Fall progress

As the Garden settles into winter, now seems a good time to review the immense progress made during the fall. The pessimism and anxiety resulting from the summer floods has been replaced by a sense of optimism and dynamic energy among the staff. A myriad of projects big and small have been undertaken throughout the Garden. While the Natural Heritage Trail remains closed, it is possible to get a sense of the progress by catching glimpses through the trees. When the trail reopens in April, the horticultural staff is optimistic about the show of spring ephemerals throughout the exhibits.

There is much activity elsewhere on the Natural Heritage Trail. When you visit the Garden, you will quickly notice that the Piedmont Prairie exhibit is beginning to mature and look more like a prairie and less like a weed patch. This fall, a large number of prairie dock plants were planted between the road and the prairie. Next year, in late summer and early fall, they’ll provide a beautiful show of tall yellow composite flowers.

Significant changes have taken place in the meadow below the prairie. The landscape is crisscrossed with trenches carrying irrigation to the whole area. Over the winter, watch as a new carnivorous plant exhibit is installed along the longleaf pine savanna. The Native American shell ring exhibit is built. To the right of the shell ring, the addition of three good-sized live oaks now signalled the beginning of our maritime forest.
Director’s Note

“How is the Garden doing after the summer floods?”

As I travel through the state, this is the first question many people ask me. As you are aware, the floods did a huge amount of damage to the streamside areas of the Garden, but the hard work and contributions of staff, volunteers and donors have enabled us to rally. Now that the soil has dried and the temperatures have dropped, you will notice a flurry of activity; in fact, we have more than 70 projects currently ongoing! In short, we are well on our way to not only reclaiming the lost exhibits, but also emerging as a much more sustainable and resilient Garden.

The damage caused by the summer floods is still very apparent along the Natural Heritage Garden corridor, but much work has been done to reclaim the exhibit. Much of the primary trail has been rebuilt, thanks in large part to the expertise and work of Dr. Rockie English and a host of volunteers. Even more exciting is the fact that now with re-engineering, the entire main route of the trail will be ADA accessible! The display beds along the route have been cleaned, repaired and in some cases replanted. The Oconee Bells display has been largely replanted with help from volunteers and Joe Townsend, who supplied a large number of seed-raised plants. The difficult work of salvaging and replanting Oconee Bells plants that were displaced by the flood was largely successful and this spring the plants should look pretty good.

The largest missing part of the reconstruction efforts are the bridges, but they are well on their way to being replaced. Dr. Dan Harding and architecture students here at Clemson have designed and are building very low-impact, sustainable bridges that we’re excited to see reconnect this vital corridor. We expect that the trail will reopen in April as planned.

The damage posed by summer flooding was daunting. We have money in hand to construct the trails and the bridges, but much of the storm-water control project is still not funded. Please keep us in mind in your annual giving, and we will continue to keep you informed as your Garden continues to grow!

All the best, Patrick McMillan
On your next visit to the Garden you might notice several speed bumps on the road leading down to the duck pond dam. It might surprise you to know that these speed bumps are actually an important part of our new comprehensive plan for water management and conservation. This simple solution serves dual duty: slowing cars in an area of high foot traffic and diverting water and funneling it towards the pond, away from the Natural Heritage Garden. We have had to take a hard look at the flow of water throughout the Garden and make many changes to control and redirect it. Poorly designed trails, or trails that developed ad hoc through frequent visitor use, were a major problem by encouraging erosion. Some of these trails were very steep and funneled the runoff so that water moved very quickly into Hunicutt Creek. Our team here at the University identified several trails to be removed and revegetated to slow the progress of rainwater. Currently, no-entry signs mark several trails that previously connected the Senn Horticultural Garden to the Natural Heritage Garden. The remaining trails have been redesigned and built to ADA specifications.

