'Moonlight & Magnolias' gala coming to Botanical Gardens

FOR THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — "Moonlight & Magnolias: A Garden Gala" comes to the South Carolina Botanical Garden at 6 p.m. May 19 in Clemson.

This black-tie evening of dinner and entertainment helps raise funds for the creation of the Natural Heritage Garden, a new exhibit within the garden that will represent South Carolina's rich natural history.

The gala is at the Fran Hanson Discovery Center, the former Southern Living Showcase Home located in the garden. The gala includes a silent auction, live entertainment, dinner, cocktails and the opportunity to learn about new garden projects enriching the community.

More information about the event, as well as instructions for purchasing tickets, is available at www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/events/moonlight_and_magnolias.

"The gala will not only be a fun and beautiful evening in the garden, but it will support an exciting new development," said Patrick McMillan, interim director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden. "The National Heritage Garden will showcase the diversity of our state and foster a connection with statewide ecological processes and unique plant life."

Gala tickets are offered to Friends of the Garden for $75 each, and whole-table reservations, as well as seats with local celebrities, are also available.

To become a Friend of the Garden in order to purchase tickets, visit http://www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/support/donate.html. Community members are encouraged to become Friends of the Garden and purchase tickets soon, as tickets are in limited supply and special tables will sell out quickly.

"Guests at the gala will not only enjoy a wonderful evening, but their ticket purchases will allow for the garden to reach an eminent status within the Southeast, therefore bringing honor and awareness to the state of South Carolina," McMillan said. The South Carolina Botanical Garden is located on Clemson University's campus at the intersection of Hwy. 76 and Perimeter Road. The garden encompasses 295 acres of display gardens, nature trails, woodlands and streams. It is open year-round from dawn to dusk, free of charge.