

The Carolina Children's Garden

A lifetime of gardening begins here...



Fall 2009 Program Offerings (September 22-December 21)

The Carolina Children's Garden (CCG), located at the Clemson Sandhill Research and Education Center in northeast Columbia (across from Village at Sandhill), invites you to come enjoy the magic of fall! With approximately two acres of land, twelve themed gardens, an amphitheatre, a sandbox, playhouses, picnic tables, and several benches, the CCG offers hours of exploration and creative play to children (and adults!) of all ages.

The CCG is pleased to announce its fall series of fun and educational programs for children, families, and groups. Choose from the scheduled programs below, or contact us to arrange a special program. Please register for all programs in advance.

Special Programs

National Writing Day: Tuesday, October 20, 3:30 (ages 8 and under) and 4:30 PM (ages 9 and up). Join us for an afternoon of creative writing in the garden! Explore Pine Straw Poetry, Leaf Letters, and Nature Notes. \$2 per child.

Mole Day (Chemistry in the Garden): Friday, October 23, 3:30 (ages 8 and under) and 4:30 PM (ages 9 and up). Celebrate Avogadro's Number with a fun, garden-based chemistry experiment. Learn about the origins of Mole Day, and please don't confuse the Mole with the mole, our subterranean garden visitor. \$2 per child.

Rain Gardening: Saturday, October 24, 11:00 AM (K-5th grade). Learn about the water cycle, runoff, and a creative way to manage stormwater at home. Children will make their own rain gauge, design a rain garden, and have fun collecting weather data. \$2 per child.

***Turtle Tracks:** Friday, November 6, 4:00 PM. Hear the story *Turtle Tracks*, by Sally Harman Plowden, and learn about turtle biology. *This special program will be produced in cooperation with the Palmetto Conservation Foundation. Program is FREE.

***Favorite Family Hike Series:** “Backpacks, Kids, and Dogs.” Saturday, December 5, 10:00 AM. Enjoy a relaxed, naturalist-guided hike beginning and ending at the Carolina Children’s Garden. *Program sponsored by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation; reserve your spot by calling PCF at (803) 771-0870. \$2 *per person* (children under 5 and dogs free). For more information about this program, visit www.palmettoconservation.org.

Recurring Programs (pre-registration and minimum attendance required for programs to occur)

Explorers: Tuesdays, 3:30 PM

Weekly garden tours and nature walks with activities and/or crafts. Children will become more observant of and knowledgeable about nature by spending a relaxed afternoon in the garden! Drop by after your visit to the Sandhill Farmer’s Market. \$2 per child. All ages welcome.

Little Leaves: Wednesdays, 10:00 AM

Join us for story-time, sing-alongs, nature walks, and group games designed to foster early literacy, social, and fitness skills while encouraging environmental awareness. Program is FREE. Ages 8 and under.

Garden Potpourri: Fridays, 3:30 PM

A plethora of themed interdisciplinary topics. Come learn about a different subject every week! Contact us for weekly topic updates. \$2 per child. Grades 1-5.

Additional programs are available upon request:

Want to schedule a program for a different date or time? Having a garden birthday party and want to offer garden crafts or a nature walk to attendees? Looking for a fun and educational field trip? Studying a subject in school and want a special garden program to coincide? Nearly any topic, from Shakespeare to colonial America to chemistry, can be incorporated into a garden program. Our garden educator, Chanda Cooper, will do her best to accommodate special requests and align programs to the South Carolina academic standards of your choice.

Limited space is available; please register for programs in advance. To register, send an e-mail to carolinachildrengarden@gmail.com with the program name, date, and time; your child’s name and age; and a phone number at which you can be reached in case the schedule changes. A confirmation e-mail will be returned within 24 hours. You may also call the garden educator, Chanda Cooper, at (803) 459-3212 for more information or to register for a program.

A responsible adult must **remain in attendance** with children at all times; the CCG educator and volunteers do not take responsibility for children visiting the garden or attending programs.

About the CCG

- **Hours:** Open daily, 8:30 AM-dusk
- **Pricing:** Free admission. A \$2.00 per child supplies fee is required for some programs.
- **Facilities:** Two port-a-johns are present on site; there is no potable water (be sure to bring your own!). Hand sanitizer is recommended. Picnic tables, benches, and trash cans are plentiful. Do not bring sick children to programs.
- **Directions:** The Carolina Children's Garden is located at the Clemson University Sandhill Research and Education Center at the intersection of Clemson Road and Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC. Enter the Clemson University Sandhill Research and Education Center from Clemson Road directly across from the main entrance to the Sandhill Village. Follow the signs to the children's garden.
- **Accessibility:** There are no paved surfaces in the garden. The ground is gently sloping with grass and pine straw covering most areas. One port-a-john is wheelchair accessible.
- **Supervision:** The CCG educator and volunteers do not take responsibility for children visiting the garden or attending programs. A responsible adult **must** be in attendance at all times.
- **Staffing:** The educator, Chanda Cooper, and/or other Master Gardeners, will be present on-site during events. At other times, the garden may be unattended.
- **Weather:** As the CCG is outdoors, events will be cancelled or re-scheduled in the case of inclement weather.
- **Dogs:** Dogs are permitted but must be leashed. PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET! We do not currently provide bags in the garden.

About the garden educator:

Chanda is a naturalist and environmental educator with a particular interest in using nature-based education to promote environmental awareness and stewardship while meeting academic standards. She received her BS in biology and marine science from the University of South Carolina Honors College in 2007 and her MEERM (Master of Earth and Environmental Resources Management) degree from the University of South Carolina School of the Environment in 2009.

CCG programs are presented by the South Carolina Midlands Master Gardener Association in cooperation with the Richland County Master Gardener Association. They are funded in part by a grant from the Richland County Conservation Commission.

Contact:

Chanda Cooper, Naturalist/Environmental Educator

carolinachildrengarden@gmail.com

(803) 459-3212