



The Gamecock's

Spotlight

Section B

Welcome Freshmen-PAGE 2
Restaurant Profiles-PAGE 5
WUSC Top 30-PAGE 8
Theatre Schedule-PAGE 8

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2000

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Palmetto trees grace the Midlands

Palmetto Tree Project beautifies Columbia

BY JENNIFER PESCE
THE GAMECOCK

Most people have noticed the Palmetto tree designs popping up around the Midlands area, but many are unaware of their meaning.

These vivid and artistic designs are a part of the Palmetto Tree Project, which is funded by the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties, the city of Columbia, Lexington County, Richland County, and members of the local business community.

The Palmetto Tree Project took off during summer 1999 with the intention of bringing publicity to South Carolina's state tree, as well as bringing local artists and businesses together as a team in or-

der to more closely unite the community.

There are 89 trees in all, each one made from steel cutouts supplied by Chernoff/Silver and Associates. The Palmetto trees stand to be 9 1/2 feet tall and weigh 525 pounds.

Various businesses and individuals sponsored each tree for \$1000, which stipend the artists for their work.

Most of the trees were created by individual artists, but several of them were designed as a group effort. Students at several local schools created trees in their art classes.

The Palmetto Project coincided with USC's bicentennial. The Project allowed for USC's art department to create a tree for its collection. The tree standing in front of Longstreet Theatre, titled "USC at 200: A Bicentennial Journey Into the Past and Future," was created by Greg Leonard, foreman of the Art Department Workshop.

Leonard collected old photos from the South Carolina archival database and put them into a collage on one side of the tree to create a look back at the past 200 years of USC.

The other side consists of images from advertising design databases coming together to attempt a futuristic view of USC's next 200 years.

A great deal of time was put into the creation of USC's bicentennial tree.

"All together, the tree took about 100 hours to create," Leonard said.

The Project will come to a close Nov. 5, when the trees will be auctioned off. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties, with a small percentage going to the artists who created the trees.

Before the auction, there will be an American Diabetes Association 5K Walk of the Palmetto Trees on Sept. 24. For more information on the walk, call 1-800-Diabetes.

The trees will be displayed at The South Carolina State Fair from October 5-15.

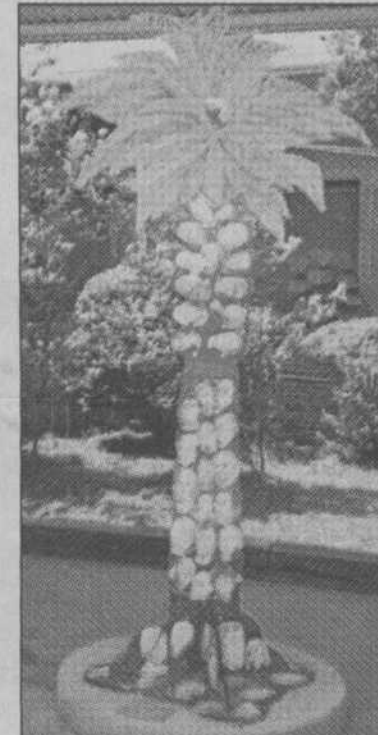
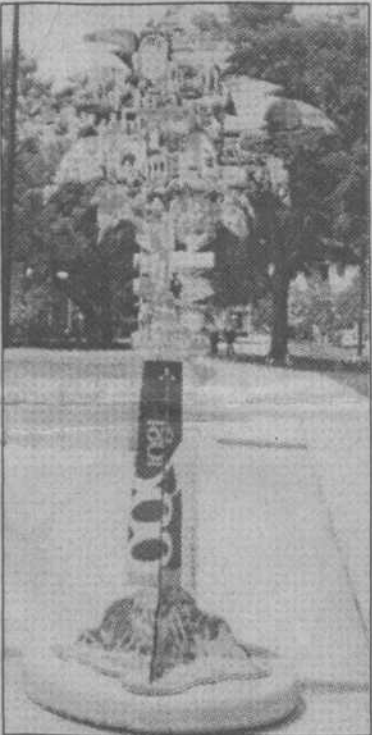
This project is largest public art effort to ever be installed in the Midlands. The goal for the project was basically to influence the area's appreciation for art and culture, while displaying fine art for residents and visitors to see while they travel through town.

