



FOR RELEASE: August 16, 2011

CONTACT:

Allison D. Inman, Marketing & PR Coordinator

adinman@ncarboretum.org

(828) 665-2492 x204

Noted Author to Speak at Symposium Hosted by The North Carolina Arboretum

ASHEVILLE, NC – The North Carolina Arboretum will host a half-day symposium featuring botanist and author, Dr. John Grimshaw. The symposium is presented by the Southern Appalachian Rock Garden Society, and will take place Wednesday, September 14.

Having been interested in plants all his life, Dr. Grimshaw holds a first class degree in botany and a doctorate in African forest ecology from Oxford University. Though African plants remain his primary focus, he is fascinated by all plant life and will adventurously attempt to grow anything in the garden. Dr. Grimshaw finds the origins of garden plants to be of particular significance, having traveled around the globe to see plants growing in their native habitats. His first book, *The Gardener's Atlas*, recounts the journeys plants have made from their beginnings to our gardens.

Dr. Grimshaw is currently Gardens Manager at Colesbourne Park in Gloucestershire. He is responsible for maintaining and developing the historic Elwes family garden, particularly the snowdrop collection. In addition to *The Gardener's Atlas*, he has co-authored *Snowdrops: A Monograph of Cultivated Galanthus* (with Matt Bishop and Aaron Davis) and *New Trees: Recent Introductions into Civilization* (with Ross Bayton). He is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Advisory Committee on Nomenclature and Taxonomy, and Woody Plant Committee. Dr. Grimshaw is also an honorary elder of the Masai community of Lerang'wa, Tanzania.

The symposium will feature two lectures by Dr. Grimshaw: "In a Botanist's Garden – an Eclectic Sampling of the World's Flora," and "An Ethiopian Adventure – a Journey to the Bale Mountains with the Alpine Garden Society." Registration for the symposium is \$20 for Arboretum members and \$25 for non-members. Parking fee and light refreshments are included in the program fee. Seating is limited and registration is required. Registration is available online at www.ncarboretumregistration.org/Rock-Garden-Society-Symposium-P555.aspx, or you may call (828) 665-2492 to register by phone.

For more information, visit www.ncarboretum.org. The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institution of the 17-campus University of North Carolina system, is to cultivate connections between people and plants.

###

The NC Arboretum is located next to the Blue Ridge Parkway entrance at Milepost 393. From I-26, take Exit 33 and follow Blue Ridge Parkway signs for two miles to the entrance ramp. Visit www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit for parking fees, property hours and building hours. For general information call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org.