The past several issues of the Garden’s Gate offered a very brief overview of our history. If you read those articles you have a general understanding of how we came into being, milestones along the way, and an introduction to some of the key players in our journey.

However, when you try to tell a tale as unique and diverse as ours, it’s more than a little hard to cover it all. In the case of the tale of the South Carolina Botanical Garden, one of the hardest aspects to convey is the passion behind the hundreds of people throughout the years that have helped make us what we are: our staff and volunteers.

In regard to the staff, people simply don’t stay in a job for 20 or 30 years unless they are committed. Of course, I’ve heard tell around here that working at the Garden for 20 or 30 years might qualify you to BE committed, but that’s another story altogether. The hours are long. The work can be demanding. There are higher paying jobs out there. And at times one can feel like Sisyphus ceaselessly rolling that rock up the hill only to have it come tumbling down again. Yet, we’ve got men and women here who each day come to this Garden for the pure and simple reason that they love it, they see the strides that have been made and they are, indeed, committed to moving us forward knowing full well that one day we’ll get that rock to stay in place. Right where we want it. (Until, of course, the squirrels gnaw away its underpinning.)

So the story of our staff would require a book to portray the diversity and nuances of their personal motivations, accomplishments, experiences and the crazy things they have seen happen here at the Garden. Regarding that last item—crazy things—I suppose some things are best left unsaid. Or at least unpublished. Otherwise I’d be happy to share. Trust that we’ve seen a lot of interesting things occur here.

But our Garden was not built by staff alone. From very early on a significant group of people saw in this land the potential it possesses and invested in carving from our acres the Garden of our dreams. Liken it to a sculptor with a massive chunk of stone – 295-acres in this case – who removes the unnecessary parts to reveal a finished piece. This group of people has given thousands of hours of time. It is hard to know for sure exactly how much, but we’re thinking well over 100,000 hours. That’s the equivalent of an additional full-time person from the day this Garden stared.

In addition to time, muscle, brains and sweat, these people have given us significant contributions of funds and other resources through their membership, in-kind donations, and outright cash contributions. And they have also become partners in the truest sense of the word, bringing forth new ideas and perspectives and integrating themselves into the culture of our Garden.

Of course, I’m referring to our volunteers. Our “12th man.” We simply could not have done it – nor can we move forward – without them. Although we are hosting a public display of appreciation for all our volunteers on December 4th (hope you can make it), it seemed appropriate in the context of reflecting on the history of our Garden to acknowledge the role they have played in making us what we are. It truly is hard to find a way to thank them adequately.

It is our hope that we can count on the continued support of our volunteers and recruit a few more as the decades roll on. As I write this we are in the midst of very uncertain economic times at the national, state and university level. Regardless of the long- or short-term impact of the current financial situation in America, there is no doubt that the Garden serves a valuable purpose to the people of South Carolina. We are educational, recreational, and offer a respite from a rapidly changing world. And we’re free. With the continued support of you—our members and volunteers—we will keep this Garden growing no matter what challenges we may face.

I hope your autumn and holiday season are filled with friends, family, love, health and prosperity. Thank you for being a part of the Garden.

Onward and upward,
Garden News

Garden Facelifts: New Newsletter and New Website
In order to meet new Clemson University web requirements—and to help facilitate navigating the website and visiting the Garden—we have launched a new SCBG website. Many pages are still under construction, but visit www.clemson.edu/scbg to check out the new site. We hope you like the new site and that you begin to use it as a resource for current Garden updates. Check back often as we work to improve the site even more.

Also, in January, you’ll see a new Garden’s Gate in your mailbox. Completely updated, the new newsletter will be in full color (a much better way to showcase our photos!) and will contain lots of new information. It will also now run four times a year to save paper. Please send your email address to scbg@clemson.edu to make sure you receive timely updates.

Discovery Center’s December Hours
The Fran Hanson Discovery Center will be open on Sundays in December. We look forward to welcoming your visiting families and helping with your holiday shopping! Hours are 1pm–5pm Dec. 7, 14 and 21. The Discovery Center will be closed Dec. 23–26. Check the website or call 864-656-3405 for hours during the last week of December. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday season!

Holiday Shopping in the Garden

The Gift Shops’ Holiday Open House
Refreshments, 10% savings*, & holiday cheer!
Friday, Dec. 5 & Saturday, Dec. 6, 10am – 4pm

The Garden and Museum Gift Shops feature unique handmade jewelry, as well as the area’s best selection of quality gifts, artwork, local food items, gardening tools and educational toys.

