

# Q&A With Daniel Livingston



Today we're meeting Daniel Livingston of Moore Farms Botanical Garden, a stunning garden in Lake City, and major champion of the Fellowship Program. Let's dive deep into Daniel's passion for horticulture & partnership with the Conservancy!

## What's your name and your current title?

My name is Daniel Livingston, and I am the Director of Horticulture for Moore Farms Botanical Garden

## How did you get into the environmental/horticultural field? Who or what have been your greatest influences?

I first fell in love with horticulture working at a garden center in Columbia, S.C. while attending college.

## What is your favorite part of your work, and what have you found to be the most challenging or needs support?

My favorite part of my job is working with plants and people. Horticulture, for me, has always been about creating beauty and providing an interest of the natural world. I can think of nothing better than enjoying a garden with friends. The most challenging aspect of my job is also the most enjoyable, people and plants. Those two entities have varying characteristics, needs, and focus.

## What's something you wished more people knew about your work?

- I wish more people could understand the importance of our natural world. All the intricate details that Nature has. It is both challenging and rewarding to work with and sometimes against nature. Trees, pollinators, ecosystems and their importance is something I think most people overlook. It's more than planting pretty flowers and containers.

## Why should kids and teens consider getting into this field?

Kids and teens should learn plant biology if for nothing more than to enjoy growing and eating your own fruits and vegetables but also the importance of the natural world around us.

## What's your favorite plant to grow vs your favorite plant to simply "take in"?

My favorite plant to grow is impossible to answer. It changes with the season and sometimes weekly. Now most any perennial I can get my hands on. My favorite plant to "take in" would be a weeping taxodium. These trees fascinate me.

## Are there degrees, certificates, or continued education credits you'd still like to pursue related to horticulture/ecology/agriculture, etc?

I would love to obtain a landscape architecture degree.

## In what ways can people who work in different areas (horticulturists, ecologists, activists, community leaders), and are interested in supporting each other's work, come together and connect?

The beauty of horticulture is that plants and people can and are so intertwined. Trees provide us oxygen and remove carbon dioxide. Blooming plants provide nectar for bees which pollinate fruit and vegetable plants which in turn provide nitrogen to the soil. It's a beautiful cycle that I am proud to interact with daily. I think that is what can bring people together from all different walks of life.

## What do you hope for in the future?

I hope for a future where the average homeowner has a lush, diverse landscape that helps promote pollinators and wildlife. Massive green lawns, which are still important in the right application, do nothing to replace the ecosystems lost to our ever-advancing world.

To learn more about Daniel & Moore Farms visit <https://moorefarmsbg.org/>