

Solstice, songs and supper

Botanical Garden to celebrate summer solstice



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Above, Rebecca Smith is set to perform Tuesday at the Summer Solstice Family Supper Picnic at the S.C. Botanical Garden. Below, Smith leads the Melody Garden program, which are interactive children's activities held at the garden.

BY JASON EVANS
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — The South Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson University is getting ready to celebrate the official start of summer with song and supper.

A Summer Solstice Family Supper Picnic will be held at the garden's amphitheater, according to garden business manager Angel Perkins.

The program is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Thursday. Admission is free, although Perkins said donations are appreciated.

Those planning to attend are welcome to bring a picnic for their family but, if that's not an option, the garden's got it covered.

"We have decided to make things a little easier for working families," Perkins said. "Palmetto's Smokehouse and Oyster Bar will be out here. They'll be selling family-friendly, kid-friendly fare. So people don't have to worry about actually packing that picnic dinner. They can just come home from work, change clothes, grab the kids and come out to the garden."

Palmetto's is expected to begin selling food at 5:30 p.m.

The summer solstice event features Rebecca Smith, who leads the Melody Garden program.



"Rebecca is a multi-instrumentalist, a children's songwriter, just a fabulously well-rounded musical person," Perkins said. "The

Melody Garden program does well for us. The program attracts a lot of families. Kids just love her."

Smith is also a part of

the band Wild Pines, which played in the garden earlier this month as part of its spring concert series.

But the solstice program isn't just a sing-along. Kids will have a chance to participate in the program.

"Rebecca does bring lots of percussion instruments at the front of the stage," Perkins said.

Perkins said Smith's songs are educational and fun, bringing together two great elements for children on summer break.

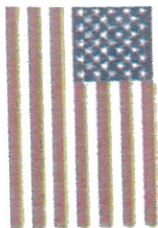
"They teach children about nature and how to be good stewards," she said. "It really is something to behold. It is so much fun to watch these kids having so much fun, getting out in nature, getting fresh air and physical activity."

There are a number of Melody Garden events planned for this summer, including a Melody Garden Musical Fairy Tea Party that is set for 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 25.

"She tries to vary the times, so that there is a morning and evening option," Perkins said. "Families are built in all sorts of different ways, so we want to give every family an opportunity to come out and enjoy the programs here in the garden."

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ITUARY



David Garland Johnson

JUNE 19, 2018
WESTMINSTER, S.C. — David Garland Johnson, passed away Friday, June 15.

burial will take place at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 19 at Union Baptist Church in Mt. S.C. A visitation will be held on Monday, June 18 from 5-6 p.m. at Sandifer Funeral Home with a prayer service being held at 6:30 p.m.

He served as an Army captain in Germany, and after hearing the critical need for a dentist in Oconee County, Dr. Johnson moved to Westminster and opened an office in 1964 and practiced until his retirement in 2005. He and his assistant, Debbie Smith, saw multi-generational families during his 41 years of service. Dr. Johnson was also the mayor of Westminster for two terms. He is survived by his sister, Doris Smith, and daughter, Claudia Johnson. Condolences may be expressed online by visiting sandiferfuneralhome.com. Sandifer Funeral Home is assisting the family.

SUMMER: 'It's about getting kids out of the house'

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Smith is also a part of the garden's education team.

"Our educational team, they do a fantastic job of coming up with new and creative programs," Perkins said.

The team brought the Peter Rabbit Festival back to the garden after an absence of many years.

"That was wildly successful," Perkins said. "We're doing it again next year."

An "Alice in Wonderland"-themed festival is in the works for the fall.

"It'll be a new festival that brings math into the themes," Perkins said. "This educational team is just amazing. Their wheels are constantly turning, coming up with fun things to get kids outside. They are such a great asset to this garden."

The South Carolina Botanical Garden tries to offer programs that are free or have nominal costs, Perkins said, so everyone



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

South Carolina Botanical Garden business manager Angel Perkins said, "It's so much fun having these kids having so much fun" at garden events. From Thursday's summer solstice supper to the "Alice in Wonderland" event planned for the fall, events are low-cost or free to allow everyone to attend.

has an opportunity to enjoy the events.

"It's about getting kids out of the house," she said.

For those who have never

been to the garden, or if it's been some time since their last visit, Perkins encourages everyone to come out and explore.

The creation of the Jurassic

Garden at the Bob Campbell Geology Museum, a newer addition for those who haven't been around lately, is coming along nicely.

"They've got all the plants and ferns in," Perkins said. "The water feature that's down there is truly a one-of-a-kind display."

The largest feature of the Jurassic Garden, once in place, "will allow visitors to walk through the ribcage of a dinosaur," she said.

Visitors to the garden shouldn't miss the Natural Heritage Trail.

"You walk half a mile and visit five different ecosystems that are in the state," Perkins said. "It's fantastic and it's right here in Clemson."

For more information on the Summer Solstice Family Supper Picnic, or to view an event calendar, visit clemson.edu/public/scbg.

jevans@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6681

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Stephen Hawking's ashes buried in Westminster Abbey

LONDON (AP) —

The ashes of Stephen Hawking were buried Friday in a corner of Westminster Abbey that honors some of Britain's greatest scientists, between the graves of

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