Highlands Biological Station
Botanical Gardens & Grounds Planning and Advisory Committee
Update for HBS Board of Directors
March 28, 2021

Ken Conover, Chair

The Botanical Gardens & Grounds Planning and Advisory Committee (herein referred to as Committee) welcomed Rachel Martin to the HBS family and the Committee at our December meeting. We are excited that she has assumed the position of Horticultural Specialist and is focusing on managing the garden collection.

Roadmap Finalization

The Committee, under Lynda Anderson's leadership, completed its initial priority of developing an updated HBS Botanical Gardens & Grounds Roadmap. The Roadmap was unanimously accepted by the Committee at our January meeting. The Roadmap articulates actions that will be taken by the HBS with respect to the gardens and grounds to support its long-term goal of being a world class destination for field biology, research, academics, and public engagement.

Roadmap Implementation

The HBS will lead the implementation plans to achieve specific actions and will work with the Committee to establish subcommittees, when needed. The Station and Committee will track progress, document achievements, review priorities and accomplishments annually, and re-prioritize, as necessary.

Some of the Roadmap priority actions are being implemented in-house by the HBS while implementation of some priority actions will require the assistance of Committee members or others. The HBS identified three top priority actions items that require assistance from the Committee:

1. South gateway garden (P1) and wayfinding and interpretation signage (P2). The subcommittee is led by Jason Love and includes Jim Costa, Liz Sargent, and Rachel Martin. The subcommittee worked with Equinox Environmental who prepared project proposals to lead the detailed planning processes. Phase 1 includes the wayfinding and interpretative signage plan estimated at $24,000. Phase 2 includes the south gateway and azalea garden redesign plan estimated at $50,000. The Committee approved the project proposals at our March meeting. The HBS then shared the project proposals with the Foundation for their funding consideration.

2. HBS conservation mission statement and conservation program (C2). The conservation mission statement and goals will dovetail with the Living Collections and Appropriate Use

Policies. The subcommittee will be led by Rachel Martin and include Jason Love, Jim Costa, Ken Conover, and Johnny Randall (Director of Conservation Programs, North Carolina Botanical Garden).

3. Bridges and boardwalks (G1). This involves preparing inventories bridges and boardwalks, assessing their status, and formulating recommendations to replace and harmonize the style, quality, and materials. Trail standards including surfacing and edging will be addressed in a second phase of this project. Jason Love or Jim Costa will lead this subcommittee and include Rachel Martin and one or two Committee members.