Our one-of-a-kind bracelets, earrings and necklaces, handmade by local artists and museum staff, feature natural stones and minerals.

Custom jewelry orders are accepted anytime by calling 864-656-4600.

Garden Hours: Mon – Sat, 10am – 4pm; Sun (Dec only) 1pm – 5pm
Museum Hours: Wed – Sat, 10am – 5pm; Sun 1pm – 5pm.
Call 864-656-3405 for more information, or email scbg@clemson.edu.

Friends receive an additional 15% off purchases* with this ad

*Discounts not available on consignment items. Offer valid through Dec. 23.
GEOLOGY IN THE GARDEN HIKE
The Geology Museum’s Education Curator Christian Cicimurri will lead this walk to visit some rarely seen geological features of the Garden. This event is appropriate for all ages; however, strollers and other wheeled devices are not recommended.
Tuesday, November 11, 11:00am – noon
Fee: $2 suggested donation
Location: Meet at the Discovery Center parking area

PROPAGATING WOODY PLANTS
Interested in growing woody plants from cuttings? Join SCBG Nursery Manager Ryan Merck for a demonstration-based workshop focused on plant propagation of woody plants, especially conifers. Ryan is responsible for the Garden’s excellent plant sales as well as ongoing propagation and plant production for SCBG landscapes.
Thursday, November 13, 9:00am – 11:00am
Fee: $12 ($10 for members & volunteers)
Location: Nature Learning Center

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE: ORGANIC GARDENING BASICS
Interested in making your landscape or garden a healthier one for people, pets and wildlife? Learn how to create a diverse, ecologically balanced, and sustainable garden that’s enjoyable and attractive—as well as great for the environment. In this workshop, we’ll focus on organic gardening methods and practices, including soil amendments, composting, natural pest and disease control, plant selection and rotation.
Thursday, November 20, 10:00am – noon
Fee: $15 ($12 for members & volunteers)
Location: Nature Learning Center

GIFT SHOP CLASSES at the GEOLOGY MUSEUM
must pre-register one week before class

Creating Beautiful Tablescapes
Price: $40 includes materials ($36 for members)
Time: 10am–noon & 2pm–4pm (1 time slot per class)
Dates: Friday, Nov. 7; Friday, Nov. 14, Thursday, Nov. 20 (no 2pm class); Wednesday, Dec. 17; Thursday, Dec. 18

Making Your Own Natural Wreaths
Price: $45 includes materials ($40 for members)
Time: 10am–noon & 2pm–4pm (1 time slot per class)
Dates: Thursday, Nov. 6 (no 2pm class); Saturday, Nov. 8 (no 2pm class); Thursday, Nov. 13 (no 2pm class); Wednesday, Nov. 19; Wednesday, Dec. 3; Thursday, Dec. 11; Friday, Dec. 12

Creating Handmade, Natural Ornaments
Price: $30 includes materials ($27 for members)
Time: 10am–noon & 2pm–4pm (1 time slot per class)
Dates: Thursday, Dec. 4; Wednesday, Dec. 10

Crafting Wrapped Wire, Illusion & Organza Necklaces
Price: $45 includes materials ($40 for members)
Wednesday, Nov. 5: 10am–noon & 2pm–4pm
Thursday, Nov. 13: 2pm–4pm
Friday, December 12: 5:30pm–7:30pm
Saturday, December 13: 10am–noon
Friday, December 19: 10am–noon & 2pm–4pm

FALL FOSSIL ADVENTURE: DAY TRIP
Join Museum curators for a day of adventure and discovery! We will be traveling to Berkeley County to search for 40-million-year-old fossils from the Santee Formation. Past expeditions have yielded fossilized sand dollars, sea biscuits, crabs and occasionally shark teeth. Children 10 and older are welcome with an adult.
Saturday, November 22, 8:00am (Preregister by Nov. 14)
Fee: $50 ($45 for members)
Location: Meet at the Discovery Center parking area to travel together to Berkeley County

