

Garden Tours

In the springtime garden gates open all over the Carolinas. The following seasonal tours and events offer opportunities to visit special gardens, many of them private, from Savannah to Asheville and throughout the Piedmont.

Note: Efforts have been made to ensure information is accurate at time of printing. However, please contact the host of the event before making final plans. KEY: "W" indicates the organization has a Web site, "\$" indicates fees are charged to attend event.

Southern Pines, NC **April 2**

The 59th Annual Home and Garden Tour in the Sandhills of North Carolina. Sponsored by The Southern Pines Garden Club. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (910) 528-2129. W \$

Georgetown, SC **April 4-5**

61st Annual Plantation Tour. Tours of plantations and townhouses, many privately owned, in and near Georgetown. Sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women of Prince George, Winyah Parish. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (843) 545-8291. W \$

New Bern, NC **April 11-12**

Home and Garden Tour. The New Bern Historical Society and the New Bern Preservation Foundation will sponsor a tour of 17 homes and six gardens. Friday night includes the Craven Arts Council's Art Walk. The Jazz Preservation Concerts will be held Friday and Saturday evening. Tour 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (252) 638-8558 \$

Wilmington, NC **April 11-13**

Azalea Garden Tour: Gardens from

the River to the Sea. Eleven gardens highlighting the beauty of the Cape Fear region's coastal and river landscapes. Sponsored by the Cape Fear Garden Club. (910) 262-3036. W \$

Bath, NC **April 12**

Historic Bath Garden Club's Homes and Gardens Tour. Lunch may be purchased at the United Methodist Church. Rain or shine. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (252) 923-0972. \$

Edenton, NC **April 12**

Garden Conservancy's Open Days Tour. Tour six of Edenton's most exquisite private gardens. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (252) 482-1180.

Chapel Hill, NC **April 12-13**

The Seventh Chapel Hill Spring Garden Tour. A leisurely self-guided tour of ten distinguished private gardens in the residential areas of Meadowmont and The Oaks. This tour features a wonderland of unique plants, water features, sculptures and architectural details. Visitors will enjoy a variety of styles and sizes of gardens, including a woodland "rescue garden" featuring rare native plants with over 700 trilliums; a garden nationally certified as a backyard wildlife habitat; a magnificently whimsical garden full of witty sculptural surprises; and the superb gardens of the DuBose House at Meadowmont, newly restored and open for the first time to the public in honor of the occasion. Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday 12-4 p.m. (919) 962-0522. W \$

Greenville, SC **April 18-19**

Springtime in the City. A tour of outstanding gardens of McDaniel Avenue, Crescent Avenue and the Chanticleer neighborhood. Proceeds support the Greenville Council of



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Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Kilgore-Lewis House and Gardens. (864) 232-3020. W \$

Savannah, GA
April 18-19

33rd Annual NOGS Tour of Hidden Gardens. The walking tour includes eight walled private gardens; the award-winning Massie School Garden, which is one of the Garden Club's community projects; and the historic Harper Fowlkes House and Garden. Tour guests are invited to enjoy a southern tea and tour the Harper Fowlkes House and Garden daily from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. only. (912) 961-4805. W \$

Shallotte, NC
April 19

The Coastal Garden Club's annual Spring Garden Tour and Tea. Tour includes eight unique gardens. 12:30-3 p.m., tea 2-4 p.m. (910) 579-7196 or (910) 755-4686. \$

Richmond, VA
April 19-27

Historic Garden Week in Virginia. More than 250 of Virginia's most beautiful private homes, gardens and historic landmarks are open for tours. Approximately three dozen tours are held on different days of the week throughout the state. Sponsored by members of The Garden Club of Virginia to benefit the restoration of historic gardens and grounds across the Commonwealth. (804) 644-7776. W \$

Wrightsville Beach, NC
April 25

Harbor Island Garden Club Annual Home and Garden Tour. Walk through homes and spectacular gardens on the coast. Tickets available at the Harbor Way Gardens in front of the Wrightsville Beach Fire Station on the day of the tour. All proceeds go to the preservation and beautification of Wrightsville Beach. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (910) 256-8472. \$

Augusta, GA
April 25 - 27

Sacred Heart Garden Festival. Tour includes floral and landscape exhibits,

speakers, children's activities and vendor marketplace. Garden preview party April 24 at 7 p.m. (706) 826-4700. W \$

Raleigh, NC
May 2-4 and May 9-11

Spring Open House at Plant Delights Nursery. Find rare and unusual spring perennials and enjoy self-guided tours through the Juniper Level Botanic Gardens. Located south of Raleigh at 9241 Sauls Road. (919) 772-4794. W

Raleigh, NC
May 3-4

Historic Oakwood Victorian Tea and Garden Tour. The Oakwood Garden Club hosts teas at neighborhood homes. (919) 832-9712. \$

Raleigh, NC
May 4

Gala in the Garden at JC Raulston Arboretum. Enjoy music by the Southern String Band, gourmet hors d'oeuvres and a special dessert reception while bidding on a variety of unique plants and other special items in the silent auction. Proceeds from the event benefit the JC Raulston Arboretum. 3-7 p.m. (919) 513-7004. W \$