Water conservation is also of key concern as we move forward. A student-led group has designed a bioremediation program to aerate and filter the Duck Pond to provide clean water to be used to irrigate the mountain and piedmont sections of the Natural Heritage Gardens trail. In addition, we have continued to identify swales and implement retention ponds throughout the area. Additional rain gardens are to be installed to reduce and slow water flow. As we move into the spring, look for many of these small to medium-sized flood control projects taking place throughout the Garden.

Visit the Chihuahuan Desert

When you step from the parking lot into our new Chihuahuan Desert Exhibit, you are catapulted into another world. Cacti, agave, and yucca are scattered among beautiful limestone rocks that line the walkway - it even feels hotter and drier! This exhibit marks the beginning of our reinterpretation of the landscape connecting the Discovery Center parking lot to the Geology Museum and, ultimately, the Discovery Center at the top of the hill. Next up, the Sonoran Desert! This new exhibit will wrap around the base of the wall to the right of the Museum.

The Chihuahuan Desert is not well known, but it is vast. Although much of the desert lies in Mexico, the northern areas reach well into west Texas, New Mexico and southeastern Arizona.
We are pleased to announce the loan of *Taming the Wild Wunkus* by artist Ray Giddens. You can visit this fun and colorful piece in front of the Sprouting Wings Greenhouse. Mr. Giddens worked in environmental design for many years and founded the company Environmental Arts in Greenville. Upon retirement, he studied sculpture at Greenville Tech and Clemson. He works mostly in welded steel, assembling his whimsical sculptures out of fun and funky found materials.

The Children’s Garden is undergoing a huge makeover under the direction of Children’s Garden manager Griffin Westbrook. She recreated the *Peter Rabbit Garden* to make a colorful display of winter interest. Peter will now find some nice tasty cabbages to snack on! Both the *Food For Thought* and *Ethnobotany Garden* are now being reworked. Over the winter, we’ll create a “Dig House” in one of the greenhouses. This will be a fun, interactive way for children to learn about fossils and gem mining. Stay tuned for more exciting transformations!

Would you like to help the Garden extend our education outreach?

If you have time, we’d love to have you lend a hand and share your enthusiasm to support our efforts. It’s fun and rewarding to share the Garden with visiting groups whether as a school field trip program leader or as a guide for visiting adults.

As a program guide, you’re able to shape the experiences of visitors of all ages, extending our impact into the community. We’ll provide training and ongoing support for your efforts; the kids and adults will thank you with their positive feedback!

We’d like to significantly expand our volunteer capacity for providing school education programs and adult tours this spring, as well as supporting special weekend programs at the Hunt Family Cabin and the Hanson Nature Learning Center this spring and summer.

Our upcoming volunteer orientation workshops will provide an in-depth exploration of the Garden’s history, gardens, habitats, and resources, age-appropriate program content, and include useful information about interpretive strategies and teaching techniques for adults and children.

If you’re interested, but can’t attend on those dates, let us know (watts9@clemson.edu or lwagner@clemson.edu).

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**Summer Camps**

**Monday- Friday, July 7-11**
Garden Explorations Discovery Camp

**Monday- Friday, July 14-18**
Hunt Cabin Time Travelers

**Monday- Friday, July 21-25**
Garden Creativity Camp

Ages: 6-12
Fee: $90  each camp (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 9 a.m. - noon

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**Nature Center News**

The Hanson Nature Learning Center was a focus of mildew remediation work late last fall, as the back corner walls were cleaned and sealed, and damaged cabinets were cleaned or replaced. The “basement” of the 30+ year old building had never been properly waterproofed, apparently, and excessive rainfall exacerbated an ongoing problem.
Garden Educators Allison Jones and Kendra Vincent have enjoyed full participation in their fall education programs and are looking forward to winter and spring programs.

Children discovered the elements of habitat and created their own miniature habitats in “Fairy Houses, Gnome Homes & Animal Abodes.” Nature Crowns were part of the fun too!

Three sessions of ‘Owl Prowl’ were held, to accommodate demand. Participants learned about interesting owl adaptations, how to identify common owl species, dissected owl pellets and created pinecone owls.

