

## Famed Gardener Nancy Goodwin's Biography of Her Garden at Montrose

Something is blooming every day of the year in the renowned gardens at Montrose, Nancy Goodwin's nineteenth-century property in historic Hillsborough, North Carolina. Since moving to Montrose with her husband in 1977, Goodwin has transformed more than 20 acres into an extraordinary complex of interlocking gardens that come in and out of focus as the seasons overlap and change.

Beautifully written and illustrated, *Montrose: Life in a Garden* (October 2005) is Goodwin's affectionate biography of her gardens, recounting how and why each section was developed over the years, including the Dianthus Walk, Nandina Land, Hellebore Slope, Mother-in-Law Walk, Snowdrop Woods, and Jo's Bed. It is also a meticulous month-by-month chronicle of a specific year in these gardens—a year that saw a punishing drought that threatened Goodwin's no-irrigation policy, a damaging December ice storm, and the beginnings of a plan to preserve Montrose in the future.

Working on her knees for long days throughout the year, Nancy Goodwin always has a vision of how her gardens will appear in twelve months or in twelve years. She will spend weeks, for instance, planting hundreds of snow drops along a woodsy path in order to enjoy a fleeting week of exquisite beauty in coming years. She never puts anything into the ground without imagining what form, color, and texture it will add to a bed. With tireless patience and unflagging optimism, Goodwin will wait years to see a single plant bloom.

Following Goodwin's activities throughout the year, readers will learn the fundamentals of maintaining a four-season garden in Zone 7 in the South, one that does not require constant irrigation and chemical intervention in order to thrive. They will also learn about this remarkable woman whose life is devoted to gardening.

Award-winning garden illustrator Ippy Patterson collaborated with Goodwin throughout the year in which the book was written. Almost every day, she went to Montrose to read what Goodwin had written the previous day, then executed meticulously detailed pencil-and-watercolor drawings of plants, creatures, and landscapes. More than 160 of these color illustrations appear throughout the book.

312 pp., 168 color illustrations, \$34.95 hardcover  
ISBN 0-8223-3604-9; October 24, 2005

DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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