Creating a diverse landscape is an excellent way to increase the resilience of your garden and landscape. Using a variety of well-adapted natives and non-natives that don’t require excessive care is an excellent way to reduce pest pressures, increase the ‘fun’ of gardening and keep chores to a minimum.

It’s well worth seeking out plants that will flourish in our climate. Good nurseries, local garden centers, and plant sales like ours at the Garden have done that selection for you, but don’t rely on ‘big box’ garden centers to be as knowledgeable, since their products are often selected on a widely defined regional basis.

This year’s spring sales will provide a number of new plant selections, including easy-to-grow carnivorous plants such as pitcher plants and sundews.

We’ll also have beautiful hypertufa and seasonal container plantings and hanging baskets for sun or shade designed by Ginny Steadman (see an example of her work at left).

They’ll be ready for you to pick up at the plant sale to brighten up a porch or deck and sales will benefit the Children’s Garden.

Another new feature will be pre-planned collections to get you started on a butterfly, xeriscape, or shade garden.

Don’t miss our plant sales this spring! It’s a perfect time to add plants to your garden or landscape.

~ Lisa Wagner, Director of Education
Interim Director’s Message

The first Oconee Bell burst into flower on February 28! Add to this the early-flowering Red Maple, *Prunus mume*, Hellebores, the unusual paperbush (*Edgeworthia papyrifera*), *Sarcococca* and some fantastic *Magnolia* species and spring came early to the Garden.

If you haven’t explored the Specialty Arboretum, you really should. It’s located along Lacecap Loop and contains some fantastic and rare *Magnolia* species such as *Magnolia zenii*, *M. cavaleriei* var. *platypetala* along with many others – these were all in full bloom in early March!

Although the garden never sleeps, spring is the busiest time for plants and people in the garden. And let’s face it, isn’t everyone’s favorite time of year spring?

Warmer days bring droves of visitors to the garden. This is the time of year when it can be challenging to find parking at the Caboose lot, so make your way to the parking area at the Fran Hanson Discovery Center and Bob Campbell Geology Museum to enjoy even more of the Garden. Garden Horticulturist Kathy Bridges has created a new landscape just outside the Geology Museum featuring tender coastal and dryland plants (they’ll benefit from the protected location and amended soil). Come take a look, and while you’re there, see the new shark exhibit in the museum. Bring a friend or bring your family and remember to spread the word – we’re a great place to visit, walk, exercise, relax and learn!

Also remember to tell your friends about the SCBG and encourage them to join you in supporting our Friends program – it is going a long way towards keeping our garden growing.

Enjoy the spring!

~~Patrick McMillan~~

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Garden Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick McMillan</td>
<td>Interim Garden Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Bodiford</td>
<td>Senior Horticulturist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Bridges</td>
<td>Landscape Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Cicimurri</td>
<td>Curator of Education (Museum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Cicimurri</td>
<td>Curator of Collections (Museum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlene Evans</td>
<td>Rental &amp; Retail Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Merck</td>
<td>Nursery Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allison O’Dell Jones</td>
<td>Sprouting Wings Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Soto</td>
<td>Facilities Manager (welcome back, Eric!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginny Steadman</td>
<td>Children’s Garden Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kendra Vincent</td>
<td>York Program Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Wagner</td>
<td>Director of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Watts</td>
<td>Garden Educator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Clemson, SC 29634-0174
phone: 864.656.3405
email: scbg@clemson.edu
www.clemson.edu/scbg

Newsletter production: Lisa Wagner

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Foamflower
*Tiarella cordifolia*
News from the Garden

Class of ‘62 President’s Garden

An updated landscape design for the President’s Garden project, part of the Heritage Gardens, was recently completed by Clemson Horticulture grad Renee Byrd, APLD, of Byrd Landscape Design in Pickens, South Carolina.

Renee’s plan integrates respect for the site, as well as providing opportunities for interpretation of the contributions of Clemson University through its presidents. The primary interpretive themes that will be woven through the President’s Garden are place (everything grew out of this ground), people (travel and outreach throughout the state), research, and service. Look for more about this project in upcoming newsletters. The garden will include attractive and interesting landscape features, along with innovative smartphone-based interpretation.

