



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

A congregation of dayflowers "holding court" behind Weaver Street Market

FLORA FROM PAGE 1

Upon a closer look, you will spot a smaller white petal below the two larger blue ones. If you ever see a third blue petal, you've most likely come upon *Commelina virginica*, the native Virginia dayflower, which is a perennial of moist woodlands of the Piedmont and coastal plain regions. I don't recall ever having seen the native dayflower. During all of my more than three decades of woods walking, I must have seen it. I just didn't know what

I was seeing. Now a bit wiser, I'm keeping my eyes open for a new discovery.

Looking closely into the flower, you will be curious about what appear to be three or four miniature four-petaled yellow flowers. Those are sterile stamens; their curious colorful shapes must serve some practical function in attracting pollinators. For me, those yellow, flower-shaped sterile stamens give the dayflower an animated personality.

Paul Green expresses a wonderful sentiment in *The Paul Green Plant*

Book: "Not long ago my wife and I discovered two of these plants growing along the edge of the little stream that flows from our spring back of the house. Nearly every day in walking along our path we would turn off to see these little flowers."

Whenever you come upon this common dayflower, take a few moments to let your imagination reign. Don't be surprised if you are inclined to have a conversation with it. Go ahead, no one is looking; you're free to talk to a flower.



PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Joy Williams concluded expressing herself with words by delivering some physical expression.

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But dual activity seems to be part of her way. During her freshman year at Wheaton College, she started a dance team called TRYBE, now 10 years in existence. Throughout college, she traveled — to Spain, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mali and Guatemala, where she explored the African diaspora and learned native dances. After college, while still living in Boston, she studied ballet and worked in a soup kitchen before receiving a Fulbright grant for a dance exchange in Columbia in 2006 (see a video at youtube.com/dancechapelhill). She participated in the 2007 and 2008 American Dance Festivals while running a dance school in Carrboro.

In Mali, Williams will be part of a cultural immersion program at the Yeredon School in Bamako that will include learning dance, history and language before visiting villages.

"We will travel to learn dances and to provide a social component to protect children from malaria. We'll be educating whole families," Williams said. They will also distribute insecticide-treated netting.

Wherever she has traveled, she has learned the same thing.

"Blacks are always at the bottom," Williams said. "I wanted to explore why that was a truth, and the relationship between color and an interest in dance."

Following her project work in Mali, she will further explore social themes there. "Hip-hop and pop dance culture from the West is being introduced and I wonder how much it is affecting historical culture there . . . and how much dance is relied upon as a part of life."

Whatever she learns she will bring back with her to the dance school she started at Church of the Harvest on Hillview in Carrboro. She calls it Chapel Hill Dance and offers classes where she teaches people at all levels of ability how to express themselves through movement.

Her ultimate goal is to create global community by teaching cultural dances wherever she goes.

"I want to bring the desire for people to learn more, with more people taking trips to West Africa or taking courses at local colleges in hopes of furthering their understanding," she said.

She's planting seeds.

"The point is to come to a place where we can begin to experience a world that's not always about thinking that we have to be one up on another to get ahead."

She's undaunted by the magnitude of her desire.

"It's a big project but I don't feel like I'm carrying a burden," she said brightly. "There are many people using their talents, carrying the same hope."

Finished with talk, she got up and moved to a sunny place on the lawn and danced!

Learn more about Joy Williams, including how to make a contribution to help finance her trip at dancechapelhill.webs.com.

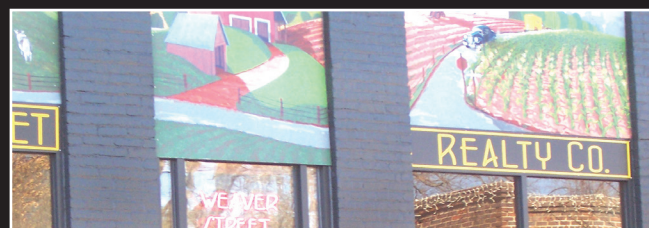
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LAKE LEVELS

UNIVERSITY LAKE: 2' 7.75" below full
CANE CREEK RESERVOIR: 4' 7.5" below full

PRECIPITATION THIS MONTH

JONES FERRY WATER TREATMENT PLANT: 7.32"
CANE CREEK RESERVOIR: 3.73"

CUSTOMER WATER DEMAND

Past 7 days (average): 8.158 million gallons
Past 30 days (average): 8.519 million gallons

ESTIMATED WATER SUPPLY REMAINING:

322 days worth (about 10 months), based on average demand in the last 30 days, and assuming no further rainfall.

[tip]:

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