PHILIP SIMMONS ARTIST BLACKSMITH GUILD NEW SLETTER

Jody didn't make it to the February Meeting at the L.W. Paul Farm hosted by Walter Hill and his Conway Museum Staff. He missed a good meeting and a great lunch.

First, the lunch! Derek Frye, a friend of Walter and Bob and a new Guild member, cooked on of the best chick bogs I have had. It was excellent along with some really good mustard greens and other

sides and desserts from our generous members.

The demos were by Robert Hill and Logan Woodle, Robert's art professor at Coastal Carolina University. Robert demonstrated push and hammer engraving pewter. Logan demonstrated hammer reposse' on pewter. He made the oyster shell sculpture shown above. Robert engraved a palmetto while describing his techniques.

We had the usual good time with Iron in the Hat which Ray thinks may be the record income at \$1030 for the Guild educational funds! Thank you for your generosity in the donations and the ticket buying!

We elected Dave Bush to take Jason Jaco's spot on our Board. That was after a rousing applause for Ray's outstanding service as Secretary/Treasurer for the past 15 years! All dues and other financial transactions should now be directed to Jason, our new Secretary/Treasurer! d Welcome to you both!

I'll let Jody complete the page. Barry

Hello blacksmiths and friends, Sorry I couldn't make it of the meeting,. I hope I will be forgiven. I'd like to take a minute to welcome Dave Bush to the board and to thank Ray for all he has done in service to the Guild.

I wanted to give you all some notice about our dues. We have put off raising the cost of membership for years and have relented to making annual membership costs to \$20.00 **beginning in 2025.**

We've held it at \$15 since our beginning in 1994. We will do our best to hold it at \$20 for the next 30 years!

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Also, we have a call for a competition for braggin' rights coming up next year, so there is plenty of time to get in on it at the SBA conference. (I'll remind everyone, including Al Jenkins that the SBA is next year...)

We have been tasked to provide for auction a fireplace set—indoor or outdoor, fireplace tools or campfire set. Thanks to Jesse Barfield's idea, the Guild will hold our own competition for the submission. Anyone can enter! You, or your team, just have to have a set to be eligible. More on that in the coming months. I look forward to seeing everyone at Magnolia Gardens next month! Be well and as Jim Looper always says, Have fun, Make stuff!

Welcome to new members: Emma Kate Altman; Sean Brown; Braxton Claypool; Jonathan Elliot; Gary Hill; Todd Matthews; Liam O'Conner; Bryce Ragle; Tim Stanisci; Tim Mellichamp; Mark Conrad; and Tyler Day. Welcome, and please send Barry an email so that he can put you on the email list!

Rusty Osborne asked that if anyone wanted to host an Open Forge meeting, please let him know.. No Open Forge meetings are currently planned for April of May. Jody



View of a rainy day at Jim Pender's Open Forge last month in Beaufort. Don't feel bad for them, Pender gathers wheel chairs for his guests and workers to use at his forge.

Iron in the Hat

Item	Donated By	Won By	Item	Donated By	Won By
Boras	Ray Pearre	Mark Ramey	High Carbon steel	Dave Bush	Sharon Hill
Sucker Rod	Rusty Osborne	Keith Gunter	2 Ball Punches	Dave Bush	Bruce Hester
Forged Spatula	Chris Carroll	Rusty Osborne	Misc Metal	Steve Murrey	Ken Cartwright
Leg Vise	Chris Carroll	Amber Hartfield	Flat Stock	Phill Hair	Ben Mitchell
Bees Wax	Chris Carroll	John Elliot	Splitting Maul	Todd Elder	Ben Secrist
Angle gringer Wire	Chriss Carrolll	Jo Marsh	Knife	Pat Walters	Bob Stukes
Wheel	Chriss Carrolli		Copper Bowl	Tim Rabon	Chriss Carroll
		Charlie Meyer	Twist Dagger	Mark Ramey	Emma Kate Altman
Harness Hook	Jesse Barfield	Amber Hartfield	Dragon Key Fob	Tony Etheridge	Rusty Osborne
Cross Necklace	Keith Gunter	Jesse Barfield	Blacksmith Knife/	Barry Myers	Gerald Alsbrook
Sheath Knife	Ken Cartwright	Steve Murrey	Sheath		
Leather Wallet	Ken Cartwright	Curley Larson	2x72 Grinder Belts	Ben Secrist	Pat Walter
Safety Glasses	Mark Hartfield	Chriss Carroll	Homemade Candy Heart	Sharon Hill	Sharon Hill
Hammer Heads	Amber Hartfield	Russell Wilson	Saw Blades	Gerald Alsbrook	Derek Frye
		Charlie Meyer			Bob Hill
Bucket of RR Iron	Steve Hendrix	Mark Ramey	Boot Scraper	Gerald Alsbrook	Danny Johnson
Coil Springs	Charles Meyer	Mark Ramey	Anvils Ring Mags	Jo Marsh	Ken Cartwright
Anvil Belt Buckle Charles M	Charles Meyer Charles Meyer	er Curley Larson Kevin Cook	Sweet Gum Bowl	Jo Marsh	Ken Cartwright
			Leaf Stake Tool	John Tanner	Jo Marsh
	CL LDILL		Non Marring Hammer	Russell Wilson	Ken Cartwright
4 lb Hammer	Chuck Baldwin	Ken Cartwright	Ball Bearing Races	Barry Myers	Tony Etheridge
Lye Soap/Cane Syrup	LW Paul Farm	David Bush			Ben Mitchell
		John Tanner	Straight Peen Hammer	Dave Bush	Kevin Cook
		Tony Etheridge			

