

<u>Taking Care</u>

Keep Busy, Keep Happy... Many Ways to Transition into Spring

by LISA M. PETSCHE

any people look forward to the mild temperatures and increased daylight of spring, which positively affect their mood and



Lisa Petsche

allow new opportunities for enjoyment, especially outdoors. It can take some time. though, to transition out of cocooning mode after the

confines of winter. Read on for some ideas to help you - and the person you care for, if applicable - ease into spring and make the most of it.

- Treat yourself and your loved one to new sleepwear or slippers.
- · Put away the flannel sheets and bring out the crisp, cotton bedding.
- · Order take-out food for a change of cuisine. Try something different.
- · Purchase something seasonal to enjoy - for example, wind chimes or solar garden accents.
- · Air out your home by opening some windows for a while on a dry, breezy day.

Refresh the Décor

- Accessorize indoors with soft colors. Room accents can take the form of cushion covers, tablecloths. place mats or a mantel scarf, for instance. For color inspiration, think pastels and traditional Easter decorating. Don't overlook white, which gives a crisp, fresh look. For patterns, try florals or gingham checks.
- · If you like perfumed candles, pick up some flowery scents.
- · Buy fresh flowers once a week until your garden starts to bloom.
- · Buy a new mat for your front entrance or seasonal sun catchers for windows.

Keep Busy

Accomplishment brings satisfaction and a sense of renewal. This is a good time to try new things or tackle long-postponed projects, before the dog days of summer arrive. Involve your relative as appropriate.

- · Clean door glass and any windows that are easy to reach, to let in as much light as possible and enhance the view. Hire a window cleaner to tackle the rest.
- · Try some new recipes lighter dishes to replace rib-sticking winter favorites.
- · Peruse gardening magazines and catalogs and plan this year's garden.

- Get a bird feeder and seed, a pair of binoculars and a bird watching guide.
- · Do some de-cluttering around your home; kitchen drawers, closets, spare rooms and attics are typical hot spots. Donate unused items to a local charity. Freeing up space contributes psychologically to feelings of lightness.
- · Rearrange the furniture in one or more rooms. Or start planning a room redecoration or renovation project.
- Make a renewed effort to look after your health, including exercising regularly - good for both your physical and mental well-being. Try getting outdoors for a couple of short walks (five to ten minutes) each day. If it's hard to get out, invest in a stationary bike or treadmill.

Ideas for Activities

- · Go for a stroll around the neighborhood or at a nearby park. Don't forget a hat, sunglasses and sunblock.
- · Check out offerings at the local farmers' market. Pick up some novel fruits or vegetables, as well as favorite meat, cheeses and baked

- Take a drive and crack open the windows to get some fresh air.
- · Invite friends over for an evening of games and socializing.

Make Special Plans

Breaking out of routines can be energizing. Here are some ideas:

- Plan an outing to a restaurant or a cultural or sporting event. Just ensure in advance that the facilities are accessible. If your relative uses a wheelchair, investigate accessible transportation options.
- Plan a small party if you enjoy entertaining. Consider a whimsical theme and enlist help from friends.
- Start planning a summer vacation or, better yet, a mini getaway for the near future - perhaps a weekend stay at a resort or country inn. If it's not feasible for your relative to accompany you or you need a break, look into respite care options.

Lisa M. Petsche is a social worker and a freelance writer specializing in boomer and senior health matters. She has personal and professional experience with elder care.



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Richmond County Retired Educators present scholarships

At their recent meeting, the Richmond County Retired Educators Association presented two \$1,000.00 scholarships to teachers in the Richmond County School system to help with the expenses associated with their quests for an advanced degree.

L-R: Kaden Jacobs, Board of Education Representative; recipient Ki'Eshia Graham from Copeland Elementary; RCREA President Margery McDonald; recipient Jennifer Bauhy from Bayvale Elementary; and, Bayvale Elementary Principal Tonethia Beazley.



