The Nature of the Garden

The SCBG has always been a place where wildlife flourished, but now our commitment to be a “Garden for Life” has enhanced and diversified our animal population. By increasing our plant diversity and employing a natural habitat-based style of planting, we have developed even more as a haven for wildlife. In addition to these strategies, we have limited mowing and chemical usage, and added new water sources throughout. According to Garden Director, Patrick McMillan, the SCBG has higher density of insects, amphibians and birds than most areas of the world.

As you walk through the Piedmont Prairie on a hot summer day, grasshoppers leap all around you in a moving wave, and many colorful composite flowers undulate in the wind. Both provide food for birds and small mammals, who in turn provide sustenance for predatory birds and mammals. For the first time, we have seen Great Horned Owls in the Garden, no doubt feasting on a smorgasbord of prey in an area that was previously a relatively sterile monoculture. In addition, the Eastern Meadowlark and Grasshopper Sparrow can now be seen in the Piedmont Prairie too. In fact, the addition of multiple complex habitats throughout the Garden has increased our bird numbers from 112 to 209 species.

As we add plants to our landscape, we continue to entice new species of all types to the Garden. The addition of more citrus species and the toothache tree or prickly ash (Zanthoxylum clava-herculis) has drawn Giant Swallowtails to visit and reproduce for the first time. Of course, the Butterfly Garden continues to support a huge diversity of butterflies by providing both nectar and host plants to meet their needs.

Over the past few years, we have added many small retention ponds which have drawn many insects and amphibians to them. Our latest pond is a beautiful creation in the J. Dabney Peeples Jurassic Garden, designed primarily to showcase water lilies and lotus. Created early in the spring, it is already colonized by tadpoles and frogs, and the air above it swarms with dragonflies.

The ducks, turtles and fish in the Heritage and Duck Ponds are beloved by many. We have added a duck feeder on the Duck Pond Dam that will help keep the ducks healthier and their environment cleaner. A diet of excessive bread is unhealthy for anyone, but in ducks can lead to a deformity known as angel wing. The feeder accepts quarters, which will all go directly toward the cost of the feed. Ducks are also partial to corn (canned, frozen or fresh), lettuce, other greens (torn into small pieces) and peas (defrosted if frozen). Visit often to enjoy all the wonderful wildlife in the Garden!

~ Sue Watts, educator
Director’s Note

This summer has been one of major growth! The ample rain in the late spring coupled with large downpours has produced more vegetation on the trees, shrubs and herbs than I can remember in my time here at the SCBG. While it has been luxuriant, it has also been a challenge. We appreciate your patience as we seem to be continually repairing issues caused by intense downpours and fallen trees. It is all part of life at the SCBG. We have also experienced major growth on our grounds. I hope you will notice and appreciate the wonderful new directional signage throughout the Garden. This is a major improvement that should allow our visitors to discover more of their garden and navigate much more easily across the landscape.

Please visit the Hanson Nature Center at the Children’s Garden. If you haven’t seen the progress you might be shocked to discover an exceptionally designed new garden space and hardscape that has transformed a muddy back yard into a magnificent pollinator garden – the Susan K. Barr Pollinator Garden. This space is a wonderful tribute to an exceptional woman who spread life to everyone she encountered and now life is flourishing in this amazingly transformed space. The new J. Dabney Peeplees Jurassic Garden is also maturing and you can now be transported into a living landscape the likes of which a Velociraptor would have felt at home in. Plants of ancient lineage such as the waterlilies and lotus that grace the pond have really taken hold and are looking great.