Note from Dave Bush, our newest Board Mem-

ber: I would like to thank the Guild for giving me the honor of serving on the board. I'm a retired Ironworker of 37 years. I tinkered with smithing for years when I had time, making and repairing things .my forge an oxy.& acetylene torch, my anvil was a chunk of RR. When I retired I found an old forge an anvil and a bucket of coal. A few good books, help from a few smiths and I've been hopelessly hooked ever since. Finding and joining the Guild in 2016 is the best move I ve made for resources and knowledge. I'm impressed with how well managed the guild is by all the officers past and present. I look forward to all of the meetings and getogethers and consider you all good friends. If there's ever something I can help any of you with please let me know. Thanks, DAVE BUSH

I always like to show you something that most of you have never seen— Jim Pender forging!



An update on Historic Camden from Rick Thompson:

Several other projects have affected our schedule with work on the new Blacksmith Forge building, but we're making progress. We have a mason contracted to build our two new forges in late April or early May.

Following that, we will install the floor in short order, and get moving on the roof. At this point, we will probably have a roof with wooden clapboards (hopefully cypress), rather than the original ceramic tiles we had planned.

We're working on revamping and/or making bellows for the new forges now and working on the plans for the interior of the shop, programs we'll offer, etc.

In the meantime, we're doing some small changes in the existing forge. Among other things, we're going to move the stock and create storage shelves where it currently is. This will create a larger (and safer) area for us to work in, as we often have at least two people in the forge at the same time.

At the park, we've had a new covered bridge over the creek built, and several new buildings are going up, including a detached kitchen building for the tavern (historically correct, as most kitchens were detached in case of fire!) and a "bread-oven pavilion". The pavilion will house a working reproduction of a wood-fired bread oven, and we will have a historical baker working with us to oversee breadmaking and train personnel. Baking in this is a two-day process, including building a fire the day before baking, using the oven with its residual heat from the massive brick structure all day, and then cleaning up afterwards. But it's going to be a great addition to the park! Our volunteer crews will be doing most of the period-correct construction on these buildings.

We have an education center being built as well. We'll break ground on that modern building in March, I believe.



Please remember Laura Cardello, our late president Mike Tucker's widow.

Laura was a very good artist and great supporter and caregiver to Mike. She was only 64. That's pretty young to an old guy.

From her obituary: "The arts were near and dear to Laura's heart and for many years Laura was Gallery and Exhibition Manager at USC Sumter. She specialized in presenting art shows for special exhibits. Laura was also the pottery instructor at the Sumter County Gallery of Art for over 25 years — starting out in a mobile classroom behind the Elizabeth White house (the former Sumter Gallery of Art). Many of the hundreds of children and adults who have taken pottery with Laura developed a love for clay in her classes. When one thinks of many of the cultural offerings in Sumter — Art in the Park, The Annual Sumter Artists Guild Holiday Market, Artists Studio crawls, a vibrant Sum-

ter Artists' Guild, Laura's energy and creativity were instrumental in their development and success. In addition, many Sumter residents have experienced Laura's private classes held in her little pottery studio behind her home. Her home was a true artist's haven. On any given day, Laura would be making pottery on one side of the Studio, husband Mike would be hammering out a metal sculpture on the other and daughter Olivia would be drawing and painting inside the house. Their home was indeed a true artist haven!"