Thus far, the Project has been successful in meeting its goals. It has opened a door for many more art projects to take off in the future.

Each tree has an individual meaning and it's own original style.



Sean Rayford THE GAMECOCK



PHOTOS BY ANN MARIE MIANI THE GAMECOCK

While you were gone...

From the mountain to the sea...

BY ANN MARIE MIANI
THE GAMECOCK

When my parents told me they were coming down from Connecticut to visit the week of the Fourth of July, I sat in my dorm room wondering what I was going to do with them for five days. Well, I thought, we could go to a Bombers game, or to Finlay Park, or to the Riverbanks Zoo. Then it hit: the South Carolina Aquarium.

CHARLESTON - The South Carolina Aquarium, located on the Charleston Harbor, is dedicated to the conservation of South Carolina aquatic life. The aquarium is split into five exhibits showcasing aquatic life from the mountains to the sea. The exhibits are mountain forest, the Piedmont, coastal plain, the coast, and the ocean.

The Mountain Forest

The Mountain Forest is the first exhibition in the aquarium. It's a walk-through exhibit through a mountain ravine cascade. The voyage starts at the foothill streams filled with smallmouth bass. The streams become fast-moving brooks and provide a home for rainbow trout and other fish.

Habitat niches were recreated for smaller animals, such as salamanders, toads, bog turtles and water spiders.

To give the Mountain Forest exhibit a realistic atmosphere, the visitor feels the cool air and mist that are common to that type of environment. Ledges provide a place for plants, such as tulip polar, hemlock and maple trees to grow and provides shelter for various birds, such as the Carolina Wren. The birds are allowed to fly freely around the Forest because of a special design and a glass roof.

The exhibit is colored by many flowers typical of the Mountain regions, such as the hydrangeas, dogwoods, mountains laurels and many other wildflowers.

The Piedmont



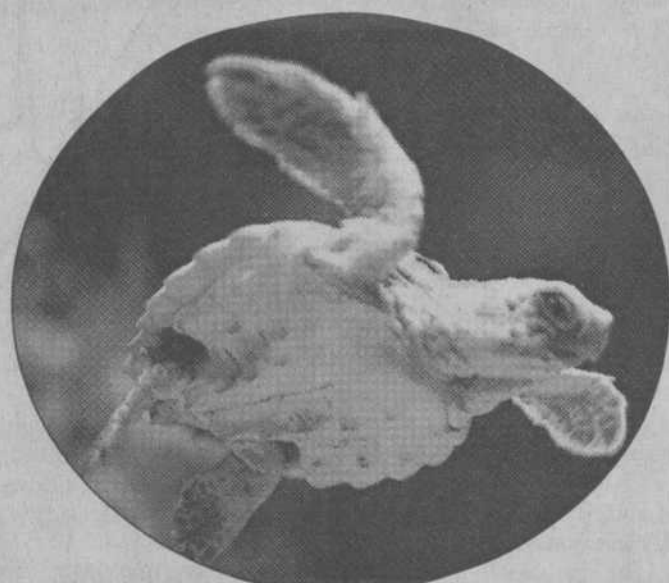
A flounder swims in the Ocean Exhibit of the South Carolina Aquarium.

The Piedmont is the next exhibit on the voyage through South Carolina. It's distinguished by dammed rivers and reservoirs that provide hydroelectric power for the state. This exhibit shows the various types of aquatic life of the Piedmont and shows the benefits of reservoirs.

There is a free-flowing river environment that includes a number of fish. Catfish, white bass, darters, and blue gills are all incorporated in this environment. There are giant fly models suspended from the ceilings.

Multimedia presentations are included in this exhibit, as well. There are video presentations about aquatic insects and fly fishing.

FISH SEE PAGE B4



Above: Baby sea turtle at the South Carolina Aquarium. Right: Scuba diver cleans the rocks in the ocean tanks. He is surrounded by flounders and other ocean life.



South Carolina Aquarium

HOURS

July-August 9a.m.-7p.m.
September-October 9a.m.-5p.m.
March-June 9a.m.-5p.m.
November-February 10a.m.-5p.m.

PRICING

Adults \$14.00
Seniors(62+) \$12.00
Students(12-17) \$12.00
Youth(4-12) \$7.00
Children(under 3) Free