Children’s Education Program

GARDEN SPROUTS
A nature discovery program for children ages 3–5 and a caregiver. Young children will discover the wonders of the Garden in our preschool program led by Sue Watts. Blending the Garden’s unique resources with imaginative and fun ways to learn about plants and animals, Sue will introduce a new theme each week (all new for this session), offering a program full of discovery, observation, songs, crafts, walks, and engaging activities to captivate young minds.
Mondays, November 3 – 24, 10:00am – 11:30am
Fee: $40 for the 4-week session ($36 for members & volunteers)
Location: Nature Learning Center
It has taken over five years to transform a drainage area covered with half an acre of poison ivy into a garden that offers a sense of peacefulness permeated by hues of red, blue and white from early May to late September. For years we have considered ways for the Garden to have a more visible presence at the intersection of Perimeter Road and Hwy. 76. Hydrangeas rose to the top of our list because of the long span of color they offer during a time in the growing season when color is often absent, and they are showy when the flowering azaleas and rhododendrons are finished.

The goal of the Hydrangea Collection is two-fold. Its primary function is to serve as one of the Garden’s educational components, heightening the public’s awareness of Hydrangea and the diversity of color, texture and form they offer. Garden staff are frequently asked questions about Hydrangeas, such as, “When do I prune my Hydrangeas?” or “Why are my Hydrangea flowers blue when I purchased plants with pink flowers?” These questions will be addressed in the interpretive signs along the winding paths. Guests can make visual comparisons of the different species of Hydrangeas in our collection while reading signs about cultural requirements. Visitors can gain a better understanding of how soil chemistry affects flower color of the Hydrangea macrophylla and Hydrangea serrata cultivars, as well as the differences in the flower types of lacecaps and hortensias (commonly referred to as mop heads). Surprisingly, many are unaware that Hydrangea arborescens, the smooth Hydrangea, and Hydrangea quercifolia, the oakleaf Hydrangea, are native to our region, and in some areas are found growing together. All of this and more will be brought together through comprehensive interpretation.

The second goal of the Hydrangea Collection is beautification. Transforming a former eyesore into a beautiful plant collection brings attention to the Garden at one of the University’s and city’s busiest intersections. In recent years, both the City of Clemson and Clemson University have taken great strides to enhance our quality of living by beautifying the community. The Garden staff has whole-heartedly supported these efforts by upgrading our landscape interfaces with campus and city. As a result, I believe that in the near future, visitors to our community will see the city, campus and Botanical Garden as one contiguous garden.

James Arnold
Garden Manager

The SCBG Staff is proud to honor two of our longest contributors as the 2008 Volunteers of the Year: Chuck and Betty Cruickshank. Their dedication and talents have helped the Garden grow for over 25 years, and they continue to inspire fellow volunteers and staff as they work to enhance the Garden’s beauty.

When most people in our community think of hostas, they think of the Cruickshanks—and with good reason. Chuck and Betty established the Hosta Garden in 1996, which is now the focal point of our niche garden area. Twelve years later, they continue to work every Tuesday to keep the hostas healthy and thriving. Beyond their gardening efforts, the Cruickshanks have also been working recently to inventory the hosta collection by photographing and categorizing every plant. They also lead tours through the Hosta Garden (and other areas), and oversee a group of dedicated volunteers.

“I’ve learned a lot from the Cruickshanks,” says John Bodiford, SCBG Senior Horticulturist. “It’s great to work with people who are passionate about one kind of plant and want to share their knowledge with others. They are wonderful teachers and dear friends.”

Betty and Chuck are both true ambassadors to the Garden, sharing their enthusiasm about our resources with the entire community. Betty has also worked to help recruit, train and lead Garden volunteers. Though their beautiful hostas will always remain here, the Cruickshanks legacy may truly be their big hearts and hard work given to this Garden.

Thank you, Chuck and Betty, for everything you’ve done during the past 25 years in the Garden, and for your continued work in 2008. We would not be the Garden we are today without your time, energy and enthusiasm.
Garden Education: Truly Green Gardens

Public gardens are green places, literally, and often serve as green refuges in our cities and suburban landscapes. Many public gardens, ours included, have stories that reflect reclamation of degraded landscapes, transformation of open fields to gardens, or restoration of woodland spaces.

Our public gardens are valued as places of green respite, and even in the most congested and chaotic international cities (I’m thinking about places like Mumbai, Mexico City and Quito), trees, shrubs and flowers provide a connection to nature that is otherwise absent.

In urban areas, botanical gardens and parks serve as “green lungs,” as well as provide patches of vital habitat for a variety of animals, birds, insects and other organisms.

