inside this issue

Page 2  
Assoc. Director's Message

Page 3  
News from the Garden

Page 4  
Garden Education Update

Page 5  
The Geological Record

Pages 6–8  
Calendar: Events & Classes

Page 9  
Education cont’d & Thanks

Page 10  
Gardener’s Notebook  
Q&A

Page 11  
Members & Donors

Don’t Miss the Plant Sale: April 24–25

Plant Sales are the Garden’s biggest fundraising effort and a wonderful opportunity to find unique, hard-to-find, underused and hardy plants that will thrive in Zone 7. Master Gardeners of the Foothills and SCBG staff will be on hand to help you select the best shrubs and perennials for your landscape.

Thursday, April 23, 4:00pm – 6:00pm  
Friends reception to view plants and visit with fellow gardeners and staff

Friday, April 24, 2:30pm – 6:00pm  
Preview Plant Sale for Friends of the Garden only

Saturday, April 25, 9:00am – 1:00pm  
Public Plant Sale

Also visit the Plant Sale to see our new, updated Gift Shop items, featuring a wide variety of charming garden décor and accents.

Membership Drive: Thank You All!

At the time of writing this article, the Membership drive is nearly half-way complete, and we have been thrilled with the incredible response from Friends and community members. Thank you for dropping money into the new donation boxes and for mailing in or pledging donations. In the next Garden’s Gate, we will list our final fundraising results, and by then our donors should have received their prizes as well. We hope your donations will help us balance budget cuts and uncertain state funds. We are still unsure how much next year’s Clemson and state budgets (which start July 1) will affect the Garden, so please continue to support the Garden and let the community know that you value the resource we provide.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness in supporting the SCBG!
By the time you read this, spring will have definitely sprung. This means our Plant Sale is upon us and we’ve got some great offerings this year. I hope you make it. For many, that’s the only time I get to visit with you, and I enjoy listening to you and value what you share. And thank you in advance to all our wonderful volunteers (many of whom are Master Gardeners) for helping make it happen!

As you visit the Garden this spring, you may notice a few changes. One is the damage from our early March snowstorm. It was such a heavy and fast snow that a lot of our trees (and some shrubs) were either damaged or destroyed. In fact, the Dwarf Conifer Garden was seriously affected. As James and I surveyed the damage we looked at the bright side and said, “Well, now we can make some of the changes we’ve been talking about.”

Adjoining the Dwarf Conifer Garden, the Xeriscape Garden also took a hit. We lost a large vitex and our only mature specimen of Weeping Yaupon. We looked at that as an opportunity, too, as we in the final stages of renovating that garden. We’ve redone the stairs and stonework, put in new irrigation, sod and signs, and are replanting much of the area. We’re calling it our “Smart Garden,” as it will demonstrate how you can have a beautiful landscape using plants (mostly native) that require less water, pesticides, fertilizer and maintenance. We owe a huge “thank you” to the Garden Club of South Carolina for the generosity they showed in funding this project.

We also want to give a special thank you to the Clemson Garden Club who, over the past year, rallied their club so that now 100% of their members are Friends of the Garden. This was no small feat and they did it with smiles on their faces and a spirit of cooperation. As I write this, other garden clubs in the area are closing in on reaching the same goal of supporting the Garden through membership, volunteer hours, and adopting an area of the Garden—and each and every one has proven yet again that we are fortunate to have them as friends and partners.

And last, but not least, we want to thank all of you who participated in our membership drive. Please don’t underestimate how valuable each and every one of you are. We value your contribution, your volunteering, your ideas, and, above all, your validation of us as an important resource.

Remember, if the craziness of our rapidly changing world ever gets to you, you know you have a haven to visit—a place to recharge, refresh, and be gently reminded that life is all about cycles.

Onward and upward—
Garden Update

Carriage House Lawn Renovation
The Garden Operation staff spent several weeks in February and March renovating the lawn by the Betsy Campbell Carriage House. The lawn has suffered from poor drainage, a result of damage from tent stakes piercing irrigation lines and three major drain lines for the upper complex of the Fran Hanson Discovery Center. After setbacks from rain, repairs were completed in mid-March and new sod was laid.

SCBG Joins American Camellia Trail
The SCBG is now listed on the American Camellia Trail. The American Camellia Society promotes gardens on the trail to those interested in seeing and learning more about camellias.

Students Work on GPS Map of Arboretum
Dr. Lawrence Gering, a Clemson faculty member in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, is leading a class of 4-5 students to help map trees and topography in the 68-acre Schoenike Arboretum. From early March through late May, they will use GPS devices to accurately map the area. The Garden staff has been working on a complete GPS map of the Garden, so we greatly appreciate help from these students!

Hosta Garden Waterfall Back in Action
After setbacks from ice, Eric Soto and his team have replaced and relocated the pump in the Hosta Garden. The lovely waterfall and Hosta Garden Pond have been restored to full working order. Thank you for your patience during this difficult project.

