

Columbia Green

BECAUSE LIFE SHOULD BE BEAUTIFUL



No. 1 winter 2007

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

Happy New Year everyone. We have lots to do this year, but first let's remind ourselves of what we are all about. Look just above this article and read our mission statement. With that in mind, here's our plan:

1. Expand the membership. You can help with this by simply renewing your own and recruiting two or three new members.

2. Continue the existing programs that promote beautification of the Columbia area. Each year these programs get bigger and better, and we want to continue doing these same things but add more to it. Some examples are: (a) providing seasonal annuals to the City of Columbia for planting in prominent areas, (b) adding trees and other plantings to area parks, (c) creating new landscaped areas around the city, and (d) showcasing area gardens in our own annual Festival of Gardening

3. Embark on a new, daring, exciting, and expensive partnership and project. You have heard about it already and you will hear lots more about it this year. Historic Columbia Foundation has begun an ambitious project to re-create the gardens at their historic sites in town. Columbia Green has committed to be a major contributor to the first efforts at the Seibels House at the corner of Richland and Pickens Streets. The contribution is considerable, and we will be involved in a fund raising effort this year and next. I personally hope that we will continue to provide support for the other planned gardens as well.

You can help. We have lots of jobs for anyone interested in getting involved. Please call me anytime you have the urge. My office phone number is 212-4950.

Introducing New Board Members....

Chris Freeman. With a strong passion for trees, proper tree care and educating the public in correct tree care, Chris says he hopes "to bring a new level of tree enthusiasm" to Columbia Green. He has thirty one years experience as an arborist and is president of Sox & Freeman Tree Expert Co. Chris and his family live in Blythewood on a seven-acre mini arboretum, where he collects trees as a hobby.

Anne Holtschlag. Anne and her husband, Steve, have lived and gardened at their Spring Valley home for 14 years. Their garden, with a "secret" place for their seven grandchildren, was on the Festival of Gardening tour in 2006. Anne is a volunteer docent at the Columbia Museum of Art and Historic Columbia Foundation.

Willson Powell. A South Carolina native, Willson has lived in Columbia for three years. He spent many years in New York City as an interior designer and as a consultant for special events for groups including New York City Opera, the Charles A. Dana Foundation and the Grammy Awards. Willson "grew up gardening," with parents that enjoyed the outdoors. He and his wife, Karen Brosius, continue to enjoy garden planning and planting.

Debbie Price. As the City Horticulturist and Forestry and Beautification Superintendent for the City of Columbia, Debbie worked on special landscaping projects with Columbia Green for over fifteen years. She now works as Training Director for the SC Forestry Commission. A graduate of NC State University, she lives in Lexington County she says she is "an occasional gardener and avid tree hugger."

Lowndes Smith. Lowndes works with The Beach Company and is responsible for promoting the new Columbia mixed-use downtown neighborhood, CanalSide, throughout the community. Formerly, she was the Director of Development and External Relations at the Columbia Museum of Art. A native of Columbia, Lowndes has a BA in Advertising and Marketing Communications from Emerson College in Boston.

Ken Walden. Ken says his "love is organic vegetable gardening" and that he has been growing organic vegetables for 35 years. A graduate of UNC Chapel Hill, Ken works for Baker and Baker in Columbia. He says his "pet peeves are Mulch Madness and Crepe Murder!"

Columbia Green Gives \$75,000 for Seibels House Garden

By Belinda Gergel

Columbia Green (CG), in partnership with the Historic Columbia Foundation (HCF), has taken the first steps toward what may become the most ambitious garden initiative in Columbia's history. In December 2006, CG's board of directors pledged \$75,000 to the restoration of the Seibels House garden. The pledge will be paid in \$15,000 increments over the next five years. CG's contribution will be clearly recognized with signage in the garden, which will enhance our visibility in the community.

The commitment to the Seibels House garden is an outgrowth of Columbia Green's Strategic Plan that calls for a significant engagement in community beautification projects and collaboration with local organizations and groups.

The Seibels House garden is the first step in HCF's Historic Garden Restoration Project. This project will address 14 acres of grounds in the heart of the city that is home to the Seibels House, Hampton Preston Mansion, the Robert Mills House, the Mann Simons Cottage and the Woodrow Wilson House. The project will restore gardens at HCF's historic properties; create an Historic Garden District with plantings and streetscapes in the areas bordered by Calhoun, Marion, Hampton, and Barnwell streets; and put Columbia and Richland County "on the map" as an important center of southern garden history. Columbia Mayor Bob Coble included the Historic Garden District in his "State of the City" outline of important issues for the city's consideration in 2007.

