



The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.

2015-17 President's Theme/Project

President's Theme: Let's Bloom and Grow Together!

President's Project:

Native Plants: Sustaining Our Wildlife Habitats from the Backyard to the Botanical Garden

Slogan: Plant N.I.C.E. (Natives Instead of Common Exotics)

Project Goals:

- Educate members and the public of the importance of native plants in our ecosystems and their restoration to our gardens
- Increase the popularity of growing native plants
- Create awareness of the impact of individual gardeners
- Develop partnerships with the SCNPS and the State Botanical Garden to promote public understanding of our state's heritage plants; to sustain our native wildlife habitats from the backyard to the botanical garden; and to host with the SCNPS a GCSC Native Plant Symposium in 2016 at our SCBG
- Partner with Riverbanks Botanical Garden, our GCSC Headquarters, in contribution for the GCSC Native Plant Garden in the Interactive Youth Garden (currently under construction with completion date of winter 2015) and to hold 2016 and 2017 Youth Symposiums there
- Partner with other societies that promote preservation of our state's wildlife habitats
- Engage GCSC Botanical Advisor/Native Plant Experts in the 2015-17 President's Project
- Develop criteria for naming a "SC Native Plant of the Year" in 2016 and 2017 and have GCSC clubs complete nomination application. (Winning club will receive \$250. Plant will be featured on our website and will be planted in the GCSC Native Plant Garden at Riverbanks Botanical Garden.)
- Promote club contributions to Camp Wildwood, GCSC Memorial Garden, GCSC Youth Symposium/ Youth Awards/Programs, *The South Carolina Gardner* and GCSC Headquarters

Project Impact:

Youth:

GCSC sponsored Native Plant Garden in the Interactive Youth Garden at Riverbanks Botanical Garden, our GCSC Headquarters

GCSC Annual Youth Symposium at Riverbanks Zoo/Garden 2016 and 2017

Girl Scout Badge for Native Plants

Members/Clubs/Public:

Donate to “Nickels for Natives” to support the Native Plants Project/Events

Develop and disseminate: Information brochures/Website links and info/Guest Speakers’ list

Engage in Backyard Wildlife Habitat Certification

2016 GCSC Native Plant Symposium at State Botanical Garden in Clemson

2016 and 2017 Naming and Promoting of SC Native Plant of the Year

Events:

- May 7, 2015 GCSC’s 85th Anniversary Celebration at Rose Hill Estate in Aiken Former home of Claudia Phelps, first President of GCSC
- July 2015 and 2016 Summer Information Expo for club presidents/members at the SC Farmers’ Market
- November 14, 2015 Plantation Tour Fundraiser
- April 28, 2016 State Meeting with keynote speaker Douglas Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home
- 2016 Dedication of the GCSC Native Plant Garden at Riverbanks Interactive Youth Garden currently under construction
- 2016 GCSC Native Plant Symposium at the SC Botanical Garden in partnership with the South Carolina native Plant Society (SCNPS) and the South Carolina Botanical Garden (SCBG)/Clemson University
- 2017 Convention in Greenville with NGC President Sandy Robinson and keynote speaker Patrick McMillan, Director of the SCBG. Excursion/guided tour of the State Botanical Garden in Clemson will be featured.