



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

As Columbia Green stands on the threshold of our 25th anniversary, we are excited about growing in new directions while at the same time getting back to our roots – an organization interested in beautifying neighborhoods.

Columbia Green is, by most standards, a small non-profit. We only have about 250 individual or family members. Last year, we set a goal of raising \$32,000 from our corporate and individual members. We exceeded those goals by 35 percent and raised nearly \$43,450 from members in 2008. We also had a few one-time gifts from generous individuals. We are indeed healthy and plan to continue along this path.

So what have we done with that money?

Several great projects. Again this year, we donated \$15,000 to Historic Columbia Foundation as part

of our on-going commitment toward the Seibels House garden restoration. We gave another \$5,000 to Palmetto Hospital to kick-start the renovation of a beautiful garden at the Children's Hospital on Harden Street. Other projects included Veterans' Memorial Park, the Columbia Museum of Art, the Fort Jackson Statue Garden and annuals for our city medians. Altogether, we have directed \$37,000 toward projects throughout Columbia, so you can see that your money does indeed get spent on landscaping!

What is even more impressive is that we have done all of this in the same year that we hired a part-time administrative aide and totally revamped our website. Administrative Aide Jackie Boland has done a great job of relieving the administrative work of the all-volunteer board. In addition, we have totally revamped our website and can now receive renewals and donations on-line, can send electronic newsletters to our constituents, and can track membership through our website. When we held our 2008 Festival of Gardens this year, we sold more than 50 tickets online and had over 2,000 website visitors, including 1,300 new visitors to ColumbiaGreen.org!

In addition to our Festival of Gardens, we also held a Rain Garden Seminar at Woodley's Garden Center last summer. Board member Tom Falvey shared his experiences with rain gardening, which helps return water to our ground system and keeps pollutants out of our streams while nurturing beautiful plants in our backyards.

We're excited about everything we've accomplished in 2008, and have great plans for 2009 as well. We hope membership levels will continue to increase and that we can reach out to more people with our educational programs. We're looking forward to celebrating our 25th Anniversary this year and expanding our reach throughout the Columbia area. Visit our website often to keep up with all that we are doing!

Tree Symposium

Learning about proper tree care is the focus of a four-hour tree seminar being sponsored jointly by Columbia Green and the Historic Columbia Foundation.

"People and Trees: Growing Together Through Better Education" will be held Saturday, April 4 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Robert Mills House on Blanding Street. The symposium is free to both Columbia Green and Historic Columbia members who pre-register by March 28. Non-members may pre-register for a \$10 fee.

The seminar is part of Columbia Green's 25th anniversary celebration which focuses on the importance of trees in an urban environment. Not only do trees beautify landscapes, but they also contribute toward a sustainable environment by moderating the climate, improving air quality, conserving water and harboring wildlife. Columbia Green has pledged \$25,000 over the next five years towards a tree initiative to plant more canopy trees in the Columbia area.

The seminar includes hour-long workshops on:

- Tree Pruning: Discover how trees can benefit from proper pruning techniques
- Tree Health Care: From insects to diseases, find out what ails your trees and shrubs as well as what you can do to improve their health
- Tree Planting: Learn how to choose and plant the perfect specimen tree for your needs.

The workshops will be led by trained arborists from Sox and Freeman, a 61-year-old complete tree care company committed to tree preservation. The company has donated trees in Memorial Park and has worked closely with Historic Columbia in maintaining its trees, often providing free work for the non-profit's historic landscapes. Arborists will demonstrate proper pruning techniques on site at the Hampton Preston Mansion the day of the symposium. Sox and Freeman is also offering a free tree to all seminar attendees.

Information and pre-registration for this seminar are available at www.columbiagreen.com. Admission after the March 28 pre-registration deadline will be \$15 for both members and non-members of the organizations involved. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather as all workshops will take place outdoors.



Columbia Mayor Robert Coble recognizes Columbia Green's gift of

"The Year of the Tree"

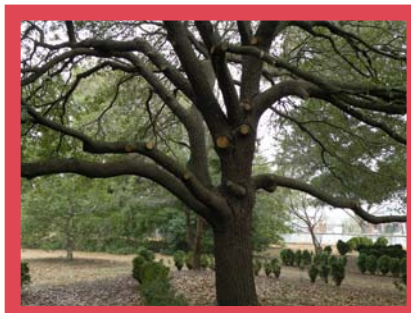
In celebration of its 25th anniversary in 2009, Columbia Green has earmarked \$25,000 as part of its new Tree Initiative to plant canopy trees throughout the Columbia area. The five-year Tree Initiative was unveiled in January when the Columbia City Council presented Columbia Green with a proclamation declaring 2009 as "The Year of the Tree." Kathy Robinson, board member and 25th anniversary chairwoman, presented Columbia Green's Initiative vision to the council, explaining that planting trees is not only aesthetically pleasing but also improves air quality and has other positive environmental affects.