Seasonal changes and harvest traditions around the world were explored in “Harvest Celebration.” We celebrated the harvest by churning butter, making juice in an apple press, and popping corn over the campfire.

We had a great turn out at Open House on October 6, with over 110 visitors in attendance over just three hours. Children enjoyed a variety of activities, including ‘Pin the Tail on the Wooly Mammoth’, making Dinosaur Sun-Catchers, creating fossil relief prints and much more. Thanks to all who came out to support us! We hope you’ll join us again next year!

New Hours and Free Admission

At the beginning of September, the Museum began free general admission and our open hours were extended to include Monday and Tuesday.

Our new hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. These changes accommodate more visitors, both local and from elsewhere. There is so much to be learned and enjoyed inside these walls – we hope to share that with as many folks as possible. Please tell your friends and family about our new hours and free admission, and visit sometime soon!

Along with our admission changes, our Museum members will now enjoy the benefits of participation in the Southeastern Reciprocity Museum Program. This means that Museum members receive additional benefits, such as free admission and gift shop discounts at other participating institutions across the Southeast, simply by showing their Bob Campbell Geology Museum membership cards. To see a list of participating institutions, visit http://www.semcdirect.net. If you are interested in Museum membership, please call 864-656-4602 for more information.

Support the Museum- Adopt a Bone!

We’d like to remind you all that Velociraptor bone adoptions made in honor of friends or loved ones can make great gifts! When you adopt a Velociraptor bone, your name will be listed as part of the Velociraptor Society in our new Archosaur Exhibit. All proceeds support maintenance and creation of exhibits and educational programming at the Museum. For more information on this giving opportunity, please contact Allison Jones at 864-656-4602 or visit: http://www.clemson.edu/public/geomuseum.
Calendar of Classes & Events

Gardening Programs

Thursday, February 13
NATIVE PLANTS FOR SHORELINE PLANTINGS
Preventing erosion along the fluctuating banks of our regional lakes can be attractively managed by appropriate plantings of native shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers. Join Lisa Wagner for an introduction to some of the best native plants to use to create an effective and attractive lakeshore buffer.
Fee: $15 (10% discount for members & volunteers)
Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Thursday, February 27
CREATING A RAIN GARDEN
Rain gardens help slow water movement by encouraging infiltration into soil, rather than running into storm drains or causing erosion. Water is taken up by plant roots or soaks into the ground. Native plant rain gardens attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife by restoring habitat. Director of Education Lisa Wagner will discuss rain garden design, plant choices, and garden establishment.
Fee: $15 (10% discount for members & volunteers)
Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Thursday, March 6
INTRODUCTION TO GARDENING WITH HERBS
Fresh herbs provide more than delightful seasoning, since many have beautiful flowers, fragrance, and interesting foliage. Herbs, whether perennial, biennial, or annual, can double as landscape plants, exhibiting a range of colors and textures. Garden educator Lisa Wagner will share ideas about how to include perennial and biennial herbs in borders, beds and containers to create maximum visual impact. She'll also talk about growing the best varieties of common herbs such as thyme, rosemary, oregano, and parsley, in addition to some less familiar herbs.
Fee: $15 (10% discount for members & volunteers)
Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Thursday, March 13
CREATE A SUCCULENT CONTAINER GARDEN
Join Lisa Wagner to create a dish garden with a selection of hardy succulents, including sedums and sempervirens. We'll provide the selection of plants, container media, and a selection of containers. Let your creativity flow as you design your own unique container to take home.
(Class limited to 8 participants).
Fee: $45 (10% discount for members & volunteers)
Time: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

GARDEN COACHING: LANDSCAPE CONSULTATION
Would you like to improve your home landscape with some personalized guidance? Have Director of Education Lisa Wagner help you think through your garden challenges in a two hour design consultation at your property. Sessions are tailored to individual needs, whether a general assessment or individual questions. For more information, please contact Lisa at lwagner@clemson.edu or call 864-656-3679.
Fee: $145 (125 for SCBG members and volunteer) as a contribution to SCBG Education Programs
Time & location by arrangement

