



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



Susan Hamilton

### Volunteerism is the heart of Columbia Green

There is a multitude of ways to support Columbia Green without ever opening your checkbook. Columbia Green has been a volunteer-driven organization since its inception in 1984. While we have recently hired a part-time administrative aide to help us stay on top of membership renewals and the demanding day-to-day organizational work, the majority of the work done by Columbia Green is handled by a plethora of volunteers, both on and off our 20-member board.

We welcome members to become active participants in our organization. Volunteering allows members to funnel their talents and energy into the beautification of our metropolitan area. We promise that we won't ask our volunteers to till soil or dig holes in our medians due to safety issues, but we can utilize citizens in many other ways.

For instance, we welcome Columbia Green members with specific talents and interests on many of our board committees. Members can participate in our membership, marketing, educational, events, projects, information technology and newsletter committees. These committees are the backbone of our organization and constitute the bulk of what we do every year. By participating in our committees, residents can take a larger role in our organization, steering us in new directions and providing us with fresh ideas.

In addition, there are opportunities for both members and non-members to volunteer at many of our special events. The annual Festival of Gardening, for instance, utilizes 40 Master Gardeners and an additional 40 volunteers as part of our largest fund-raising event. This festival is our most labor-intensive activity, and volunteers help guide participants through the gardens, take tickets and answer simple questions. Volunteers can also help out with planned educational events, the Columbia Choice awards and our annual meeting.

If you are interested in volunteering for Columbia Green, I urge you to visit our newly-designed website at [www.columbiagreen.org](http://www.columbiagreen.org) where you can register for the volunteer activities in which you are most interested. This allows you to physically participate in our organization, making you a greater part of the beautification of our city.

## Festival of Gardens to be May 15 and 17

The 2008 Columbia Green tour is remarkable in its breadth of gardens—from formal gardens with European flair to those with the feel of “a city getaway”. This tour truly has something for everyone. Whether people are novice, weekend or expert gardeners, everyone will come away with plenty of ideas. But one thing's required—comfortable shoes only! Leave the delicate sandals and heels at home. You'll want to traverse every square inch of these Columbia Green gardens! And don't forget pen and notebook for take-home ideas!

Columbia Green is indebted to Karen Petit for her writeup of the gardens on the insert in this newsletter. Karen Petit is the creator of the “Shandon's Ivy League” Mystery Series for young readers and pet lovers of all ages. The series follows the adventures of a group of pets who solve crimes and mysteries. The first book, “The Mystery of the Screecher Creature,” was published in November 2006. Other books in the series are “The Mystery at Foggy Bottom Lake” and “The Mystery of the Stolen Stallion.” Book 4, “The Mystery of the Circus Curse,” will be published this year.



The screenshot shows the Columbia Green website homepage. At the top is the logo and tagline. Below is a large image of red poppies. Navigation links include: About Columbia Green, Projects, Membership, Donors, Grants, Festival of Gardens, Green Resources, Photo Gallery, News, Events, and Contact Us. A 'Tip of the Month' box highlights April as the best time for pruning azaleas. A 'Welcome' section mentions bright pink tulips. A 'News' section mentions an upcoming annual meeting.

## Columbia Green Launches a New Web Site

In April, Columbia Green launched a new website with new features and updated pictures. Best of all you can now donate and renew your membership online.

The Board of Directors took the first step this year to bring the organization into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The new website has some great new features including a Tip of the Month on the homepage, a secured page to pay your membership or donate online, sign-up for our e-newsletter and purchase tickets to this year's Festival of Gardens. The website was designed in conjunction with The Rackes Group to provide greater access to all that Columbia Green is doing.

In addition, a monthly e-newsletter will be added in the near future to send to all of our members and those who want to get involved with Columbia Green. All you have to do is give us your name and email address. These newsletters and more e-news updates will be coming to you monthly. We'll save trees and be able to communicate with you on a more regular basis. In addition, we can remind you of your membership renewal and upcoming events.

Log on today ([www.ColumbiaGreen.org](http://www.ColumbiaGreen.org)) and let us know what you think in our Contact Us section. We'd love to hear from our members and supporters!