In support and recognition of this initiative, an official Tree Planting Ceremony took place the following day on January 29th at the Drew Wellness Center playground located in the Celia Saxon Neighborhood downtown. Various City Council members, Columbia Green members, representatives from the city's Tree and Appearance Commission and others were in attendance for this special ceremony. "We are delighted to announce this designation and commend Columbia Green for all of the great contributions they have made over the last 25 years. The City of Columbia has enjoyed a very beneficial partnership and look forward to future endeavors," Mayor Coble stated. Cooper's Nursery generously donated the 30-gallon Laurel Oak, which will give shade and enjoyment to the adjacent playground and community for many years.

City Councilwoman Belinda Gergel, an ardent supporter of Columbia Green, also spoke at the ceremony. "This new initiative by Columbia Green will be a defining step in sustaining our 21st century city for future generations. We clearly will be a greener and more beautiful city and in the process will attract new business development and residents," Gergel said.

Columbia Green's Tree Initiative comes at a crucial time for Columbia since federal funding is at risk because of poor air quality levels. Canopy trees can contribute to a sustainable environment by improving air quality, moderating climate, conserving water and harboring wildlife. The City of Columbia's Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC), which provides measures to reduce emission levels of the City of Columbia, supports Columbia Green's Initiative. "Columbia Green's initiative to increase the number of canopy trees in our city will be a tremendous boost to our efforts to improve air quality. Not only are trees beautiful and provide shade during our hot summers, they remove pollutants from the air. Columbia Green's Year of the Tree campaign will be a significant boost to our other efforts to clean up the air we all breathe," stated Anne Sinclair, CPAC's Chair.

Columbia Green's 25th Anniversary 2009 Tree Initiative Grant will award \$5,000 each year, over the next 5 years to city and county governments, residential neighborhood associations, neighborhood groups and garden clubs. Tree Initiative Grant guidelines and applications are available on our website at www.columbiagreen.org.



Hampton Preston Mansion Tree Site of Tree Symposium Pruning Techniques

Neighborhood Grants Awarded

Columbia Green awarded nearly \$12,000 as part of its 2008 Neighborhood Grants Program at the organization's annual meeting on November 20th. The nine projects were selected from a record number of applications and will be receiving between \$500 and \$3,000 each. The winners are:

- The Friends of Juvenile Justice in partnership with the SC Department of Juvenile Justice for landscaping the entrance to their Broad River Road facility.
- St. Peter's Catholic Church on Assembly Street will plant street-side gardens and complete a walled enclosure area between the church and the new Cardinal Bernardin Center.
- The Center for Inquiry/Richland Two School District plans to create a Storybook Garden in the backyard of the school. Students, teachers and parents will create and maintain a space dedicated to their combined love of reading and gardening.
- Hand Middle School is creating a Carolina Fence Garden which incorporates natural and cultural elements that have been designated as symbols of South Carolina.
- In addition, grant monies were given to the Bradley, Spring Valley, University Hills and Forest Hills Neighborhood Associations for area beautification efforts.

Columbia Green looks forward to the implementation of these planned projects which will add to the beauty and livability of the Columbia area. Further information can be found on the Columbia Green website at www.columbiagreen.org.

Columbia Green Society January - December 2008

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Boyd & Company, Darnall Boyd
Buchanan Construction Company, Davis Buchanan
Sox & Freeman, Chris Freeman

Coming Up

April 4 - "People and Trees" symposium

May 14 and May 16 - Annual Festival of Gardens

Sept. 20 - Guided Riverfront Park and Historical Columbia Canal Walk

Nov. 11 - Annual Meeting and Columbia Choice Awards at the Columbia Museum of Art



St. Peter's Meditation Garden

Woodley's Garden Center, Rick & Liz Woodley

Business Patron

Brittany Sales, Rob and Meredith Robertson

Business Donor

Abacus Planning Group, Inc., Cheryl Holland
J. Ellzey Co., Jane Ellzey
SEACO, Inc., DuBose Tuller
The McCallum Company, Charles & Trish McCallum
The Gourmet Shop, Dennis & Linda Hiltner
The Yard Store, Wesley Herndon

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.
The Yard Store
Woodley's Garden Center

In-Kind Donors

Blooms, Cathy Holladay
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Case Plants, Joshua d'Marque
Columbia Notebook, David & Peggy Jacobs
Cooper's Nursery
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Forest Lake Gardens, Joseph McDougall
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Northern Exposure, Les Gray
Karen Petit
Becky Phillips Plants, Becky Phillips
Woodley's Garden Center, Rick & Liz Woodley



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 Category (check one):

\$50 Donor \$250 Supporter
 \$500 Patron \$1000 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!**

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