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AGENCY ALERT: Make the time to work out what's most important to you!

by KATHLEEN ERNCE Executive Director, The Senior Citizens Council Augusta, Georgia kernce@seniorcitizenscouncil.org

In early January, 2016, representatives from several different community agencies met to discuss



Kathleen Ernce

planning for a Senior Resource EXPO that would be presented in South Augusta in the spring. The committee discussed how each agency represented could offer information to the cit-

izens of the entire community. We all felt this much needed information was not getting to the South Augusta area as each organization described numerous phone calls from South Augusta seeking accessible resources.

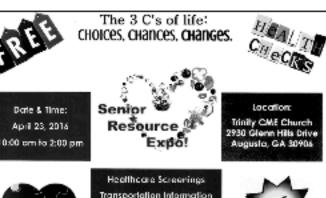
"The 3C's Of Life: Choices, Chances, Changes." Senior Resource EXPO will be presented to the entire community on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. This FREE event is open to all and will provide seniors, their families, and the entire community with an opportunity to identify the "3C's of Life... Choices, Chances, and Changes" and demonstrate how area providers of care and services may offer assistance and guidance to help this special population make positive choices in their lives to improve their chances to maintain safe independence by making simple life changes.

The greatest and most persistent blockages to our progress in life usually come from a single source – ourself. Here is an example of how a simple and practical change gives way to the best possible chance of living a good life.

"Nadine was always overweight and somehow it bothered her a great deal now. One day without anyone's prompting, she decided to start run-

ning on a daily basis to lose weight. Her mother and sister were shocked to see this change. Especially since they had been after her for years to start losing weight it was a surprise to see her make an effort. She gave herself a chance to change her life by making the right choices. The time she usual-

ly spent in front of the TV changed to football practice with her younger brother and similarly his snacks reduced! She took control of her life and soon saw a new and improved person who was more confident and sure. If she hadn't made this decision when she did. maybe her life would've been the same forever."







You must make a choice to take a chance or your life will never change! Come join us on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. at Trinity CME Church on 2930 Glenn Hills Drive, Augusta, GA 30906 to learn more!

Greater Augusta Day 2016 focuses on legislative priorities for our region

Special to Senior News

On Tuesday, March 1, as a collaborative effort of the Augusta Metro, Columbia County and Burke County Chambers of Commerce, business leaders visited the Georgia State Capitol for ÅgGreater Augusta Day.Åh

Greater Augusta Day, an annual trip during the Georgia General Assembly, is a collective vision of the three Chambers to advocate for legislative issues that are important to the Greater Augusta Region. The legislative priorities on the agenda for the day included transportation, taxation, economic development, education and water resources. Participants were given the opportunity to discuss topics pertinent to our community.

As a part of the dayAfs education briefings, Georgia State School Superintendent Richard Woods addressed the group along with Erin Hames, President of ReformEd, and Tim Cairl, Director of Education Policy for the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

Senate President Pro Tempore David Shafer, Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner Russell McMurry, and Speaker of the House Representative David Ralston were also included in the dayÅfs program.

The groupAfs time inside the capitol concluded with highlights from our Greater Augusta Delegation: Representative Wayne Howard, Representative Barbara Sims, Senator Jesse Stone, Senator Bill Jackson, Senator Howard Jones, Representative Jodi Lott, Representative Gloria Frazier, Representative Ernest Smith, Representative Brian Prince and Representative Barry Fleming.

The Columbia County Chamber of Commerce is a member driven, business focused organization representing 1,000 businesses throughout the Georgia and South Carolina region. Together with the Augusta and Burke County Chambers, our business representation exceeds 2,300. The vision of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce is to ensure and promote the beneficial growth of our community. For more information on the Columbia County Chamber, visit www.columbiacountychamber.com.

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Poets' Corner

OUR BELOVED MOTHER by Michael Riles

Our beloved mother traveled the miles, She gave us such love, such joy and sweet smiles.

She lived the virtuous life, and as we say goodbye, At this place she called home where at peace she will lie.

From this region of beauty, she was born and raised. She brought us such joy, living the full measure of her days.

Although this journey has ended, in our hearts and our minds, We'll always have her laughter, her endearing charm, the winsome smiles.

