

Mignon Durham

Born in Winston-Salem, NC in 1952, she graduated from Duke University and subsequently worked for Piedmont Airlines, Wachovia Bank, and Pilot Freight Carriers before starting her computer consulting company Management Decisions, Inc.

In 1983 she became actively involved with Penland School of Craft and it transformed her life. She served on the board of directors of numerous institutions, including the Winston-Salem Symphony, Planned Parenthood of the Triad, the Foundation Board for the NC School of the Arts, Piedmont Craftsmen, Penland School of Crafts, Handmade in America, the Governor's Western Residence Board and the Foundation for Mitchell County.

As an environmental activist, she founded Toe River Valley Watch to ensure environmental education and awareness in Mitchell and Yancey Counties.

As Interim Executive Director of the Foundation for the Blue Ridge Community Hospital, she collaborated to create Toe River Project Access, healthcare for low income uninsured residents in a community of high unemployment and unequal access to health care.

She served as an Assistant Vice Chancellor at UNC Asheville and as the Development Director for the Literacy Council of Buncombe County.

She served as a Pet Therapy Volunteer at several community locations and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and 12 Baskets Café.

Now living in Asheville, NC, she is committed to gardening as an antidote to climate change, political chaos and the isolation of a pandemic.

DEVOTION: Diary of an Appalachian Garden

Professionally designed and published in 2021, this book is 272 pages of gardening how-tos, meditations, and resource guides with hundreds of luscious color photographs. With special attention to often underused plants and to the wealth of her native woodland garden revived with the removal of exotic invasive plants and water management systems, this book will inspire new gardeners and professionals alike. Gardening is about relationships: with the wildlife that depends on our garden to survive and with the people who share their plants, their knowledge and their art which enhances our gardens.