For more complete program and event information, please visit the Garden’s events calendar: http://www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/calendar.html

Unless otherwise noted, all programs meet in the Hanson Nature Learning Center (lower level of the Hayden Conference Center: # 7 on the Garden Map).
Friday, January 31
WINTER TREE IDENTIFICATION
Become a wintertime tree detective with Garden educator Sue Watts! Once stripped of their leaves, our deciduous trees show their structural beauty, but after the foliage is gone, a key element of key tree identification vanishes. Spend a mid-winter morning exploring the guise of deciduous trees in the Garden and enjoying the architectural beauty of the woods.
Fee: $20 (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Friday, February 28
LIKING LICHENS
Small, and often overlooked, lichens have a rich and vibrant natural and cultural history in addition to being key indicators of environmental health. Lichens exhibit a vast diversity of color and form; some are plain and undistinguished, others are more elaborate, and suggestive of a fairytale world fit for elfin creatures and mythical beasts. Join Garden educator Sue Watts on a forest foray to hunt for these miniature organisms in the Garden’s woods and learn more about their place in the natural world.
Fee: $20 (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Friday, April 18
WILDFLOWER WALK
Spend a fascinating morning with Clemson naturalist Patrick McMillan exploring the incredible diversity of spring wildflowers in the Natural Heritage Garden. Trillium, foam flower, mayapple and many other ephemeral treasures await! Patrick is the Garden’s Director and host of “Expeditions with Patrick McMillan.”
Fee: $30 (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Friday, April 25
BIRDING IN THE GARDEN
Join Clemson naturalist Patrick McMillan to observe a peak time for migration in the Garden. Discover the residents and migrants who make their homes in the Garden, their habits and foraging strategies. Bring binoculars and field guides and dress for the weather. Patrick is a fantastic birder and naturalist, host of ETV’s “Expeditions with Patrick McMillan” and the Garden’s Director.
Fee: $30 (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 7:30 – 10 a.m.
Location: Discovery Center Parking Lot

Friday, May 2
NATIVE BEES
Native bees are the unsung workhorses of pollination. Long before the introduction of honeybees by European settlers, native bees pollinated many of the flowering plants of North America. In this introductory class, learn about the vast diversity of the native bee population with Garden educator Sue Watts. Visit the gardens around the Nature Center to see these hard working pollinators at work!
Fee: $20 (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Nursery tours
Greenhouses in the nursery will be open for small, guided tours from February through early April. On display will be annuals, vegetables, perennials and the SCBG tropical collection. For more information, please contact Jeanne Briggs at 864-656-2458 or jeanneb@clemson.edu.

Don’t forget the “On Sale This Month” plants offered by the nursery. For details visit: http://www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/nursery/on_sale_this_month.html
Family and Children

