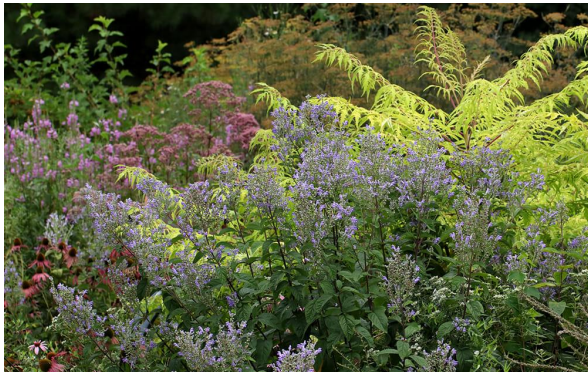


Program Update for Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Debbie Roos
Sustainable Agriculture Agent
NC Cooperative Extension, Chatham County Center



Cooperative Extension's **Growing Small Farms** Program for 2023

- Workshops & Webinars
- Other Presentations
- Pollinator Paradise Demonstration Garden Tours
- Social Media to Promote Agricultural Literacy
- Farmer Consultations
- Boards & Committees

- Done in partnership with the Chatham County Beekeepers' Association; 8-week school with 55 students
- ~30 hours of lecture and hands-on training
 - biology & life cycle of the honey bee; starting a new hive; equipment; safety; hive management; bee forage; pest & disease management
- 96% of participants said they acquired skills and knowledge to make them a better beekeeper





Fall Pollinator Workshops

- Two all day in-person workshops at the CCACC in September & October for a total of ~300 people from 36 counties
- The September workshop included a **Native Plant Sale** featuring our four Chatham County native plant nurseries that brought in about ~200 more people
- Participants learned about **Landscaping for Pollinators** with an emphasis on native plants and garden design, installation, and maintenance



4-H Pollinator Program

I organized a program for our 4-H youth around the **Great Southeast Pollinator Census** in mid-August and hope to do more interactive programs in the pollinator garden next year



Southeast Bumble Bee Atlas

I am part of the Southeast Bumble Bee Atlas project team where we recruit citizen scientists to collect information about bumble bees to help in their conservation. We held a field day at the pollinator garden in June.



ForestHer NC Workshops & Webinars

- I am part of the **ForestHer NC** team that conducts statewide workshops and webinars
- We did two in-person workshops at the CCACC in June and August for 150 folks from around the state
- We did a three-part webinar series on **Pollinators** for hundreds of participants



June ForestHer Workshop



August ForestHer Workshop



August ForestHer Workshop



Chatham Conservation Partnership Webinars

I am on the CCP Steering Committee and we conduct four webinars per year

2023 topics include:

- Snakes of the NC Piedmont
- Celebrating Milestones in Conservation
- Aquatic Ecosystem Conservation
- Bats of the NC Piedmont (October)




Other Presentations



- In addition to the webinars and programs I conduct in Chatham County, I did several invited presentations for other groups around the state, including:
 - NC State University classes
 - NRCS
 - CCCC
 - NC Pollinator Conservation Alliance
 - County Master Gardener Volunteers
 - UNC Pembroke
 - Regional garden clubs