Late summer and autumn are the best times to visit the SCBG to enjoy the abundance of pollinators that are encouraged by our diverse landscape that is managed for all life. A trip down any of the trails through the Children’s Garden, the Natural Heritage Garden, the Chihuahuan Desert Garden or virtually any other space in your 295 acre SCBG will turn up life much more abundantly than just anywhere else you can visit in our region. We are proud to be a Garden for Life, one that boasts not just 10,000+ species and varieties of plant but also thousands of insects, a vibrant and healthy pollinator community, 209 species of birds, 18 frog and toad species and life of every kind leaping, singing and flying all around you. Notice the diversity and take in the sights and sounds of life – all of it, when you visit. Notice the diversity of human faces as well, all with one great similarity—a smile. That is why we do what we do. That is why this Garden is open every day of the year and is free of charge to visit. I want to thank you for being a Friend of the SCBG. It is your help that allows us to continue to grow, improve and maintain this space for all of our citizens as a free and wonderful tool for education and enjoyment. Spread the word and please ask your friends to join us in continuing to provide a “Garden for Life” that all can enjoy.

~ Patrick McMillan
After some wonderful spring rain, we are now enduring the extreme heat and humidity of a South Carolina summer. Even through this difficult heat our volunteers and students continue to help maintain the Garden. We couldn’t sustain this beautiful Garden without your help, and we truly appreciate your hard work and dedication.

We rely heavily on volunteer help in the Garden. If you would like to help, please apply online on the Garden’s website (Google: SCBG Volunteer). We’d love to have your talents at work in the Garden.

**Improving Visitor Experience**

New directional signs are being installed throughout the Garden to help improve our visitor experiences. Around mid-August, we will also transition to a new traffic pattern within the Garden. We will close access to Garden Trail at the turf plots (the entrance closest to Highway 76). This road will now only be a service entrance. Access to Hayden Conference Center, Hanover house and Children’s Garden parking lot will be through the main entrance, and via the Schoenike Arboretum. This change adds an extra layer of security to the Garden by eliminating access at dark when most ‘mischief’ occurs.

*Please be aware of pedestrians with children and dogs as we make this transition, always follow the speed limit and drive with care.*

Before we know it the fall plant sale will be upon us. Hope to see you all there on September 21 or 22nd. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and remember, it will cool down and fall will be here before we know it.

~ Kathy Bridges, Landscape Manager

**Gift Shop News**

New children’s t-shirts are available in the Gift Shop. Designed by Jessica Perkins, a rising senior in the Visual Arts program at the SC Governor’s School for Arts & Humanities, these fun shirts come in children’s sizes small through XL. $15 for one, $13 for 2 or more. The Gift Shop is in the Visitor’s Center, open 10 am - 5pm daily.
Special Events

**Magic, mystery & Math: Alice in the Garden**

**Sunday, October 21**

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Join us for a Free Event of fun and frivolity in the Garden. Follow Alice’s adventures, enjoy mystifying and exciting math, magic, puzzles, games & more. Come in a costume based on Alice’s adventures! Look for more details on the website at [https://www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/events/events-calendar.html](https://www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/events/events-calendar.html).

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**Rebecca’s Melody Garden CD Release Party and Family Picnic**

Join us beneath the trees at the amphitheater for a SUPER FUN party

**Sunday, Sept. 23, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

Live interactive music, a kid’s drum circle, face painting, lots of hands-on instrument play, including an instrument “petting zoo”! Bring a picnic, or purchase Palmetto’s family-friendly supper on site!

Event is free (donations benefit the SCBG education programs), bring extra cash for a Melody Garden CD, food, and face painting!

**Garden Concert Series**

**Fridays 7-8 pm**

Free admission!  

**September 21**

**September 28**

**October 5**

**October 12**

**October 19**

**October 26**

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**The Garden’s Gate • 4**
As you know, the Geology Museum sustained severe damage owing to a burst sprinkler pipe in early January of this year. Since reopening in early March, BCGM staff have been busy restoring the displays and catching up on projects that were put on-hold during the three months that the Museum was closed. In addition to getting the museum repaired and reorganized, a multitude of new specimens have been recently added to augment the displays at the BCGM.