## \$5,000 Grant to New Children's Hospital to Renew the Garden

A grant from Columbia Green will help in the renewal of the sculpture garden next to the new Children's Hospital. In the past, the garden was a meditation garden. Richard Allison's wonderful sculptures of children are still there, but when the construction of the Children's Hospital started the garden was abandoned. Construction of the hospital is expected to be finished by mid-May of this year.

We are happy to be helping to renovate a quiet place of beauty where families and children can find a spot to relax away from the bustle of the hospital. Columbia Green is giving a grant of \$5,000 for the plantings. We are thrilled that Richland Health is going to maintain the garden. The statues will be beautifully framed by the new plantings.

“Columbia Green is excited to renew this area for those who need healing and quiet,” said Ken Walden, the Projects Chairman of Columbia Green. “This project has a spiritual as well as esthetic purpose and was unanimously approved by us.”

The Childrens Hospital will be opening on May 20, 2008 at 10:30 am.

# Columbia Green Expanding Neighborhood Grants

Columbia Green has tripled one of its grant programs this year, increasing to \$9,000 the amount of money its hopes to give deserving neighborhood associations attempting to improve their public areas.

In an effort to increase interest in the Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program, the grant application has been simplified and the funding per project has been expanded from \$1,000 to a maximum of \$3,000 per award. These grants are to be used solely to purchase plant materials, and the sites must have proper irrigation to be considered. Columbia Green encourages, but does not require, matching funding.

"Think of what your neighborhood entrance could look like with this award," says Board Vice President Ken Walden, who heads Columbia Green's project committee. "Don't be shy; Give it a shot! This grant money can make a big impact at your chosen location."

Columbia Green hopes to award funding to three deserving organizations this year. Grant applications can be downloaded from our website at [www.columbiagreen.org](http://www.columbiagreen.org) under GRANTS in the menu line. Grant proposals are due Oct. 15.

Past recipients of the Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program include the Brandon Acres/Cedar Terrace Neighborhood Association, Dreher High School Alumni, the Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association, the Iris Garden Club and many others.



Garden at Dreher

## Columbia Green Society April 2007 - March 2008

### Benefactors

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Cooper's Nursery  
Fine Gardening, Jennifer Denslow & Chance Glass  
Forest Lake Gardens, Joseph McDougall  
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Mill Creek Greenhouses, Lori Watson  
Paul Sloan Interiors, Paul D. Sloan  
Becky Phillips Plants, Becky Phillips  
R. MacFarlane Craig Real Estate, Rosie Craig  
The McCallum Company, Charles & Trish McCallum  
The Gourmet Shop, Dennis & Linda Hiltner

### Associates

*The following businesses offer a 10% discount to Columbia Green members:*  
Becky Phillips Plants  
Blooms  
Case Plants  
Coopers Nursery  
Forest Lake Gardens  
Mill Creek Greenhouses  
Rebekah's Garden, Inc.  
Woodley's Garden Center

### Honoraria

Sally Hardy from Wisteria Garden Club  
Mary Rainey Belser from Freeman & Mary Anne Belser



## Become a member of Columbia Green!

YES! I'd like to become a member of Columbia Green and support the beautification of my city!

Name/Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Categories:

\$50 Donor  \$250 Supporter  
 \$500 Patron  \$1,000 Benefactor

### Business Membership Categories:

\$250 Business Donor  \$500 Business Patron  
 \$1,000 Business Supporter  \$2,500 Business Benefactor

### All members receive the following:

- Quarterly newsletter
- 10% discount at participating garden centers, nurseries, and other businesses
- Free admission to special events and the annual meeting
- Discounts on Festival of Gardening tickets

### Supporters, Patrons and Benefactors receive these additional benefits:

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

To make a contribution in honor or memory of someone, to volunteer, or to inquire about other ways to support the organization, please contact Columbia Green at 803.254.7595 or through the website.

Please mail this form with your check to Columbia Green to:  
**Columbia Green**  
P. O. Box 50191  
Columbia, SC 29250

Contributions are tax deductible. **Thank you!**

## Columbia Green 2008 Board of Directors

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Hannah Rogers  
Tiaa Rutherford  
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Here is one of 12 gardens to be featured on the Columbia Green Festival of Gardens in May. This lovely setting is at the home of Ken Ventell and Phil Fairey at 6205 Eastshore Drive.



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Columbia Green  
PO Box 50191  
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