Beneficial Insects as Natural Enemies

Debbie Roos



NC COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION

 N.C. A&T
STATE UNIVERSITY 

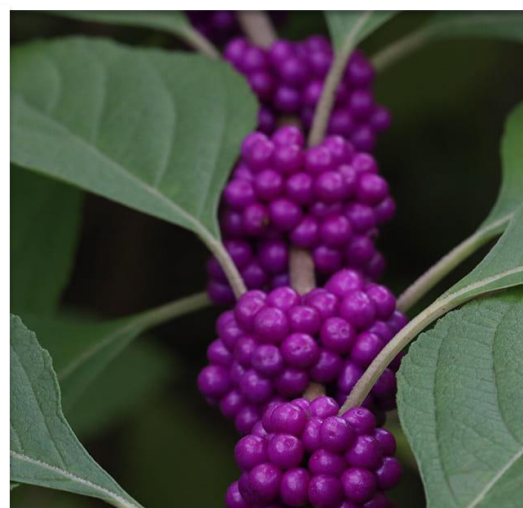
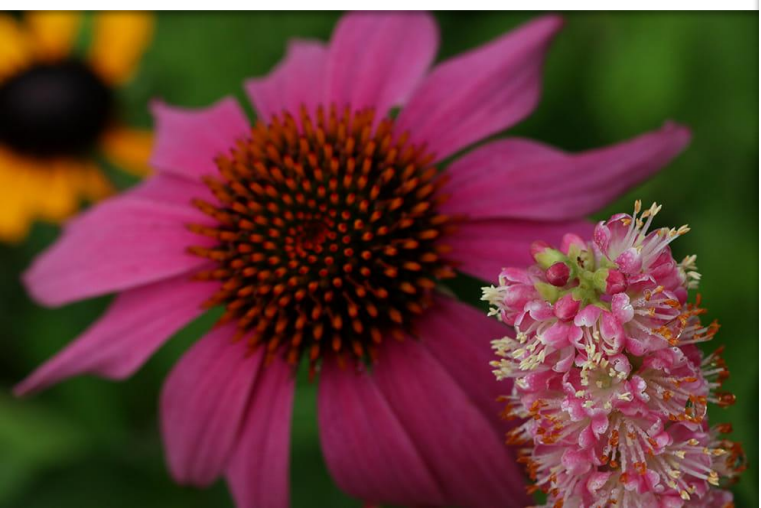
CHATHAM COUNTY CENTER

Pollinator Paradise Demonstration Garden

- This is the 15 year anniversary of the pollinator garden!
- I have at least 34 garden tours scheduled for 2023 (public and private)
- I also educate through social media and website articles