Columbia Green members are playing a critical role in the project by serving on the HCF Garden Restoration Committee. Former CG presidents Hillary McDonald and Marilyn Smith, board members Belinda Gergel and Hannah Rogers, and members Eleanor Pope, Jennie Reynolds, Pat Hubbard, Steve Holtschlag (whose wife Ann now serves on the CG Board), and John Cullum provide a strong CG perspective to the Committee's work.

Work on the garden has already begun with the first fundamental components of the garden plan, which include removing some trees, grading, installing irrigation and electrical systems, and laying sod just in time for the many weddings and other special events to be held there this spring and summer. Major plantings will be postponed until the weather cools off and the rental season is over.

"Watching the Seibels House garden develop over the next several months will be fun," said past president Hillary McDonald, "but it will be even more exciting to be part of creating a garden district in downtown Columbia." She added, "it's a worthy project and we're happy to play a role in making Columbia more beautiful with gardens of trees, shrubs and flowers to brighten our lives."



Seibels House garden today

Columbia Green Society

January 2006 – December 2006

Benefactors

Richard & Belinda Gergel
Tom Gross & Susan Hamilton
Bob & Joyce Hampton
Ron & Hannah Rogers

Boyd & Company
Buchanan Construction Services
Diversified Development
Northern Exposure Catering
Smith Family Foundation
Woodley's Garden Center

Patrons

Clinch & Mary Belser
Carroll & Susie Heyward
David & Peggy Jacobs
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astrodawg.com
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Hillary McDonald
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Harriet McMaster
Tom Collins & Margo Newton
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Ardis Savory
Jed & Carol Shropshire
Anne Smith
Cary & Marilyn Smith
Lee & Robin Thomas
Ken & Laurie Walden
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Robert & Rose Wilkins
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Abacus Planning Group, Inc.
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Cooper's Nursery
Baker & Baker Foundation
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G&H Mail Service
Grimball – Cotterill & Associates
Richard A. Harpootlian, P. A.
Millcreek Green Houses
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Associate Members

Casual Living
Cooper's Nursery
E. D.'s Plants
Mill Creek Green Houses
Rebekah's Garden, Inc.
Woodley's Garden Center

Please note: These businesses offer a 10% discount to members of Columbia Green. We encourage you to patronize these friends of Columbia Green.



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 20250
Contributions are tax deductible. Thank you!

Earl Ellis: Taking CG to the Next Level

By Lowndes Smith and Jan Collins

In 1996, F. Earl Ellis, Jr. and his wife Becky moved back into the Forest Acres home of Becky's deceased parents—a house featuring a magnificent garden more than a half-century old. Earl and Becky's love of gardening was rekindled as they added some of their own inspiration and favorite plantings, including Hydrangea, Daphne, and Salvia.

Now as the new president of Columbia Green, Earl has pledged to become a significant partner with Historic Columbia to help and recreate their gardens, to maintain the current momentum of Columbia Green, and to increase Columbia Green's contributions to the community.

"Columbia Green has done a good job expanding its presence in the community," he said. "I'd like to continue in that effort and increase public spaces throughout the Columbia area."

Born in Walterboro, South Carolina, Earl grew up in Allendale and attended Davidson College. He moved to Columbia in 1972 and was graduated from the University of South Carolina Law School in 1975. Earl is currently a shareholder in the law firm of Ellis, Lawhorne & Sims.

Earl became involved in Columbia Green in the late 1990s; his home was on the

Garden Tour several years ago. Besides having a green thumb, Earl is passionate about the arts. He is an active community patron, serving on the board of The Columbia Music Festival. He is also past president of the Columbia Lyric Opera and belongs to several arts organizations, including the Columbia Museum of Art.

What does Earl Ellis do in his "down time"? Spends it with his family, which includes three grown children and four grandchildren.

Upcoming Events

March. Many interesting and useful "how to" gardening classes at Riverbanks. See schedule at www.riverbanks.org or call 803.779.8717, ext 1799.

March 22. Midlands Master Gardener Assn. Symposium. To pre-register call 803.438.2706.

May 17 & 19. CG's Annual Festival of Gardening. Member and Master Gardener volunteers needed to act as greeters and horticulture information resources. Call 803.254.7595 to leave name and phone number.



Columbia Green

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Old camellia at the Seibels House



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