Blog Showcases Fun Finds in the Garden
The Garden now has a blog! Staff members and volunteers are contributing photos and observations of bloomings, animal viewings and interesting stories from the Garden. Check in often to see what's happening out in the 300 acres. www.scbotanicalgarden.blogspot.com

Snow Damages Trees and Plants
The March snow and ice storm hit the Garden rather hard. Many of our trees were badly damaged and had to be removed. You may notice several missing trees and plants around the Garden, especially in the middle of the Dwarf Conifer Garden. We also lost some plants in the Xeriscape Garden, but luckily these won't be as noticeable as we are working to renovate this area.

Student Volunteers Unite to Help Garden
Many Clemson University students volunteered to work in the Garden on Saturday, March 7, as part of the Clemson Unity project. They helped spread mulch, build fences and remove invasive plants throughout the Garden. Thank you to everyone!

Students Work on GPS Map of Arboretum
Dr. Lawrence Gering, a Clemson faculty member in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, is leading a class of 4-5 students to help map trees and topography in the 68-acre Schoenike Arboretum. From early March through late May, they will use GPS devices to accurately map the area. The Garden staff has been working on a complete GPS map of the Garden, so we greatly appreciate help from these students!

Hosta Garden Waterfall Back in Action
After setbacks from ice, Eric Soto and his team have replaced and relocated the pump in the Hosta Garden. The lovely waterfall and Hosta Garden Pond have been restored to full working order. Thank you for your patience during this difficult project.

Blog Showcases Fun Finds in the Garden
The Garden now has a blog! Staff members and volunteers are contributing photos and observations of bloomings, animal viewings and interesting stories from the Garden. Check in often to see what’s happening out in the 300 acres. www.scbotanicalgarden.blogspot.com

Snow Damages Trees and Plants
The March 1st snow and ice storm hit the Garden rather hard. Many of our trees were badly damaged and had to be removed. You may notice several missing trees and plants around the Garden, especially in the middle of the Dwarf Conifer Garden. We also lost some plants in the Xeriscape Garden, but luckily these won’t be as noticeable as we are working to renovate this area.

Student Volunteers Unite to Help Garden
Many Clemson University students volunteered to work in the Garden on Saturday, March 7, as part of the Clemson Unity project. They helped spread mulch, build fences and remove invasive plants throughout the Garden. Thank you to everyone!

Staff Notes
Lisa Wagner and Peter Kent will be producing regular short pieces about vegetable gardening and related Garden events for “Your Day,” a CU radio program heard on SC-ETV Radio from noon to 1 pm. These spots will air periodically on the Monday and Thursday shows. Lisa Wagner, John Bodiford and Ryan Merck will also be hosting the regular live call-in gardening segment of “Your Day” on April 21.

Your Day Programs are also available online at http://yourday.clemson.edu/

Christian Cicimurri and Lisa Wagner each led three-hour educational programs in the Garden and Museum as part of the Master Naturalists of South Carolina conference, held in Clemson in March.
Why not try an ornamental and sustainable kitchen garden?

Anyone who’s interested in gardening can create an attractive vegetable garden. But that doesn’t mean that you need to turn your backyard into a mini-farm. Perhaps your primary interest has been perennials, or containers, or creating mixed-shrub borders, and you’ve thought “I’m not interested in vegetables,” or “it’s too much work,” or “it isn’t attractive,” or “I don’t have the space or sun.”

I can’t help with the space or sun challenges, but I’d like to encourage you to think about a vegetable garden that is attractive, ornamental, and productive (and sustainable, too). If you’re already growing vegetables in traditional rows, consider mixing them up with flowers and herbs, planting in beds, and swapping out plants to keep things looking good. Or, if you haven’t tried vegetables beyond a few tomatoes and peppers before, or have had unpleasant experiences with vegetable gardening in the past (of whatever sort), starting with an easily managed, small, and ornamental garden can be a revelation.

I think of my vegetable garden areas just like mixed borders, in which I use edibles, herbs, and flowers to create a lovely array of produce as well as being attractive. In practice, it’s a rewarding, concentrated sort of vegetable gardening, much more akin to the productive kitchen gardens (both large and small scale) found in Europe and Asia than to the sprawling field crop rows of traditional American gardens.

The creative art of kitchen gardening lies in considering the textures, colors, and shapes of vegetables, edible flowers, and herbs, along with their practical aspects. Incorporating flowers and herbs into planting blocks adds visual zing, in addition to expanding the range of tastes available to you as a cook.

