

The Arboretum needs your help

By now most of you will have heard that the North Carolina Arboretum is threatened with severe budget cuts as a result of the economic recession and the resulting decline in state revenues. The Arboretum is a component of the university system and obtains about two-thirds of its operating budget from the state, with the remainder coming from the North Carolina Arboretum Society and donations. Several part-time and temporary positions have already been eliminated, and seasonal summer positions will not be filled. It is likely that some full-time positions will be cut. Thus far, the rumor that the Arboretum will be closed is not correct.

Most members of the CMC, like me, consider the Arboretum an important part of what makes the quality of life of this region so special. I have been a volunteer there for almost ten years and have hiked hundreds of miles along its trails. Therefore, I am urging you to join me in doing whatever you can to help support it.

You can:

- e-mail your state representative and senator in support
- become a member of the North Carolina Arboretum Society
- make a contribution to the donation box at the entrance to the Baker Center or Education Center next time you're there
- become a volunteer. A variety of skills are needed, from gardening and working in the greenhouse to data entry and other office work. See the list and obtain an application at www.ncarboretum.org. Contact Lynne Garrison, Volunteer Coordinator, at lgarrison@ncarboretum.org or 828-665-2492 ext, 219, to set up an appointment to see how your skills and interest match with available volunteer jobs. (Soon they will need folks to plant the quilt garden.)

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