Thank you...

~ to Split Creek Farm of Anderson for the donation of composted goat manure - it’s black gold! It was used, along with our own compost, to enrich the Food for Thought Garden beds in the Children’s Garden to start the spring growing season. Come see how the vegetables and herbs thrive during the upcoming season. Split Creek Farm (www.splitcreek.com) is nationally-known for their award-winning goat cheese and other products.

~ to Dr. Jim Fanning for his endowment transfer to the Fanning Science Education Program at the South Carolina Botanical Garden.

~ and a special THANK YOU to all of you who have joined for the first time as members, renewed your memberships, or increased your membership gift. Thanks, too, to those of you who have made contributions to specific funds and projects. These outside resources (along with other gifts, revenue sources, and grants) allow the Garden to continue our programs, welcome visitors, and maintain the Garden. Your gifts are an increasingly vital source of support.

Staff news...

Facilities manager Eric Soto is expected back in April from an extended leave on National Guard duty (over a year and half). We’ll be glad to have him back.

Garden Manager James Arnold completed his temporary return to work at the Garden and is now officially retired. We are so grateful for the many years that James contributed his talents, vision, and effort to the Garden. His leadership resulted in numerous Garden improvements over the last two decades. Look for more on James’ contributions in a future issue of the newsletter.

Spigelia marilandica
Education Update

Fanning Science Education Program

We're delighted to announce the inception of the Fanning Science Education Program at the South Carolina Botanical Garden, supported by the Lois C. and James C. Fanning, Sr. Memorial Endowment. The Endowment was established by Dr. Jim Fanning in memory of his parents, who were high school chemistry teachers. Jim is a retired CU Professor of Chemistry, Master Gardener, nature photographer, and long-term SCBG volunteer. His granddaughter Rachel’s experiences in one of our summer science camps was the inspiration for the program endowment.

The Fanning Science Education Program is a summer, afterschool, and weekend program for children designed to engage children to explore science and natural history at the South Carolina Botanical Garden and encourage elementary teachers to expand their science capabilities. The first Fanning Science Education Programs will include a week of summer day camp in June 2011 (Garden Explorations) and a week in late July (Natural Discoveries), as well as several Family Saturday programs during the summer.

Thanks, Jim, for this generous investment in informal science education at the Garden and Museum.

Volunteer opportunities

Do you enjoy growing vegetable and herbs? Or learning more about creating attractive combinations of plants, while helping the Garden look its best? Or sharing freshly harvested produce with clients of the local food bank?

The Food for Thought Garden (in the Children’s Garden), and the Master Gardener’s Plant-a-Row for the Hungry project in the Heirloom Vegetable Garden site, as well as the Snell Vegetable Garden (the kitchen garden next to the Fran Hanson Discovery Center), will be in full swing this spring, summer, and fall.

If you’d like to help out with one of these projects as a gardener, or harvester, or both, please contact Lisa Wagner at lwagner@clemson.edu or at 656-3679.

Sprouting Wings activities

Sprouting Wings students have been enjoying another rewarding spring semester, learning about a variety of natural science subjects and continually making exciting discoveries within the Garden. Sprouting Wings has been in existence for almost 20 years, connecting children with nature by using gardening, nature exploration, environmental stewardship and mentoring in a unique free after-school program. Sprouting Wings children have participated in the development of the Peter Rabbit and Food for Thought gardens, as well as several Family Saturday programs during the summer.

Thanks, Jim, for this generous investment in informal science education at the Garden and Museum.

