

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

The McBride family of Simpsonville stands with Clemson University president Jim Clements, right, after making a $1 million donation to go toward the Children's Garden at the South Carolina Botanical Garden.

South Carolina Botanical Garden receives record gift

THE JOURNAL STAFF

CLEMSON — Clemson University alumnus Mike McBride and his wife, Lynn, of Simpsonville recently gave a record $1 million to expand and improve the Children's Garden at the South Carolina Botanical Garden on the school's campus.

"We have been searching for the right choice for a contribution, and the Botanical Garden is the right choice for us," said McBride, a 1981 graduate. "We are making this gift because of my love for Clemson and the education and experiences I had while here as a student, (and) also because Lynn spent a lot of time in the Botanical Garden as a child when she lived in Clemson."

The purposes of the gift are to complete the engineering for a canopy walk in the Children's Garden, to construct and name a duck dock at the duck pond and to advance the mission of the Botanical Garden.

"This incredibly generous gift is the largest single gift we have received in our history here," SCBG director Patrick McMillan said of the donation, which is part of Clemson's $1 billion "The Will to Lead" campaign. "This gift will allow us to provide a space to inspire and connect the next generation of South Carolina citizens to our natural heritage through the construction of the Children's Garden."

"I am extremely grateful to Mike and Lynn McBride for their generous support of the South Carolina Botanical Garden," Clemson president Jim Clements added. "The Botanical Garden is an important resource for South Carolina, and their gift to expand the Children's Garden will make a difference for so many children and families."

The McBrides are challenging others to join their family and raise an additional $1 million for the SCBG by May 30.