My sister and I, take solace today, She's among family whom loved her. she's back home, not just in a grave.

Our beloved mother,
Never alone will she be,
In our hearts and minds,
she'll live forever,
as long as kindred hearts beat.
Written by Michael Riles of Stone
Mountain, Georgia for Elizabeth

Tucker's son-in-law, at the request of his wife Elizabeth Riles and his sister-in-law Diana Curtis, delivered on March 22, 2016 at San Fernando Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas. Elizabeth Tucker was 89 years old. She resided with family in New Port News, Virginia for over 20 years.

LORD CAN I by Pauline M. Brown

I asked God, "Can I be rich?" He said, "My child you are rich."

I asked God, "Can I be strong?" He said, "My child with me you are never alone."

I asked God, "Can I be free?" He said, "My child I died for thee."

I asked God, "How can I love?" He said, "My child I am love."

I asked God, "Can I be like thee?"
He said, "My child I'm already in
thee."

Finally, I asked, "Lord, what can I do?' He said, "My child just be you."

WORDS OF MY LORD

by Jesse "James" Harvey

The words of my Lord are perfect and true.

Take them to heart, and let them guide you.

They are sweeter than honey and more valuable than gold. The words of my Lord restores the soul.

The words of my Lord are perfect and true. Matthew 22:37-39 is really all you

need to do.

They are sweeter than honey and more valuable than gold. They words of my Lord restores the soul.

I AM by Allie Morris

Everyday tell yourself I AM.

I am loved by almighty God. Special, beautiful, happy, wonderfully made.

I am a leader, bold, victorious. So very, very smart, intelligent, also wise.

I am successful, a winner. Don't you ever call me a LOSER!

I am the head, not the tail. Above, and not beneath.

I am more than a conqueror. I am Strong, I am Brave, I am all that God says "I AM!"

Repeat after me "I AM!"

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Community Access to Resources

Submitted by JEANETTE CUMMINGS Director, Area Agency on Aging A Division of the CSRA Regional Development Center

Finding the right resources you need to remain healthy and happy in your own homes and communities can be very confusing and frustrating. It doesn't have to be. What you need to know is only "one



Jeanette Cummings

call" away. The CSRA Area Agency on Aging (AAA), a designated Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC), is the "single point of entry" to services for seniors, persons with

disabilities and their caregivers. Reaching the AAA is as simple as dialing 866-552-4464 or 706-210-2018.

Trained, friendly counselors are ready to answer calls for information or assistance with the activities of daily living such as meal preparation, bathing, dressing, house cleaning, medication management and access to health and wellness programs, assistive technology devices and home modifications like wheelchair ramps. Services are provided through private pay and governmentfunded options. The ability to pay privately offers an alternative to being placed on a wait list.

Some providers are willing to negotiate the cost of their services. Georgia's AAA's and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) offer several easy-touse online databases which can be used to locate these providers. Check out the following:

- Georgia Services for Seniors (www.georgiaservicesfor seniors.org)
- Georgia 4 Seniors (www.georgia 4seniors.org)
- Eldercare Locator (www.elder care.gov)

To learn more about your local Area Agency on Aging, call 866-552-4464 or 70- 210-2018 or log onto www.csrarc.ga.gov. To request a speaker, contact Lee Walker, at 706-651-7302 or lwalker@csrarc.ga.gov.

The 2016 Georgia Golden Olympics scheduled for September 21-24

Special to Senior News

he 2016 Georgia Golden
Olympics is scheduled for September 2124, 2016 in Warner Robins, Georgia and
hosted by the Warner Robins Recreation
Department. Join us for the 2016 event and
qualify for the 2017 National Senior
Games scheduled for June 2-15, 2017 in
Birmingham, AL.