The unsurpassed flavor of fresh vegetables, grown for their taste and picked at their peak, is truly remarkable. Buying seeds from quality seed houses expands your choices of vegetable varieties. Selected for flavor rather than shipping qualities, home garden and heirloom varieties expand the taste parameters of familiar vegetables such as squash into a different flavor realm. A fresh young patty pan or golden crookneck squash doesn’t seem like the same vegetable compared to its supermarket counterpart, not to mention baby Asian greens or unusual vegetables such as yard-long beans and tromboncino squash.

My vision of a successful and pleasurable kitchen garden includes keeping it attractive and manageable, inter-planting with flowers and herbs, using trellises to maximize space and create visual interest, creating permanent beds, and using it year-round. How successful this vision is year to year varies, of course, but the techniques are basic to most gardens that are intensively managed.

Lisa’s Kitchen Garden Primer

1. Start with a good site that’s easy to visit.
Having a kitchen garden close to your house makes it easy to monitor, enjoy and harvest. Optimal conditions require at least 6 to 8 hours a day of full sun, though, so that’s most important. Proximity to a water source is also handy, whether you’ll be hand-watering or using soaker hoses. Cool-season vegetables like lettuce and greens can manage with less sun, but warm-season crops such as tomatoes and peppers need plenty of sun to fruit well, although some moderation of hot afternoon sun can be very beneficial.

2. Create a manageable layout for permanent beds and start small.
Raised beds, whether contained with edging or simply mounded, make it easy to maintain soil quality with a minimum of effort. They’re also easy to rotate and maintain without power equipment, needing little more than a quick spading at each change-out. A relatively flat site with good drainage is best, or plan on correcting problems first through soil amendments and terracing or raised beds. Hand-digging your beds (aside from being good exercise) will limit a natural tendency to plant too much.
Video shoot – The Museum recently welcomed Patrick McMillan and Matt Johnson to film part of a program about evolution. As part of his graduate work, Matt is making an instructional video for middle and high school students that will give them accurate information about evolution, specifically theories on the processes of evolution, and why the subject is important. The segment filmed at the Museum focused on the role paleontology plays in helping scientists understand the evolutionary history of life on Earth. Over the course of three hours, Matt and Dave Cicimurri, Curator of Collections, discussed on camera various aspects of paleontology and evolution. Several of the fossils in the Museum’s collection were also filmed, and our cast of Archaeopteryx (a 150 million-year-old bird) will be showcased. The plan is for the video to be included in a season four episode of Expeditions, to be aired in spring 2010.

Shark Book – A number of fossils from the Museum’s collection will be featured in the upcoming book Great White Sharks in United States Museums. Written by Dr. Alessandro De Maddalena, President of the Italian Ichthyological Society, the book discusses the fossil record of the great white shark (Carcharodon carcharias) and is well illustrated with pictures of recent and fossil material. Stay tuned for information on when the book will be published and where it can be purchased.

Collaborative effort with CU Forestry and Natural Resources – Over the past year, Dave and Christian Cicimurri have been working with Dr. Elena Mikhailova on her Creative Inquiry project “Museum-based learning in Soil Information Systems.” The goal of the project is to develop museum-based exercises for the students and, using a variety of rocks and minerals from the Museum’s collection, create a webpage for study of soil parent materials (the rocks/minerals that erode and form soils). Christian and Dave are also co-authors with Dr. Mikhailova on a paper outlining the importance and impact of museums in earth science education. We will share the results of the study with you in a future newsletter.

More fossil leatherbacks! – Many of you will remember the BCGM’s involvement with the excavation of a 28 million-year-old leatherback sea turtle shell in June 2007. This year, plans are in the works to collaborate with the SC State Museum in excavating two more shells located within the Summerville (SC) city limits. We will put together a proposal for the City of Summerville that will outline the importance of recovering these fossils, and we anticipate that excavation of the specimens will be allowed. Dr. Roger Wood, the world’s leading authority on fossil leatherbacks, will be visiting SC to help excavate the shells, and then he’ll spend more time examining leatherback fossils found in our state.

Other research – The BCGM recently learned that two more mission-based scientific research projects have been accepted for publication. One report discusses a wide variety of 24 million-year-old sharks and rays found in Summerville, and the other focuses on an extinct bony fish found in 51 million-year-old deposits near Jamestown, SC. There are several other research projects in the works, including study of 77 million-year-old sharks and rays found just outside the city limits of Florence, SC, and 34 million-year-old sharks and rays found around Aiken, SC. Clearly there is plenty of work to be done; please consider partnering with us to make this important research possible.

In May, Dave will host Dr. Charles Ciampaglio to visit a number of fossiliferous sites in Aiken, Harleyville, and Summerville, SC. Dr. Ciampaglio’s goal is to study the different shapes of shark and ray teeth from these areas (in addition to sites all across the US) in order to reconstruct feeding niches within ancient environments, as well as how niches may have changed over long periods of time (i.e., millions of years).

