





Nestled in the heart of Downtown Conyers is a brilliant gem of peace and tranquility — the Lewis Vaughn Botanical Garden. Located on 1.5 acres between Main and Commercial Streets, this oasis of beauty offers visitors and residents alike the opportunity to learn more about the Georgia Piedmont region's native plant and aquatic life while enjoying a good book, a leisurely stroll or a peek at the wonderful goldfish pond.

Lewis Candler Vaughn, for whom the garden is named, was born in 1897 in Newton County, Georgia, but he spent his boyhood and teenage years in Conyers. Mr. Vaughn graduated from Conyers High School in 1917 and attended Auburn University where he received a degree in engineering.

In the 1930's Mr. Vaughn and his wife, Varina, developed a love for orchids, and they became quite well-known for the development of numerous new species of orchids through hybridization. The Vaughns were named honorary vice presidents of the American Orchid Society, and Mr. Vaughn served as its president from 1964 to 1966. Mr. Vaughn's sister-in-law, Winona Jordan, shared the Vaughns' love of orchids as well as their love of the outdoors and landscaping. So when Mr. Vaughn created the Vaughn-Jordan Foundation in June of 1983, which would offer grants in the area of botanical and horticultural sciences, he named it for both himself and his sister-in-law who shared his passion for plants.

In the early 1990's the Mayor and City Council of Conyers envisioned a public space, located in the Historic Commercial District known as Downtown Conyers. The purpose of this space would be to highlight the history of Conyers, to educate, and to provide a place where the citizens of the community could gather together for events such as spring and summer concerts, art exhibits, festivals and holiday celebrations like the annual Downtown Fabulous



Fourth and the summer programs designed to attract visitors — the annual Downtown Summer Series.

During the autumn of 1991, the piece of property on which the garden and pavilion now stand was identified for use as a City park, and at that time, a grant was secured from the Vaughn-Jordan Foundation to build a botanical garden, that would serve to continue the legacy of the Vaughns' love of botany and horticulture. The plan included a specially designed botanical garden that would exhibit native plants of the Georgia Piedmont. The City of Conyers added a 6,400 square foot pavilion equipped with lights, a public address system and other amenities that could be used for community events in conjunction with the garden.



Over the next four years the plan became reality. Today as you enter the park from Commercial Street, catch a glimpse of a waterfall that springs from the historic granite tower that served as the first water storage tank for Conyers in 1900. The waterfall serves to narrate the cycle of water from nature to human consumption. In nature, the process begins high in the mountains as a waterfall that turns into a stream. Along this water course are eddies and ponds that support plants and aquatic animals that are native to our area.

As you stroll through the garden, a variety of peaceful sights and sounds await you. Sounds of gently falling and trickling water splash from the water tower and babble along through ponds filled with water lilies and goldfish. A southern garden would not be complete without the brilliant, purple blooms of wisteria creeping along a trellis, magnolias blooming summer-long, or flame colored rhododendron and azaleas head high. As you wind your way along the path you may here sounds of live Gospel or Jazz music emanating from the pavilion or experience the joy of a child as he listens to a croaking bullfrog and watches the fish lazily swim by.