The Georgia registration forms and materials will be available by the end of April. Registration will open May 1 and continue through August 1, 2016. If you have competed in the Georgia event in previous years, you may register online (after May 1, 2016) from the website: www.georgiagoldenolympics.org

If this is your first time to compete, you may print the form from the website and mail with your fees and age verification to Georgia Golden Olympics, PO box 958. Winder, GA

For more information about the games you may go to website or call 770-867-3603

2017 National Senior Games

The 2017 National Senior Games will be held in Birmingham, AL, June 2-15, 2017. To qualify for the National Games, an athlete must place 1st-4th (for most events at a State qualifying event. Some sports are "limited events" which means an athlete can qualify in ways other than a state qualifying event. For more information on limited events, you may review the National Senior Games rules on the national website: www.nsga.com

The 2017 National Senior Games presented by Humana will be held on the 30th Anniversary of The Games, and planning is well underway to celebrate this landmark. Starting in December of this year, NSGA will begin distribution of a separate 30th Anniversary monthly e-newsletter devoted entirely to information and features about it's history and the contributions of the Senior Games Movement to bring seniors quality of life through sports. The drum beat will build with introduction of a dedicated web page, and then culminate with several exhibits and activities at The Games in June. This will include special recognitions and video presentations at our Flame Arrival Ceremony and Celebration of athletes.

NSGA will also provide athletes with an opportunity during this qualifying year to share their thoughts and memories of their past participation in National Senior Games. Watch for announcements soon about how to get involved and contribute to the fun and pageantry!

You are encouraged to make a tax deductible contribution to support the Georgia Golden Games, Inc. For additional information visit www.georgiagoldenolympics.or Please make checks payable to Georgia Golden Games, Inc.

Georgia Golden Olympics... Promoting healthy, active lifestyles!





2015 Basketball Athletes

Augusta Museum of History to be open Master's Week

Special to Senior News

The Augusta Museum of
History is pleased to announce the special hours that the Museum will be open
and available for visitors during Master's
week: Sunday, April 3, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.;
Monday through Saturday, April 4 to
April 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, April
10, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

All exhibitions will be open which will include: Celebrating a Grand Tradition, The Story of Golf, The Godfather of Soul, Mr. James Brown, Local Legends, and Augusta Story. Statues of golf greats Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan, Bryon Nelson, Jack Nicklaus, and Arnold Palmer will be on view in the Museum's Rotunda. Also on view in the Rotunda, courtesy of E-Z-GO, A Textron Company, two historic golf cars.

About Augusta Museum of History and the 1797 Ezekiel Harris House. Augusta Museum of History, the only Museum in the CSRA accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, was established in 1937 for the purpose of preserving and sharing the material history of Augusta and the region. From a 10,000 year-old projectile point to a 1914 locomotive, to James Brown memorabilia the collections chronicle a rich and fascinating past. The museum is located at 560 Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta.

The 1797 Ezekiel Harris House, said to be "the finest eighteenth-century house surviving in Georgia", is located at 1822 Broad Street and is an excellent example of early Federal architecture. Fully restored in 1964 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Ezekiel Harris House is a reminder of the days when tobacco was the primary cash crop of Georgia.

Please call (706) 722-8454 for more information or visit www.augustamuseum.org.

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AUGUSTA/CSRA METRO AREA Senior Services & Events Directory For additional Services & Events listings, please visit our website at: seniornewsga.com.

The Senior Citizens Council 4210 Columbia Road, Suite 13A, Martinez, GA 30907; 706-868-0120 www.seniorcitizenscouncil.org

The Senior Citizens Council is open Monday through Friday for the following



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. The Senior Corps Department: Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) and Senior Companion Program (SCP) for income-eligible persons age 55 and older who "serve up to 20 hours a week with special needs children or adults." Call us at 706-868-0120 for complete details. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for individuals looking for "fun and rewarding ways to make a difference in the community" or just get out-of-the-house a few hours a month. RSVP recruits individuals age 55 and over for the opportunity to apply their skills, expertise, and experience to help meet critical community needs while meeting other like-minded folks in our community. RSVP pairs talented volunteers with a variety of local nonprofit, health care, governmental, and faith based organizations to assist these groups with meeting the needs of those they serve. Please call us at 706-868-0120 for details on any of our programs or make an appointment for a needed service. Our physical address is 4210 Columbia Road, Suite 13A, Martinez, GA 30907, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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 Blythe Area Recreation Department Patricia Strakosch; 3129 Highway 88, Blythe, GA 30805; 706-592-6668