New donations – Last June Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Gosnell of Westminster, SC, donated a large ammonite fossil they found in east-central Texas. We are very excited the Gosnells made another donation, this time of five ammonites (of two different species) and a clam. The fossils are well preserved, and after a little preparation with a pneumatic tool and light cleaning, they will be placed on display. The largest ammonite measures 16 inches in diameter and will be put on one of the touch-tables so visitors can feel the texture of a 100 million-year-old fossil. We hope you see these fossils on your next visit to the Museum.
MAY

Friday, May 1

FIRST FRIDAY GARDEN WALK
Meet with Dr. David Bradshaw or a Garden staff member for a unique exploration of the Garden.
*Time: 7:00am (hikes last one to two hours)*
*Fee: FREE*
*Location: Meet in the Caboose Parking Lot*

Saturday and Sunday, May 2 – 3

POP OPEN STUDIO TOUR
Join the Open Studio Tour of Pickens, Oconee and Pendleton. Visit the Lee Gallery, the Arts Center (Clemson), the Blue Ridge Arts Center, the Garden’s Featured Artists Galleries and more to watch artists at work and see their creations. In the Garden, artists will be working on the Discovery Center Lawns and in the Carriage House.
*Time: Sat., 10:00am – 6:00pm; Sun. 12:00 – 5:00pm*
*Fee: Free (pieces will be available for sale)*
*Location: Begin at the Arts Center in Clemson*

Thursday, May 7 (preregister by April 30)

WIRE WRAPPING & ILLUSION NECKLACES CLASS
This class will help you learn to make simple and wrapped wire loops, and a hook clasp. For illusion necklaces (airy, lightweight pieces that use a scattering of beads to add interest), participants will learn how to make beads stay in place and how to make a professional closure using cones. Materials are included, but bring reading glasses or a magnifying glass if you have trouble seeing bead holes, and a notebook and pen so you can remember what you learn.
*Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm*
*Fee: $38 ($35 for members & volunteers)*
*Location: Campbell Geology Museum*

Sunday, May 10

MOTHER’S DAY TEA IN THE GARDEN
Join us to celebrate Mother’s Day with an afternoon tea service on the beautiful lawns of the Fran Hanson Discovery Center. Come dressed in your best hat and be prepared to relax and step back in time. Reservations must be made by May 1, 2009.
*Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm*
*Fee: Tickets are $50, and include tea for two, as well as a gift membership for your mother to the Garden for one year. Additional guests are welcome at $10 each.*
*Location: Fran Hanson Discovery Center Lawns*

Saturday, May 16

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY
Open House! Take this opportunity to visit the Museum when all curators are available to answer your questions, identify your treasures, and take you on an adventure of learning about the Earth.
*Activities for families include mineral and shark tooth sieving, t-shirt and face painting, and more.*
*Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm*
*Fee: FREE*
*Location: Campbell Geology Museum*

Thursday, May 21

NATURE DISCOVERY HIKE: FOREST DWELLERS
Join Education Curator Christian Cicimurri to explore the plants, animals and even insects that live within the forests of the Garden. This walk is appropriate for all ages; however, strollers and other wheeled devices are not recommended. Inclement weather will cancel hikes.
*Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm*
*Fee: $2 suggested donation*
*Location: Meet at the Discovery Center Parking Lot*

JUNE

Friday, June 5

FIRST FRIDAY GARDEN WALK
Meet with Dr. David Bradshaw or a Garden staff member for a unique exploration of the Garden.
*Time: 7:00am (hikes last one to two hours)*
*Fee: FREE*
*Location: Meet in the Caboose Parking Lot*

Thursday, June 11 and Friday, June 12

FLOWER DAY CELEBRATION AND EDUCATION
The Garden Club of South Carolina hosts this annual event, which features educational exhibits as part of Clemson’s Flower Day. View a wide variety of floral arrangements and learn about plants, flowers and all kinds of floral design. Celebrate National Garden Week by learning more about how to showcase your beautiful flowers.
*Time: Thursday, June 11, 10:00am to 5:00pm and Friday, June 12, 10:00am to 3:00pm.*
*Fee: Free*
*Location: Fran Hanson Discovery Center*

Friday, June 12 (preregister by June 5)

FRIDAY MORNING BEADS: Spring Ahead Bracelet
Create a sparkling bracelet made from natural stones in the colors of spring. Suitable for ages 8 & up, and
Fee: $15 ($12 for members & volunteers)
Location: Campbell Geology Museum

Friday, June 9

FRIEDAY MORNING BEADS: Sparkling Summer Earrings
Create your own sparkling earrings with the colors of summer. Suitable for ages 8 & up, and all materials are included.
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
Fee: $15 ($12 for members & volunteers)
Location: Campbell Geology Museum

