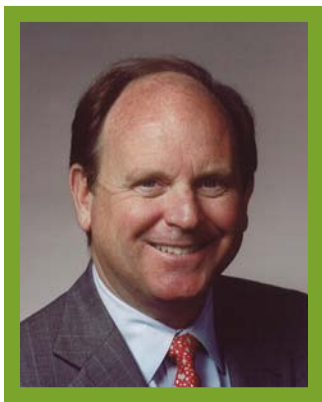




The mission of Columbia Green is to promote beautification of the Columbia area through landscaping, gardening, horticulture, education and conservation. Making Columbia more beautiful will enhance the quality of life of its citizens and visitors and support economic development.

From the President



Earl Ellis

It's hard to believe another year has already passed. I'm pleased to report to you the significant strides Columbia Green made during the year and to tell you about our plans for the future.

We decided to enter the 21st century. It was a big step for us because up until now we had been an all volunteer organization. There are pluses and minuses to that but we believe the minuses finally outweighed the pluses.

We have hired a part-time administrative staff person. (See profile on Jackie Boland this page.) Hope you will meet her soon. You are going to like her. Jackie will be helping out with all sorts of administrative tasks that have heretofore bogged down the board members so that fund raising and other board activities were stymied.

Secondly, we are going to increase our computer capabilities with upgraded software and website improvements. You should be seeing the results of those efforts shortly.

As many of you know, Historic Columbia Foundation decided to restore the gardens at its historic sites with plans to develop a Garden District for the City of Columbia. I cannot imagine a project like this in which Columbia Green was not an integral partner. We have made a significant monetary commitment to Historic Columbia for the restoration of the Seibels House garden. We plan to continue to contribute toward the development of what we hope will eventually become the Columbia Garden District.

Over the years, we have committed to the City of Columbia to furnish seasonal annuals and to the Columbia neighborhoods for grants used to beautify those neighborhoods. That has been and will continue to be a core function of our work. However, we believe we can do more. Our goals include:

- Conducting and providing educational programs for members and the public.
- Increasing our membership significantly.
- Expanding our funding for projects throughout the City.

You can count on us recruiting you to assist us in all three of these goals. Thank you for everything you've done this year and please continue to support Columbia Green.

Our new administrative assistant

Columbia Green is excited to welcome Jackie Boland as its new part-time administrative assistant. Jackie will be providing support to the board of directors in implementing the mission of Columbia Green. She comes to us most recently from Keep the Midlands Beautiful where she was Program Assistant for six years. She has also worked for the South Carolina Merchants Association, South Carolina Rider Education Program, Midlands Technical College, Richland Memorial Hospital Cardiac Rehab Program, and the University of South Carolina, Departments of Engineering and Physical Education.

Jackie was one of the Outstanding Young Women of America in 1984. She was in Leadership Lexington County in 1997, State President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of South Carolina for 2 years, a Lexington County Master Gardener, and the recipient of the Order of the Silver Crescent for volunteer work by Gov. Jim Hodges in 2000.

Jackie grew up in the Columbia area and is married to Donnie Boland, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, Orangeburg Consolidated School District #5. The Bolands have two adult children: son Travis is a sports writer for the *Orangeburg Times and Democrat* and daughter Tracey is a senior at The University of South Carolina majoring in Early Childhood Education.

Jackie enjoys traveling, old movies, gardening and music. Her latest challenge is making bead jewelry. She is a volunteer with her local woman's club.



Jackie Boland

Coming up—CG Annual Meeting

The rich diversity of Fort Jackson's 52,000 acres of land will be discussed at Columbia Green's upcoming annual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the Columbia Museum of Art. The dialogue comes at a time when Fort Jackson is attempting to make its four main entrances and perimeter more attractive to Columbians and visitors alike.

Jim Olsen, a geographer at Fort Jackson, will be the featured speaker, discussing the fort's impressive array of flora and fauna, including many federally-listed endangered plant and animal species. A hidden gem in the Columbia area, the fort is the home of 103 identified species of birds, 735 plants, 24 fishes and 27 different reptiles and amphibians. It also contains 560 archeological sites within its perimeter.

The fort features a unique sand hills seepage bog that harbors many rare and uncommon plant species, including the Rough-leaved Loosestrife and the Smooth Coneflower. It also supports the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker, which makes its home among the Longleaf and Loblolly pine trees at the site.

The fort has also helped design and blaze part of the Palmetto Trail, which was dedicated in early 1999 and is open to the public.

In addition, the fort is hoping to beautify its four major entrances along the I-77 corridor. Those entrances include Fort Jackson Boulevard, Forest Drive, Leesburg Road and the Boyden Arbor Gate along Percival Road. Improving the gates, the fort believes, will impress visitors who get their first glimpse of Columbia in this area. Every Friday, Fort Jackson brings thousands of visitors into the Columbia area and through its gates for graduation ceremonies.

"There is a huge revitalization effort going on for Decker Boulevard, and there is no green space in that area," said Olsen. "This is part of a concerted effort to do some gentrification and bring it up to speed."

"From an economic standpoint along, it's amazing," said Olsen. "One out of every four dollars spent in the Midlands is due to Fort Jackson – with salaries, lumber, food, visitors and other things."