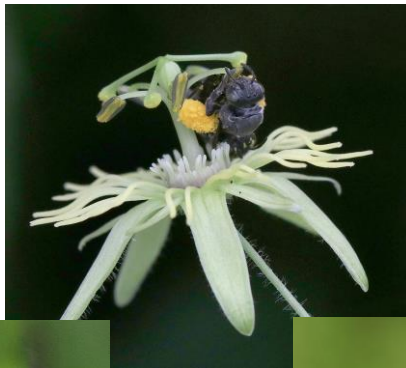


Examples of Website Articles about Pollinator Garden

Fall Chores
in the Pollinator Garden



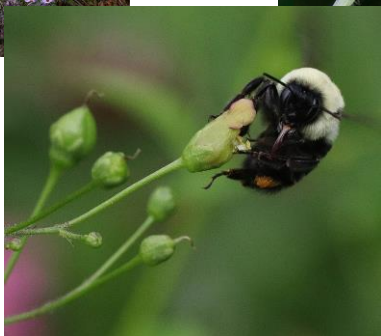
Passionflower Bee



Create Nesting Habitat
for Bees through Plant Stems



Late Figwort



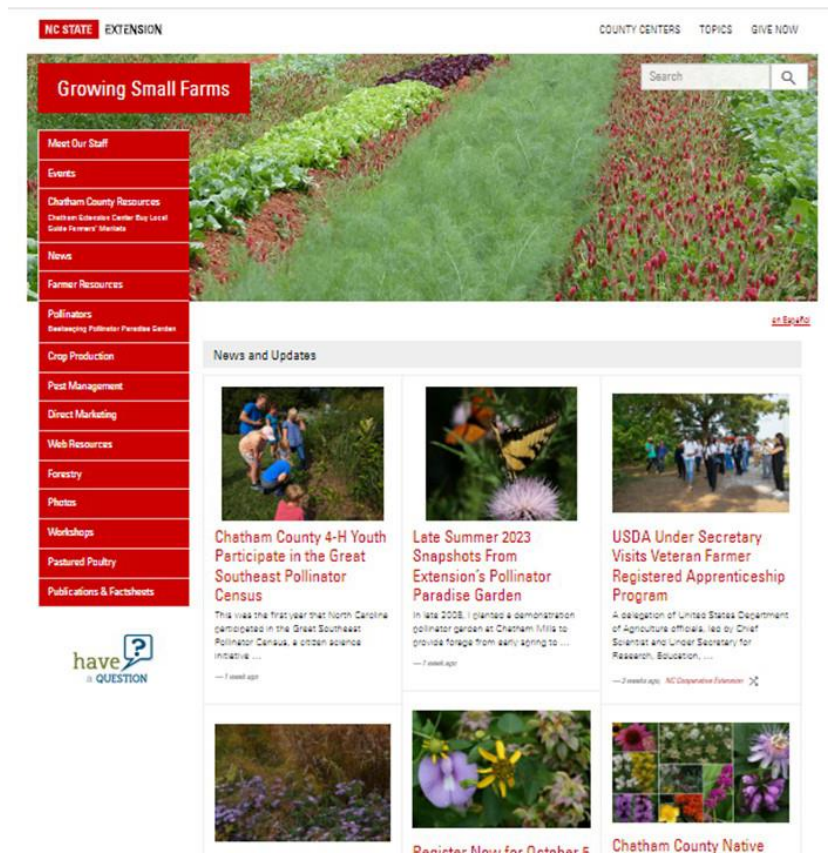
Camouflaged Looper



Growing Small Farms Website

growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu

- Last year was the **20th anniversary** of the GSF website
- The website grew to over 600 pages and has averaged 15,000 page views per month in 2023



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Growing Small Farms website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "NC STATE EXTENSION" on the left, "COUNTY CENTERS" and "TOPICS" in the middle, and "GIVE NOW" on the right. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a garden with various plants and flowers. A search bar is located in the top right corner of the banner. On the left side of the banner, there is a vertical red menu with the following items: "Meet Our Staff", "Events", "Chatham County Resources" (with sub-items "Chatham Extension Center Bay List" and "Cuba Farms' Menus"), "News", "Farmer Resources", "Pollinators" (with sub-item "Beekeeping Pollinator Paradise Garden"), "Crop Production", "Pest Management", "Direct Marketing", "Web Resources", "Forestry", "Photos", "Workshops", "Pastured Poultry", and "Publications & Factsheets". Below the menu is a "have a QUESTION" logo. The main content area is titled "News and Updates" and features three news items, each with a photo and a title: "Chatham County 4-H Youth Participate in the Great Southeast Pollinator Census", "Late Summer 2023 Snapshots From Extension's Pollinator Paradise Garden", and "USDA Under Secretary Visits Veteran Farmer Registered Apprenticeship Program". Each news item includes a short text snippet and a "Read More" link. At the bottom of the page, there are three more news items with photos: "Register Now for October 5", and "Chatham County Native".

Improving Agricultural Literacy

- An important part of my job is educating the public about:
 - Agriculture, farming, and the local food system
 - Pollinator conservation
 - Forestry, wildlife, & natural resources



Mustard cover crop at
Granite Springs Farm

Farm Visit Snapshots

- These photo stories on my Growing Small Farms website capture a day or two (sometimes more) in the life on a farm
- I post them as a way to improve agricultural literacy and promote local farms



