

SONJA M. SKELLY

CURRENT POSITION

Director of Education, Cornell Plantations – 75%

One Plantations Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 255-2406
sms92@cornell.edu

Responsible for:

- ◆ Leadership, coordination, and strategic development of the education, communications, interpretation and visitor services programs at Cornell Plantations-the arboretum, botanic garden, and natural areas of Cornell University. Programs serve K-12, undergraduate and graduate student populations, adult continuing education and casual visitor populations, University alumni and friends of Cornell Plantations.
- ◆ Leadership and coordination of the Cornell Plantations Graduate Fellowship in Public Garden Leadership.
- ◆ Collaboration with Cornell University faculty and administration for the use of Plantations for academic purposes.
- ◆ Budget oversight, staff supervision (6-7 full- and part-time staff, 4 graduate assistants, 2-3 student employees), management and development of staff performance, recruiting and hiring of staff.

Lecturer, Department of Horticulture – 25%

Minor member of the Graduate Faculty

Responsible for:

- ◆ Teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on plants and human well-being, public garden management, public garden education, and garden-based learning.
- ◆ Serving as a committee member for students pursuing graduate degrees in horticulture, specifically public garden leadership and plants and human well-being.

EDUCATION

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| 2000 | Ph.D. | <u>Horticultural Sciences</u> , University of Florida. Coursework emphasis in horticulture, sociology, psychology and education. |
| 1997 | M.S. | <u>Horticultural Sciences</u> , Texas A&M University. Coursework emphasis in horticulture, sociology and education. |
| 1994 | B.A. | <u>Anthropology</u> , Texas A&M University. Minor: Chemistry. |

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2002 – present | Director of Education, Cornell Plantations, & Lecturer, Department of Horticulture Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. |
| 2000 – 2002 | Assistant Extension Professor – Consumer Horticulture Specialist, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi State, MS. |
| 1999 | Interim State Master Gardener Coordinator, Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. |
| 1997-2000 | Teaching/Research Assistant, Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. |
| 1996-1997 | Teaching/Research Assistant, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. |

1994-1996 Palynology Laboratory Manager and Technician, USDA – ARS, College Station, TX.
 1992-1994 Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed:

Skelly, S. M. and J. C. Bradley. 2007. The Growing Phenomenon of School Gardens: Measuring their variation and affect on students' sense of responsibility and attitudes toward science and the environment. *Applied Environmental Education and Communication*, 6(1):97-104.

Klemmer, C. and S. M. Skelly. 2006. The changing face of education. *The Public Garden*, 21(2): 8-12.

Skelly, S. M. and C. Hetzel. 2005. The role of academic institutions in developing future leaders. *The Public Garden*, 20(3): 14-17, 42.

Goodwin, D., D. Rakow, and S. M. Skelly. 2005. Paths to the community: How public gardens link to their neighborhoods. *The Public Garden*, 20(2): 35-37.

Skelly, S.M., T.C. Kohlleppel, J.C. Bradley, and M.E. Kane. 2002. Professional Development for Graduate Students. *NACTA Journal*, 46(4):16-18.

Skelly, S. M. and J. C. Bradley. 2000. School Gardens: Their importance as perceived by Florida elementary school teachers. *HortTechnology*, 10(1):229-231.

Skelly, S.M. and J.M. Zajicek. 1998. The Effect of an Interdisciplinary Garden Program on the Environmental Attitudes of Elementary School Students. *HortTechnology* 8(4):579-583.

Bradley, J. C. and S. M. Skelly. 1998. Children's gardens – Implications for the future. *In*, Proc. Florida State Horticultural Society Research Conference. 110:405-407.

Research:

Skelly, S. M. 2000. The Growing Phenomenon of School Gardens: Cultivating Positive Youth Development. Ph.D. Dissertation. University of Florida Press. Gainesville, Florida.

Skelly, S. M. 1997. The Effect of Project GREEN, an Interdisciplinary Garden Program on the Environmental Attitudes of Elementary School Students. MS Thesis. Texas A&M University Press. College Station, Texas.

Book:

Skelly, S. M. and J. M. Zajicek. 1996. Project GREEN (Garden Resources for Environmental Education Now) Book 2: Interdisciplinary Garden Activity Guide. Instructional Material Services. College Station, Texas.