Monday-Friday, June 20-24, 2011
Fanning Science Education Program:
GARDEN EXPLORATIONS CAMP
Join us for an summer day-camping adventure for children ages 8-10. Garden Explorations brings science discovery to life. Why do butterflies like to visit certain flowers? Have you ever followed the path of a raindrop? What lives in the garden’s ponds and streams? Discover the answers to these questions and others by participating in inquiry-based nature-based activities that promote connection with the natural world. Garden Explorations encourages kids to take a closer look, ask questions and use their imaginations. Sponsored by the Fanning Science Education Program.
Time: 8:30 a.m. – noon
Fee: $145 ($125 members)
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

Tuesday, April 12
GARDEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION WALK
This program, led by Education Director Lisa Wagner, will model routes of typical garden walks, highlighting stops and places along the way that are of interest to visitors of all ages.
Fee: FREE for Garden and Museum volunteers
Time: 10 a.m. – noon
Location: meet at Hanson Nature Learning Center

The Garden’s Gate • 4
**Museum Update**

**Scouts Learn about the Earth**

On a sunny Saturday in February, the Geology Museum hosted seven Arrow-of-Light Cub Scouts (all 5th graders at Ravenel Elementary School) to learn more about rocks, minerals and the study of the Earth. The boys were working to complete an Activity Badge which required them to discuss how minerals are used in buildings, to draw and label a volcano including the internal elements, to identify and curate (or label) at least five rock or mineral specimens, and to define a fossil and discuss the fossil history of our area. During the two-hour program, they toured the museum using the exhibits and prior knowledge to complete the badge requirements. Curator of Education Christian Cicimurri then gave each scout 6-8 specimens to start their own rock and mineral collection.

**Cub Scout Pack 201**

Scout programs not only benefit the museum through the revenue they generate, but they provide an exciting opportunity for curators to interact with interested youngsters who are eager for knowledge. Each year the Geology Museum hosts about eight such programs, with at least 50 children participating. We are proud to be a resource for local community groups, and invite other special interest groups to visit the museum.

**Recent Donations**

In February, Anne Copeland of Clemson, SC donated eleven specimens to the Geology Museum in memory of her uncle, Robert Norton. Mr. Norton was a hobby geologist and mineral collector. The collection includes a large amethyst cluster (pictured at right at almost 9 inches long), malachite, lepidolite (an uncommon variety of pink mica), crystalline and microcrystalline varieties of quartz, and a nice specimen of galena, pyrite and chalcopyrite. We look forward to using these specimens during educational programs. Thank you, Anne!

**Update on Angle-Plated Quartz**

In the November-December 2010 issue, we discussed the formation of angle-plated quartz, a curious variety of the mineral composed of microscopic crystals that form along intersecting planes or sheets. We mentioned the only known source region – Upstate South Carolina – and stated that nobody really knows how it forms. On a recent visit to Devil’s Fork State Park, Museum curators Dave and Chris Cicimurri observed a natural rock formation that may provide some clues to the formation of this interesting quartz variety. Look at the picture to the right, paying special attention to the intersecting white lines in the rock. We believe these white lines are the result of precipitated quartz that formed in the cracks of the local bedrock (rather than the red clay as previously postulated). The bedrock is quite weathered here, leaving behind a framework of quartz in the cracks, which we now know as angle-plated quartz.

Photos by Christian Cicimurri
## Calendar of Classes & Events

### April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 2</td>
<td><strong>A WALK IN THE GARDEN</strong></td>
<td>Join CU Naturalist, Host of ETV’s “Expeditions with Patrick McMillan,” and Garden Interim Director Patrick McMillan for a spring walk in the Garden focusing on birds. Bring binoculars, field guides, and dress for the weather. Pre-registration required. Limited to 15 participants. (This is a benefit program for Garden education and outreach). Fee: $75 ($65 members) Time: 9 a.m. - noon Location: Betsy Campbell Carriage House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 5</td>
<td><strong>LAVENDER, ESSENTIAL OILS, AND HERBAL SCRUBS AND SPLASHES</strong></td>
<td>Spend a relaxing morning learning about using the power of herbs to soothe and heal. We’ll prepare lavender sachets, create spa-style herbal soaks and discover the refreshing power of aromatic scrubs and splashes. Pre-registration is required by the previous Friday. All materials are provided. Fee: $30 ($25 for members) Time: 9:30 -11:30 a.m. Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 5</td>
<td><strong>VEGETABLE GARDENING BASICS</strong></td>
<td>Warm season vegetables and herbs are stalwarts in the vegetable garden, from the attractive fruits of tomatoes, peppers, and squash, to the twining vines of beans, to heat-loving basils. Learn about which warm-season vegetables and herbs perform well through our hot dry summer months and how succession planting can extend the season. Fee: $10 ($8 for members and volunteers) Time: 1:30–3:30 p.m. Location: Hayden Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 7</td>
<td><strong>SUSTAINABLE PERENNIAL GARDENING</strong></td>
<td>Perennials chosen for drought tolerance, pest-resistance, and multi-season good looks provide the basis for sustainable perennial gardens in the Upstate. Regionally-adapted natives and well-behaved plants from elsewhere provide an excellent plant palette for gardens that restore habitat, rather than requiring life support. Fee: $15 ($8 for SCBG members &amp; volunteers) Time: 10 a.m. - noon Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 16 (OR) Sunday, April 17</td>
<td><strong>KUDZU KAN DO: WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH KUDZU</strong></td>
<td>Difficult to control, Kudzu is often called “the vine that ate the south.” Few people have much nice to say about it, but the vines, leaves and flowers have many uses. Join Clemson University Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management students to learn about its history and then see what fun things you can fashion from the vines in this student-designed program. We may even have some kudzu treats to try! Fee: $7/family ($5/family for members and volunteers) Time: 2 - 4 p.m. Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**May**