 Carrie J. Mays Recreation Center Sheryl Jones; 1015 11th Ave., Augusta, GA 30901; 706-821-2831

 East View Community Center Roberta Sullivan; 644 Aiken St., Augusta, GA 30901; 706-722-2302

 HH Brigham Senior Center Heather Kooms; 2463 Golden Camp Rd., Augusta, GA 30906; 706-772-5456 McBean Community Center Willamae Shaheed; 1155 Hephzibah-McBean Rd., Hephzibah, GA 30815; 706-560-1814 or 706-560-2628

 Sand Hills Community Center Lillie Rosier; 2540 Wheeler Rd., Augusta, GA 30904; 706-842-1912 or 706-842-1916 New Bethlehem Community Center, Inc. Millicent E. West; 1336 Conklin Ave.,

Augusta, GA 30901; 706-722-0086 Bessie Thomas Community Center Jeff Asman; 5913 Euchee Creek Dr., Grovetown, GA 30813; 706-556-0308

 Burke County Senior Center Jackie Brayboy; 717 W. 6th St., Waynesboro, GA 30830; 706-437-8007 Glascock County Senior Center

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Jennifer Thomas; 103 W. Robinson Ave., Grovetown, GA 30813; 706-210-8699 · Betty Hill Senior Citizens Center

Cathie Birdsong; 330 Waters Work Rd., Sparta, GA 31087; 706-444-7532 Harlem Senior Center Tina Sidener; 405 B West Church St., Harlem, GA 30814; 706-449-8400

 Jefferson County Senior Center Marie Swint; 209 E. 7th St., Louisville, GA 30434; 478-625-8820

McDuffie Senior Center

Melinda Hill; 304 Greenway St., Thomson, GA 30824; 706-595-7502

> · Jenkins County Senior Shirley Chance; 998 College Ave., Millen, GA 30442; 478-982-4213

 Lincoln County Senior Center Pam Parton; 160 May Ave., Lincolnton, GA 30817; 706-359-3760

continued on page 7

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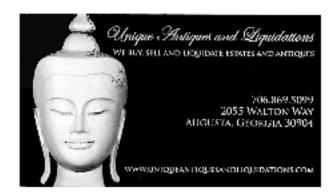




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EVENTS

from page 6

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Allene Oliver; 119 Commerce St., Crawfordville, GA 30631; 706-456-2611

 Warren County Senior Center Gwanda Murray; 48 Warren St., Warrenton, GA 30828; 706-465-3539

· Washington County Council on Aging Jane Colson; 466 Maurice Friedman Rd., Sandersville, GA 31082; 478-552-0898 (Mon., Tues, and Thurs.) 478-552-0013

 Wilkes County Diana Hall; 108 Marshall St., Washington, GA 30673: 706-678-2518

· Shiloh Comprehensive Community Elizabeth Jones; 1635 15th St., Augusta, GA 30901; 706-738-0089

H. H. Brigham Senior Center 2463 Golden Camp Rd., Augusta Contact: Patricia A. Jenner 706-772-5456; 1 a.m.-3 p.m.

Aiken County Parks, Recreation & Tourism

902 Vaucluse Rd., Aiken, SC 29801; 803-642-7559; www.aikencountysc.gov/tourism Courtney Senior Center

49 Roy St., Wagener, SC; 564-5211 Senior Bingo: 3rd Fri., 2 p.m., Free

· Canasta Club: Wednesdays, 12 noon,

Harrison-Caver Park 4181 Augusta Rd., Clearwater, SC; 593-

Aiken County Recreation Center 917 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Graniteville, SC: 663-6142 Roy Warner Park

4287 Festival Trail Rd., Wagener, SC; 564-6149

Morris Museum of Art

1 Tenth Street at Riverwalk in Augusta Riverfront Center, Call 706-724-7501 for more information or visit the Museum's website at www.the morris.org.