Regular visitors to the museum will have noticed the following: a Duck-billed dinosaur foot bone; a Jurassic dinosaur coprolite (feces); a 50 million year old turtle with crocodile bite marks; a 33 million year old turtle being slowly revealed in the fossil preparation lab (Fig. 1); a 6 ft. long reconstruction of Dunkleosteus, a giant armored fish that swam in the Paleozoic seas ~375 million years ago (Fig. 2); a 125 million year old bird skeleton from China; 2 mosasaur (giant marine reptile) teeth that date from the age of the dinosaurs; a horse toe bone from Pawleys Island, SC; a beautiful new shark tooth from Harleyville, SC, donated by museum patron Doris Sias; a new Saber-tooth Tiger skull donated by Dixie Haywood; a ground squirrel skull from Montana; an Ice Age tooth of a giant ground sloth; a stunning specimen of red quartz from China; a 150 pound block of blue quartz; a 200 pound fragment of fossilized wood; and several new geodes and concretions!

If you have not visited the Museum lately, considering doing so soon to check out all of these fascinating new pieces of natural history and learn something new about the planet we all inhabit. The BCGM is a perfect activity for hot and/or rainy Summer days and we are open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. every day. Admission is free, parking is plentiful (and free), SCBG members receive a 10% discount at the museum gift shop, and there is simply no other resource like the BCGM anywhere in the Upstate!

Jurassic Garden

If you have been keeping up with on-going projects at the SCBG then you know that the space between the BCGM and the Betsy Campbell Carriage House has recently been transformed into a lush garden featuring lineages of plants from the age of the dinosaurs. The J. Dabney Peeples Jurassic Garden is a marriage of the living specimens of the SCBG and the geological specimens featured inside the BCGM. In the Jurassic Garden, visitors will discover a raptor dinosaur sculpture that was generously donated by local artist Duncan Burns, a marine invertebrate fossil deposit featuring organisms that thrived during the Jurassic (fig. 3) and a pair of theropod dinosaur footprints! Work is currently underway on a giant sauropod dinosaur trackway and plans for the near future include a nest of sauropod eggs, sauropod vertebrae chairs, and a life-sized dinosaur ribcage tunnel that visitors will be able to walk through! Visit soon, and often, to see these amazing and educational new exhibits for yourself.

~ Curator, Adam Smith

The BCGM needs your help to meet our growing need for support of our ambitious research, educational efforts, and recovery from the weather-related damage that occurred in January. Contribute directly by choosing “Geology Museum” from the drop-down menu at https://cualumni.clemson.edu/give/scbg or email us at bcgm@clemson.edu to discuss the projects we have planned and how you can contribute. Also see our Facebook page and our website (www.clemson.edu/geomuseum) for details regarding upcoming special exhibits and events.
Classes & events

Lunch and Learn Wednesdays with Clemson Extension
Tap into the extensive knowledge and research-based information of Clemson’s Extension Service in this lunch and learn series. Bring a bag lunch and listen to learn from Clemson experts. Contact: Sue Watts, watts9@clemson.edu

Aug. 22 Jackie Jordan, Choosing the Best Veggie Varieties
Aug. 29 Jackie Jordan, Planting a Fall Veggie Garden. Plant and take home some veggie seeds.*
Sept. 12 Dara Park, Soil Basics
Sept. 19 Rachel Davis, All About Carolina Yards
Sept. 26 Terasa Lott, Managing Water in Your Backyard
Oct. 10 Michelle Hall, Small Backyard Poultry Flock
Oct. 17 Ellen Vincent, Landscaping with Native Plants
Oct. 24 Jackie Jordan, Choosing the Best Fall Bulbs
Oct. 31 Kerrie Roach, Successful Indoor Succulents
Nov. 7 Morris Warner, Bees & Bee Keeping
Nov. 14 LayLa Burgess, Beneficial Insects in the Garden
Nov. 28 Juan Melgar, Fruit Trees and Small Fruits
Location: Hayden Conference Center
Time: noon - 1 p.m.
Fee: $7 (*except Aug. 29 - $10)