Most public gardens think charitably about their institutions’ missions and goals regarding conservation and the environment. After all, what could be ‘greener’ than promoting plants, growing them, and encouraging our visitors to value them? But many of us in public horticulture and garden education are now thinking about doing more than that—and focusing on how we can encourage our supporters, participants in our programs, and visitors to update their own approaches to living and gardening, in a more sustainable and ‘green’ way.

I’ve participated in several SC Master Gardener symposia lately with green themes. “Greening Carolina: Creating the Eco-friendly Landscape” was the theme of the Statewide Master Gardeners Symposium. In spring, the Midlands Master Gardeners organized “How Green is your Garden?” The Charleston Master Gardeners offered “Growing Green” this fall. A recent special lecture at the Atlanta Botanical Garden featured speakers that showed how an understanding of natural communities and processes helps gardeners meet the regional challenges of drought, soil and climate while creating enduringly beautiful, meaningful spaces.”

These are the values that we need in our gardens, and that we need to promote to our communities. Plants from far away places that are well adapted to whatever climate zones we’re in—well, why not grow them? But the ones that need to be on life support to survive in our gardens—well, maybe not. This may mean some choices that aren’t easy to make, but if public gardens don’t provide ‘green leadership’ for visitors, what message do we send?

Perhaps North American gardens have been a bit slower than our international colleagues about putting themselves forward as models of garden stewardship, green practices and advocates for conservation and restoration.

A recent issue of The Public Garden, the magazine of the American Public Gardens Association, focused on green leadership in a variety of venues. This focus reflects a growing awareness that all of our public garden institutions, not just conservation or native plant gardens, have a significant role to play.

Let’s get growing green in our gardens!

Lisa Wagner, PhD
Director of Education
www.naturalgardening.blogspot.com

Note: A version of this piece first appeared in The Public Garden as the introduction to the “Green Leadership” issue.

Photo: “Gaillardia and Flower Fly,” by Lisa Wagner
New Exhibit: Relics from the Vaults
If you’ve ever wanted to see a phony fossil, or wondered why a museum would have cow bones or a lead cast of a fire ant nest, then come by the Campbell Geology Museum to see one of its latest exhibits, “Relics from the Vaults: Specimens Rarely Seen on Exhibit.” These and other objects are used to illustrate the multi-purpose role museums play in public education, as well as demonstrating how specimens are selected for acquisition. You will definitely not see objects like these on display at any other museum in South Carolina!

Gemstone Exhibit Makeover
Museum staff are in the middle of updating the Paul H. Benson, Jr. lapidary exhibit, which consists of over 1,000 faceted gemstones and polished cabochons. The gemstones were previously individually displayed inside small plastic boxes, which was not aesthetically pleasing. We chose 250 of the best specimens and mounted them on stands specially designed to showcase their brilliance and color. Gemstones were then organized by type (i.e., all of the garnets are together, all of the tourmalines are together), so you will get a good idea of the color variation within these minerals. The cabochons were removed from foam or felt backings and then cleaned. The next step is to choose the most attractive specimens and group them according to type. This phase of the project should be completed within the next couple of weeks. The finishing touch will be to cover the back of the display cabinets with a fabric of uniform color and texture, which will really help the gemstones “pop.”

10th Anniversary Celebration: Thank You!
On September 28, about 300 people helped the BCGM celebrate 10 years in the SCBG. During the open house event, visitors mined for minerals in a sieving tub, had their face painted, played pin-the-head-on-the-dinosaur, printed T-shirts, made origami dinosaurs, watched a fossil preparation demonstration, had their rocks/minerals/fossils identified, and went on a geology hike with our Curator of Education, Christian Cicimurri. BI-LO donated three wonderfully decorated (and delicious) cakes for everyone to enjoy. Many thanks to our students who helped make the event a success: Laura Gandy, Jamie Farmer, Karen West, Jenna Serino, Nancy Keyser and Caroline Hammond. Thank you also to Neil Calkin, who volunteered to share his love of origami with many excited kids, and Allison O’Dell and Tyler Jones, who led the always-crowded T-shirt-printing table.

Museum Curator Dave Cicimurri identifies fossils for a group of young visitors.

Neil Calkin folds paper into fanciful dinosaurs.
Holiday Wish List

The Garden and Museum Staff believe that we’ve been really good this year, so we hope that kind Santas like yourselves may give us an item from our Wish List this Holiday season. If you’re feeling generous enough to purchase an item from the list, please contact a staff member first to confirm style, brand and function. Cash donations are also always appreciated.

