

Lockerly Arboretum, located in Milledgeville Georgia, is looking for an enthusiastic, Plant Loving team player to serve as our Horticulture Director. The Arboretum is a 50 acre oasis located just a mile from downtown in the heart of Middle Georgia's Lake Country. We are 53 years old and were founded by a great lover of nature, Mr. Edward J. Grassmann. We are a non-profit, 501(c)3 and are open to the public 6 days a week.

The ideal candidate will come to us as a degreed Horticulturist with public garden experience, a keen respect and appreciation for our current collections yet bring an enthusiasm, passion and vision for what is yet to come. As Horticulture Director, you will have responsibility for all aspects of our plant collections, including planning, planting, maintenance & care, signage, accession records/data base management, coordination, motivation and management of our volunteer Dirt Diggers and orchestrating our annual Spring Plant Sale. We are searching for someone who will love and care for our trees and plants as if Lockerly is their own garden, anxious to make it better and utilize their network of horticulture contacts when searching for best practices and ideas.

Lockerly Arboretum is a Level II accredited arboretum through ArbNet and we will be pursuing Level III accreditation over the next 3 years. This person will be key in helping us achieve that status as well as playing a key role in setting a vision for future growth and development, implementing new initiatives, developing action plans, procedures and schedules to help take Lockerly to the next level.

We are also a Conifer Reference Garden through the Southeastern Region of the American Conifer Society and a Georgia Camellia Trail participant. If you have the desire to direct and guide our horticulture growth into the future, then review the qualifications listed below. If you meet our requirements, we would like to hear from you. Your enthusiasm, passion, previous experience and desire to make a difference may be the right fit for our small but nimble organization.

Job Description:

Lockerly Arboretum seeks a team player with excellent interpersonal skills and a passion for plants to serve as our Horticulture Director. The Horticulture Director reports to the Executive Director and is an integral part of a team-focused approach to developing and achieving ambitious goals. The Director must embrace a challenge, have a strong work ethic, understand how horticulture goals affect the bottom line, be a strategic thinker with a "can-do" attitude and respond well under pressure. As a key public face of Lockerly Arboretum, the Director will build relationships with volunteers and visitors, and be a passionate advocate for the organization and our collections.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Manages the annual departmental operating budget and evaluates programs and projects to ensure maximum cost effectiveness.

- Participates in the development, review and implementation of Arboretum procedures to ensure the grounds and plant collections are consistently maintained at the highest possible standards.
- Administers the Collections Management Program to ensure that our plant collections are planned, creatively designed and planted, developed, maintained.
- Ensures that best horticultural practices are applied in Arboretum maintenance via the Maintenance Plan.
- Supports all efforts to enhance the visitor experience by planning and implementing new strategies and programs to engage visitors in horticulture.
- Supports institutional events and programs, serves as an active participant on committees.
- Write monthly articles for the Arboretum's newsletter and the local newspaper.
- In coordination with the Director of Education, plan horticulture specific demonstrations, programs, tours and presentations that are offered to visitors.
- Organizes our Dirt Digger volunteer groups to support the horticulture goals of Lockerly.
- Supports peers and staff in achieving overall institutional goals.
- Serves as an external representative of the organization and as a liaison with key organizations to support achieving Lockerly's goals.

Education and Experience:

- 2 or 4 year Degree in Horticulture or related discipline, with 3-5 years of hands-on experience at public gardens.
- Required: proficiency in MS Office, greenhouse systems, accession records/database management.
- Preferred but not required: knowledge of GIS, irrigation systems, grounds maintenance equipment.

Work Conditions:

This is a full time position, Monday through Friday, with occasional evening/weekend meetings and events. Candidates must have a valid driver's license. Finalists will submit to a background check.

To apply:

Please send a cover letter, resume and 3 references to searchcommittee@lockerly.org. No phone calls, please.