



# TAKE ACTION E-NEWS

*Be part of the solution!*

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**Wait, don't fertilize yet! Spring lawns should not be fertilized until the grass turns green, showing that it is growing and ready for fertilizer. Adding fertilizer too early can pollute streams. For more springtime tips, go to [www.clemson.edu/cy](http://www.clemson.edu/cy).**

### Upcoming Events

#### **Sumter Backyard Landscaping Series**

*Tuesdays Feb. 18 -  
March 11*

*6:00-7:00 PM*

*Sumter County Public  
Library Main Branch*

#### **Spring Litter Cleanup**

*March 8, 2014*

*10:00 AM-12:00 PM*

*Sumter Mall*

#### **Rain Gardening Walk**

*March 8, 2014*

*12:00 Noon*

*Patriot Park*

### Newsorthy:

#### **Carolina Yards Plant Database**

Do you wonder what plants will work best for your yard? The Carolina Yards program is pleased to introduce a brand new Plant Database. This searchable database provides a selection of 300 South Carolina approved plants, chosen with the principles of environmental landscape design in mind. The plant list can be sorted by region, plant type, requirements for soil, sun and water, native plants, and other criteria. You can find the database at [www.clemson.edu/cy/plants](http://www.clemson.edu/cy/plants).



### Recent Activities:

#### **Sumter Backyard Landscaping Series**

Going on now, Sumter home gardeners can learn how to go green in their backyards. Based on the Carolina Yards program, this FREE speaker series is designed to assist homeowners in achieving their desired landscape while saving time and money and protecting South Carolina's natural resources. We had a great turn out for the first two presentations – join us for the remaining two talks! Please note that Tony Melton's "Pest Management" presentation has been rescheduled for March 11, due to weather.

*Where?* Downtown Branch of the Sumter County Public Library,  
111 North Harvin Street Sumter, S.C. 29150

*When?* Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00 PM



## Manchester State Forest Cleanup

March 29, 2014  
8:00 AM  
Wedgefield, SC

## Rain Barrel Art Contest

January-April 2014  
Sumter schools can call  
now to request your barrel.

## Sumter Earth Day

April 12, 2014  
Swan Lake Iris Garden

## Ongoing Projects

### Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods

Learn how to create  
attractive and healthy lawns  
by working with South  
Carolina's environment  
rather than against it. Go to  
[www.clemson.edu/cyn](http://www.clemson.edu/cyn) for  
more information.

## Contact Us:

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- **February 18: Gardening for Wildlife** (Sara Green, Director of Education, South Carolina Wildlife Federation)
- **February 25: Rain Gardens** (Rebecca Turk, Education Coordinator, Moore Farms Botanical Garden)
- **March 4: Gardening with Native Plants** (Claudia Rainey, Senior Planner, Sumter City-County Planning Department)
- **March 11: Pest Management** (Tony Melton, Horticulture Agent, Clemson Extension, Florence County)

## Upcoming Activities:



## Spring Litter Cleanup

**Saturday, March 8, 2014**

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Sumter Mall, 1057 Broad Street**

This Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, volunteers are needed to help with the SSS Spring Cleanup at Sumter Mall. Look for signs to direct you to the correct area of the parking lot. The ditches around Sumter Mall drain into Shot Pouch Creek, which carries litter all the way to Swan Lake.

Thank you for doing your part to keep Sumter's streams clean!

## Rain Gardening Walk

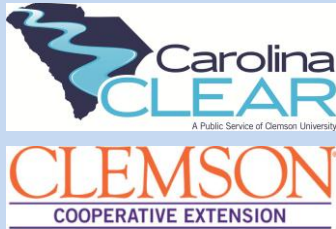
**Saturday, March 8, 2014**

**12:00 Noon**

**Patriot Park, 200 General Drive,  
Sumter**

Sumter County Active Lifestyles invites you to take a walk! This Saturday, March 8th, at 12:00 noon, please join us at Patriot Park for a walking tour featuring the rain garden, ponds, and other water quality features. We'll talk about the purpose of the rain garden and the plants in it, as well as the upcoming shoreline planting project, planned for April 29th. The walk is paved so, if you are using a stroller or wheel chair, you won't have a problem. The cost of the walk is \$1 to benefit SCAL programs. Children 18 and under are free. Please contact Catherine Blumberg, 803 774-3860, [cblumberg@sumtercountysc.org](mailto:cblumberg@sumtercountysc.org), if you have any questions.





*The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.*

## **Manchester State Forest Cleanup**

**Saturday, March 29, 2014**

**8:00 AM**

**6740 Headquarters Road, Wedgefield, SC**

Help Sumter County Keep America Beautiful pick up trash from Manchester State Forest! With support from Palmetto Pride, Sumter County KAB will offer cash/incentive awards to the two top squadrons at Shaw AFB who bring the largest groups to participate. They will also offer prizes to the civic group and youth group with the largest number of volunteers. In past years and with your help an average of over ten tons of trash has been removed. Gloves, water and trash bags will be provided. Manchester State Forest personnel will treat volunteers to a celebratory picnic at the conclusion of the cleanup. Please gather at the work shed behind the office.



## **2014 Rain Barrel Art Contest**

**January - April, 2014**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2nd annual Rain Barrel Art Contest. Participating schools will receive a rain barrel to decorate with an "Earth Day" theme. The decorated barrels will be judged at the Sumter Earth Day Festival on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The winning classes will enjoy pizza parties. The contest is open to all public and private elementary, middle, and high schools in Sumter County. After the festival, the rain barrels can be installed on school grounds or at a public location such as a church or library, or donated back to SSS for a silent auction at the festival. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please call Mary Caflich at 803-865-1216 or Jolie Brown at 803-773-5561. Barrels are being delivered now. The sooner you apply, the sooner you will receive your barrel.

## **Sustainable Sumter Earth Day 2014**

**Saturday, April 12, 2014**

**8:00 AM - 12 PM**

**Swan Lake Iris Garden**

The City of Sumter invites you to celebrate Earth Day at their annual green festival. This event features live entertainment, green vendors and educators, activities for kids and families. Sumter Stormwater Solutions will present the entries for the Rain Barrel Art Contest for attendees to judge. Come vote for your favorite school and learn more about how a rain barrel can benefit your home.

***Help to raise awareness to ways each of us can protect our local watersheds and quality of life in our communities by sharing this newsletter with others!***

You received this newsletter because you have participated in an SSS event or expressed interest in our programming. If you would no longer like to receive our newsletter, please email [mnevins@clemson.edu](mailto:mnevins@clemson.edu) and ask to be removed from the mailing list. Thank you!