Friday, January 24
ANIMAL TRACK TRICKSTERS
Join Educators Allison Jones and Kendra Vincent to learn about the habits and adaptations that animals use to survive winter and look for clues of animal activity in the Garden. Each participant will make their own animal track cast and we’ll conclude with a game of winter wildlife bingo. Register at least 3 days in advance. Due to curing time, tracks will be picked up after 24 hrs.
Fee: $6 (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Friday, February 7
RAINFOREST FUN-GUM AND BOUNCY BALLS
What is a rainforest and why are they important? Garden Educators Allison Jones and Kendra Vincent will share the answers to these and other questions and explore how plants of the rainforest are used to make chewing gum and rubber! We’ll even make some to take home. Register at least 3 days in advance.
Fee: $10 (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Friday, March 14
GARDENS UNDER GLASS - TERRARIUMS
In this program, we’ll create miniature worlds under glass, with growing plants and falling rain, yet small enough to sit on a table. Garden Educator Kendra Vincent will teach you about the water cycle and what plants need to grow. Plant materials will be provided, but please bring your own clear container from home. Register at least 3 days in advance.
Fee: $10 (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Friday, April 4
BIRD NESTS & NATURALLY DYED EGGS
Adults and children alike will enjoy this unusual nature-based art project. Make plant-derived egg dyes and discover the art of hand blowing and decorating eggs with leaves and flowers from the garden. To complete the project, we’ll make beautiful ‘bird nests’ to house our egg art. Register at least 3 days in advance.
Fee: $12 (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 9
DIARY OF A WORM
In this program, led by Kendra Vincent, we’ll dig deep to uncover the interesting lives of worms! After a fun story, we’ll enjoy taking an up-close look at real worms and will learn to appreciate all that these wiggly little guys do for us. While playing a game, we’ll learn about compost and each participant will create his/her own miniature worm bin to take home. Register at least 3 days in advance.
Fee: $6 (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Mondays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19
JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB
In this afterschool garden club, kids learn the basics of gardening through fun and exciting hands-on activities. Discover the secrets of soil and composting, and meet some wriggly worms. Plant veggie and flower seeds, tend seedlings and later transplant them into the Children’s Garden. Explore the Garden’s insects and birds and create wonderful habitat for them. In every class, we’ll sample fresh veggies and explore different ways to prepare and enjoy them. Take home seeds and seedlings to start a garden at home. Participants present at all sessions will receive a t-shirt and certification as a South Carolina Botanical Garden Junior Gardener.
Fee: $10 per session/ $60 series (10% discount for members and volunteers)
Time: 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Volunteer Training

Tuesday, January 21 & Tuesday, February 4
VOLUNTEER TRAINING I: ADULT TOURS
Spring is the height of our adult tour season and we need your help! In this morning workshop, you will learn Garden and natural history, interpretation tips, and general information to prepare you to conduct an adult tour of the Garden. The follow up session will be a practical application of the training information. Refreshments provided.
Fee: Free
Time: 9 a.m. – noon
**Tuesday, February 18 & Tuesday, March 4**

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING II: SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Many school groups visit in the spring and volunteer help is essential since most schools bring a whole grade, which adds up to many children! In this workshop, learn the basic elements of our school programs, tips to manage and engage children, and other general information to enable you to become a confident school tour guide. The follow up session will be a practical application of the training information. Refreshments provided.

*Fee: Free*

*Time: 9 a.m. – noon*

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**Tuesday, March 18**

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING III: HUNT CABIN**

Later in spring, the Hunt Cabin will reopen to the public. This is a key point of contact with Garden visitors and a way to connect with those who visit this wonderful place. We'd like to open the cabin on the weekends with the aid of volunteers. In this training, you will learn to interpret this 19th century structure and the lives of those who lived in the cabin and surrounding area. Refreshments provided.

*Fee: Free*

*Time: 9 a.m. – noon*

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**Tuesday, March 25**

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING IV: NATURAL HERITAGE GARDEN**

The Natural Heritage Garden is the cornerstone of Garden development and we need volunteers to interpret this landscape when the trail reopens. Join Patrick McMillan on an exploration of South Carolina from the mountains to the coast. Learn about the geology, soils, flora and fauna of each habitat from our expert naturalist. Bring a packed lunch, dress for being outside, and bring a notebook and pencil!

*Fee: Free*

*Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.*

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**Friday, March 28**

**Spring Concert Series**

**Kick off with Nashville Star Jenna Basso**

Nashville sees many talents come and go, but seldom does an artist arrive with the essence of star quality as Jenna Basso. Her powerhouse voice, depth of expression, charm and engaging personality give her a powerful stage presence.

Jenna has performed on many stages in the Nashville area, including country music’s most famous stage—The Grand Ole Opry. Embodying the style and grace of country music pioneers such as Patsy Cline and Tammy Wynette, as well as contemporary artists Martina McBride, Faith Hill, and LeAnn Rimes, Jenna plans to take her place as a leading country music artist.