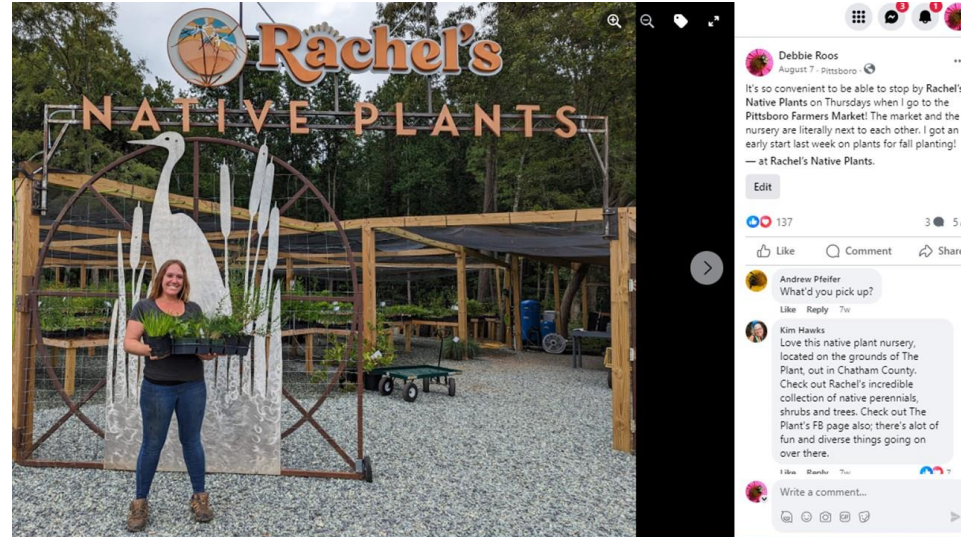
Harvesting dahlias at
Heart Song Farm

Farm Visit Snapshots: Rocky River Hemp



Social Media for Ag Literacy

- I use social media to educate and raise awareness and promote local agriculture and natural resources
- I love promoting our farms and farmers' markets through cooking!





Debbie Roos

September 17 at 5:40 PM · 🌐

I made a delicious Thai tuna rice bowl featuring yellowfin tuna from **Hook & Larder** plus onions, cilantro, and peppers from **In Good Heart Farm** and **Heart Song Farm NC**.

Edit

👍❤️😱 98

9 🗨️ 1 📄

👍 Like

🗨️ Comment

➦ Share

Most relevant



Catherine Phelps

Very colorful equals very healthy

👍 Reply 2w



2



Nicole Lewis



Write a comment...





Debbie Roos

August 13 . 🌐

Most delicious dinner from bountiful local produce! Tomato tart, marinated eggplant, and sauteed sweet corn. Thanks to **Grand Hope Farm**, Alex and Betsy Hitt, **Four Dog Farm**, and **Red Hawk Farm** for tomatoes, eggplant, garlic, and basil...corn and red pepper from neighbors and oregano from my garden.

Edit

👍❤️😮 65

4

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Tony Phillips
Beautiful

Like Reply 6w 👍



Write a comment...





Debbie Roos

July 19 . 🌐

Had the best BLT for dinner, all local! Bread from **Sour Bakery**, tomatoes from **Grand Hope Farm**, bacon from **Woodland Farm NC**, and lettuce from **In Good Heart Farm**! Got everything yesterday at the **Ferrington Farmers' Market** except the lettuce which I got at last week's **Pittsboro Farmers Market**. The sandwich was so big the dogs had to help me finish it! Thank you market vendors for the excellent food.

Edit

👍❤️ 127

7 🗨️

👍 Like

🗨️ Comment

➦ Share

Most relevant



Write a comment...



Farmer Consultations

- Addressing proactive issues as well as immediate problems
- Enterprise development, crop issues, pest and disease ID and management, marketing, etc.



Connecting NCSU Researchers to Farmers

- I often get asked to help connect NC State University researchers to farmers when they need collaborators
- I have several projects this year where I helped recruit farmers to work with researchers



These NCSU researchers are at a Chatham farm studying biological control of whiteflies, a common crop pest

Boards & Committees

- Chatham Conservation Partnership Steering Committee
- ForestHer NC Workshop Committee
- NC Pollinator Conservation Alliance
- NCSU Climate Office Advisory Committee
- NC State Extension Farm Planning Portal Team
- Chatham Community Food Council

Thank You for Your Support!



Questions?

