



Sweet Tea South Carolina Spring Garden Tour



April 5—7, 2016

Topiaries, gardens, hosted tours, orchids, and even an historic Opera House

The 2016 University of Tennessee Arboretum Society annual garden tour takes us primarily to South Carolina. It features a diverse group of gardens, both nights in the same hotel, topiaries, orchids, and a garden center.

The 3-day bus tour begins on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 a.m. in Oak Ridge and Knoxville. Our first destination is lunch at [Pixie and Bills](#), Clemson's original fine dining establishment. After lunch it's only 5 minutes to Clemson University for a guided tour of the [South Carolina Botanical Garden](#). This 295-acre garden has a diverse collection of gardens, including those devoted to camellias, hydrangeas, dwarf conifers, hostas, wildflowers, xeriscape, flower displays, and hortitherapy. They also have an art gallery in the Visitors Center and a geology museum.

Our next stop is not far: the 30-acre [Asia Garden](#) and adjacent [Place of Peace](#) at Furman University in Greenville. Furman University has a long-term exchange program with Kansai Gaidai University in Hirakata, Osaka, Japan. The Asia Garden, formerly known as the Japanese Garden, reflects this relationship, and includes a small teahouse. The Place of Peace, an inter-generational temple, Hei-Sei-Ji, was located in Nagoya, Japan. A gift to Furman from the Tsuzuki family, it is the first authentic Japanese temple ever to be dismantled and fully reconstructed in America. In 2008 a team of thirteen Japanese artisans worked together to reconstruct the temple here on campus, connecting over 2,400 interconnecting pieces without the use of nails or screws. Since then, the Place of Peace and the adjoining Asia Garden have stood as an iconic centerpiece of Furman's campus.

We depart Furman and arrive for dinner at [Soby's](#) New South Cuisine restaurant, also in Greenville. After a delicious meal we'll head to the [Hampton Inn Opera House](#) in Newberry where we'll stay both nights of this tour.

On Wednesday morning we go to Bishopville for a visit to the internationally acclaimed [Pearl Fryar](#) Topiary Garden. We are so fortunate to have **Pearl Fryar** himself leading our group on a tour of his imaginative, whimsical, and inspiring topiary-filled garden. A documentary film about Pearl, *A Man Named Pearl*, has been shown in theaters and on PBS, and he has received numerous awards for his topiaries and his humanitarian work. Afterwards, we'll go across the street for a boxed lunch at Harry's and Harry's Too.

From Bishopville we travel to Columbia for a stroll through a couple of residential gardens in [Historic Columbia](#) before the short trip to [Riverbanks Zoo and Garden](#). Their website says, "Hailed by *Horticulture* magazine as one of 10 gardens that inspire and by HGTV as one of 20 great public gardens across America, Riverbanks Botanical Garden boasts 70 acres of unparalleled beauty." That endorsement is only part of the allure of this site for us. Renowned horticulturist and plantsman **Jenks Farmer** has graciously and generously offered to lead us on a tour of Riverbanks. He was the first curator of this garden and served as its director for 10 years. According to his [website](#), Jenks was also the "...founding horticulturist of [Moore Farms Garden](#). His designs for homes, museums, and businesses have received recognition and awards and have delighted hundreds of thousands of visitors with the joyful, easy exuberance of hand-crafted gardens." He and his partner, Tom Hall, also own and operate LushLife Nursery that specializes in crinum lilies. A number of crinums are planted at Riverbanks.

After our personalized garden tour we'll head to dinner at a local restaurant before we return to Newberry for the night.

Thursday morning after breakfast and check out at our hotel we walk across the street to the [Newberry Opera House](#) for a short guided tour of the restored 184-year-old facility.

We then board the bus for a 10 minute trip to [Carter and Holmes Orchids](#). One of their professional growers or staff members will talk about their company and show us different types of orchids. Afterwards we'll have a tour of the sales area and greenhouses with orchids and other tropical and hardy plants. Each tour member will be given a coupon for a \$6 discount on a plant purchase.

We return to Newberry for lunch at [Cabana](#) and then drive about 2 hours to [BB Barns Garden Center](#), a premier garden and landscape center near Asheville, NC, and a stop highly recommended by Faye Beck. BB Barns has 7 acres of plants, products, and gifts and will be the perfect final stop on our tour. Therese Figura will show us around the grounds and we will also meet with Ned Gibson, one of the owners. They are giving everyone a **20% discount** on one item! After loading our purchases into the bus, we head for home, perhaps stopping for a snack along the way.



Tour Details



The tour is limited to 30 participants, and is offered at this price with a minimum of 20 people. **Please return the attached registration form by March 8, 2015**, to secure your registration including a \$100 nonrefundable deposit per person in the form of a check made payable to UTAS. Please send to PO Box 5382, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382, Attn: "Sweet Tea South Carolina Spring GardenTour." **Final payment is due on or before March 22, 2015. We have a limited number of rooms at the hotel so reserve your space early!**

The tour includes round trip coach transportation from Oak Ridge and Knoxville, TN, admission to all sites, 2 nights at the [Hampton Inn Opera House](#) in Newberry, and Wednesday lunch at Harry's and Harry's Too in Bishopville. Breakfast is included with the hotel.

The cost of the tour is outlined below for double occupancy. A \$50.00 discount is applied for UTAS members. If you are not a member and wish to join, please complete the membership application with your remittance.

Tour Cost per Person

Tour cost per person	\$400	Bus transportation, hotel with breakfast, entrance fees, 1 lunch
UTAS member discount	-\$50	
Cost with member discount	\$350	Double Occupancy with UTAS membership
Single supplement	\$100	

For more information contact Emily Jernigan at 865-482-4836 or emily@jernigans.net or Peggy Mahoney at 865-482-4595 or peggymike13@comcast.net.

Reservation Form "Sweet Tea South Carolina Spring GardenTour"

Name _____ Phone _____

Additional members in your party:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Mail with your deposit *by March 8, 2016*, to:

UTAS, P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382

UTAS 2016 Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Society Friend \$100 Family \$45

Patron \$500 Individual \$30

Contribution \$ _____ (All memberships and contributions are tax deductible)

Mail, with a separate check, to:

UTAS, P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382