

The Works
(what's happening now)

The City of Charleston annual and perennial crop has launched!! Congratulations Stewards of Hampton Park we did it!! The City of Charleston Horticultural Division has begun to plant its beautiful crop throughout the city. Superintendent JoAnn Breland has been seen with clipboard in-hand sketching patterns of floral color that will visually entertain the viewer while adorning the streets of Charleston.

Look for your work as you are out and about in the City of Charleston. Let us know your favorites.

Over the next 3 months we will be working on the following projects:

Facility Maintenance:

- Washing 4" flower pots and stock flower pots
- Watering
- Straighten potting shed
- Weeding

THE GARDEN GAZETTE

Spring 2010

MAY, 2010

4th Annual Hampton Park Plant Swap

By Les Schwartz

Saturday May 22nd 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Are you bored with the plants in your garden? Wouldn't you like to swap some of it out so you can try something new? Pot it up, label it and bring it to the 4th Annual Hampton Park Plant Swap sponsored by The City of Charleston Garden Club.

Join us in Hampton Park near the Café just off Mary Murray Boulevard. (follow the signs) Bring healthy plants that YOU would take home. Bulbs, corms and other tubers are accepted; please have these separated into individual bags with 3-4 in each bag. Plants MUST be rooted. (Planted cuttings will not be accepted.)

New this year, we will include a seed and book swap table. There will also be information on horticulture volunteer opportunities as well as master gardeners to answer your horticultural questions. It's fun event for the whole family. Admission and parking is free. Refreshments will be on sale so plan to stay a while and explore this beautiful park.

Everyone is welcome so spread the word. The more the merrier.

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The DAR is back in Hampton Park!

By Ellie Burnaford

After 108 years, the DAR is back in Hampton Park.

In the Hampton Park "Golden Years", during the Charleston Exposition of 1901-1902, the park was larger than it is today and included Lowndes Grove Plantation as well as the water-front property now known as The Citadel. In February of 1902, the single local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) organized a "DAR DAY" on the exposition grounds. In 2010, the Eliza Lucas Pinckney Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 1 of 4 chapters now active in the Charleston area, is bringing DAR active participation back to Hampton Park by sponsoring a bed in the park.

There is synergy in this cooperation among the DAR, the Eliza Lucas Pinckney Chapter, the placement of the bed being sponsored, and Hampton Park.

Preservation: America's history and her resources is one of the primary tenets of the DAR. History is everywhere evident in Hampton Park, and the bed that Eliza Lucas Pinckney Chapter will sponsor, Bed #10, is tied to that history. Bed #10 is called the "Woman's Building Bed". During the Charleston Exposition the Woman's Building (now known as Lowndes Grove) was considered the "cultural center of the Exposition", as the exhibits were handcrafts and literary works created solely by women, and they were chosen

The DAR is back in Hampton Park! (continued)

The greatest gift of the garden is the restoration of the five senses.

Hanna Rion



Your nose is the scenter of your face

to highlight women's roles in society at the turn of the 19th century. Today, this DAR chapter is named after and honors one of America's early successful businesswomen, Eliza Lucas Pinckney, who was inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame in 1989.

Eliza (1722-1793) was a fascinating woman. Her father, an officer in the British Army in Antigua, moved his family to the lowcountry in hopes that his ailing wife would benefit from the climate, but she died when Eliza was 16. By the time Eliza was 17 she was responsible for her siblings and was running her father's 3 plantations. She married, had children, was widowed, and again successfully managed several plantations and Charles Towne properties. She had always been interested in

botany, and experimented with growing figs, hemp, flax, and even silkworms. It is for success in the cultivation of indigo, however, that she is best remembered. She developed a method for drying the dye into cakes for transport to England and France where it was prized for use in making uniforms as well as other items of clothing. Today, Bed #10 will have **indigo** plants dispersed among the under planting of annuals and perennials.

Eliza is known and honored as the mother of 2 sons who contributed much to America's independence. Charles Cotesworthy Pinckney served as a general in the Revolutionary War, and was a signer of the United States Constitution, while Thomas Pinckney, who also served in the Revolutionary War

forces and was later also a general, became United States Minister to Spain and Great Britain. Eliza died in 1793, and George Washington himself, at his own request, served as a pallbearer at her funeral.

All these facts combine to bring the DAR back to Hampton Park. Linda Westbrook, chair of the Conservation Committee of the ELP Chapter of the DAR, graciously funded the sponsorship of Bed #10, and enabled the chapter to further the conservation and preservation ideals of the DAR. Bed #10 in Hampton Park, with its planting of indigo, will call to mind a resourceful woman who contributed to our country's history, and a golden time in the history of Charleston and of Hampton Park.

To find out more about Eliza Lucas Pinckney and about the DAR chapter named for her, go to <http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~scelpdar/>.

