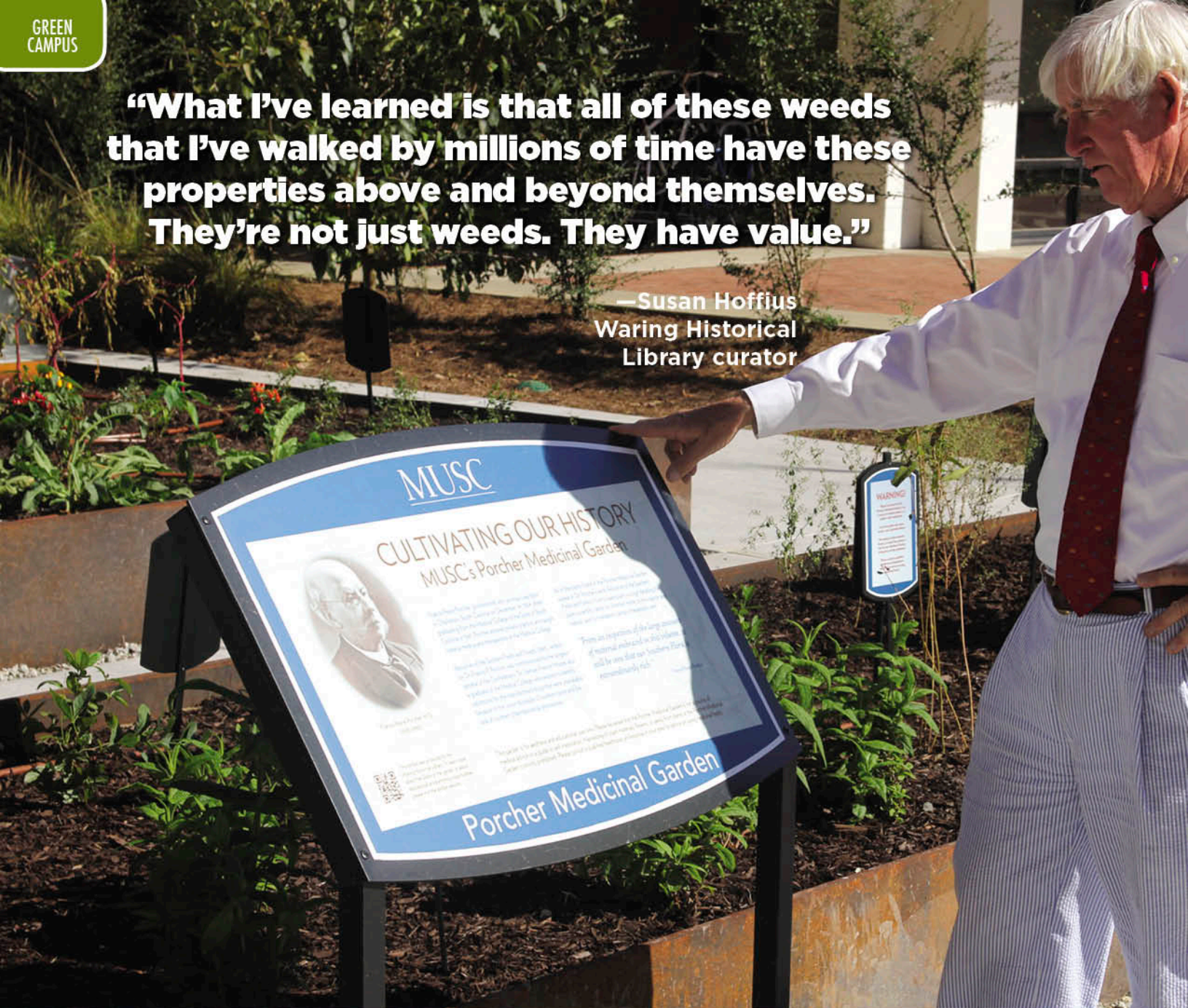


**“What I’ve learned is that all of these weeds that I’ve walked by millions of time have these properties above and beyond themselves. They’re not just weeds. They have value.”**

—Susan Hoffius  
Waring Historical  
Library curator



**G**reen must run in the blood of the Porcher family. It's only fitting that the hands of Richard Porcher, Ph.D., helped landscape the eight flowering beds of MUSC's Porcher Medicinal Garden that opened in 2012. Porcher realized his tie to Francis Peyre Porcher, M.D., for whom the garden is named, when he was in graduate school pursuing an interest in zoology. He took a field botany course and fell in love with the subject. He also learned about his ancestor, born in 1824, and the contributions he made, including authoring the book, “Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests.”

“All of a sudden, I realized I had a botanist background,” he says, adding that he has loved being involved in picking plants for the garden. Porcher, a noted field biologist himself and former

professor of biology at The Citadel, is a member of the Waring Library Society's board of directors.

“I think the garden is fantastic. Finally, people will have an idea of the contributions he [Francis Porcher] has made,” he says. He appreciates that the garden will be a living tribute to his ancestor and credits MUSC President Ray Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D., and Susan Hoffius, curator of the Waring Historical Library, for making it a reality.

“It's a fascinating piece of history. With the garden, it all comes full circle in seeing how those plants are being used today.”

Hoffius says she likes that connection as well. “It's exciting to reintroduce someone from our past to people today. The talent he had was indisputable. He was a botanist and he came from a long line of botanists. It sort of ran in his blood. He took that interest and knowledge of local flora and made it applicable in a medical setting.”

Though Porcher's book was written during Civil War time