Raleigh, N.C.
May 10-11

Raleigh Little Theatre Garden Tour. A Mother's Day weekend tradition, the tour offers two days to visit an eclectic collection of private gardens in several Raleigh neighborhoods and the Raleigh Rose Garden. Proceeds benefit Raleigh Little Theatre. (919) 821-3111. W \$

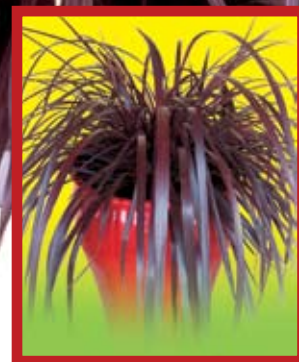
Cheraw, S.C.
May 17

Cheraw Garden Tour presented by the Four Seasons Garden Club of Cheraw and the Cheraw Arts Commission. Lovely private gardens in and around the beautiful historic district. Demonstrations, art displays and sales, reception and entertainment. 12:30-5:30 p.m. rain or shine. (843) 537-2821.

Sumter, S.C.
May 17

Sumter's Annual Spring Garden Tour.

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Garden Tours

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Presented by the Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter & The Master Gardeners of Sumter. Rain date : May 18, 1-6 p.m. (803) 775-1091. \$



Lexington, SC May 22-24

Seventh Annual Lexington County Master Gardener's Tour. Get inspired by six gardens that will infuse you with ideas to use in your own garden. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (800) 772-0652. \$

Fuquay Varina, NC June 7-8

Fuquay Varina Garden Tour sponsored by the Fuquay Varina Garden Club and the Fuquay Varina Historical Society. The garden tour features different garden styles and sizes. Proceeds benefit the moving, refurbishing and landscaping

of the old Fuquay Varina Post Office to a new location. Guest speaker Helen Yoest, 4 p.m. Sunday. Tour Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m. gingmcc@embarqmail.com. \$

Waynesville, NC June 28

Garden Tour. Visit seven gardens in and around Waynesville, N.C. Visitors will enjoy five lovely private gardens, as well as an elementary school garden where Master Gardener volunteers mentor students. Sponsored by the Haywood County Extension Master Gardeners. (828) 456-3575. \$

A Perennial Favorite: Spring Plant Sale Held On the Grounds of the NC State Fairgrounds

For North Carolina gardeners, the mother of all plant sales is at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds each spring just when Carolina gardeners are itching to plant. Five non-profit gardening and civic organizations set up at the state fairgrounds to sell plants as a fundraiser for various interests, primarily horticultural.

This annual event started in 1980 when Tony Avent, owner of Plant Delights Nursery, suggested to his garden club, the Gardeners of Wake County, to hold an azalea sale to raise money for scholarships for horticulture students at NC State. They were able to offer many more varieties of azaleas than were currently available in local nurseries, which helped feed the wants of local gardeners and newcomers to the Triangle.

Over the years, other gardening concerns and a civic organization joined the plant sale, each selling a specific plant species. The group now includes the Wake County Junior Master Gardeners 4-H program selling rhododendrons and camellias; the Pilot Club, a civic organization to help people with brain-related disorders and disabilities, selling geraniums, annuals and hanging baskets; the Raleigh Garden Club selling native perennials, groundcovers, less-common new plants and forgotten favorites; and the Herb Society of Wake County.

Visitors to the sale will find more than 6,500 azaleas for sale with 120 varieties from five different nurseries as well as camellias from the Gardeners of Wake County. The Raleigh Garden Club's perennials come from various nurseries as well as from propagations from member's gardens. Each plant includes a label with its common and botanical name, bloom color and season, size, light and moisture requirements, and landscape value such as deer resistance, drought tolerance, southern heirlooms, native plants and plants to attract

butterflies and hummingbirds.

New this year are tips and techniques for water-wise gardening practices from the Raleigh Garden Club.

"All the profits from our plant sale go back into the community. Each year we support local botanical gardens and agencies such as Raleigh Parks and Recreation," said Barbara Kennedy, president of the Raleigh Garden Club. Also in 2007, the Gardeners of Wake County were able to support six bachelor's degree candidates in NC State University's Department of Horticulture Science. Plants that don't sell are donated to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

The event couldn't be produced without the work of all the volunteers. "If we added the hours spent on the sale and paid them a minimum wage our sale would not make a profit. Volunteers do make a difference," said Anne Clapp, past president.

There is also a wealth of information to be had from the member volunteers on-site who will answer your gardening questions.

— Helen Yoest

Annual Plant Sale, Raleigh, N.C.

The annual plant sale is held the third week in April at the flower show area of the North Carolina Fairgrounds, Gate #6, Youth Center Road, Raleigh, N.C.
April 18-20, Friday and Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m.

For more information on the organizations visit:

- 🌿 **Gardeners of Wake County**, www.gardenersofwakecounty.org
- 🌿 **Raleigh Garden Club**, www.raleigh-garden-club.org
- 🌿 **Herb Society of Wake County**, www.herbsociety.tripod.com
- 🌿 **Wake County Junior Master Gardener 4-H Program**, www.jmgkids.us