Thank you for remembering the Garden during this time of charitable giving!

**Electric Utility Carts** (2) – These carts will help reduce gasoline consumption.
- Cost: $5500 each

**Recycling Bins** (2) for around the Garden.
- Cost: $1600 each (made of recycled material)

**Wheel Barrows** (6)
- Cost: $125 each

**Gas-Powered Extended (12’’) Pole Saw**
- Cost: $500

**Gas-Powered Blower**
- Cost: $400

**Gas-Powered Weedeater**
- Cost: $375

**Supply of Landscape Mower Parts**
- Cost: $300

**Safety Gear/Equipment** – We need more climbing equipment, chaps, hearing protection, safety goggles and gloves.
- Cost: $20–$75 each

**Counter Weights for Tractors/Skid-steer**
- Cost: $250

**Spare Rims and Tires for Landscape Trailers and Skid-steer** – To allow us to continue operating when we have a damaged tire.
- Cost: $750

**Irrigation Supplies** – To repair damage done by squirrels.
- Cost: $1500

**Split-Rail Fencing** – To partition several areas (mostly around retention ponds) from pedestrians and cars.
- Request: $1000

**Greenhouse Renovations** – As was the plan from the time the greenhouses were put in, we would like to connect two sets of two greenhouses. We salvaged lots of equipment from the “bottoms” when those greenhouses were shut down, but we still need some connecting materials and covers.
- Cost: $4000

**Steps in the Hortitherapy Garden** – To finish the path already started and to install steps to the new kiosk.
- Cost: $2500

**Light Filters for Museum** (6) – We need filters to protect specimens from UV light emitted by fluorescent lights in the display cases.
- Cost: $175 each

**Museum Library Upgrades** – To purchase additional books for staff research and for public interest.
- Cost: $50–$150 each

**Fluorescent Mineral Room Upgrades** – To add new audio, lighting and seating.
- Cost: $4000

**Environmental Monitoring Equipment** – To ensure Museum specimens remain stable.
- Cost: $500
**Calendar of Events**

**NOVEMBER**

3: Garden Sprouts  
6: Fossil Fanatics  
10: Garden Sprouts  
11: Geology in the Garden Hike  
13: Propagating Woody Plants Class  
13: Fossil Fanatics  
17: Garden Sprouts  
20: Creating a Sustainable Landscape Class  
20: Fossil Fanatics  
22: Fall Fossil Adventure Day Trip  
24: Garden Sprouts

**DECEMBER**

4: Volunteer Luncheon  
5: Gift Shops’ Holiday Open House  
6: Gift Shops’ Holiday Open House

**GIFT SHOP CLASSES**

Creating Beautiful Tablescapes  
November 7, 14, 20  
December 17, 18

Making Your Own Natural Wreaths  
November 6, 8, 13, 19  
December 3, 11, 12

Creating Handmade, Natural Ornaments  
December 4, 10

Crafting Wrapped Wire, Illusion and Organza Necklaces  
November 5, 6, 13, 20  
December 12, 13, 19

**ONGOING**

**Thursdays:** Vinyasa Yoga with Renee Gahan  
Time: 6:00pm–7:15pm  
Location: Hayden Conference Center  
Fee: $12 per class; $50 for 5 classes, $35 for full-time students

**First Fridays:** Nature Walk with David Bradshaw (free)  
Time: 9am  
Location: Meet in the Caboose parking lot

**Every 3rd Weekend:** 3rd Weekends Free at Geology Museum  
(closed on home football Saturdays)

**Daily:** Fran Hanson Discovery Center  
Hours: Mon.–Sat. 10am–4pm  
First Three Sundays in December 1pm–5pm

**Featured Artist Gallery**

Oct–Jan: Landscape paintings by SC native William Jameson

**Fuller Gallery**

Paintings by Elizabeth Belser Fuller

**Bob Campbell Geology Museum**

Hours: Wed.–Sat. 10am–5pm; Sun. 1–5pm

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To register for events by phone call 864-656-3405 with Visa, MasterCard or American Express.

To mail registration, please list your name, address, phone number, and email along with the date and name of the program. Send with the program fee (make checks payable to CU/SCBG) to:

South Carolina Botanical Garden  
Attn: Program Registration  
150 Discovery Lane - Clemson University  
Clemson, SC 29634-0174

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The South Carolina Botanical Garden  
150 Discovery Lane, Clemson University  
Clemson, SC 29634-0174