



WHEREAS, Daniel J. Stowe set aside 350 acres in southeastern Gaston County for the establishment of a world-class botanical garden, developed a master plan and opened 120 acres, including a spectacular Visitor Pavilion, manicured gardens and more, to the public in 1999; and,

WHEREAS, the garden and its supporters have helped it grow and expand, adding an Orchid Conservatory, Lost Hollow: the Kimbrell Children's Garden and more than three miles of hiking trails; and,

WHEREAS, more than 125,000 people visit the Garden on an annual basis to enjoy a wide variety of programs, exhibitions, and special events throughout the year; and,

WHEREAS, the Garden serves a variety of audiences including about 10,000 schoolchildren each year and hundreds of brides throughout the region who choose to have their wedding in Gaston County; and,

WHEREAS, the Garden is celebrating its 20th Anniversary by the grand opening of a new restored piedmont prairie garden, the presentation of two special exhibitions, including Grandiflora: Gamrath Glass at the Garden and Stickwork by Patrick Daugherty and other events; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners recognizes that the Garden contributes significantly to the tourism economy in Gaston County, boosting stays at local hotels, helping increase business for retailers and restaurants and employing dozens of people on a full-time and part-time basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of June 2019 as

DANIEL STOWE BOTANICAL GARDEN MONTH

in Gaston County.

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman

Chad Brown, Vice-Chairman

Bob Hovis

Jack B. Brown

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 28th Day of May 2019