Extension:

Skelly, S. M. 2002. Cold Protection of Ornamental Plants. Publication 2303, Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Skelly, S. M. 2002. Holiday Houseplants. Publication 2309, Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Skelly, S. M. 2002. Mulches for the Landscape. Publication 2301, Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Skelly, S. M. 2002. Forcing Indoor Bulbs. Publication 2300, Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Kelly, L. S. and S. M. Skelly. 2001. Mississippi 4-H Junior Master Gardener_{sm} Program - Guidelines for Extension Agents. Information Sheet 1578, Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Kelly, L. S. and S. M. Skelly. 2001. Mississippi 4-H Junior Master Gardener_{sm} Program - Guidelines for Volunteer Leaders. Information Sheet 1626, Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Kelly, L. S. and S. M. Skelly. 2001. Mississippi 4-H Junior Master Gardener_{sm} Program - Information for Prospective Sponsors. Information Sheet 1551, Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Kelly, L. S. and S. M. Skelly. 2001. Mississippi 4-H Junior Master Gardener_{sm} Program - Information for Prospective Volunteer Leaders. Information Sheet 1596, Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Conference proceedings:

Skelly, S. M. 2001. The Florida School Garden Competition. *In*: Proc. 2001 International Master Gardener Conference.

Skelly, S. M. 2001. The Past, Present, and Future of School Gardens. *In* Proc. Growing Awareness: 4th Annual Southwest Region Community and School Gardening Conference.

Skelly, S. M., and J. C. Bradley. 2000. The growing phenomenon of school gardens: Cultivating positive youth development. *In*: Proc. National Youth Garden Symposium. p.128.

Skelly, S.M. and L. S. Kelly. 2002. Planting the seeds of change: the impact of a youth gardening program on teachers, parents, and students. *Acta Horticulturae*.

Skelly, S. M. and J. C. Bradley. 2000. Measuring the intensity of school gardening programs and the impact on positive youth development. *HortScience*, 35(3):472.

Skelly, S. M., T. C. Kohlleppel, M. E. Kane, and J. C. Bradley. 2000. Professional development for graduate students: A course offering at the University of Florida. *HortScience*, 35(3):472.

Skelly, S. M., and J. C. Bradley. 1998. Schools, children, and gardening: the results of a children's garden competition among Florida elementary schools. *HortScience*, 33(3):504.

Skelly, S. M. and J. C. Bradley. 1998. Designing and evaluating survey instruments for research in human issues in horticulture. *HortScience*, 33(3):554.

Skelly, S. M. and J. M. Zajicek. 1998. The Effect of an Interdisciplinary Garden Program on the Environmental Attitudes of Elementary School Students. *HortScience* 32(3):504.

Newspaper, newsletters, websites:

Skelly, S. M. 2007-2003. Cornell Plantations Annual Reports, Newsletters, Website.

Skelly, S. M. 2002, 2001, 2000. Weekly Horticulture Tips. Sent to Agents throughout Mississippi, often published in Mississippi Newspapers.

Skelly, S. M. 2002, 2001. Master Gardening: A quarterly newsletter for Mississippi Master Gardeners.

Skelly, S. M. 2001. Home Gardening Webpage <http://msucares.com/> Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Skelly, S. M., T. C. Kohleppel, and J. C. Bradley. 1999. Gator Gardening for Kids Webpage. <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/ggk/> Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- ◆ HORT 235 – *Plants and Human Well Being*, Department of Horticulture Sciences, Cornell University, 2004, 2005, 2006, Instructor.
- ◆ HORT 485 – *Public Garden Management*, Department of Horticulture Sciences, Cornell University, 2003, 2005, Instructor.
- ◆ HORT 497 – *Independent Study*, Department of Horticulture Sciences, Cornell University, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007 Instructor.
- ◆ HORT 694 – *New Directions in Public Horticulture*, Department of Horticulture Sciences, Cornell University, 2003, 2004 Instructor.
- ◆ HOS 6932 – *Professional Development*, Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, 2000, Course developer, Coordinator.
- ◆ ORH 3813 – *Introduction to Landscape Horticulture*, Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, 1997, Teaching Assistant, Guest Lecturer.
- ◆ ORH 3050 – *Principles of Floral Art*, Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, 1998(2), Teaching Assistant, Guest Lecturer.
- ◆ ORH 1030 – *Plants Gardens and You*, Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, 2000, Guest Lecturer.
- ◆ HORT 301 – *Horticultural Techniques*, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1996, Guest Lecturer.
- ◆ HORT 302 – *Horticultural Techniques Lab*, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1996, Instructor.
- ◆ HORT 203 – *Flowers and Plants Used in the Interior*, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1996, Teaching Assistant.

