



To all the members of the Friends of the Arboretum (FOA) family, greetings and Happy New Year!

As we bring 2018 to a close, I'd like to call your attention to a few accomplishments in the last quarter of this past year. The FOA submitted a grant application to the Cape Fear Garden Club (CFGC). The purpose of this proposal was to insure funding for the installation of perennial and annual plants in the new "Cape Fear Shade Garden" area that replaced the bog garden. In September we received news that we were awarded a \$3,300 grant for this purpose. During the award ceremony sponsored by the CFGC, David Johnson, owner of Johnson's Nursery in Willard, NC, announced that he was also awarding \$300 to each grant recipient to provide additional plant material for their project. Many thanks to Will Bailey for the creation of the slate pathway and "rock river bed" in this area and to Ken Campbell's carpentry crew for their efforts to construct a bridge that traverses this river bed.

2019 has the potential to be an exciting time for us all. This year we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Arboretum. Our new director, Lloyd Singleton, alluded to this in his introductory letter to everyone back in September. More information will follow in the months ahead.

The FOA is gearing up for our second annual Bubbles n Blooms event at the beginning of the summer. Karen Root will be coordinating this event. Stay tuned for more information.

As we enter the New Year, we also bid adieu to two of our FOA board members, Alice Canup and Donna Hurdle. We congratulate them on a combined 12 years of service to the FOA Board and to the Arboretum. They will continue to "pay it forward" through their ongoing commitment to the Master Gardener program.

In closing, let me bring to your attention the fact that the FOA is always looking to recruit volunteers to become involved in our efforts to help fund the development of the Arboretum gardens and its educational mission through NC State Cooperative Extension. You don't have to be a board member to donate your time and talent. Whether it be to the Art in the Arboretum, Bubbles n Blooms, or one of our various committees (i.e., Marketing, Technology, Membership, Special Events, Finance, Governance), these committees are always in need of folks who have some free time to contribute. If you are interested, the FOA is always looking for new board members. If you have talent and skills in one of these areas (i.e., marketing, creative writing, web site development, fund raising, sales, finance, event coordination, photography, information technology, etc.), you have a home in the FOA to apply your skills.

Do any of these opportunities pique your interest? Would you like to know more about them and our organization? Then contact me via phone (910-619-4237) or e-mail (jaranallinc@gmail.com) to arrange a conversation. I look forward to hearing from you.

May all of us have a year filled with blessings and opportunities, but most of all good health!
Hope to see you around the Arboretum,

John Ranalli, President, FOA

