proven to be great performers or offer something exciting and different. Many are propagated for the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden Legacy Plants Collection, available for purchase in the garden and at Wing Haven Nursery’s plant sales.

BIG DUDE RAIN LILY Zephyranthes ‘Big Dude’
Zephyranthes ‘Big Dude’ is a little bulb that makes a bold statement in the garden. Zephyranthes are sometimes commonly called fairy lilies, which leads one to think they are— as Elizabeth Lawrence would say— “miffy.” Not so. All of the rain (fairy) lilies I have ever known and grown are pretty tough, and ‘Big Dude’ is no exception. For a flower that looks as if a) it should be made entirely of fondant and therefore delightfully edible, and b) it is soft, frail and will definitely melt in the heat of our summers, ‘Big Dude’ is decidedly none of that. Flying under the radar most of the year, its nearly evergreen shiny dark green foliage to 1/4” wide and 10” long combines nicely with neighboring plants—at the moment, the heat of our summers, ‘Big Dude’ is decidedly

While radical, the best “treatment” is complete soil removal. Current placement of all plant material in the bed is being documented, plants dug out and roots meticulously washed, and then potted up or planted in a holding bed. After that, the soil will be removed to a depth of 10” and new soil will be brought in. It is a daunting process, but well worthwhile!

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WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT WING HAVEN

On increasing the pathway accessibility of Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary…
“I was delighted to hear about plans to expand this beautiful, restful Charlotte treasure - where friends and supporters can rest and commune with nature and the birds - away from the noise and bustle of ever fast-growing Charlotte. The goal of making it more and more available to all ages and accessible to handicapped is worth working towards. I know I am grateful for all these efforts and love to visit this treasure whenever I need some inner peace.” - Nancy Elberson

On volunteering at the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden…
“I love being here because it feeds my soul.” - Nancy Neely

On the story of Elizabeth and Eddie Clarkson and the history of Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary…
“I love this place and the love story - between the couple that built it, and the love between them and nature.” - Paul Kramer

On visiting the garden…
“A must-do for anyone who seeks solace and commune with nature, close to Charlotte and surrounding area. I was blessed with clear blue skies, moderate winds, and near-spring temperatures. ... It is so much more than what I expected. Each turn of the garden is a delightful find. The mix of heights of trees/plants, the presence of saint sculptures, the delightful calls of the birds and sound of wind, the sun and shade both reveal great beauty... it is truly a spa-like treatment for one’s senses.” - Lee Hoover
YEAR OF THE BIRD: INSPIRATION THROUGH THE GENERATIONS
Jill Goodrich, Children’s & Family Education Coordinator

This year, 2018 has been declared the Year of the Bird by the National Audubon Society and others. Between all the many children’s and family programs — preschool outreach, children’s tours, seasonal programs for families and Scout workshops — we stay busy behind the scenes building and fostering deep relationships with our cohorts in the community. Charlotte is fortunate to have many active organizations that strive to connect people to nature. At Wing Haven we depend on these partnerships to keep the gardens open and programs running! The Mecklenburg Audubon Society is a particularly special partnership because of its history with Wing Haven — the Clarksons spearheaded the formation of this group many decades ago.

“Originally established as a local bird club in the late thirties by Elizabeth and Eddie Clarkson of Wing Haven, the Mecklenburg Audubon Society became the first official North Carolina chapter of the National Audubon Society in 1970.” (Mecklenburg Audubon Society website). However, many don’t know that it was a child, Charlie Sellers, that inspired the formation of the group.

At a young age, Charlie found a keen interest in birds. He later befriended the Clarksons and visited their garden often. It is said that at the age of 17, Charlie inspired the Clarksons with a call to form a birding club — which they did — which eventually became the Mecklenburg Audubon Society.

Charlie was one of many children who visited the Clarksons over the years. Children were allowed to explore their garden, get close to wildlife, observe the birds and listen to their history. Not a week goes by that a visitor doesn’t tell us a personal story about Elizabeth and Eddie and how they were inspired to appreciate birds, love the natural world and return to Wing Haven. Our programming may continue to grow and evolve, but we often receive feedback that the original charm of Wing Haven still lives in each program. Our hope is that all of our programming brings awareness to the importance of birds and the need to protect them, as well as sparks an interest in ornithology and related sciences in children of all ages.

