Hello
in the garden

SC Botanical Garden plans autumn events

BY MONICA KREBER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — While rain has consumed much of the Upstate's summer, that does not stop the South Carolina Botanical Garden (SCBG) from having year-round events.

Sue Watts, educational program coordinator at the garden, said officials have many of programs planned for the fall season.

Programs will be offered for both children and adults to educate the public on the kinds of plants and vegetables they can harvest as temperatures cool, such as cabbage, spinach and kale.

"I think we've got a good range of things for people to do," Watts said. "My favorite programs are the Garden Creativity classes; it brings things together with science and the beauty of plants."

For all programs, adult and children, Watts encourages folks to sign up early; seats fill quickly.

"The Botanical Garden is such a wonderful resource," she said. "It's hard to make ourselves go outside, but when you have a program it's good. I think a lot of people don't realize we have an educational component."

Plus, with the cooler temperatures, spring and fall are really good times to be outside.

"Fall is definitely my favorite time of year," Watts said. "It's slowly getting there. The Botanical Garden is an incredible place to come visit. It's just gorgeous."

To see a complete list of activities that continue through December, visit www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/.

SCBG adult programs

Sept. 18
COOL-SEASON VEGETABLE GARDENING
Vegetables well suited to cold weather include salad greens, spinach, collards and kale, as well as turnips, beets and other crops. Join Director of Education Lisa Wagner to learn the basics of fall to spring vegetable gardening.
Fee: $15 ($12 for members, volunteers)
Time: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

Sept. 26
PLANTS FOR BUTTERFLIES AND OTHER POLLINATORS
Learn about plants that support butterflies and other pollinators in this class with Lisa Wagner.
Many of these plants will be available for purchase at the Fall Plant Sales on Oct. 4 and 5.
Fee: $12 ($8 for SCBG members, volunteers)
Time: 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

SCBG Youth and Family Programs

Sept. 16, 23, 30 Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18
THE SECRET GARDEN CLUB: Kid's gardening program
In this after-school program for elementary students, the secrets of plants will be revealed as we plant, tend, harvest and eat veggies from the Children's Garden. In addition, learn the basics of fall vegetable gardening with Sue Watts in this fun and innovative program.
Fee: $7/session $70/series ($6/session $60/series members and volunteers)
Time: 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12
4-H JUNIOR NATURALIST CLUB
Join as we enter the worlds of bears, bobcats, bats, mice and more. All participants receive a T-shirt; those participating in 5 of the 6 sessions and completing a service project will be certified as a Junior Naturalist.
Fee: $70 for the series (ends in May)
Fee: $6 ($5 members and volunteers)
Time: 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

Oct. 11
FALL FAIRY HOUSES, GNOME HOMES AND ANIMAL ABODES
In the shade of the forest, learn what "habitat" means. Then create miniature dwellings to lure miniature creatures. Go on a micro-hike and gather natura building materials from the Gnome Depot. Bring natural materials from home, too, such as twigs, grasses, stones, pine cones, seedpods, shells, etc.
Fee: $5 ($4 members and volunteers)
Time: 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center
Time: 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

Sept. 19
GARDEN CREATIVITY: FLOWER POWER
Dive into the color and beauty of fall flowers in this afternoon creativity class with Sue Watts. Take a look at the beauty and diversity of nature's floral masterpieces under a Brock Magiscope. Explore the work of famous artists who were inspired by flowers and then make your own botanical creation.
Register at least 3 days in advance.
Fee: $7 ($6 members & volunteers)
Time: 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.
Location: Hanson Nature Learning Center

Sept. 27
TOPS AND BOTTOMS, THE STORY OF BEAR AND HARE
Autumn is known as a time of harvest, and it's a great time to learn about the variety of plant parts we eat. Hear Janet Stevens' "Tops and Bottoms," and learn through hands-on activities, including a fruit and veggie taste test, Veggie Patch Bunko game, Veggie Twister and a stroll through the our Food for Thought Garden.
Register at least 3 days in advance.

mkreber@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6685
Follow on Twitter @mkreber

For more fall events at SCBG, visit upstatetoday.com