Photography 101 with Julie Turner Photography
Join local professional photographer Julie Turner to learn how to get the most out of your camera. This class will help you get out of auto mode and into manual. We will use the beautiful garden setting to practice photography basics as a group. This is a fund-raiser for the Children’s Garden. Contact Sue Watts, watts9@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Fee: $80 Series (10% member discount)

Painting with a Purpose! Echinacea Laevigata
Join Walhalla Art Work’s Libby Imbody for a fun-filled evening painting one of our signature plants, the federally endangered smooth cone flower, Echinacea Laevigata. Enjoy a glass of wine or specialty tea and relax in our beautiful setting with old friends and new. This is a fund-raiser for the Children’s Garden. Contact Sue Watts, watts9@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Fee: $40

Garden Creativity

Thursday, Sept 27
Rainwater harvesting and DIY rain chain with Terasa Lott
This workshop is designed to teach homeowners about water conservation, water wise gardening, and rainwater harvesting. Participants will make a wire wrapped rock rain chain which is a beautiful and functional alternative to a traditional downspout. Contact Sue Watts, watts9@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 10 a.m. - noon
Fee: $25

Friday, November 30
Wintry Wreaths
’Tis the season for wreath making! Join us for this popular annual event to make lovely, fragrant evergreen wreaths to decorate our homes or give as gifts. This program is for both children and adults. Please register at least 5 days in advance. Contact Allison Jones allisoo@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 5:30p.m.
Fee: $25 for large, $15 for small
Use our ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM at www.clemson.edu/scbg to register.
Please preregister for all programs - call to check for last minute availability.

Friday, December 14
Felt Bird Ornaments with Allison & Kendra
We’ll create a set of three delightful bird ornaments that can be used as decoration for your holiday tree or enjoyed the whole year through. All materials will be provided. Contact Allison Jones, allisoo@clemson.edu

Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 1 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Fee: $30

Join naturalist James Wilkins each month on the full moon and experience the sights, sounds and sensations of nature at night. Please wear shoes and clothing appropriate for walking in the woods. Flashlights are not needed. Register online at least 2 days in advance.

End of Fruit Moon – Sun., Aug. 26, 8:15 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.
Nut Moon – Mon., Sep. 24, 7:15 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
Harvest Moon – Wed., Oct. 24, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Hunting Moon – Fri., Nov. 23, 5:50 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.
Snow Moon – Sat., Dec. 22, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Discovery Center/Museum Parking Lot
Fee: $7 family (up to 5)

Nature Center
Open House
Come and explore science in action! Hands-on family friendly activities allow you to delve into the secrets of the natural world.

August 25 * Secrets of Insects
September 22 * Dipping into Decomposition
October 13 * The Science of Fall
November 10 * Going Nutty!
December 1 * Winter Homes

Hunt Cabin
Open House
Learn about 19th Century life through hands-on, family-friendly activities in our beautiful cabin.

Aug. 25 * Managing the Heat
Make a fan
Sept. 22 * Apples in the Upstate
Cider making
October 13 * All Hallow’s Eve!
Masks and more
November 10 * Prepare for winter
Candlemaking
December 1 * Christmas in the Upstate
Natural decorations

The Nature Center and Hunt Cabin will be open from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Programs are free, but donations support educational program development.

Clemson Experimental Forest Tours
Each month we explore a different area of the 17,500-acre Clemson Experimental Forest (CEF). These fun and informal, family-friendly walks will showcase the diversity and beauty of natural and cultural resources in the CEF. Join naturalist James Wilkins (and special guests) at a pre-determined location and carpool or follow us into the Forest. Register online at least 2 days in advance.