The annual meeting is free to Columbia Green members while guests are welcome to attend for a \$10 fee. There will be an open bar at 6 p.m., followed by a brief meeting and the Fort Jackson talk. Hors d'oeuvres catered by Northern Exposure, will be available afterwards. At the meeting, new Columbia Green board members will be introduced and voted upon.



Serenity Gardens won in the New Construction category of the Choice Awards

Sixth Annual Columbia Choice Awards selected in October

Compiled by Donald McInnes

Columbia Green, the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission and the Columbia Forestry and Beautification Department sponsor the Columbia Choice Awards for Landscaping and Beautification each year. The mission of the awards is to bring recognition and publicity to individuals, businesses and organizations making an effort to improve the looks of our home town. Traditionally the Columbia Choice Awards jury has included an architect, a developer, a horticulturist, and a Board member of Columbia Green. This year's jury was comprised of Jim Byrum, Lesesne Monteith, Don McInnes, Meg McLean, and Tom Pioreschi.

[See Columbia Choice Awards on page 2](#)

—Columbia Choice Awards
From Page 1

With the exception of one category, there were clear winners in each category. The exception was the Neighborhood/Community category—we found two of the nominees equally deserving of recognition: TN Development Corporation's Arbor Hill development and the Columbia Housing Authority's Celia Saxon development. Although they are much different in scale, the two developments are much alike in many respects. The units in each are affordable; the developers have given great attention to detail; and they help bring new life to their parts of the city. The designers of Arbor Hill made considerable effort to preserve some of the large trees at the site. The Celia Saxon development is a "new urbanist" project that fits so well into its surroundings that it feels more like an extension of the neighborhood than a development.

The winning entry in the New Construction/Site Development category was the Serenity Garden at the South Carolina Oncology Center. The garden was designed to take advantage of the positive medical effects when patients are able to view nature. The center overlooks a nice remnant of our native mesic forest. The forest and the splashing of the waterfall can make you forget that you're near the interstate and not far from downtown.

The University of South Carolina received the trophy in the Renovation/Reuse category. The University's Department of Campus Planning & Construction has beautified the four-block stretch of Wheat Street between Pickens and Main Streets as part of its campus master plan. Mew tulip poplar and trident maple trees were planted and tylish brick column and picket walls have taken the place of chain link fence.

Palmetto Baptist Hospital won the Site Beautification Management category. Consistently, this property is maintained at a beautiful level that truly enhances the hospital buildings and surrounding Palmetto Baptist medical offices and parking lots.

The winner in the Education category was the Seibels House Garden. The garden's recent restoration transformed the remnants of a mid-20th Century landscape into gardens that address the major periods of occupancy from the 1790's to the 1920's. Utilizing existing plant materials and incorporating a new, historically inspired design by Jenks Farmer, the site is the first completed component of Historic Columbia Foundation's Garden Restoration Project.

The Grounds of the South Carolina State House received the Columbia Choice Award for Special Achievement. In recent years the grounds have reached their current level of maturity and beauty. The old growth trees, undulating green lawns and flowering shrubs provide a centerpiece for the city of Columbia and immeasurably raise the quality of life for its inhabitants.



Palmetto Health Baptist

Columbia Green Society October 2006 -September 2007

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Associate

The following businesses offer a 10% discount to Columbia Green members:

Woodley's Garden Center
Rebekah's Garden, Inc.
Mill Creek Green houses
Forest Lake Gardens
Cooper's Nursery
Casual Living
Case Plants
Becky Philip's Plants

Memorials

Ruth Choate from Julie & Bradford Choate
Dr. Richard Kahaly from V. Carrier
Keri Rose Mathews from Jane & Mark Salley

Honoraria

Hannah Rogers from Candytuft Garden Club
Hillary McDonald from Crape Myrtle Garden Club
Susie Heyward from Ann Gillespie



Become a member of Columbia Green!

Yes. My involvement in Columbia Green will help beautify our capital city and promote knowledge and appreciation of gardening, horticulture, landscape design, and conservation in the Columbia area.

Name(s) (business or individual(s)), as you want to be listed:

Telephone: _____ E-mail _____
Mailing Address: _____

Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership Category (check one):

- \$50 Individual \$250 Supporter
 \$500 Patron \$1,000 Benefactor

All membership categories receive the following benefits:

- Subscription to quarterly newsletter
- 10% discount on purchases from Columbia Green Associates (garden centers, nurseries, and other businesses)
- Invitation to the annual meeting and other special events
- Discount on Festival of Gardening tickets

Supporters, Patrons and Benefactors will receive the following additional benefits:

- Recognition in newsletter, other publications and web site
- Complimentary tickets to the Festival of Gardening, including the kickoff party

Additional ways to support Columbia Green:

- I would like to be a Columbia Green volunteer
 I would like to work on a committee.
 I would like to make a gift in honor of someone special.

Name of person to be honored: _____

Please notify: _____

Address: _____

Amount of gift: _____ Honorarium _____ or Memorial _____

To become a member or offer your support to Columbia Green, please copy or cut out this form and send it with your check to: Columbia Green, P. O. Box 50191, Columbia, SC 29250
Contributions are tax deductible. Thank you!

Columbia Green 2007 Board of Directors

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At the Laurel Street fire station, dozens of firemen were out front sprucing the place up as the Columbia Choice Awards jury arrived. It turned out they had just gotten short notice that the firehouse would be hosting 9/11 memorial activities the following Monday.

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