Tuesday, June 13

NATURE DISCOVERY HIKE: INSECT DISCOVERY
Insects abound in our warm, sunny climate; however they are sometimes hard to understand. Join Christian Cicimurri on this guided hike of the Garden to learn more about the Earth’s most diverse animals, from beneficial bugs to harmful pests. Visitors can expect to see butterflies, caterpillars, dragonflies, bees and more. These walks are appropriate for all ages; however, strollers and other wheeled devices are not recommended.
Inclement weather will cancel hikes.
Time: 10:00am – 11:00am
Fee: $7 per family (up to 5) ($5 members & volunteers)
Location: Meet at the Discovery Center Parking Lot

Friday, June 16

FRIEDAY MORNING BEADS: Funky Chunky Necklace
Learn how to create a necklace with fun, funky and chunky beads. Suitable for ages 8 & up, and all materials are included.
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
Fee: $15 ($12 for members & volunteers)
Location: Campbell Geology Museum

Friday, June 23

NATURE DISCOVERY HIKE: DISCOVERY INSECT
Insects abound in our warm, sunny climate; however they are sometimes hard to understand. Join Christian Cicimurri on this guided hike of the Garden to learn more about the Earth’s most diverse animals, from beneficial bugs to harmful pests. Visitors can expect to see butterflies, caterpillars, dragonflies, bees and more. These walks are appropriate for all ages; however, strollers and other wheeled devices are not recommended.
Inclement weather will cancel hikes.
Time: 10:00am – 11:00am
Fee: $7 per family (up to 5) ($5 members & volunteers)
Location: Meet at the Discovery Center Parking Lot

Friday, June 26

FRIEDAY MORNING BEADS: Summer Days Necklace
Learn how to create a stylish necklace with natural, summer-colored elements. Suitable for ages 8 & up, and all materials are included.
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
Fee: $15 ($12 for members & volunteers)
Location: Campbell Geology Museum

Friday, July 3

FIRST FRIDAY GARDEN WALK
Meet with Dr. David Bradshaw or a Garden staff member for a unique exploration of the Garden.
Time: 7:00am (hikes last one to two hours)
Fee: FREE
Location: Meet in the Caboose Parking Lot

Friday, July 3

FRIEDAY MORNING BEADS: Eaarrrrly Bird Earrings
Learn how to create fun and funky earrings with natural, summer-colored elements. Suitable for ages 8 & up, and all materials are included.
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
Fee: $15 ($12 for members & volunteers)
Location: Campbell Geology Museum

Friday, July 3

FRIDAY MORNING BEADS: Summer Days Necklace
Learn how to create a stylish necklace with natural, summer-colored elements. Suitable for ages 8 & up, and all materials are included.
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
Fee: $15 ($12 for members & volunteers)
Location: Campbell Geology Museum

Friday, July 7

FRIDAY MORNING BEADS: Sugar & Spice Rings
Create a beautiful ring all your friends will be jealous of with natural gemstones. Suitable for ages 8 & up, and all materials are included.
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
Fee: $15 ($12 for members & volunteers)
Location: Campbell Geology Museum

Friday, July 10

FRIDAY MORNING BEADS: Go Pink! Bracelet
Create a hip and happening bracelet with pink, pink and more pink ... fit for a princess! Suitable for ages 8...
**DINOSAUR DAYS OF SUMMER CAMP**

Kids love dinosaurs! During this mini-camp, children will learn from Christian Cicimurri about the variety of dinosaurs, dino lifestyles, and how to identify their favorites. The programs will include hands-on interaction with dinosaur fossils and casts, and a craft activity to take home. The camp is appropriate for children aged 7 – 0 years, and all materials are included. Please preregister by June 9.

**Dates:**
Tuesday – Thursday, June 16 – 18

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Fee:** $50 ($45 for members & volunteers)

**Location:** Nature Learning Center

---

**Friday, July 31** (preregister by July 24)

**FRIDAY MORNING BEADS: Sunny Days Necklace**

Create a sparkling necklace made from natural stones in the colors and excitement of summertime. Suitable for ages 8 & up, and all materials are included. Must pre-register 1 week in advance!

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Fee:** $15 ($12 for members & volunteers)

**Location:** Campbell Geology Museum

---

**JUST FOR KIDS**

**GARDEN SPROUTS**

A nature discovery program for children ages 3-5 and a parent or caregiver.

Young children discover the wonders of the Garden in our nature preschool program led by Garden educator Sue Watts. She’ll introduce a new theme each week, with a program full of discovery, songs to sing, and engaging activities to captivate young minds. Spend a gentle morning of wonder and connection in a beautiful environment. Garden Sprouts blends the Garden’s unique resources with imaginative and fun ways to learn about plants and animals in our big backyard. We use music, stories, arts and crafts, nature walks, movement, touch and observation to explore the theme each week.

