Augusta Canal

Built in 1845 as a source of power, water and transportation, the Augusta Canal is the only intact industrial canal in the American South in continuous use. During the Civil War it was the site of the Confederate States of America Powderworks complex. Deepened and widened in the 1870s, the canal brought an industrial boom to the city, especially in textile manufacturing. In 1975 the Canal and its mills were listed on the National Register of Historic Places and declared National Historic Landmark in 1978. In 1996 the United States Congress designated the Augusta Canal and nearby land a National Heritage Area.

A “National Heritage Area” is a place designated by the United States Congress where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally-distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These areas tell nationally important stories about our nation and are representative of the national experience through both the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved within them. Several canal-side structures pre-date the War Between the States and others to the later 19th Century and the heyday of America’s Industrial revolution.

Although the Augusta Canal is man-made, many areas along its banks have returned to a more natural state. The canal occupies a unique ecosystem created along the granite ledges that separate the Piedmont plateau from the Coastal plain—an area known as The Fall Line. The undeveloped land between the canal and the Savannah River rapids along the upper First Level has formed a wetland, creating an urban wildlife refuge that is home to varied flora and fauna, including several rare and endangered species.

At the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area Discovery Center at Enterprise Mill you’ll learn the stories of people, progress and promise of a unique piece of American history. The Canal Discovery Center tells the story of how a city used its waterways to reinvent itself and define its destiny. The Center has been developed by the Augusta Canal Authority in partnership with the National Park Service.

Registration $65

You must complete separate Tri-consultant Refresher registration form and mail it by September 24 with accompanying check

The two-day course will include:
1) Tickets to the Peek-a-Boo Fall Garden Tour. These seven gardens are open 10-4 both days.
2) A slide-show by Jenks Farmer, nursery owner, author, garden curator, and designer of 2 gardens on the tour
3) Tickets to a Petersburg Boat Tour of the Augusta Canal and its museum
4) A tour of one of the Columbia County recycling facilities led by Jenny Hinton, Green Program Manager
5) A presentation by Tonya Bonitatibus, Savannah RiverKeeper, arriving to speak in the middle of a week clean-up trip down the river
6) An evening meal catered by Dyes Southern Catering

All events and accommodations are fairly close together on the river side of Augusta. Dress comfortably for touring. Carpooling to various locations is recommended. Bring rain gear.

Suggested Accommodations

Jameson Suites, 1062 Claussen Road, Augusta, Georgia, is the site for two speakers and the evening meal. They are offering a discounted rate of $69 for two queen beds and will not charge for the meeting room if we book 10 rooms. To book there, CALL 706-733-4656 and mention Garden Club of Georgia. All rooms are suites, and staying there qualifies you for free breakfast. Check them out online at http://www.jamesonsuitesaugusta.com/ BUT call or email to register with the discount.

Other nearby locations:
- Sheraton Augusta 706-396-1000
- Courtyard Marriott 706-855-8100

Landscape Design Consultants
THE GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC.

Refreshling Gardens and Speakers
Gardening Consultants
Landscape Design Consultants
Environmental Consultants

- Peek-a-Boo Fall Garden Tour: 7 gardens
- Jenks Farmer: nursery owner, author, garden curator; designer of 2 tour gardens
- Petersburg Boat Tour of Augusta Canal and interactive Museum
- Keep Columbia County Beautiful: Green Program Manager, Jenny Hinton
- Savannah RiverKeeper, Tonya Bonitatibus

Tri-Refresher 2013

October 4-5
Jameson Suites
1062 Claussen Road
Augusta, Georgia
Friday, October 4, 2013

8:30 a.m.  Registration
Jameson Suites
1062 Claussen Road
Augusta, Georgia

9:00-11:00  Lecture and Slide Show presented by Jenks Farmer, designer of two of the gardens, whose book on gardening in environmentally sustainable ways will be released in March by Timber Press

11:00 a.m.  Lunch on own/Hotel check-in

2:00-5:00 p.m. Petersburg Boat tour on the Augusta Canal
Enterprise Mill
1450 Greene Street, Suite 400

Friday, October 5, 2013

8:30-9:30 a.m. Tour Columbia County Recycling facility at 3 Dolphin Way led by Jenny Hinton, Columbia County Green Program manager

10:00-12:00 Tour three gardens belonging to Helen Kanavage, Rita Hamilton, and Betty Davis. Verify tour tickets at Davis garden.

Saturday, October 5, 2013

9:00-10:00 Consultants Meetings

Tonya Bonitatibus
Riverkeeper

Tonya grew up near the banks in Hephzibah, Georgia, where her love and passion for the Savannah River began at a young age. Her career as a water conservation activist began in 2007, when she became the Development Director for the Savannah Riverkeeper. She also served as the Georgia Field Representative for Oceana's campaign to convince Olin Corporation to convert to a more efficient and - most importantly - mercury-free process. Tonya received a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Augusta State University and her extensive knowledge of the River makes her an invaluable part of the Riverkeeper team.

Jenny Hinton
Green Programs Manager

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in Columbia County by preserving the natural beauty and environment of our community. We accomplish this by providing recycling options, waste and litter reduction programs, and environmental education opportunities. Our volunteers take a responsible role in caring for, preserving, and protecting our environment.

Jenks Farmer
Nursery owner, author, garden curator, designer of 2 tour gardens

Born and raised in an eighteenth-century farmhouse in Beech Island, it is only fitting that Jenks Farmer, a seventh-generation South Carolinian, grew up to be a nursery owner and garden curator. He was the founding horticulturist and garden designer for Moore Farms Botanical Garden, as well as founding curator of Riverbanks Botanical Garden. Jenks has designed private gardens from Managua to New Orleans and Charleston. In March, Timber Press will release Jenks’s new book on gardening in environmentally sustainable ways. As the surname suggests, the Jenks family maintained a self-reliant farm and grew its own food. As a child, Jenks climbed on magnolia trees, transforming them into a playground. He learned that the trees were originally planted to shade those walking through the yard. As a result, Jenks realized from an early age that plants had intentional purposes. Fascinated by the myth and romance of plants, Jenks turned his appreciation into a lifelong career. Jenks studied Horticulture at Clemson University. As a student, he was able to take advantage of an internship opportunity at The University of Zambia and was able to study the country's plant history. He then furthered his education with a master’s degree in Public Garden Management and Forestry from The University of Washington. Jenks’s education blossomed into a career. After 25 years of experience, as a garden curator and designer, he also runs a mail order nursery business. Owner and operator of a family run organic field nursery specializing in Crinum, Jenks has managed the transition of the farm from typical, chemical based to earth friendly practices because, 'it’s the right thing to do for us, for children, for the life in the earth.’ Each year he takes a camping field trip to learn and photograph the plants of the world. He has travelled extensively in Central America where he welcomes friends to tagalong to explore and journal their findings. He’s recently been in Madagascar and Easter Island. Sometimes Jenks’s travel activities include lectures to diverse groups including the Smithsonian Institute. You can catch Jenks’s articles in Fine Gardening, Organic Gardening, Horticulture, American Nurseryman and several scientific journals. Jenks continues to find time to be a hands-on gardener despite maintaining a very busy schedule. He finds mental rejuvenation in the yard, in the dirt and amongst the plants. - See more at www.jenksfarmer.com