To find out more about the DAR in general, go to www.dar.org.



Eliza Lucas Pinckney Chapter

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Charleston, South Carolina

The City of Charleston Horticulture Division would like to thank the Eliza Lucas Pinckney Chapter of the National Society of The Daughters of the American Revolution for the Sponsorship of the Women's Building Planting Bed # 10 in historic Hampton Park. The current restoration of Hampton Park would not be possible without the tremendous support from organizations such as the Eliza Lucas Pinckney Chapter of The NSDAR and The Stewards of Hampton Park. The bed sponsorship will commence on May 1st and conclude on September 1st 2010. This beautiful bed will be planted with Indigo in honor of Eliza Lucas Pinckney.

Hampton Park Trees

By Danny Burbage, Superintendent of Urban Forestry for the City of Charleston

My first recollection of trees in Hampton Park is when I was 5 or 6 years old and the zoo was still a part of the Park. I used to pick up Magnolia leaves from the ground (green and dead) and feed them to the deer. I have no idea if the Magnolia leaves were good or bad for the deer but they surely ate them. They preferred the green leaves but would eat the brown. Little did I know then that in about 25 years, I would form a very intimate relationship with the Magnolias and all of the other trees in the Park.

Species diversity is a healthy thing for an urban forest, and Hampton Park reflects the City's efforts to offer that diversity. There are over 1,000 trees comprising 38 different species located throughout the Park. Hampton Park offers 9 species of oaks alone. It is the closest thing to an arboretum in the

Charleston area. We have most of the standard lowcountry favorites, of course, but there are several species that are not often seen. Among them are Mexican (or Monterey) oak, Chinese Evergreen oak, Siberian elm, Pignut hickory and Trident maple. Additionally, we have added in the last several years; Nutall oak, Chinese elm, Chinese pistachio and Red Bud.

A few years ago, we planted a grove of Long Leaf Pine trees in the southwest portion of Hampton Park. These were added as a complement to the other native species that the Horticulture Division had planted in this section. Although it's not likely that we will attract a Red Cockaded Woodpecker to our grove, it serves as a great reminder of our native ecosystem and the need to conserve precious natural resources.

Trees, like people, have very finite life spans. Unlike people, however, when a tree nears the end of its life, it cannot go to a retirement home. It must do its best to survive where it was planted. When a tree reaches a point in life that it cannot sustain itself, it begins to shed limbs and become structurally unsound. In the woods, such a tree can fall to the ground and recycle itself as habitat and humus. In a park or other public place, the painful decision must be made to remove the tree in the interest of public safety.

The park is a living and continually evolving tract of beautiful land amid an urban environment. Our goal as stewards of the Park's trees is to continue to offer interest, beauty and safety to this most beloved Charleston space.

The Works

(continued from Pg 1)

We will also be working on the following projects:

- * Propagation by cutting for the Pineapple Fountain
- * Working on standards
- * Refreshing the stock house
- * Fertilizing
- * Potting plants

Raptor Release in Hampton Park

By Randy Sitton

Someone driving along Highway 17 eats an apple then tosses the apple core out the window to the roadside. The driver does not consider it littering because it's biodegradable, right? It'll be gone in a day or 2. Maybe even an apple tree will grow – pretty cool! A squirrel comes along and senses food. It finds the apple core and begins to eat it. From a thousand feet in the air, a large female red tail hawk (*Buteo Jamaicensis*) sees her next meal, places herself between the sun and her prey, hurtles down and slams into the squirrel. She adjusts her grip with her long, sharp talons and incredibly strong feet. Another car comes along, scaring the hawk into flight. She drops her food, and as she rises she turns into the path of the oncoming car and is hit. She is fortunate - she arrives at the medical clinic at the Center for Birds of Prey in Awendaw through a network of Good Samaritans and transport volunteers.

A broken wing and head trauma are the 2

most common results of raptor/car collisions, but sometimes a broken leg is also present. Upon arrival at the clinic, wings and legs are examined for breaks and for proper joint extension. The eyes, mouth, beak, ears, back, and feet are also examined, and the raptor is weighed. All injuries and overall physical condition are logged into the raptor's individual medical folder. The bird is then placed in a covered kennel in a quiet room for a day or 2 so its stress level can be reduced before additional treatment is given. If a break is detected during the admittance check, the bird is placed under anesthesia so x-rays can be taken and evaluated. If the break is one that can be surgically repaired, the operation is scheduled for the next couple of days. After surgery, the hawk is gradually nursed back to health over the next several months.

A few weeks before release, the hawk is moved to a flight enclosure where it can



begin strengthening its flight muscles. It's ability to fly is evaluated daily. Finally, the big day arrives. After banding and a final condition check at the clinic, the hawk is handed off to a volunteer for release back into the wild at a location appropriate for that species. This is the moment when all the hard work by literally dozens of people pays off, and it's a very special feeling.

