



Presented by The North Carolina Arboretum  
Asheville, NC

Thursday, March 8, 2018  
9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration is NOW OPEN for the pre-conference workshops and the conference.

There is a growing demand for natural dyes for use in the textile, cosmetic, and food industries, but local sources for many of these dyes are scant. This conference is hosted by The North Carolina Arboretum in conjunction with Local Cloth. Designed for professionals in the farming, herb, and textile industries and for anyone interested in the fascinating history and potential of natural plant-based dyes, the conference aims to focus awareness about issues and opportunities in plant dyes and encourage a sustainable natural dye industry in Western North Carolina.

### FEATURED SPEAKERS

#### KEYNOTE: Natural Indigo for Ecological Dyes

**Michel Garcia** of Lauris, France, is a botanist, chemist, dyer, and naturalist. He is the founder of Couleur Garance (1998) in Lauris and established Le Jardin Conservatoire des Plantes Tinctoriales (Botanical Garden of Dye Plants) in 2000 as a horticultural resource for chemists, natural dye researchers, and botanists. Instrumental in revitalizing the natural dye scene in France and abroad, Michel’s efforts have been pivotal in cultivating a greater understanding of natural dye history and teaching more sustainable adaptations for current practice.

#### FEATURED SPEAKER: Growing a Natural Dye Garden

**Donna Brown** is a fiber artist from Denver, Colorado, and has been a natural dyer for over 30 years and has taught in venues across the US, including Penland School of Crafts and John C. Campbell Folk School. She is the former owner of the DyeWorks, a natural dye company and does production natural dyeing. She was instrumental in starting a natural dye garden at the Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farm.

#### PANEL DISCUSSION: Growing Root Dyes

**Karen Hurtubise** of Qualla Berry Farm will talk about growing **turmeric**. Historically spread throughout Asia and Africa as a yellow dye, turmeric is still widely used as food colorant with a distinctive flavor. **Margaret Bloomquist** of the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center will talk about **bloodroot**, used in a key Native American dye for river cane and white oak baskets. Current research on bloodroot is supported by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Several dyers will discuss their experience growing and dyeing with **madder**, considered one of the most important red dyes historically.

Just Added

### PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

Just Added

#### Indigo Application: A Demonstration

Wednesday, March 7; 9:30 a.m. to Noon

\$37 Arboretum Society Member / \$47 Non-Member; Limit: 18 participants

Michel Garcia will demonstrate a newly developed process for making and printing with indigo dye paste onto linen fabric and fixing the pattern by steaming. There will be limited opportunity for hands-on practice, but participants will be given instructions for the process. Michel will be assisted by **Catharine Ellis**.

#### Tannin and Dye Plant Walk Through the Garden

Wednesday, March 7; 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

\$42 Arboretum Society Member / \$47 Non-Member; Limit: 16 participants

Commonly found in leaves, barks, roots, and fruits of trees, tannins are used to produce wine, leather, and ink and can greatly enhance a natural dyer’s practice. Join Michel Garcia for a walk through the Arboretum’s gardens including the Heritage Craft Garden to learn about tannins and natural dyes and their applications. This will be most interesting to those who have already begun to explore natural dyes.

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register for *Growing Color* and the pre-conference events: [www.ncarboretum.org/education-programs/lectures-symposia/](http://www.ncarboretum.org/education-programs/lectures-symposia/)

#### Before January 1, 2018

\$70 Arboretum Society Member/\$75 Non-Member

#### After January 1, 2018

\$80 Arboretum Society Member/\$85 Non-Member

Registration fee includes lunch and snacks. Register separately for pre-conference events.

For more information, please contact Beth Johnson, Adult Education Coordinator: Call 828.665.2492 or Email [ejohnson@ncarboretum.org](mailto:ejohnson@ncarboretum.org)

