

CNPS Mission:

To offer intensive classes, taught by professional botanists, horticulturalists, and gardeners, which inspire an appreciation and understanding of native plants, including identification, ecology, habitat requirements, and use in home landscape gardening.



CNPS was founded in 2009 by Dr. Larry Mellichamp, Director Emeritus of the UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens. It was one of the first such programs in the Southeast, offering a challenging curriculum focused on the knowledge and cultivation of native plants.



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Certificate in Native Plant Studies

*Designed specifically for
those interested in
the diversity and use of
native plants of the Carolinas*



Certificate in Native Plant Studies

Requirements:

To receive a Certificate in Native Plant Studies, you must have successfully completed 100 contact hours of Native Plant Studies Classes.



Enrollment in the Certificate Program is not required to take individual CNPS classes.



Benefits:

The knowledge gained from the CNPS curriculum can be applied practically whether the certificate holder is a professional gardener, landscaper, botanist, botanical artist, conservationist, amateur naturalist, or home gardener.

Required Core Classes

These classes are required core classes. We recommend these are taken early in a students' CNPS experience.

Basic Botany
Basic Ecology



Other Classes

Students may complete their 100 credit hour requirement with CNPS classes of their choice. Some classes we offer may include:

Advanced Botany
Advanced Ecology
Aquatic and Wetland Plant ID
Basic Pruning
Bird ID and Ecology
Botanical Drawing
Botanical Watercolor
Carnivorous Plant ID and Bog Ecology
Fern ID
Hummingbirds
Insect ID and Ecology
Landscape for Life: Earth-Friendly Home Gardening
Native Shrub ID
Native Tree ID
Plant Pathology
Plant Pest Diagnosis
Plant Propagation
Moss, Lichen, and Liverworts ID
Mushroom ID
Smart Native Landscape Design
Soils
Summer Perennials and Grasses
Weed ID and Invasive Ecology
Wildflower ID
Wildlife Gardening

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Core Instructors

UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens Staff:

Jeff Gillman, PhD Horticulture
MS Entomology
Director

Ed Davis, BLA (Landscape Architecture)
BFA Visual Art
Assistant Director

Additional Instructors

UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens works with ornithologists, professional landscapers, ecologists, wetland scientists, herbalists, and other native plant proponents who are knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and experienced teachers in the classroom and in the field.

Founders

Dr. Larry Mellichamp
PhD Botany & Director Emeritus

Paula Gross
MS Horticulture & Former Associate Director