**Session 1:** Wednesdays, April 29 – May 20

**Session 2:** Wednesdays, June 3 – 24

**Session 3:** Wednesdays, July 8 – 29

**Fee:** $40 for each 4-week session ($35 for members & volunteers)

**Time:** 10:00am – 11:30am

**Location:** Nature Learning Center

---

**YOGA**

**Tuesday & Thursday Evenings and Saturday Mornings**

Renee Gahan leads Vinyasa Yoga classes in the Garden, open to all skill levels. In Vinyasa Yoga, students move through a series of postures focusing on the breath. Attention is paid to proper alignment and guidance is provided in how to develop poses in the body. For more information, visit Renee’s website at: http://clemsonyoga.typepad.com.

**Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00pm – 7:15pm; and Saturdays, 10:00am – 11:15am

**Fee:** $12 for drop-ins; $50 for a 5-class pass ($35 for full-time students); $60 for a monthly pass

**Location:** Hayden Conference Center

---

**Mother’s Day Tea in the Garden**

**Sunday, May 10, 2009**

2:00 to 4:00pm

Join us to celebrate Mother’s Day with an afternoon tea service on the beautiful lawns of the Fran Hanson Discovery Center.

Come dressed in your best hat and be prepared to relax and enjoy time with your family.

Tickets are $50, and include tea and refreshments for two, as well as a gift membership for your mother to the Garden for one year. Additional guests are welcome at $10 each.

Proceeds support the South Carolina Botanical Garden.

Register today by calling 864.656.3405. Registration must be made by May 1, 2009.
3. Keep your soil healthy and fertile by adding amendments and/or using cover crops.
Vegetables, in general, are highly domesticated plants that benefit from fertile soils and pampering, being genetically far removed from their tough native ancestry. So they need good soil (healthy, full of organic matter and nutrients, and as light and ‘loamy’ as you can make it). Sandy soil is easily enriched (and clay soils lightened up) with organic materials such as homemade compost, mushroom compost, leaf mold, composted manures or weed-free straw, with careful thought to nutrient balance and pH. By adding compost and amendments during each planting rotation, soil fertility can be maintained, even with vegetables that are nutrient hogs. Use light organic mulches such as leaf mold or weed-free straw or even pine straw. Check nutrient levels periodically through soil testing available through Clemson University’s Agricultural Service Lab (www.clemson.edu/agsrvlb).

Continue to build soil health by adding homemade or commercial compost, encouraging beneficial soil micro-organisms. Diversity of plantings (along with a wildlife-friendly gardening full of beneficial insects, birds, toads, etc.) is a key to reducing insect pest pressures through promoting insect predation. Careful attention to crop rotation and cover crops will help minimize soil disease build-up. Using varieties resistant to common southern diseases such as verticillium and fusarium wilt, or pests such as root-knot nematode, is extremely helpful in managing problems. If you have treasured non-resistant varieties, grow them in large containers in fresh potting mix. Also, fertilize wisely with sustained release fertilizers; too much nitrogen can increase pest problems by stimulating overly lush growth.

5. Plant vegetables that you (and your family) enjoy and no more than you want to eat or preserve.
For me, nothing takes the fun out of vegetable gardening faster than having to harvest for hours on a hot day and then spend hours preparing vegetables for freezing. A close second is having to spend hours weeding in a neglected overgrown patch that I haven’t had time to get to yet. So choose the right plants, don’t plant too much, and plant at the right times for each vegetable. Once a plant or crop is going downhill, rip it out, amend the soil and plant something else. Quick ‘fillers’ such as lettuce, cilantro, edible flowers or greens can be used if you need to wait to plant the next seasonal vegetable. Choose among hybrids, heirlooms, and disease-resistant varieties and try something new each season. It’s fun to experiment!

6. Extend your vegetable garden with year-round planting.
Our relatively mild winters with occasional freezes are variable, but do allow us to grow a variety of plants all year round. By alternating cool-season and warm-season vegetables in planting blocks, you can keep a kitchen garden productive and attractive most of the year. Maximize your success by carefully choosing appropriate varieties for the season (check seed packet information). Use evergreen herbs, edible flowers that withstand winter blasts (think Viola), and hardy kales, collards and other greens to keep your garden looking nice, even through winter. Attractive mulches protect and condition the soil in unplanted areas.

I find this approach to vegetable gardening one of the most satisfying kinds of gardening that I do. It’s not only visually appealing, it’s a delight to harvest vegetables that you’ve grown yourself, and then enjoy them with your family in a delicious dinner.