**Wednesday, May 4**

**WATERWISE GARDENING**

Record summer heat and drought has stressed many plants in our gardens and natural areas. Learn how to make your garden less reliant on additional water through soil preparation, careful plant selection, and mulching. We’ll talk about choosing drought-tolerant plants for sun and shade, including creating containers using herbs and waterwise perennials.

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

Time: 1 – 3 p.m.

Location: Hayden Conference Center

**Friday, May 6**

**STAR GAZING EVENT**

Every year thousands of shooting stars amaze stargazers around the world. Join us for a special evening of wonder as we learn about a minor springtime meteor shower and its origin. Geology Museum educator Chris Cicimurri will guide you in identification of constellations and naked-eye viewing, as well as helping you understand what you’re seeing. Bring pillows, blankets and/or chairs, and dress for the weather. Dark skies should provide excellent viewing conditions, but remember there are no guarantees. Cloudy skies or rain will cancel the event.

Fee: $10 per family (up to 5), $7 for members & volunteers

Time: 8:30 – 10 p.m.

Location: The Kelly Meadow

**Saturday, May 7**

**FIELD TRIP TO SWALLOWTAIL GARDENS**

Join us for a special excursion to visit the woodland garden of Edmund and Abigail Taylor featured in the March, 2011 issue of Southern Living magazine. Specializing in spring woodland plants, their garden and nursery (www.swallowtailgardens.net) includes a diversity of native and non-native species including bleeding hearts, jack-in-the pulpit, primulas, and more. This program benefits the SCBG Butterfly Garden.

Fee: $75 (includes transportation and lunch); $50 is tax-deductible.

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Location: Meet at the Discovery Center Parking Area

**Tuesday, May 10**

**NOT JUST PARSLEY, SAGE, ROSEMARY AND THYME**

Embark on an international culinary adventure as we harness the power of herbs. The widening availability of herbs is a boon to the home cook, enabling us to recreate dishes from far away countries. Travel to South East Asia, Africa and Europe in this morning workshop. Meet and learn more about the important herbs that cross cultures and and enliven recipes all over the world.

Fee: $15 ($10 for members)

Time: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

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**Tuesday, April 19**

**INTRODUCTION TO PYNSKYY: UKRAINIAN EGG PAINTING**

Decorative eggs make a dramatic and thoughtful gift at any time of the year, but are particularly appropriate in spring. In this beginner’s workshop, practice this decorative technique, which relies on the magical properties of beeswax and the artistry of the human hand.

Time: 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Fee: $20 ($18 for members)

Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

**Wednesday, April 20**

**SUCCESSFUL HOME LANDSCAPE DESIGN**

Whether you have an established landscape in need of change or an open slate following new construction, applying design fundamentals from a personal perspective makes the difference between an ordinary landscape and a garden that welcomes you home.