EXTENSION and PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

Consumer Horticulture Education for Mississippi State University. 2000-2002

- ◆ Planned, developed, and evaluated horticulture education and outreach programs in relation to ornamental plants in the home landscape emphasizing consumer needs.
- ◆ Coordinated and trained Area Horticulture Agents and County Extension Agents regarding consumer oriented ornamental horticulture programs.
- ◆ Directed the State Master Gardener Volunteer Program supporting horticulture extension faculty and volunteers in 29 counties throughout Mississippi. Provided ornamental horticulture subject matter expertise and train-the-trainer training for the Master Gardener program.
- ◆ Served as the primary liaison for consumer issues with the state's green industry.
- ◆ Served as a resource on ornamental issues with municipalities.
- ◆ Coordinated, supervised, and managed grants, programs, and research projects in relation to the Junior Master Gardener program.

Interim Master Gardener Coordinator. University of Florida. 1999

- ◆ Supported ongoing Master Gardener programs with extension faculty and volunteers in 52 counties throughout Florida.
- ◆ Collaborated with extension and academic faculty throughout the state and conference coordinators to organize the 2000 Florida Master Gardener Continuing Education Conference.
- ◆ Represented the Florida Master Gardener Program at the 1999 International Conference to promote Florida as the site for the 2001 International Master Gardener Conference.
- ◆ Supervised a student worker and secretary assisting the Master Gardener Program.

Florida School Gardening Initiative. University of Florida. 1997-2000

- ◆ The Initiative, a collaborative effort with the University of Florida, the EPCOT® Flower and Garden Festival, and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs promotes gardening in elementary schools throughout Florida through a school garden competition.
- ◆ Assisted in the development and implementation of the Initiative in 1998.
- ◆ Coordinated the Initiative, serving as a liaison between the collaborators and the schools.
- ◆ Developed promotional material (brochures, forms, and website) for the Initiative.
- ◆ Judged entries and assisted in the awards program for winners and runners-up.
- ◆ Assisted in writing grant proposals and securing funds for the Initiative.
- ◆ Supervised a graduate student assistant working with the program. Trained this individual to take over as coordinator.

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING**Cornell University:**

- ◆ Jonathan Landsman, M.P.S. 2009 Citizen Science Programs at Public Gardens.
- ◆ Melanie Sifton, M.P.S. 2009 Sustainable Garden Design at Public Gardens.
- ◆ Jessica Blohm, M.P.S. 2008 Interpretive Master Planning at Public Gardens.
- ◆ Miriam Pinsker, M.P.S. 2008 Assessing the Impact of Large Events at Public Gardens.
- ◆ Debra Rich, Ph.D. 2007 – “Effects of exposure to plants and nature on cognition and mood: a cognitive psychology perspective.”
- ◆ Carol Bebb, M.P.S. 2007 – “Plant diversity conservation in the Hawaiian islands.”
- ◆ Michael Barnes, M.P.S. 2007 – “Historic Garden Survival: Strategically Growing Human, Funding, Physical Site, and Organizational Resources.”
- ◆ Rachel Kennedy, M.P.S. 2007 – “Sustainability in public gardens.”
- ◆ John Manion, M.P.S. 2006 – “Referencing botanical nomenclature at public gardens.”
- ◆ Jennifer Evans, M.P.S. 2005 – “Interpretive exhibit design in public gardens: theory and practice.”
- ◆ Anna Halverson M.P.S. 2005 – “Field of dreams: a grass-roots approach to starting a children’s garden.”
- ◆ Duncan Goodwin, M.P.S. 2004 – “Paths to the community: how can public gardens link to their neighborhoods?”
- ◆ Julie Warsowe, M.P.S. 2004 – “Certificate program evaluation at public gardens.”