Keep her and more so, Olivia in your prayers. Barry

Robert Campbell 1948-2024



Many of us didn't know Robert Campbell all that well. Mostly he made the meetings at Roger and Gail's. He was a nice guy but I would say that of most of you! Griz Hockwalt maybe knew him best, so I asked Griz to give his remembrances of him.

Robert came to blacksmithing late in life, his early 60s, when his father in law donated a nice anvil to be used in the Hagood Mill shop. He had taken a beginner course at John C. Campbell and ask if he could volunteer at the shop so he could tell his father in law that he had actually worked on the donated anvil. Well, he never missed a day after that first time. Rain or shine. Heat of summer or cold winter days. He took on the job of demoing S hooks, which was about the length of attention span of most observers. We would hang the hooks on a nail about 7ft off the ground in front of the shop. We had a running joke that when the string reached the ground, he was no longer an apprentice. Each time he got close someone would come by and purchase a few hooks. This went on for months but he kept hammering away. Then one day it hap-

pened. They reached the ground. (see photo)

He stayed with me until I left the Mill, then followed me to the Agricultural Museum Shop. Even after his first brain bleed he kept coming. Although he could no longer swing a hammer he could do a great running comintary on what was going on in the shop and field any questions. He was especially good with children, patiently answering questions and explaining the craft of blacksmithing. I don't use the word friend lightly. I believe that if you can count the number of true friends on one hand in a lifetime, you are blessed. Robert Campbell was my friend. Griz Hockwalt

Jacob McDuffie "Mackie" Bryant, 1945-2024

I didn't know Mackie had two other names! I just knew that he was a great guy and a generous smith. Jeanne would say, "there is someone in the driveway." And, there he would be. I was always glad to see him. Sometimes, he would visit and I could tell by the stack of horseshoer's rasps sitting on the front porch! I guess we will have to look for a new source of those rasps.

I say generous because Mackie's last visit to me brought several knife making books and a bunch of dvds on knife making for donation to our Guild library.

He was born in Graniteville, SC, and a resident of the area all of his life—one of those people who don't wander far from home. A well-known farrier, he was the owner and operator of Mackie Bryant Farrier Service for fifty-two years and was a former President of the South Carolina Farriers Association. He proud-



ly and with honor served his country in the South Carolina Army National Guard. Mackie was known for his kind and caring ways. He was happiest when he was fishing, fishing, fishing, hunting, knife making, and blacksmithing. However, nothing made him happier than spending time with his family.

I don't know how many of you have an induction forges, but you can use this information whether you have on or not, given that it gives the instruction for wiring a pedal switch for 220 volts. Be careful when you do it! It could be a shocking experience! Barry

The Induction Forge and Its Wee Little Pedal

Written by Robbie Carmack



As many of us, smiths find ourselves getting these magical induction forges. Everyone comments on the dainty pedal that makes the magic. I, as well as many other smiths, am on the larger side with big, heavy feet. I have upgraded my pedal to a heavy-duty aluminum one I made off Amazon. You need 3 things:

- Heavy duty aluminum foot pedal "momentary"
- 2.GX16 4 pin connector plug
- 3.18/3 electrical power cable. 6' "maybe 20/3 as the 18 was max for the connector"









First, remove the tiny screw from the connector and remove the plastic piece. You will need to solder the wires on here. Pins should be numbered 1,2,3,4.

Black wire to pin 1.

White wire to pin 2.

Red wire to pin 3.

Pin 4 is empty.

Make everything nice and tidy, and work everything back in the protective metal case.





If you haven't already done so, cut your wire to length. 5'-6' will be plenty too long, and it could bring on unforeseen problems. So cut the wire to length because now it is time to wire the pedal.

The pedal has 4 screws to remove and reveal its hookups.

It should be 3 post.

- 1. "common" white wire
- 2. NO" red wire
- 3. NC" black wire.



Put everything back together and try it out. Good luck.



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California Blacksmith *Online*

It's good to have rules

BY KEVIN IRETON

When I take my wife's van into the Honda dealer for service, I drive through overhead doors that open automatically. I then pull into a big cavernous space, with clean floors and service desks manned by attendants dressed for business. There are no mechanics wiping their hands on rags or leaning into the maw of a wounded CR-V. You don't hear the clanging of a box wrench dropped on a concrete floor or the burp of an impact gun loosening lug nuts. Maybe the car-repair experience has been sanitized for safety reasons and to avoid lawsuits, but I think there's more to it. I think a lot of customers don't want to see people with grease on their hands or hear the sound of cars actually being repaired.