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

Time: 10:30 a.m. – noon

Location: Hayden Conference Center

**Tuesday, April 26**

**WILDFLOWERS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS AND PIEDMONT**

The South Carolina Botanical Garden is pleased to host a program and book-release event for CU Professor of Biological Sciences Tim Spira, author of *Wildflowers and Plant Communities of the Southern Appalachians and Piedmont: a Naturalist’s Guide to the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee, & Georgia*, just published by University of North Carolina Press. Tim will share highlights from the rich diversity of plants and plant communities in our region. The program will be followed by an informal reception and book-signing.

Fee: FREE

Time: 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Hayden Conference Center

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Use our **ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM** at www.clemson.edu/scbg to register.
**Tuesday, May 11**

**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 rain gardens attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife by restoring habitat. We'll discuss rain garden design, plant choices, and garden establishment.

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

*Time: 1 – 2:30 p.m.*

*Location: Hayden Conference Center*

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**Friday, May 13**

**RENOVATING YOUR HOME LANDSCAPE**
Do you want to redesign or improve your home landscape? Join Lisa Wagner for a creative workshop focused on turning your existing yard into a garden that's sustainable as well as attractive. Through photo analysis and discussion, this workshop will collaboratively focus on participants' landscapes. Bring large format (8x10 or larger) photos of the areas in your landscape that you’d like to work on and a site map of your property or site plan to the workshop. Workshop size is limited to 6.

*Fee: $45 ($30 for members & volunteers)*

*Time: 9 a.m. - noon*

*Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center*

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**Saturday, May 14**

**MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE GARDEN**
Join CU Naturalist, Host of ETV's “Expeditions with Patrick McMillan,” and Garden Interim Director Patrick McMillan and his birding colleagues for a workshop on learning how to identify, observe, and listen to birds in the Garden. May is a peak time for observing seasonal migrants and learning about their ecology. Bring binoculars, field guides, and dress for the weather. Pre-registration required. Limited to 15 participants. (This is a benefit program for Garden education and outreach).

*Fee: $75 ($65 members)*

*Time: 9 a.m. - noon*

*Location: Betsy Campbell Carriage House*

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**Tuesday, May 17**

**CAROLINA FOSSILS**
Have you ever wondered where to find fossils in South Carolina, or how to identify fossils you have found? Geology Museum educator, Christian Cicimurri will answer these questions and more as preparation for the upcoming fossil collecting trip on May 21 (children 10 and older welcome!). We'll discuss local fossil localities, collecting guidelines and techniques, and identification features. If you’ve never had a ‘behind the scenes’ tour of the Geology Museum, this is your chance to see fossil preparation in progress. And it’s great preparation for a beach vacation!

*Fee: $7 ($5 for Museum members & volunteers)*

*Time: 4 – 5 p.m.*

*Location: Bob Campbell Geology Museum*

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**Saturday, May 21**

**SPRING FOSSIL ADVENTURE**
Join Museum curators for a trip 35 million years into the past! We'll travel to a rich fossil locality in the SC Lowcountry to collect fossilized shark teeth, turtle, whale and crocodile bones, along with clams, snails and other marine creatures. Because of the potentially dangerous nature of the site, we must require that all participants be at least 10 years old, and that all children under 18 be accompanied by an adult. Lunch and transportation are included.

*Space is limited, so please REGISTER by May 6th.*

*Fee: $65 per person, $180 for three participants ($55 for members & volunteers)*

*Time: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.*

*Location: Meet at the Discovery Center parking area*

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**June**

**Tuesday, May 24**

**NATURE JOURNALS: A QUIET CRAFT**
Spend a morning exploring the late spring beauty of the Garden and tap your creativity to begin your own nature journal. We will cover tips and techniques to hone observation skills, provide background information about nature journals, and enable you to develop your own journal style. Bring a blank notebook or pages of your choice to create a personalized journal.

*Fee: $15 ($10 for members)*

*Time: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.*

*Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center*

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**Tuesday, June 7**

**CULINARY HERBAL ADVENTURES: WEST AFRICA**
Spend a morning crafting, then enjoying, a three course meal heady with the scents of West African herbs and spices. Discover some of the staple ingredients used in this part of the world as we create African Sweet Potato and Peanut Soup, Jollof Rice and Shuku Shuku.