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING

Cornell Plantations Education Programs. Participate in regular fundraising and grant writing efforts to support Cornell Plantations’ programs, primarily education, interpretation, and visitor services efforts.

Mississippi Junior Master Gardener Program. Value \$20,000. Funded by the Mississippi Nursery and Landscape Association and the Mississippi State University Extension Service. January 2001-January 2003. Co-PI.

Florida Children’s Gardening Initiative. Value \$7,900. Funded by the Florida 4-H Foundation. January 2001-December 2001. Co-PI.

Florida School Gardening Initiative. Value \$55,000. Funded by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Florida. August 2000-August 2003. Co-PI.

University of Florida International Horticulture Study Tours. Value \$15,000. Coordinator and manager, fund raising efforts. University of Florida. 1997-2000.

SERVICE AND GOVERNANCE

- ◆ Leader – Cornell Plantations Education and Interpretation Advisory Committee, Cornell University, 2002-present.
- ◆ Representative – for Cornell Plantations partnership in Ithaca’s Discovery Trail, 2002-present.
- ◆ Member – College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Communications Program Group; Plant Science IT review committee, Cornell University, 2006-present.
- ◆ Member – Department of Horticulture, Teaching Committee, Cornell University, 2005-present.
- ◆ Member – Horticulture Priority Program Group, Mississippi State University, 2000-2002.
- ◆ Member – Volunteer Management Priority Program Group, Mississippi State University.
- ◆ Member – Green Team, Mississippi State University, 2000-2002.
- ◆ Member – Mississippi Weed Control Guidelines Ornamentals Committee. Mississippi State University, 2000-2002.
- ◆ Member – State Volunteer Management Task Force, Mississippi State University, 2000-2002.
- ◆ Member – Organizational Development Advisory Committee, Mississippi State University, 2000-2002.
- ◆ Coordinator - Christmas Open House, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences Greenhouses. Mississippi State University, 2000.
- ◆ Vice President – University of Florida Environmental Horticulture Graduate Student Association, 2000.
- ◆ Co-coordinator – University of Florida Plant Festival, 1999; 2000.
- ◆ Member – Environmental Horticulture Graduate Student Travel Grant committee 1999; 2000.
- ◆ Judge – Florida FFA Agriscience Fair – Junior Division 2000.
- ◆ Judge – Florida School Garden Competition 1998; 1999; 2000.
- ◆ Judge – Florida Master Gardener Project Awards, 1997; 1998.
- ◆ Judge – University of Florida Jack L. Fry Excellence in Teaching Award, 1998.
- ◆ Assistant – Texas State FFA Horticulture Contest, Texas A&M University, 1996; 1997.

AWARDS

- ◆ APGA Dorothy E. Hansel Award for outstanding publication – Cornell Plantations’ Annual Report, Editor, 2004.
- ◆ Jack L. Fry Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Florida 2000.
- ◆ Alpha Zeta Outstanding Graduate Student Award, University of Florida 2000.
- ◆ Muriel Rumsey Foundation Scholarship, University of Florida 2000.
- ◆ Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Travel Grant, University of Florida 1998; 2000.
- ◆ Graduate Student Travel Grant, University of Florida 1999.
- ◆ Department of Horticultural Sciences Travel Grant, Texas A&M University 1997.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- ◆ American Public Garden Association (APGA) – Education Committee – Chair, 2006-present.
- ◆ American Horticultural Society (AHS) – National Youth Gardening Advisory Panel – Member.
- ◆ American Society of Horticultural Scientists (ASHS) – Manuscript reviewer, HortTechnology.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Annual attendance at APGA conferences.
- ◆ Cornell University Leadership Development Program.
- ◆ Cornell University Thornfield Teaching Enhancement Program.
- ◆ Cornell University Supervisory Training.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- ◆ University of Florida Horticultural Study Tour, England. 2000.
- ◆ University of Florida Horticultural Study Tour, France. 1999.
- ◆ University of Florida Horticultural Study Tour, Holland. 1998.