~Lisa Wagner, Education Director

Thank You...
to Jack de Vroomen of the Marlboro Bulb Company in Greenwood, SC, for donating 3,000 narcissus bulbs.
to Betsy Dunkle for donating three paintings by Elizabeth Belser Fuller to her gallery.
to Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Gosnell for donating five ammonites and a clam to the Geology Museum.
to the CAT Bus System for providing transportation during the Garden Fest Earth Day event.
Coral Honeysuckle
*Lonicera sempervirens*

Honeysuckle family (Caprifoliaceae)
Native to Eastern U.S.
Prefers partial to full sun
Prefer acid to neutral soil (rich in organic matter)
Drought tolerant
- twining woody vine that is evergreen or tardily deciduous in mild winters
- beautiful clusters of trumpet-shaped red flowers in late March and April and intermittently through the fall
- prune back in the winter for increased flowering; don’t overfertilize
- flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies
- fruits attractive to songbirds
- easy to grow on a fence, trellis, or in a container; non-invasive
- many cultivars available

Crossvine
*Bignonia capreolata*

Bignonia family (Bignoniaceae)
Native to the Southeast
Prefers sun to partial shade
Prefer acid to neutral soil (rich in organic matter)
Drought tolerant
- evergreen woody vine with small glossy leaves
- attractive fragrant trumpet-shaped yellow flowers from late winter to early spring
- compact and dense growth in sun, twining in shade
- easy to grow on a fence, trellis, or in a container; non-invasive
- cultivars available; very drought-tolerant

Garden Q & A: Planting Herbs

**Question:**
I’d like to add some herbs to my garden. Where should I start?

**Answer:**
Perennial herbs can be easily incorporated into landscape plantings or in an attractive herb garden. Annual and biennial herbs are simple to add to a vegetable garden or border and provide a wonderful decorative element. If you’re interested in using fresh herbs for cooking, expert Nancy McCannon of Cedar Ridge Farm in Pendleton (www.cedarridgefarm.com) recommends first taking a look in your pantry. What herbs do you already use? Oregano, thyme and basil are her stalwarts. Other recommendations (from her recent “Growing an Herb Garden” program) include: Choose the right site. Herbs need plenty of sun and excellent drainage, so soil amending is important in heavy soil. And finally, grow your herbs close to the house, so they’re easy to harvest when it’s time to cook. Herbs thrive in pots, so it’s easy to have them on a deck, patio or doorstep.

Do you have a question about gardening? Send your question to scbg@clemson.edu.
Renewing Members & Donors

Thank you for making generous donations between 12/19/08 and 3/13/09. New members are listed in green — welcome! All members at the Sapphire, Camellia, Maple and Magnolia levels are joint members of the Garden and Museum.

General Garden Donations
Carolina Foothills Garden Club
Susan Chastain
Dawn Cocke
Nell Coffey
Jennifer Craft
Zhi Gao
Garden Trail Garden Club
Darlene Mahaffee
Ed & Sara Penn (to Museum)
Shari Prevost
Mark Schlautman
Roy Scott

Museum: Ruby Members
Ray & Myrtle Gillespie

Sapphire Members
Cathleen Reas Foster
David & Anne Gibson
E. Jerry & Jean Greene

Garden: Hosta Members
Marilyn Allen
Betty Ambrose
Elizabeth Anderson
Edwin & Miriam Arnold
George Atkinson, Jr.
Paula Beecher
Shirley Bennett
Laurie Black
George & Joan Booth
Mary Bowman
Jean Brodnax
Sharon Brosnan
Annette Burdette
June Chastain
Grace Cook
DAR - Andrew Pickens Chapter
Luis Delaney
Minnie Sue Douglas
Susan Eccollini
Susan Fedor
Julia Frugoli
Doreatha Geter
Heide Giezey
Wayne Goddard
Rebecca Graves
Joyce Guidera
William Hall
Millie Hawbecker
Bonnie Holaday
Harry Hornburg
Richard & Virginia Imershein
Olis Jayroe
Edwin & Donna Jones, III
Kay Jordan
William & Joan Kennerty
Robert & Barbara Krieger
Barbara Laughtee
Garnett and Jane Lindle

All members

Allen Lohmann
Judith Lovering
Bonnie Marsden
Kathy McGovern
Wm. H. Davis McGregor
Kay Hamilton-McKee
Sharon McMahan
Anne Medlin
Robert Mellette
Mary Montgomery
Plain Dirt Garden Club
Theresa Pizzuto
Samuel & Ann Plowden
Christine Robinson
James Rodgers
Sandra Risvold
Kelly Silverman
Rachel Snider
Debra Strange
Anna Summers
Ellie Taylor
Mary Ann Taylor

Sharon Thompson
Michael & Joy Van Dale
Evelyn Vickery
Ellen Vincent
Sally Whiddon
Robert & Susan Whorton
Sarah Wilhelm
Marion Withington
Dylan Wolfe

