

Southern Environmental News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE



Southern Environmental Center

LIVABLE CITIES 2002

**APRIL 11 • 8:00 AM - 12:30
NORTON THEATRE, BSC**

Last year's keynote speaker, Jim Kunstler, brought down the house. This year we welcome **Andres Duany**, a founding member of the Congress for the New Urbanism, a group which seeks to end suburban sprawl and urban disinvestment. Andres and his wife Elizabeth Platter Zyberk first received international recognition in the 1980's as the designers of Seaside, Florida. Their firm (DPZ) has since completed designs for over 200 new towns, regional plans, and community revitalization projects. Locally, Andres developed the master plan for the town of Mt. Laurel (www.mtlaurel.com).

Other presenters include: **Jennifer Greer**, an accomplished nature writer and author of five *Southern Living* garden guides and the newly published *Alabama Gardens Great and Small*.

Jane Ross, a landscape architect who has headed up the ecological "retrofit" of Homewood's 12.2 acre community park and master



Andres Duany

The answers to future transportation needs lie in the past. Two bikes from SEC's eclectic bike collection.



plan for the Shades Creek Greenway. The 5.8 mile long bicycle and pedestrian pathway will ultimately link Jemison Park in Mountain Brook to West Homewood Park.

Steve Ortmann, a Senior Project Manager with STV, Inc., who has planned some of the most ambitious multi modal transportation projects in the world. He is presently developing a transportation plan for Birmingham, a community that leads the nation in the percentage of commuters that drive alone.

Steve McKinney, a GIS Database supervisor for the Storm Water Management Authority, who is

utilizing IKONOS satellite imagery to place environmental and utility value on the forest canopy in the Birmingham metro area.

The event is free to the public and is sponsored by the Southern Environmental Center, the Alabama Partners for Clean Air, Associated Colleges of the South and the Town of Mt. Laurel.

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MEET JENNIFER PATTERSON



- **EcoScape Assistant** Fall 2001-present
- **Academic Background**—B.S. in Geography and Biology, University of South Alabama

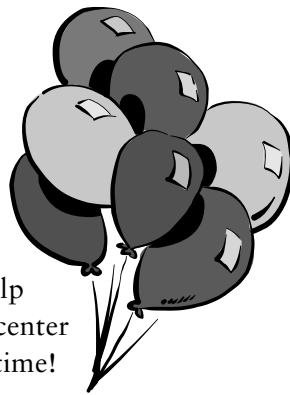
- **Previous Jobs**—New Banks Environmental Team; Environmental Management & Engineering; Taxanomics Associates Inc (aquaculture); Alabama Treasured Forest Program; Auntie Litter, Inc; Mobile Aids Support
- **Community Involvement**—Volunteer at Mt. Laurel Organic Gardens; Tree-to-Be Program
- **Likes**—Organic farming, cooking, entertaining
- **DisLikes**—Those who don't respect their land/home/earth
- **Best Part of EcoScape**—Scent Garden; diversity of birds

ECOSCAPE AVAILABLE FOR BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Looking for a special way to celebrate your child's birthday? The SEC provides a fun-filled, two-hour program for up to 15 children. Included in the package deal is a tour of the EcoScape Gardens or the Interactive Museum (in case of inclement weather) during the first hour.

Afterwards, the kids will enjoy pizza and soft drinks—cups, plates, etc. are provided. As a special bonus, the children will get to design their own eco-jewelry.

For only \$200, your family will enjoy a unique birthday party and help support the center at the same time! For reservations, call 226.4934.



Injured hawk finds new home at EcoScape

RED HAWK UP

Okay, so this release might not break box office records, but critics are sure to find our version more uplifting than any war movie. A crowd of BSC faculty, staff, and students were on hand at the EcoScape recently for the release of a Red-tail hawk. Nursed back to health by the Alabama Wildlife Rescue Center after being hit by a truck, the young raptor was set free by BSC alum, Jessica Missios (see photo below).