The release of a large female red tail hawk at Hampton Park was astonishing. The portable pet container was placed on the ground. A peek inside through the air holes indicated in which direction she was facing. The container was gently placed on its end so she would be facing forward when the lid

What's Cooking at Hampton Park???

Pickled Shrimp Salad by Jill Mathias Sous Chef, Carolina's

3lbs. shrimp, cooked
2 onions thinly sliced
1 tsp. celery seed
1C extra virgin olive oil
6 cloves garlic thinly sliced
4 lemons cut in half and thinly sliced
14 bay leaves
1 tsp. fennel seed
1 tsp. mustard seed
4 dried chilies or 2 tsp. crushed red pepper
1 tsp. pepper
2 tsp. salt
1t. coriander seed
1/4 cup white wine vinegar
1/2 cup lemon juice

Mix all ingredients together and toss with shrimp. Let marinate for 2 hours.

Take pickled shrimp and toss with mixed greens or arugula. Use marinade as vinaigrette. Add cucumbers and radish.

Raptor Release in Hampton Park (continued)

By Randy Sitton

was opened. When the lid was pulled back she popped out and stood a few feet from the box, looking around and wondering what was going on. After a few seconds, she ran a couple of feet and then took off like a shot for the nearest tree, about 50 feet away. She stayed there for several minutes, getting her bearings. Then she took off and flew into the sky around 100 feet up. She must have caught an updraft because she just stretched out her wings and soared. It must have felt really good for her to stretch out like that after so many months. She circled around and around, slowly coming right over our heads. It was just like she was saying "thank you". Really an amazing sight.

Then occurred one of those unexplainable events in life that can be described only in terms of Providence. Just as she was about to be directly overhead, another red tail hawk showed up out of nowhere and flew alongside her, both slowly circling above us. They stayed together, spiraling away until they were out of our sight.

This bird was lucky - her injuries were repairable, and she arrived at the clinic before she was too emaciated to survive. But almost half the birds coming in to the clinic never make it.

Raptors occupy a highly specialized and unique niche in our ecosystem. They are often the first indicator of something seriously wrong in the environment, and their overall health is directly related to ours.

The Center for Birds of Prey (which is part of the Avian Conservation Center) is always looking for dedicated volunteers. These volunteers provide for the transport, feeding, and medical care of these majestic creatures as well as education to the public through guided tours and flight demonstrations.

To learn more, please visit their website at:

<http://www.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org/>



Thank you Hampton Park Stewards for keeping the beds looking so beautiful.

Pseudobombax

By Les Schwartz

Over the years (decades), I have seen at least a 1,000 exotic and interesting flowers in JoAnn's greenhouse. About 988 times out of 1,000, JoAnn can instantly rattle off its common name and Latin species; the rest of the time it may take a minute or 2. To top that off, 995 times out of 1,000 she remembers where it came from! That's what fascinates me. JoAnn has personal contact she has with all her babies in the greenhouse and she is always in search of more. Her reputation for seeking the unusual is legendary.

So when I laid eyes on the Pseudobombax flower, I knew it didn't come from the garden center at Home Depot. It took a while to get it out of her but... JoAnn has traveled the road to the farm every weekend for years. She could do it in her sleep. She was almost asleep on this cold winter evening, especially after her stressful week. All she could think of was retreating to her bed. As is always the case when one is tired and worn, this was the night for the road to be closed for construction. Despondently, she followed the detour sign

to a narrow road she had never noticed before. Just as she realized how dark and alien everything around her looked, bright lights flooded the area blinding her. The radio in the truck crackled (which in itself was odd since it hadn't worked for years), and a voice said, "We've been waiting for you. Your reputation precedes you."



"Well, if this isn't the weirdest thing. What do you want with me?" She felt something thump in the back of the truck.

"You have been chosen." The lights went out and she realized that she was at the back gate of the farm. The next morning, Alvin came in and asked JoAnn what that strange plant was in the back of the truck. "What? What plant?" They walked outside and JoAnn insisted that she had never seen it before. "Maybe that's what the thump was."

"What thump?"

"When I was on the detour."

"What detour?"

"Didn't you have to take a detour coming up here last night?"

"No."

"Didn't you see the sign? The bright lights?" Obviously, from Alvin's expression, he was beginning to worry.

JoAnn shook her head as if she just woke up. "Oh, that plant. I picked it up at Home Depot."

*No plants
were harmed
in the telling
of this story!*

Pseudobombax ellipticum is one of the strangest looking flowering trees. This fast-growing native of Mexico bears spectacular showy pink staminate flowers in the spring. It usually has no leaves at that time, which serves to show off the large and striking blooms. New leaves are deep maroon and quite attractive.