Saturday, September 8
Saturday, November 10
Saturday, October 13
Saturday, December 1

Location: Directions will be sent upon registration
Fee: $7
Time: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

The Garden’s Gate • 7
The Garden’s Gate • 8

Friday, August 17

Diary of a Worm

In this program for children, we’ll dig deep to uncover the interesting lives of worms! After a fun story, we’ll enjoy taking a up-close look at real worms and will learn to appreciate all that these wiggly little guys do for us. Each participant will create his/her own miniature worm bin to take home! Please register at least 3 days in advance. Contact Allison Jones, allisoo@clemson.edu

Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Fee: $6 per participant (10% member discount)

Friday, October 12

Owl Prowl

Get wise about the lives of owls. We’ll discover amazing owl adaptations and have the chance to be mad scientists, working to dissect and investigate the contents of a real owl pellet! Whoooo knows what we’ll find? Please register at least 3 days in advance. Contact Allison Jones, allisoo@clemson.edu

Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 3:30 - 5:30 pm
Fee: $8 (10% member discount)

Friday, December 7

Handmade for the Holidays

In this popular annual program, we’ll let nature’s beauty inspire us as we create several seasonal crafts using natural materials from the Garden and beyond. Alongside each craft, we will learn fun facts about the natural world. Adults accompanying children are encouraged to register as well, if interested in making projects themselves. Please register at least 5 days in advance. Contact Allison Jones, allisoo@clemson.edu

Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 3:30-5:30 pm
Fee: $16 per participant

Homeschool Days

Join us each month, for an exciting, hands-on learning experience! Themes change each month, and activities are designed for children ages five and up. However, registration is open to all ages. Due to popular demand, we’ve added an additional class slot per month! Register at least 3 days in advance. Contact Allison Jones, allisoo@clemson.edu

Wed., Oct. 24 & Fri., Oct. 26: Regions & Ecosystems of SC *
Wed., Nov. 14 & Fri. Nov. 16: Animal Classifications

Location: Conference Center, lower level
Time: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. *1 p.m. - 3:30 pm
Fee: $5 per participant (10% member discount)

Story Start to Stroller Strut

We will begin with a story and then we’ll set off on a Garden walk, exploring the day’s theme. These free, monthly programs are ideal for preschoolers, but all ages are encouraged to join in the fun! Contact Allison Jones, allisoo@clemson.edu

Friday, September 28: Meadow Meander
Friday, October 26: Trailing Trees
Wednesday, November 28: Fall Colors
Wednesday, December 12: Squirrel Scramble

Location: Meet at Garden Amphitheater
Time: 10 a.m. -11 a.m
Fee: Free

Friday, October 5th

Musical Dinosaur Hunt Hike

Children ages 2.5-5 will love this preschool musical hike where we search for dinosaurs hidden along the trails! Rebecca Smith will lead the hike with lots of instruments to share! Limited to 10 children. Contact Rebecca Smith, rss@clemson.edu

Location: TBA
Time: 11 a.m. - noon
Fee: $8

• All Friends get a 10% discount on programs
• The code for the Friends program discount is now: FRIENDS2018.
Budding Artists
Each month we'll explore a new seasonal theme to inspire children to create fun, nature-based art. Projects are designed for ages 6-12 years, but all ages are welcome. Younger children are encouraged to participate with hands-on assistance from an adult. Contact Allison Jones, allisoo@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level

Friday, September 7
Woodland Felt Finger Puppets
Time: 3:30-5:30
Fee: $15

Friday, October 19
Paper Marigolds & Sugar Skull Masks for Dia de los Muertos
Time: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Fee: $8

Friday, November 9
Cherokee Pinch Pots and Leaf Pounding
Time: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Fee: $10

August 27-November 5
The Melody Garden
Multi-instrumentalist and songwriter, Rebecca Smith, will inspire you and your seedling or sprout to sing and dance to nature-themed music. Imagination will soar as your child learns to sing in tune and move to rhythm. Classes are outside on pretty days! Each class ends with an instrument petting zoo! Suggested Ages: Under 6 years
Mondays 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Tuesdays 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursdays 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Register at least one week in advance. Limited to 12 participants.
Location: Varies
Fee: $80/10 week session per child. Siblings under 1 are free.