While there's no guarantee that released birds will stick around, this particular Red-tail hawk seems to have taken a liking to her surroundings. She joins a diverse and extensive list of "Birds of the EcoScape" that have been catalogued by BSC Professor Emeritus Dan Holliman over the past 40 years. Check them out by clicking on www.bsc.edu/sec/ecoscape/birds/birds-main.html.



FY 2001-2002 SEC SUPPORTERS (TO DATE)

LIVE OAK

(\$10,000 and above)

City of Birmingham
The Curtis & Edith Munson
Foundation
Regional Planning Commission
of Greater Birmingham

SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA

(\$5,000 to \$10,000)

Mr. Herbert Stockham, Jr.

ALABAMA AZALEA

(\$1,000 to \$4,999)

BP Amoco
Bradley Arant Rose & White
LLP
Burr & Forman LLP
Mr. Eugene Butler
Coal Bed Methane Association
Davis Architects
Gorham and Waldrep, P.C.
Johnson Kreis Construction
Mercedes-Benz International
Resource Communications
Consultants
Town of Mount Laurel
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Vowell

LONGLEAF PINE

(\$500 to \$999)

Alabama Power Company
Alabama Power Foundation
Alabama Soft Drink Association
Alagasco
AmSouth Bank
Architecture Works
Bhate Environmental Associates
Dr. and Mrs. John Floyd, Jr.
Forsyth Consulting, Inc.
Harris-Robinson Construction
Stan and Sandra Lawler
Mr. Ruffner Page
William and Darri Scott, Jr.
State of Alabama/ Governor's
Office
Mr. and Mrs. John Wrinkle

OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA

(\$250 to \$499)

Mr. Edgar C. Blackburn
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Lanning
Latta Plumbing
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tate

SUNFLOWER

(\$100 to \$249)

Dr. James Blackburn
Pat and Kathy Byington
Mrs. Gerda Carmichael
Carraway and Associates
Mr. and Mrs. Harold B. Dunn
Mr. John Durr Elmore
Michael and Betsy Fleenor
Ms. Peggy Monaghan
Porter White and Company
Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Reid
Johnny and June Smith
Janet and Jarred Taylor
Carolyn D. Tynes
Dr. and Mrs. Peter Weinheimer
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Whatley, Jr.
Mr. Phillip Wiedmeyer

**Thanks to all
our supporters!**



RETURN OF THE NATIVE

The great 19th century naturalist William Bartram was spellbound by the botanical diversity he encountered while traveling through Alabama. Huge stands of **Longleaf Pine** (prized as masts by the British navy), **Yellowwood** and **Fringe** trees covered with fragrant white blossoms in spring, and **Sourwood** trees with their rich blends of yellow, orange and red during fall provided just a glimpse of this diversity.

Among Bartram's many discoveries was the **Oakleaf Hydrangea**, which is now Alabama's official state wildflower.

To get a sense of the natural wonders Bartram encountered, read his classic, *Travels*, or simply visit our EcoScape! In addition to the aforementioned trees and plants, you'll encounter

everything from a **Kentucky Coffeetree** to a **Devil's Walking Stick** (ouch) and the edible **Pawpaw**. Over 58 native Alabama trees and plants are being added to the EcoScape's already extensive collection of native wildflowers as part of a new Alabama Trail that will be officially dedicated this April.

Thanks go out to former *Southern Living* Garden Editor Linda Askey as well as BSC faculty members Larry Brasher and Wayne Shew for their invaluable advice on this project!

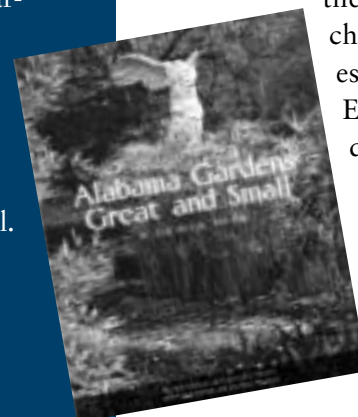
The debut of the Longleaf pine at EcoScape! Pictured left to right Susan Geist, Roald, Dr. Kathleen Rossman and Jennifer Compton.