*Fee: $10*

*Time: 7 – 8:30 p.m.*

*Location: Amphitheater*

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**Saturday, May 10**

**Moonlight & Magnolias Garden Gala**

Our annual Moonlight & Magnolias Gala raises funds for the maintenance, growth, and sustainability of the Garden. The Gala this year features special guest speaker Dr. Larry Mellichamp, Director of the UNC - Charlotte Botanical Garden. The evening includes a silent auction, live entertainment, dinner, cocktails, and the opportunity to learn about new and ongoing garden projects.

*Time: 6 – 10 p.m.*

*Location: Fran Hanson Discovery Center*
Thank you for making generous donations between 7/19/13 and 11/1/2013. New donors are listed in green - welcome! All at the Patron, Magnolia, Diamond, Maple, Emerald, Camellia and Sapphire levels are joint Garden & Museum members.

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Donald Newman
Elisa Kay Sparks

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The Garden’s Gate  •  10

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D.R. & Linda Cash
Caire & Frances Caskey

The Garden’s Gate  •  10
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Mary Whitehead
Rusty Wilson

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Clemson City Council
Clemson Garden Club, in honor of Jerry Reel & Mary Beth McCubbin
Dogwood Garden Club
Flowertown Garden Club
Frances Hart Garden Club
Frances Vasen Garden Club
Friends of Lake Keowee Society
Grand Strand Master Gardeners
Lexington Co. Master Gardeners
Lowcountry Master Gardeners
Master Gardeners of the Foothills
Melrose Garden Club
Mimosa Garden Club
Moe’s Southwestern Grill of Clemson
Moms Club of Clemson
Our Garden Club of Anderson
Pixie & Bill’s Richland City Master Gardeners
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Upstate Daylily Society
Upstate Master Naturalist Assoc.
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Oliver Rogers
Joan Shearin
Liz Smith
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Furman & Grace Taylor

Museum GEMS
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Paul & Judy Benson
Emerald Members ($250)
Richard Blob & Nora Espinoza
Sapphire Members ($100)
Dorris Sias

Museum Gifts-In-Kind
Lee Thomas, various archeological specimens in memory of Frank Fleming

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J. C. Cook

FW Thode Botanical Garden Endowment
James Rodgers

Hosta Garden
Harold & Claudia Harris, in memory of Betty Cruickshank

Natural Heritage Garden
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Leah Williams & family
Live Oaks in memory of Jeanne Bush Campbell
Clemson Lion’s Club

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Betty Fisher
Charles Jones
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Lawrence Rourke
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Larris Snelgrove
Kirk Weyman
Jack Wilson

We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact Membership & Gifts Manager Allison Jones at 864-656-4602 or alliso@clemson.edu with any corrections.
Spring Plant Sales
April 11 & 12

Wildflower ecology:
Red maple (Acer rubrum)
~ Look for its flowers as early as January.

One of our first native trees to flower in the New Year, red maple flowers from January to March (depending on elevation and latitude), when nighttime temperatures are often below freezing. Aptly named, there is something red about this tree year round. It has red twigs, buds, and flowers in winter, reddish new leaves in spring, red leaf stalks and seeds in summer, and reddish (or yellow) foliage in autumn. A highly adaptable species, red maple is one of the most abundant and widely distributed trees in eastern North America. It grows in habitats as diverse as mountain bogs and dry ridges, on soil textures ranging from sands to clays, on highly acidic to nearly neutral soils, in open areas with full sunlight to shaded sites in the forest understory, and at elevations ranging from sea level in the coastal plain to nearly 6,000 ft. in the southern Appalachians. Its abundance has increased markedly since presettlement times due to its ability to rapidly colonize disturbed areas. White-tailed deer and rabbits browse twigs, beavers gnaw bark, and rodents and songbirds consume seeds of red maple. The bright red spots with halos often seen on leaves are flat galls of the maple leafspot midge, a larval fly.

~ Tim Spira, CU botany professor and author of Wildflowers and Plant Communities of the Southern Appalachian Mountains and Piedmont

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