Mondays, September - November
Garden Sprouts
Garden Sprouts learn about plants, animals and nature using stories, arts and crafts, and nature walks, movement, to explore each week’s seasonal theme. This program is ideal for preschoolers, but all ages are encouraged to join in the fun!
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Fee: $5 per family (max. 3 children)
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.

Alt. Thursdays, Sept - Nov, Feb - May, begins Sept 6
4-H Junior Naturalist Club
Elementary school students join us on garden adventure to discover the habitats and animals of South Carolina. Through exciting hands-on activities participants discover more about the environment and how to be good stewards of the natural world. We’ll learn about natural resources, forest and aquatic ecology, wildlife biology, geology, botany, entomology and more. Scholarships available. Contact: Sue Watts, watts9@clemson.edu
Location: Conference Center, lower level
Fee: $70 for the year
Time: 4 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.
Membership Benefits

**The Reciprocal Admissions Program**

Exciting news for Friends of the Garden!

If you are unfamiliar with the American Horticulture Society’s Reciprocal Admissions Program (RAP) you are certainly missing out. Your Friends membership enables you to participate in this program which includes sites all over the United States and beyond. Three hundred and twenty gardens, arboretas, and other cultural sites across North America, Canada and the Caribbean are included. Recently, for example, I took my family (2 adults, 2 teenagers) to the Atlanta Botanical Garden with my SCBG family membership. Rather than pay the $87.80 entrance fee, we all enjoyed the garden for free.

In 2018 twelve new gardens were added to the program. The gardens you can visit are incredibly diverse, both geographically and by interest. Visit the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan, the Children’s Storybook Garden Museum in Hanford, California or the Everglades Wonder Gardens in Bonita Springs, Florida. Always check with the garden you are planning to visit before you travel, there may be limits on your ability to visit for free.

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Kenneth and Sally Harmon
Madison Harrison
Joseph and Marguerite Heil
Doug and Candy Hess
Judy Hoag
Anissa Holding
Lance and Dana Howard
Dale Hyde
Herbert and Carol Ireland
Jack and Susan Jaisler
Nicholas & Susannah Karekel
Howard and Claire King
Ellen Kochansky
Keith and Mary Lang
Kim Le
Crystal Lewis
Megan MacAlystre & Chelsea Clarey
J.J. and Sue Malone
Dave and Mary Mansfield
Bob Simmons & Anne Martin
Margot Matheny
Margaret B. McHenry
Charles and Cynthia McCmillen
Mary Michelena
Bruce and Mackie Miehle
Robert and Debbie Miles
Karen Miller
Gail Hembree Moose
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Luther and Donna Moss
Marilyn A. Newton
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Alex Patara
Dr. Elizabeth A. Pawluk
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Donna J. Potts
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Barry and Aleta Robinson
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The Garden’s Gate • 11
The wet weather has continued on through summer and currently shows no real signs of changing. In spite of the recent wet weather, I have found that some of the desert plants really have thrived with the rain we have had. One if these is a new favorite for me, the goldenball leadtree, *Leucaena retusa*. This plant is a shrub to a small tree, which I find to have a relatively tropical appearance, looking more at home in Florida than the west Texas desert. The leaves are bipinnately compound like a mimosa, but with very round leaflets. The flowers are also very interesting, as they are bright golden-yellow pompoms that carry a light floral scent that reminds me of wild roses. Blooming occurs in flushes after wet periods, meaning it should bloom all growing season in the Southeast. This plant is rated hardy to USDA zone 7, which has shown to be true in our experience at the Garden. It takes a little while for the plant to get established, but by the second year dieback was minimal, even with extreme cold. So far, this plant seems to be tough as nails here in Clemson.

~ Trenton Miller, Collections Manager