Just as Charlie inspired the formation of a birding club that grew into the first chapter of the state’s Audubon Society, children visiting Wing Haven continue to inspire us to enhance our programs. Wing Haven will not only contribute to this year-long celebration of birds through activities offered and enjoyed, but will further demonstrate its dedication to our feathered friends with the development of the SEED Wildlife Garden. Children have been the inspiration for SEED — a green space that will not only be enjoyed by our youngest visitors, but also by the birds.

Please contact Jill Goodrich, if you have questions about or are interested in our children’s programs or events: jill@winghavengardens.org, 704.331.0664 x103.

Nearly 100 visitors, adults and children, enjoyed Wing Haven for the Great Backyard Bird Count, a world-wide event to capture an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. Over the 4-day period in mid-February, participants strolled through the gardens observing and counting the birds. The Great Backyard Bird Count was launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society and invites everyone to be a citizen scientist for at least 15 minutes. Participants at Wing Haven submitted over 2,800 bird sightings, including the following 47 species:

- American Crow
- American Goldfinch
- American Robin
- Baltimore Oriole
- Black Vulture
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Brown Thrasher
- Brown-headed Nuthatch
- Canada Goose
- Carolina Chickadee
- Carolina Wren
- Chipping Sparrow
- Common Grackle
- Coopers Hawk
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Downy Woodpecker
- Eastern Bluebird
- Eastern Phoebe
- Eastern Towhee
- European Starling
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Hermit Thrush
- Great Horned Owl
- House Finch
- House Sparrow
- Mourning Dove
- Northern Cardinal
- Northern Mockingbird
- Pine Warbler
- Purple Finch
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-throated hummingbird
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Song Sparrow
- Summer Tanager
- Swallow
- Tufted Titmouse
- Turkey Vulture
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- White-crowned Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler

Shout out to Mecklenburg Audubon Society for participating and volunteering for this event, enhancing participant experience with guided bird walks, species identification and even a bird scope! The most common bird spotted - you guessed it, the Northern Cardinal, our state bird!

For more information: The Great Backyard Bird Count - gbbc.birdcount.org Mecklenburg Audubon Society - meckbirds.org
SPRING AND SUMMER SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE HAVEN
Visit winghavengardens.org for details and to register today or call 704.331.0664.

APRIL
- 4 - 29 Birdhouse Building Contest Viewing
- 14 Backyard Gardening Workshop*
- 14 Girl Scout Badge Day*
- 25 Nosh & Knowledge Series: Gardening for Love
- 29 Tea Time in the Garden

MAY
- 5 - 6 Gardeners’ Garden Tour

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST
- June 18-22 Camp Wing Haven*
- July 16-20 Camp Wing Haven*
- August 13-17 Camp Wing Haven*

* Children’s and Family programming

SPECIAL OFFER FOR WING HAVEN FRIENDS
Anyone who subscribes to Garden Design using the link gardendesign.com/winghaven will get their first issue free, plus $12 will be donated to Wing Haven. Anyone who wants to support Wing Haven may use it—friends, family, or members. We love garden inspiration wherever we can find it!

“I belong to that great fraternity whose members garden for love; they are called Brothers of the Spade. Some own estates, some are directors of botanic gardens, and some have only small back yards. The small back yards sometimes harbor the rarest plants.

Though the Brothers of the Spade may be professional gardeners, or nurserymen, or old ladies who sell flowers through the mail, they are all amateurs in the true sense of the word — they garden for love. Among them they preserve a reservoir of plants that could never be collected in any one place ... for the preservation of plants depends upon individual effort, and it is only in private gardens, in lonely farm yards, and around deserted houses that certain plants no longer in the trade are still to be found.”

