

Nature Walks & Lunch with Rudy Mancke

South Carolina's naturalist emeritus, Rudy Mancke, will be at Cypress Gardens on Friday, May 27th, to lead nature walks at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Each walk will be limited to 30 persons so reservations are strongly advised. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Come share Mr. Mancke's unique perspective on nature where he reveals the interplay of plants and animals in every foot of walking trail. Lunch will be available for purchase for an additional \$10.00 per person. Advance reservations are required for the lunch and may be made by calling Cypress Gardens at 843/553-0515.



Fossils Fascinate Friendly Folks

A near perfect storm of attendance factors (great weather, free morning admission for Berkeley County residents, fantastic fossil show, and great Berkeley Chamber advertising) led to a record attendance for this year's fossil show. Almost a thousand people came to the park on February 19, 2011 to see fossil exhibits, participate in the children's crafts and the fossil dig, and enjoy the park. The Friends of Cypress Gardens sold food until their supplies ran out. Exhibitors and donors included Henry Crowley, Shawn Damon, Lee Cone, Donnie Edwards, Bonney Weathers, Harold Gunn, David Grabda, Paul Borodin, Gerard Case, Robert Johnson, Dina Barron, Pat McCarthy and friends. In addition to traveling from far and wide to exhibit their collections, the exhibitors contributed specimens that were used as door prizes and in the fossil dig. **The**



Winter Fossil Show was sponsored by the *LocalEdge White and Yellow Pages*. Thanks to Local Edge also for sponsoring the **Santa in the Swamp** event on December 2010.

Dean Hall Renovations

Cypress Gardens' large event venue, Dean Hall, received a facelift this winter with the addition of new flooring, paint, blinds, and even a new kitchen sink. The large permanent stage has now been replaced by a portable stage that can be set up wherever it is needed. If you are planning an event for as many as 250 persons, call us to see the fresh new Dean Hall interior. For more information contact Loretta at 843-553-0515.

Highly Portable Stringed Instruments —the Blackwater Ukulele Festival

As unlikely as it may seem, somehow ukuleles and Cypress Gardens just seem to be a natural fit. Jim Ravoira of the Charleston Hot Shots put together the **Blackwater Ukulele Festival** on March 19, 2011 with workshops, uke vendors, an open mic time, and an afternoon concert featuring the

Hot Shots, the V-Tones and Kent Knorr. It was a great, fun festival. For a mere \$5.00, a person could take the workshops and participate in the open mic period. Anyone coming to the park that day was welcome to listen to the performers. This event is now going to become a fall event and the sequel is scheduled for October 15, 2011.



Breath of Spring Music Festival and Cultural Dance Festival



On March 26 and 27th, 2011, Cypress Gardens had a weekend of music, dance, crafts, and food. **The Breath of Spring Music Festival** on Saturday the 26th featured the Summerville Sunday Strummers, the Charleston Hot Shots, singer/songwriter Jordan Igoe, High Spirits, the Cross Tuned Band, WD 50, and Malandro Soul playing bluegrass, ukulele, indie rock, Gospel, classic rock and Brazilian pop music, respectively. Local crafters were out in force and food was offered by the Friends of Cypress Gardens. The weather was great (except for rain in the last 15 minutes).



On the afternoon of the 27th, dancers performed dances from around the world at our first **Cultural Dance Festival**. Aini Leilani put together a marvelous show with local dancers including Planet Dance, Hoba, Charleston Scottish Country Dancers, Trudy's School of Dance, YLCO, Aini Belly Dance Hula and Tahitian, Mika and Aini Leilani-Kai Polynesian Troupe, bollywood Amira, Dance Carolina, Belly Dance Sahariah, Hiyas Min, WonaWomalan West African Drum and Dance, Capoeira Charleston, Elite Dance International. Because of rain, the festival was moved into Dean Hall, but the festive spirit wasn't dampened. Sponsors of the dance festival were AliBaba Mediterranean Deli at the Daniel Island location, Joe Roper PPD NYSE, Callie B. Creates, Piggly Wiggly, Chick-Fil-A, Aini Belly Dance Hula and Tahitian, l'On Family Dentistry, Arras Creations, Cardio Mixes, Hoba, Ruksana Indian Cuisine and HDigital Photography. Watch for this event to happen again next year.

Dean Hall Heritage on Display

Next door to Cypress Gardens at DuPont was the site of the buildings—slave quarters, barns, plantation house, etc.—for Dean Hall Plantation. Cypress Gardens' swamp was the freshwater reservoir used to flood rice fields. Two years ago, in preparation for expanding their Kevlar plant, DuPont funded an archaeological dig of the building site. Brockington and Associates uncovered thousands of artifacts from what had formerly been the slave quarters at Dean Hall. Brockington and Associates' interpretive branch, *The History Workshop*, composed interpretive panels and artifact displays in the new Heritage Room—the former reptile center. The interpretation continues with panels in the adjoining heirloom garden planned by Designworks and at the demonstration rice field and Kittredge gravesite. The indoor display covers the history of Dean Hall and Cypress Gardens with emphasis on the lives of Dean Hall's enslaved workers. The **Heritage Room** is now open to the public during park hours.

BC Artists' Guild Flower Show



The annual **Breath of Spring Flower Show** was held on March 8-11, 2011. The show was sponsored by Belle Isle Garden Club, Otranto Garden Club, Town and Village Garden Club, and Camellia Garden Club. The theme was *The Magic of Movies*. The show featured camellias, daffodils and floral design. Johnnie Walker won the top Horticulture Award for his camellia. Other top horticulture winners were; Lib Rentz of Pinopolis for a vinca, Kathy Woolsey of James Island for a daffodil and Carol Donahoe of Cross for a royal paulownia. Top design winners were; Linda Smith of Moncks Corner for an exhibition table design, Michael Pound won the Tricolor Award, Martha Lehane of



Johns Island for a hanging design, Pat Johnson of Mt. Pleasant for a tray design and Carolyn Conlon of N. Charleston for a small floral design. The award winning show attracted a crowd of both in state and out of state visitors and garden enthusiasts.