



## THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY

*11 Old Postal Road, P.O. Box 219, Cold Spring, NY 10516 (845) 265-9396*

### **The 2009 Marco Polo Stufano Garden Conservancy Fellowship**

The Garden Conservancy is seeking a gardener of outstanding promise to receive its ninth annual Marco Polo Stufano Garden Conservancy Fellowship. The Conservancy is looking for a gardener capable of making a significant contribution to American gardens in the twenty-first century.

The Conservancy wishes to recognize gardeners who have demonstrated the potential to distinguish themselves in the field of public horticulture, have the ability to work well with people and want to inspire in others a greater appreciation of excellence in horticulture, garden design, and garden preservation. Applicants should possess strong horticultural skills and aesthetic judgement, and sensitivity to the vision and motives behind the creation of exceptional gardens as well as to the needs of a new audience.

The goal of the Fellowship is to help a gardener attain the leadership skills necessary to manage an exceptional garden and develop it for public education and enjoyment. This year, the Fellow will gain practical experience with horticultural and management practices by performing hands-on work at the Elizabeth Lawrence House and Garden in Charlotte, North Carolina. The house and garden on this modest property was the home of renowned garden writer Elizabeth Lawrence. It was the inspiration for Lawrence's life-long celebration of Southern horticulture and was a living laboratory for the study and appreciation of plants and garden design. Wing Haven Foundation recently purchased the Lawrence property and the Garden Conservancy holds a conservation easement to protect this property and is now working with Wing Haven to plan for its long-term management and public use. (See below for a description of the Elizabeth Lawrence House and Garden.)

The 2009 Fellow will work with Wing Haven's horticultural team to care for the garden, revitalize portions of it, assist with further documentation of the garden, and be part of developing the Lawrence garden as a horticultural study center. This will involve hands-on garden maintenance such as weeding, pruning, watering and propagating as well as preservation maintenance such as rejuvenative pruning and caring for heritage plants. The Fellow will help identify many of the herbaceous perennials and small bulbs planted by Lawrence and complete an inventory of herbaceous plants. Further documentation of the garden and its history is underway and there may be opportunities for the Fellow to assist with this important preservation planning work.

The Garden Conservancy currently works with sixteen preservation projects including the Elizabeth Lawrence House and Garden. These projects, along with approximately twenty additional gardens that receive preservation assistance, range from significant historic landscapes of recognized designers now under restoration to small, personal gardens whose creators are still actively involved in their development.

The Fellowship is from September 8, 2009 to June 11, 2010. It includes a stipend of \$28,000 and housing.

### **To Apply**

Those interested should submit a current resume with cover letter to the Fellowship Office at the address below, or by e-mail to [fellowship@gardenconservancy.org](mailto:fellowship@gardenconservancy.org) by March 30, 2009. **Candidates must be U.S. citizens or have a current, valid immigrant visa.**

Resumes and letters will be reviewed by Garden Conservancy staff and members of a national search committee. Interviews for finalists will be scheduled in May 2009.

For more information about the fellowship, please visit the Garden Conservancy's website, [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org) or contact:

Fellowship Office  
The Garden Conservancy  
P.O. Box 219  
Cold Spring, New York 10516  
(845) 265-9396, ext. 18  
[fellowship@gardenconservancy.org](mailto:fellowship@gardenconservancy.org)

### **The Elizabeth Lawrence House and Garden**

Elizabeth Lawrence (1904-1985) was already a recognized garden designer and writer when, in 1949, she moved from Raleigh to Charlotte, North Carolina, and began making a garden.

Lawrence, the only woman in the first program of landscape architecture offered in the South is regarded as a preeminent figure in the region's horticultural history. As she wrote in an autobiographical essay published posthumously in the collection *A Garden of One's Own*, Lawrence quickly learned "that a knowledge of plant material for the South could not be got in the library, most of the literature of horticulture being for a different climate, and that I would have to grow the plants in my garden and learn about them for myself." Her books and articles on what she learned constitute a curriculum on gardening in the South and a distinguished library of literary garden writing. Lawrence's garden, where she learned and reported many of her lessons, is on a modest urban lot—just 70' x 225'—in a historic neighborhood, near Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary. It has a formal design, with five intersecting gravel paths outlining four informally mixed borders still filled with a significant number of her plants. A small woodland stands at the back of the property. In 1984, Lawrence, in declining health, moved to Maryland. Two years later, the property was privately purchased and remained in private ownership until 2008 when it was purchased by Wing Haven. Today the house and garden are on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Mecklenburg County Historic Landmark.

The Garden Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the property, which will permanently protect the design, layout, architectural features and main plant features of the garden and house. Wing Haven will manage the garden as a living laboratory in order to continue the legacy of Elizabeth Lawrence.