Caregiver Support Group

Are you caring for a

spouse or parent? Join other caregivers to share experiences, gather practical resources and find the support you need. The group meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Friedman Branch Library located at 1447 Jackson Road in Augusta. For more information contact Georgia Jopling, Caregiver Specialist, Area Agency on Aging, 706-210-2000 or 888-

Augusta Museum of History

560 Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta. Call 706-722-8454 for events information. Brown Bag History Series: African-Americans: Civil Rights and Race Relations: Wed., April 13, 12:30 p.m.

USA DANCE Augusta Chapter 6074 Every Third Saturday of the Month

The USA Dance is a National Dance Organization. Our Chapter 6074 focuses on the Augusta and Aiken areas. Our dances are held on the THIRD SATURDAY of each month. The dance is held at American Legion Post 63, 90 Milledge Rd., Augusta, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Lessons at 8 p.m. If you are able, please bring something sweet or savory for the goody table. Tasty food, the best dance floor in the CSRA, great music, a friendly and welcoming atmosphere all add up to a perfect Saturday evening experience. Cost is \$8.00 for USA Dance members or \$10.00 for non-members. For additional information call Kay Cooke at 706-210-8780 or Rudy Brostrom at 803-442-9337. Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship! Monthly dance details

- · May 21: Armed Forces Day Waltz
- June 18: Hawaiian Luau Hula
- July 16: Independence Day Fox
- · Aug. 20: Ice Cream Bolero Oct. 15: Halloween Salsa
- · Nov. 19: Thanksgiving West Coast Swing
- Dec. 17: Christmas (No Dance Instructor)

Augusta Christian Singles Dance

Dances are at 7:30 p.m. with complimentary dance lessons at 6:30 p.m. Admission will be \$10.00 for guests and \$8.00 for members. Light refreshments will be served.

Located at The Ballroom Dance Center, 525 Grand Slam Drive, Evans, GA

Friday Night Dance

Every Friday, 8-11 p.m., American Legion Post 63, 90 Millege Rd., Augusta. With band or DJ. \$10 cost. Free coffee and cake. Everyone welcome. Call 706-733-

Pieceful Hearts Quilt Guild

5184.

Meets on Monday nights, 7-9 p.m., and Thursday mornings, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Martintown Rd., North Augusta. For details call 803-279-6456 or 706-790-4975.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group Meets 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m., Brandon Wilde Retirement Community, Evans. For details call 706-854-3591 or 706-854-3501.

CSRA Parkinson Support Group Meets monthly, St. John Towers Dining Room, 724 Greene St., Augusta. For

details call 706-364-1662.

Poetry Month Celebration Poetry Matters Project have teamed up with Aiken County Historical Museum and Aiken Poets for the second year in a row to present a weekend of programming for poetry month.

April 16, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; April 17, 2-5 p.m., 433 Newberry St., Aiken, SC. For complete details call 803-642-2015.



THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING

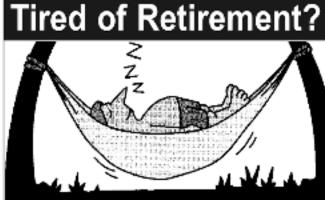
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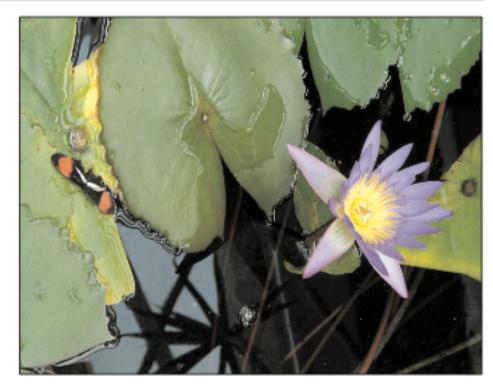
> In addition there is a speaker series featuring many prominent guests. Ted Stephens, of Nurseries Caroliniana, will present the benefits of liming your garden soil to aid in fruit and flower production as well as control insects. Allan Armitage, horticulturalist, writer and traveler will present Stories of the Garden: who knew plants could be so interesting. Dr. Armitage is a well known writer and research and travels the world. He has a vast amount of information to share with us on landscaping and

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