*Fee: $20 ($18 for members)*

*Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

*Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center*

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**Tuesday, June 28**

**CULINARY HERBAL ADVENTURES: SOUTHEAST ASIA**
Garlic, ginger, mint, basil, and lemon grass flavor dishes from Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia. Join this hands-on class to create and then eat three flavorful recipes from this region: Thai Summer Rolls, Vietnamese Chicken Salad and Lemongrass scented coconut rice.

*Fee: $20 ($18 for members)*

*Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

*Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center*
Programs for Children and Families

Tuesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26 & May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
GARDEN SPROUTS: GROWING YOUNG GARDENERS
Garden Sprouts will sow and germinate vegetable, flower and herb seeds while working in the Sprouting Wings Greenhouse and Children’s Garden. Songs, stories, and craft-activities are an integral part of this program for young children and a caregiver. Program will be held in the Hanson Nature Learning Center in case of rain. Sprouts need to be accompanied by a caregiver. Pre-registration is required by Friday before each program. Limited to 10 pairs of participants. Fee: $7 per class ($5 for members)
Time: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

Wednesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 & May 4, 11, 18, 25
STORYTELLING IN THE GARDEN
Travel around the world and across time with stories about nature, old and new. All ages are invited to this multicultural program using stories from around the world to explore the natural world. Fee: Free
Time: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

Friday, April 22
EARTH DAY OPEN HOUSE
Join Garden and Museum staff in celebrating our planet and its other inhabitants, while learning ways to protect its resources. Many strategies are fun and often save money! We’ll discuss climate change, sustainable gardening, and conservation of energy and water, in a family-friendly format. Themed activities for families include t-shirt painting, herb planting, conservation games, and more. For more information and a detailed schedule, see website description. Fee: FREE with a recyclable item (e-waste accepted!) Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Location: Bob Campbell Geology Museum

Friday, June 3
NATURE PLAY DAY!
Start your child’s summer vacation with a fun-filled day of exploration and discovery in the South Carolina Botanical Garden. Activities will include nature-based crafts and games, adventure walks in the garden, and learning about the natural world and the animals that share it. Full-day, half-day and late pick up options are available to suit your needs. Please pre-register by May 27th, provide your child’s T-shirt size, and plan on sending a bag lunch. Fee: $30 for full day; $20 for a half day Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

Saturday, April 30
PAWS IN THE GARDEN
Bring your dog(s) and join us for a fun walk for people and their pets (1 mile loop in the Garden’s woodland and meadow areas). Event will be held rain or shine. Pets need to be on a leash and friendly. Family groups are welcome to participate. A limited number of event T-shirts will be available for $12. Fee: $8/family (up to 5 individuals, includes pets) ($5/family for SCBG members & volunteers) Time: 9 - 10:30 a.m.
Start at the Discovery Center Parking Area

Saturday, June 11
FAMILY SATURDAY: EXPLORE THE HUNT CABIN
Learn about life in upstate Carolina in the 1800's by exploring the Hunt Cabin. Join guide Sue Watts as she describes the life of the people who called this cabin home.
Fee: $10 /family of 4 ($8 for members)
Time: 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Location: Hunt Cabin

Monday-Friday, June 20-24, 2011
Fanning Science Education Program:
GARDEN EXPLORATIONS CAMP (see p. 4 for details)

Saturday, June 25
FAMILY SATURDAY: SEARCHING FOR SALAMANDERS, FINDING FROGS AND CATCHING CRAYFISH!
Spend a warm day splashing in and around the Garden’s streams looking for reptiles and amphibians. In the process, we will learn more about the ecology of these valuable habitats, and meet some of their other inhabitants. Wear waterproof shoes.
Fee: $10/family of 4 ($8 for members)
Time: 10– 11:30 a.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

Saturday, July 9
FAMILY SATURDAY: POND EXPLORATIONS
The ponds are thriving habitats with fascinating life forms. Explore the inextricably linked worlds above and below the water in this intriguing program. Wear waterproof shoes.
Fee: $10/family of 4 ($8 for members)
Time: 10– 11:30 a.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