SEC Director Roald Hazelhoff pondering assembly instructions for new sculpture.

HEAVY METAL DEBUTS AT ECOSCAPE

Axl Rose, move over! Made from one-time storm drain covers, water main valves, and assorted industrial pipes (see photo), this stunning flowerpot sculpture is like, heavy, dude! Created from scrap metal by artist Richard Arfsten (www.abstractsculpture.com), the 14-foot "Renaissance" sculpture was recently donated to the SEC by Jon and Sheryl Kimmerling. Put the "petal" to the metal and check out this latest addition to the EcoScape's outdoor gallery.



ALABAMA GARDENS GREAT AND SMALL

Think globally, act locally. Instead of crossing the Atlantic this summer to visit the classic gardens of England, France, and Spain, why not take a guided tour of your own backyard! In *Alabama Gardens Great and Small*, authors Ed Givhan and Jennifer Greer provide an overview of some of Alabama's most enchanting gardens from Mentone to Mobile (see photo). They showcase over 40 wonderful destinations ranging from

Mediterranean influenced courtyards and naturalistic English landscapes to "New American" gardens like the EcoScape.

Come hear Jennifer Greer speak about Alabama's best urban gardens as part of our 3rd annual **Livable Cities Conference** at BSC on April 11, 2002. She'll also be signing copies of her new book, which will be available in bookstores in April.

BROWNFIELDS AND SMART GROWTH CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

Over 300 people attended the March 21-22 conference at Birmingham-Southern College.

Speakers included both national and regional experts. On a state level, they included Alabama Speaker of the House Seth Hammett, State Senator Rodger Smitherman, State Rep. Terry Spicer, and Mayor Mike Dow of Mobile.

Gov. Don Siegelman announced the creation by executive order of a Geographic Information System (GIS) Council which will help give planners throughout Alabama the latest technological tools to make “smart growth” decisions. GIS technology can be used strategi-

cally as a decision making tool in such areas as water resources, air resources, land resources, forestry and wildlife planning, urban and rural planning and transportation. This council will blend and coordinate the GIS capabilities within academic institutions, private industry and state and local agencies.

Also at the Conference, the Governor announced his support of SB 477, a bill that will create a state revolving loan fund program for brownfields redevelopment and SB 478, a bill that will enable businesses to take advantage of a tax abatement for brownfield redevelopment projects.

BICYCLES BUILT FOR TWO

One of the more unusual exhibits at our Center consists of street bicycles from the 1930s through the 1970s. (see photo page 1) Many of our younger visitors initially respond to the display as if they were viewing ancient artifacts. They may as well. While their parents and grandparents used bikes as a common mode of transportation, a growing number of kids are growing up in suburbs that don't even have sidewalks. The only way to get to school, visit friends or to get to bike friendly areas like Oak Mountain State Park is by car.

At the Southern Environmental

Center, we're trying to reverse this trend by supporting organizations like Birmingham Urban Mountain Pedalers (www.bump.org), as well as working with Tom Maxwell, Bike Coordinator for the Regional Planning Commission, (205 251-8139), to make bicycle commuting safer and more attractive in our area. As for the classic bikes on display, they belong to Joel Robertson (205 252-1612). Joel's bikes can be rented for parties, store displays, or even as movie props.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 14—1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. “The 5th Annual Earth Day at the Gardens” in Birmingham. Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Jennifer Fairley (205 414-3950) (jenniferfairley@hotmail.com)

April 20—Greenfest at Birmingham-Southern College. Music, volleyball tournament, rock climbing wall, etc. Proceeds will benefit the Woodlawn Ecoscape. contact BSC Conservancy at cori-jobe39@hotmail.com.