Flowers, 6" to 8" across, are a thick brush of pink stamens, hence the name Shaving Brush Tree.

http://toptropicals.com/catalog/uid/PSEUDOBOMBAX_ELLIPTICUM.htm



The crop is coming in nicely!



The Greenhouse Goddess hard at work

Not Just Any Old Picnic Table

By Annie Sitton

Back when my husband and I were very poor and newly-wed college students we couldn't afford a dining table, so we sat at our desk, coffee table, or on the floor to eat dinner. In those days we were used to sitting on the floor on pillows so it wasn't bad, but it certainly wasn't conducive to entertaining family.

We had a lot of hand-me-down furniture, but no one had a spare table we could use for dining. We lived on a pretty tight budget; a movie or eating out once a month was all we could afford. That was our entertainment budget. The only big ticket items we were able to buy were the essentials; a fridge and a bed. A dining table with chairs was an absolute luxury we couldn't afford.

After browsing through the ads, I found a picnic table with 2 benches for \$30. We jumped at the chance to buy the set. We climbed in our old pickup truck in hopes that we would be lucky



enough to get our long awaited dining set; we were. We bought it, loaded it up, drove home, unloaded and assembled it. The benches were hard so I added some foam for cushioning, and covered them with fabric. We moved the set into our dining area. I added a tablecloth and some flowers and we were ready for dinner at 2:00 in the afternoon.

Time passed; we graduated, moved, got jobs, bought new furniture and moved our picnic table out into the yard. Each time we moved, we bought new pieces of furniture including patio furniture, and each time we found a new use for that old picnic table.

It served as the children's table when we entertained friends and family with kids; it was a serving and prep table on the patio when we had guests over for barbeque, it even served as the dogs' table when we celebrated our dog's birthday and invited her friends over. When we moved into a house with a basement the table became an assembly table for my husband's radio-controlled airplanes and the benches were a great place to store and stack his tools and supplies. When we moved into a house with a garage big enough for a work area, it served as a work table. When I became interested in gardening, it became my plant table and the benches added more space to hold potted plants.

Every few years and every time we found a new use for the table and benches we painstakingly took them apart, cleaned and touched them up. I remember one spring after a long harsh winter I started to clean them up. I completely disassembled and started to re-stain them. My husband looked at me and said "What a waste of time and stain. Don't you know that old thing won't make it through another summer?" That was 15 years ago.

By the time we finally settled in our house in Charleston, our picnic table had been moved 7 times to 4 states; it had become a well traveled piece of furniture and a beloved member of the family.

In our present location we don't have a garage or a basement and our yard is barely big enough to accommodate all my plants, but I am happy to say that that old picnic table and those two benches have a new life and they had a new paint job.

The table proudly serves as my potting table standing in a very private area in my yard. Although it will need some new paint this summer, it has stood up to the hot humid summers just fine. In fact I think it likes the summers here a lot more than it ever liked the snowy freezing winters.

The benches have been reassembled into a very handsome garden bench with the phrase "Sitton in the Garden" stenciled on it; one of my favorite things to do with an old friend. It sits right inside the back gate and is a welcoming site for anyone entering into my yard.





If you would like to join us in the greenhouse or adopt a bed in Hampton Park, please leave a message on the volunteer line 958-6434.



Steward Market Table

Below is a list of some of the fantastic vegetables, herbs & flowers available at the market table! Exchange a volunteer voucher and enjoy. Thanks for all your support!

Tomatoes:

- Black Krim
- Green Zebra
- Brandywine
- Sugar Sweetie
- Aunt Ruby's German Green
- San Marzano
- Speckled Roman
- Italian Roma & more

Peppers

- Chile Pasilla Bajio
- Sweet California Wonder
- Chile Hungarian Yellow Wax
- Chile Cayenne Blend

Eggplant Black Beauty, Purple Yard Long String Beans, Assorted lettuces, Spinach, cantaloupe, Squash, Watermelon, Herbs, Herbs and more herbs ...no excuses for dull dishes!

Flowers:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Celosia | Zinnias | Nicotiana |
| Gomphrena | Erigeron | Coleus |
| Datura | Solanum melongena & more! | |



Do we have your current address, phone number and email? If you have moved, or changed any of the above, please be sure to let us know so we can stay in touch!



Call the volunteer line at 958-6434 or email Joan at: MCDONALDJ@ci.charleston.sc.us



You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt.

Author Unknown




 We have had a few inquiries as to where to purchase the pot folding molds that we have been using to make our newspaper pots. The company is called Pot Maker and their website is www.potmaker.com. This is a great way to cut down on plastic pots!


The City Greenhouse ~ 30 Mary Murray Drive ~ Charleston, South Carolina 29403

Volunteer Line (843) 958-6434

Office Email: MCDONALDJ@ci.charleston.sc.us