Garden: Holly Members
Emil & Ekaterina Alexov
Scott & Logan Bagley
Susan Bies
Bob & Lynn Brinkman
Ron & Signe Cann
Scott & Christina Carrick
Susan Chandler
John Chastain
Timothy Drake, Jr.
David & Margaret Eldridge
Donald & Janet Estep
Cherie Estridge
Bob & Pam Fjeld
Ray & Myrtle Gillespie
Tommy & Nell Hodge
Verne House
Dick & Anita Hudgins
Dan Livingstone
Dan & Delores Jones
Charles & Stephanie Kernaghan
Robert Kosinski
Ernest Lander
Mary Lanning
Laurel Melson
Michael & Terri Mendonca
Fred & Sandra Mettla
Richard & Isabel Millward
Luther & Donna Moss
William & Heather Mullinax
Bill and Jean Nettrtes
Rudy & Louise Notdhurtf
John & Marite Ozols
Scott & Therese Pigeon
Jack & Patricia Postle
Mike Walker
Mary Alice Rice
Dan Robinson
George Sherman & Mary Jane Sturwold-Sherman
Tony & Diane Sosnoswki
Benjamin & Lois Sill
Selma Singleton
Peter & Susan Trapp
Beth Wilson
Richard & April Warner
Jim Wannamaker
Charles Webb
Susan Wood

Camellia Members
Susan Batzy
Nell & Jill Cameron, Jr.
Frances Chamberlain
Ann Cramer
Debbie Dalhouse
Barbara Fox in memory of
Elizabeth Besler Fuller
Doug & Donna Findley
David & Anne Gibson
Greener Greenville Master Gardeners
Karen Hall
Davy Hammatt
James & Betty Johnson
Louwanda Jolley
Larissa Kelly
Jo Ann Knox
Claude & Frances Lilly
Amy Madden
Louise Mannion
Don & Marjorie Martin
Michael & Pauline McCarthy
William McNeill
Holly Parrott
Barbara Patterson
Ed & Sara Penn
David & Laura Price
James & Maudiana Pruitt, Jr.
Lou Ann Pursley
Bill Putnam
Randi Renz
Sue Roth in memory of
Mary Bircheneough
Anne Sherif
Upstate Daylily Society
Harry & Adene Waldrop
Charlie & Emma Lou Yongue

Maple Members
Joe Culin & Dana Anderson
Garden Club of South Carolina
Imtiaz & Mary Haque
John Kelly
John Hubbard & Frances Kennedy
Joe & Robin Patrick
Mary Ann Prater
Joel Boylan & Rowena Sim

Magnolia Members
John & Pam Floyd
Elaine Richardson

Cruickshank Hosta Endowment
Clemson Garden Club
Master Gardeners of the Foothills

Founders Garden
Jeffrey Anderson
Jacqueline Arved
Marlyn Boyd
J. C. Cook
Ingrid Cox
Dorothy Dukos
Joan Edwards in memory of
Ellerbe & Matilda Johnstone
Lothet Finch
Mac Jones
Mary Keller in memory of
Ralph W. Bridge
Anne Mahon
William Schachte
Kay Thompson in memory of
William D. Coleman Jr.
Philip Troy
Susan Turner
Russel Wolfe

Fuller Endowment
Willis (Trey) Fuller, III

F.W. Thode Botanical Garden
John & Pam Floyd

Geddes Family Greenhouse
Doreen Geddes

Heritage Garden
William & Margaret Zeigler

Hunt Cabin Restoration Fund
Stephen Lomas & Elizabeth Milam-Lomas

SCBG Excellence Fund
James & Patty Arnold
Regina Carroll
Todd Steadman

Sprouting Wings
William & Karen Brown

Xeriscape Garden Renovation
Garden Trail Garden Club

We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please call Claiborne at 864-656-6205 with any corrections.

The Garden's Gate • 11
**Give the Gift of Membership**

*Support your mother’s passion for gardening.*

*Give Clemson graduates a special remembrance of their time here.*

*Invite newlyweds to spend time together in the Garden.*

Garden and Museum memberships make for wonderful gifts that last all year. Memberships start at $35. Call 864-656-6205 to order the perfect gift today!

---

**Mother’s Day Sale**

*Spring Treasures and Garden Pleasures in the Garden Gift Shop*

*Friday, May 1 to Saturday, May 9*

Just in time for Mother’s Day! Show your mother how much you appreciate her with a beautiful gift from our new Garden Gift Shop. The Garden Gift Shop has a completely new look featuring a wide variety of wonderful new merchandise! Expect the unusual and the delightful in nature and botanical inspired gifts, including home and garden décor. In May, we will be celebrating the Camellia flower and its influence in the home and on fashion. Come see our Camellia motif items—the perfect gift for the special mother on your list!

Unique filigree planters matched with flowering plants from the SCBG nursery will be on display. You may order a custom potted plant in time for Mother’s Day.

From May 1 to May 9, all items are discounted 15%. Members receive an additional 10% off non-commission items.

---

**Spring Plant Sale**

*April 24 & 25*

**Mother’s Day Tea**

*May 10*