

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT GRADUATION CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023

EDUCATION CENTER
The North Carolina Arboretum



Celebrating the Accomplishments of the Graduating Class of 2023

Blue Ridge Naturalists

Rebecca Bringle ♦ Chuck Darnell ♦ Elizabeth Gurnack
Erin Healy ♦ Joyce Hooley ♦ Mary Howell
Patricia Mayhugh ♦ Richard Mayhugh ♦ Patricia McClurkin
David Meyer ♦ Diane Rivers ♦ Joanne Roudebush
David Teafatiller ♦ Monwell (Monte) Westphal

Blue Ridge Eco Gardeners

Georgia Bullington ♦ Carol Carraux ♦ Marcy Cox
Chris Harvey ♦ Karen Herrell ♦ Leah Horton
Barbara Pell ♦ Kathy Seltzer ♦ Tina Tilstra
Sharon vansickle ♦ Pamela vanTassel

“Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond.”

— Robin Wall Kimmerer —

*Braiding Sweetgrass:
Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and
the Teachings of Plants*

Graduation Celebration Program

Welcome

Jonathan Marchal, Director of Education

Address

Anthony Squitieri, Wild Bird Research Group

Presentation of Certificates & Tiles

Sharing Impact

Giving Gratitude

Charge to Graduates & Guests



Blue Ridge Naturalist Final Projects - 2023

Rebecca Bringle

Establishing a Pollinator Garden at Asheville Catholic School

Chuck Darnell

Creating Champion Hills Community Newcomer Guides

Elizabeth Gurnack

Establishing a Pollinator Garden at Malvern Hills Park

Erin Healy

Inclusive Ecology: Expanding Accessibility & Deepening Learning Outcomes in Ecology of the Blue Ridge

Joyce Hooley

Establishing the Hazelwood Elementary Native Wildflower Garden

Mary Howell

Developing the ecoEXPLORE Volunteer Program

Patricia & Richard Mayhugh

Finding "Smokies Most Wanted" at Sugarlands Visitor Center Pollinator Garden

Patricia McClurkin

Photographic Booklet and Trail Maps For Wild Oak School

David Meyer

Building a Birding Observation Platform - Gateway Nature Preserve

Diane Rivers

Waterfall Healing: Harnessing the Restorative Power of Waterfalls for Mental, Physical, and Emotional Health

Joanne Roudebush

Fern Identification and Education in Biltmore Lake

David Teafatiller

Tree & Woody Shrub Inventory at Beaver Lake

Monwell (Monte) Westphal

Safely Enjoy the Outdoors-Preventing Tick-borne Diseases