Friday, April 22
EARTH DAY OPEN HOUSE
Join Garden and Museum staff in celebrating our planet and its other inhabitants, while learning ways to protect its resources. Many strategies are fun and often save money! We’ll discuss climate change, sustainable gardening, and conservation of energy and water, in a family-friendly format. Themed activities for families include t-shirt painting, herb planting, conservation games, and more. For more information and a detailed schedule, see website description. Fee: FREE with a recyclable item (e-waste accepted!) Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Location: Bob Campbell Geology Museum

Friday, June 3
NATURE PLAY DAY!
Start your child’s summer vacation with a fun-filled day of exploration and discovery in the South Carolina Botanical Garden. Activities will include nature-based crafts and games, adventure walks in the garden, and learning about the natural world and the animals that share it. Full-day, half-day and late pick up options are available to suit your needs. Please pre-register by May 27th, provide your child’s T-shirt size, and plan on sending a bag lunch. Fee: $30 for full day; $20 for a half day Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center
Plan now for warm season vegetables.

If you haven’t prepared your beds yet, you still have time. Add a layer of 2-3 inches of compost or composted manure to last season’s beds and mix into the soil. If you have a new site to prepare, remove or smother any existing plants, loosen the soil by turning and breaking up clods of clay, then add the compost. If you’re lucky, you already have rich soil in raised beds that require little additional preparation.

Summer harvest

Growing your own vegetables means that you can have perfectly fresh, tasty varieties of squash, peppers, and tomatoes, as well as other vegetables. This mid-season harvest included a red cabbage, harvested late, and a baby leek.

Vegetable transplants will be available at Garden Fest (4/16), the Spring Plant Sale (4/15 & 4/16), the Earth Day Open House (4/22), and the Second Chance Plant sale (4/30). As warm-season vegetables continue to mature, keep harvesting regularly to encourage production. Fruit set of both tomatoes and peppers can decline in extreme heat, due to lack of pollination, but will pick up with cooler weather.

Protecting pollinators is vital for good crop yields. Honey bees, bumblebees, squash bees, and carpenter bees are among the pollinators necessary for many of our summer vegetable crops (squash, melons, okra, cucumbers, and eggplant). And, even though common pepper and tomato varieties have been bred to be self-pollinating, pollinator activity will increase fruit set.

Protect pollinators by not using pesticides in your yard and garden. A ecologically-balanced, diversified garden means less pest buildup, in any case.

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We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please call Christian Cicimurri at 864-656-4602 or e-mail cmcici@clemson.edu with corrections for gifts made in December 2010-February 2011.
Gardening Green
Choosing plants

Question:
How do I choose good plants at a nursery, garden center, or ‘big box’ store?

Answer:

First, does the plant look healthy? Is it vigorously growing, with shoots and leaves proportionately balanced with roots in the pot? In late spring and summer, often annuals and perennials have been held too long in small pots, and have become pot-bound; these plants will require freeing up their roots and plenty of TLC before beginning to flourish in your garden.

Carefully examine dormant, bare-root plants, packaged in peat moss or potting soil. These are best purchased in early spring. I saw a fellow last spring at a big box store buy a couple of grapevines and a raspberry plant that were obviously dead, but he clearly didn’t recognize the signs. The desiccated stems and buds were a total give-away; a healthy plant would have produced new growth many weeks before. He also bought several bags of organic potting mix, so he had high hopes for his plantings, not to be realized with those plants.

Annual transplants of vegetables, herbs and flowers also do best when they’re at just the right stage for planting - that is, with roots just filling up the cell or pot with short, sturdy stems. Bigger is not better in this regard.

It’s well worth buying well-grown and maintained plants at good local garden centers (the plants that we sell at SCBG plant sales are in this category!) These plants are likely to have been properly tended and maintained, even if they weren’t propagated on site. For example, a recently purchased ‘Autumn Gold’ ginkgo sapling from an excellent local nursery had robust new spring growth and a healthy root system. The investment in a well-grown, healthy plant will usually be repaid by its success in the future.