April 24—7:00 p.m. Janisse Ray, author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*. Northeast Alabama Community College at the Lyceum in Rainsville, Alabama. (205 226-4934).

April 26-28—Alabama Rivers Alliance Watershed Leadership Conference in Columbiana, Alabama. Adam Snyder (205 322-6395) or <http://www.alabamarivers.org>

May 25—8:30 a.m. West Blocton Cahaba Lily Festival at the Lily Center in West Blocton, Alabama. West Blocton Improvement Association, Cahaba River Society (205 322-5326) or Kae Allen (205 938-2479)

June 9-11—Business Council of Alabama Environment and Energy Conference, Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama.

June 10-18—Legacy Summer Teacher Institute at Birmingham-Southern College. For additional information, click on www.legacyenvded.org.

ECOFEST 2001 A ROARING SUCCESS



ECOFEST 2001: PARTY SNAPSHOTS

TOP PHOTO: EcoFest committee members Roald Hazelhoff, Pat Byington, Tracey Martin, Shelley Green, Deborah Bashinsky, Rita Kollars, Renae Walters, Darri Scott, Hugh Hunter and Susan Whatley.

MIDDLE PHOTO: Rita, Darri and Tracey, the Flower Power Ladies!

BOTTOM PHOTO: Ken Jackson and Alan Hunter ham it up during live auction.

ECOFEST 2002

The date is set (see box below). And WorkPlay will once again serve as site for what has become one of the coolest parties in Birmingham.

We're delighted to welcome Elton and Leslie Stephens to this year's planning committee. They'll be joining Rita Kollars, Darri Scott, Susan Whatley and Hugh Hunter. Kenny and Renae Walters have also signed on for another year and we're busily scouring the metro area for additional talent to help ensure that EcoFest IV will be the best yet. Stay tuned for more details soon.



**ECOFEST IV
OCTOBER 17, 2002
6 - 9 P.M.
COOL TUNES,
HOT AUCTION
AT WORKPLAY.**



SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

PRESENTS

THE THIRD ANNUAL

LIVABLE CITIES CONFERENCE

April 11, 2002, Norton Theater
Birmingham-Southern College

- 8:00-8:15 am Registration
- 8:15-8:20 am Opening Remarks/Welcome
Dr. Neal Berte, President, Birmingham-Southern College
Roald Hazelhoff, Southern Environmental Center
- 8:20-8:50 am Building Cities Through Urban Gardens
Jennifer Greer
- 8:50-9:30 am The Olmsted Vision Enacted
Jane Reed Ross
- 9:30-9:50 am “Hop on the Bus Gus:” Mass Transit Options for
Birmingham
Steve Ortmann
- 9:50-10:00 am Break
Solar Car Demonstration and Environmental Displays
- 10:00-10:30 am Every Picture Tells a Story—Birmingham’s New Satellite
Imaging Program
Steve McKinney
- 10:30-12:30 A Sustainable Growth Model For Our Region
Andres Duany, Keynote Speaker
- 12:30 pm Conference adjournment

CO-SPONSORED BY ALABAMA PARTNERS FOR CLEAN AIR,
THE ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE SOUTH AND THE TOWN OF MT. LAUREL

WHO WE ARE

The Southern Environmental Center serves as a regional resource that puts environmental information at your fingertips. It sponsors conferences, manages a unique museum and outdoor classroom facility and provides insight on how we, as individuals, can improve and protect our environment. SEC is open for group tours Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM and weekends by appointment only. Admission is \$1 per person, per activity, with a minimum of 10 people per group.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Please help us grow. In order to provide all segments of the community with access to the Center's programs, we must rely on outside operational support. Your tax-deductible contribution will enable our educational programs to reach over 20,000 visitors annually.

- Please send more information
- I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$_____

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State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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