

Damon E. Waitt, Ph.D.

On April 13, 2015, Dr. Damon Waitt became Director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As Director, Waitt has broad responsibility for overall leadership and management of the North Carolina Botanical Garden and for ensuring that the Garden fulfills its mission *to inspire understanding, appreciation, and conservation of plants in gardens and natural areas and to advance a sustainable relationship between people and nature.*

Waitt comes to the North Carolina Botanical Garden from the Lady Bird Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas where he served as Senior Director and Botanist from 2001-2015. As Senior Director, Waitt had broad responsibility for developing the Wildflower Center's 279 acres of gardens and natural areas including capital projects like the Mollie Steves Zachry Texas Arboretum and the Luci and Ian Family Garden opened in 2014. In addition, he supervised program activities in Horticulture, Site Management, Plant Conservation, Education, Invasive Species Initiatives, Growing Operations and Living Collections. Waitt also served as the Wildflower Center's botanical authority and was the author of the Center's Native Plant Information Network (www.wildflower.org/explore).

Waitt holds a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Texas in Austin, an M.S in Botany from Louisiana State University Baton Rouge and a B.S. in Biology from Tulane University. Prior to joining the Wildflower Center in 2001, Dr. Waitt served on the faculty at Saint Edward's University and Southwestern University and as Director of Environmental Programs for the Associated Colleges of the South.

Dr. Waitt serves on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee for the National Invasive Species Council, is founder of the Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council and past chair of the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils. He is also past chair of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Advisory Committee and past-president of the Texas Academy of Sciences.

Contact Information

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