- Elizabeth Lawrence

A Garden of One’s Own

SAVE the DATE
October 13, 2018
FARM to TABLE
Check website for details and ticket information online soon
GARDENS IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES

Many healthcare institutions across the country provide special programming including access to gardens or natural settings for patients, family and staff, leading to improved outcomes for patients including short hospital stays, better pain management and less medication.

An article in *Scientific American* addressed the effect of gardens on hospital outcomes. Can gardens, in fact, promote healing?

It turns out that they often can. Scientists around the world are now digging into the data to find out which features of gardens account for the effect. The notion that the fresh breezes, dappled sunlight and fragrant greenery of a garden can be good for what ails us has its roots in ancient tradition and common sense. But a much cited study, published in 1984 in the journal *Science* by environmental psychologist Roger Ulrich, now at Texas A&M University, was the first to use the standards of modern medical research—strict experimental controls and quantified health outcomes—to demonstrate that gazing at a garden can sometimes speed healing from surgery, infections and other ailments.

Just three to five minutes spent looking at views dominated by trees, flowers or water can begin to reduce anger, anxiety and pain and to induce relaxation, according to various studies of healthy people that measured physiological changes in blood pressure, muscle tension, or heart and brain electrical activity.

“Let’s be clear,” says Clare Cooper Marcus, an emeritus professor in landscape architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, “spending time interacting with nature in a well-designed garden won’t cure your cancer or heal a badly burned leg. But there is good evidence it can reduce your levels of pain and stress—and, by doing that, boost your immune system in ways that allow your own body and other treatments to help you heal.”

Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary has long been recognized as a place of healing and peaceful refuge for humans and wildlife. With the completion of our brick pathway accessibility project this past winter, we hope to find even more ways to share the restorative spirit of Wing Haven’s gardens with more patients, hospital employees, caregivers and those in need of healing.

“...gazing at a garden can sometimes speed healing from surgery, infections and other ailments.”

**GARDENS IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES**

**PLAN NOW FOR PHOTOGRAPHY SESSIONS IN THE GARDENS**

Capture your special memories in our gardens! Wing Haven offers the perfect backdrop of nature for your family portraits, bridal and engagement portraits. We offer private access to the gardens after public hours at a nominal cost. The Education Building may be available to clients for privacy if preparation for a photo shoot is needed.

Contact Office Administrator Beth Gilbert today to schedule a session: beth@winghavengardens.org or 704.331.0664 ext. 101.

*Photo: Abigail James Photography*

FOLLOW WING HAVEN

Remember to follow us on Instagram and Twitter (@winghaven_) and like us on Facebook (@WingHaven) for insights, images, news and notes on the garden!

“Elizabeth Lawrence says that the best time to plant anything is when someone says they’ll give it to you.”

- Elizabeth Clarkson
April 29, 1977

Elizabeth Clarkson trained the many volunteer docents that greeted visitors to Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary. She would lead a tour of the entire property, showing every point of interest, sharing stories and information. On April 29, 1977, the tour was recorded and later transcribed. This was Elizabeth Clarkson’s answer to a trainee asking the best time to plant the woodland scilla (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) that lines the path in the woods behind Frog Hollow.
OPEN HOURS:
Wednesday - Saturday 10 - 5

WING HAVEN STAFF

Barrett Sloan Ranson
Executive Director

Susan Little Evans
Development Director

Beth Gilbert
Office Administrator

Danny Perez
Damou Sako
Gardeners,
Wing Haven Garden & Bird Sanctuary

Andrea Sprott
Garden Curator,
Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden

Jill Goodrich
Children’s & Family Education Coordinator

Lydia Hudson Skardon
Volunteer Coordinator

Sally Brown
Wing Haven Host

Beverly Pearson
Weekend & After-Hours Host

Lorraine Piephoff
Accountant

Cultivating sanctuary in nature,
environmental stewardship and the
legacy of Southern horticulture

2018 GARDENERS’
GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, May 5
Sunday, May 6

Tickets and details available at
winghavengardens.org/events
and Blackhawk Hardware
$30 prior to May 5
$35 May 5 & 6 (At will-call, 248 Ridgewood Avenue)