We live in a society that doesn't much value hard, physical work anymore. We tend to look down on people who use their hands to build or fix things. And when we need those people to unclog a drain or to get a car running again, we resent the prices they charge. Instead, most folks want their kids to go to college and to work in an office. It's an integral part of the American Dream for parents to want a better life

for their children, and to most people, "better" means "easier." I disagree. We've chased comfort and convenience for so long that we've forgotten the pleasures that can only come from being uncomfortable and inconvenienced. As someone who has had one foot in the white-collar world and one in the blue-collar world for much of his life, I can honestly say that my best moments have either been during the act of hard, physical work—usually with others, fighting the weather or the fading daylight to pour a slab or frame a roof-or while enjoying its results, such as dinner with friends on a porch that we built together.

Thanks to the eroding tradition of physical work, the knowledge of how to do it is disappearing. There are fewer and fewer skilled workers to teach those just getting started. People have to figure things out for themselves, and the results are uneven at best. Without a teacher to guide them, they often get frustrated and quit. Maybe because I never had a real mentor (except for the authors of

"We've chased comfort and convenience for so long that we've forgotten the pleasures that can only come from being uncomfortable and inconvenienced."



this magazine), I developed my own set of working rules to keep me on track. If you work by the hour, you're obligated to work efficiently and to produce consistent results. Having a few rules can help when you're frustrated or tired and not thinking as clearly as you otherwise might. Most of these rules are designed to help me overcome the negative aspects of basic human nature, so you might find them useful whatever

1. Just begin.

kind of work you do.

Most jobs, especially those you dread, get easier once you begin. Digging is a good example. I hate digging. Digging by hand. Digging with a shovel. Or more accurately, I think I hate digging. So I dread it with considerable vigor and put it off as long as I can, which of course allows the dread to reach epic proportions. But once I begin, two things inevitably happen. First, I'm amazed at how much dirt I can move in half an hour. Even the biggest jobs begin to seem doable. And second, when I stop dreading and start digging, I begin to enjoy the work. It becomes a physical meditation, like yoga

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2. Be methodical.

Even with the most mundane tasks, I try to be logical and to have a plan. If I'm moving heavy things, I start with the heaviest. I've got all of my strength at that point, and the task will get easier as I proceed. The same goes for distance. If I'm moving items such as rocks or lumber, I start with those that are the farthest away. The point here is that you don't just do things randomly, especially repetitive tasks. Instead, you think about the task and look for the best way to do it. The fastest way. The most efficient way. The safest way. The way that yields the best result.

If you're painting a door, you work from the inside outpanels first, then stiles and rails. If you're installing crown molding, you work counterclockwise around the room (assuming you're righthanded)-butt joints on the left end, coped joints on the right. These are the insights a wizened veteran would pass along to you. But in the absence of such guidance, you have to find your own wisdom by looking for the logical approach to the task at hand.

California Blacksmith Online

Don't base decisions on laziness.

This rule is critical to working safely and well, but it is very hard to follow. The little devil sitting on your shoulder is constantly telling you not to bother drilling a pilot hole for that screw or that you can stand on an upturned drywall bucket rather than taking the time to get the ladder. One day many years ago, while resawing a piece of hardwood on the table-saw, I listened to that little voice and lost a fingertip.

Doing the right thing when you're building a house, whether it's sloping the footing drains properly, installing fiberglass batts correctly, or flashing a chimney, is often hard and time consuming and sometimes expensive. The work is challenging, and you're probably tired, which is a bad combination. It makes you vulnerable to laziness and bad decisions. So as often as I can when pondering a decision, I ask myself if I'm choosing a certain path because it's the right thing or if I'm just being lazy. Calling myself names doesn't always goad me into doing the right thing, but it helps.

Work from the correct position.

This rule is a corollary of the laziness rule (there are many), but I give it its own place because of how often I'm tempted to violate it. For example, the reason I'm inclined to reach way over and drive one more nail is because I'm too lazy to get down and move the ladder. But when I do reach and swing the hammer from some awkward position, I inevitably miss and leave an impressive hammer mark that commemorates my laziness.

Some years ago while working on his new garage, a friend of mine reached too far at the top of the ladder. He's a big guy, and his shifting weight made the ladder slide sideways. He woke up with broken ribs and a punctured lune

Sometimes you have to work from an awkward position. But if you have a choice, get in the right position. It's safer. It's easier on your wrists, elbows, and shoulders. And it's likely to result in better work.

"The little devil sitting on your shoulder is constantly telling you not to bother drilling a pliot hole for that screw or that you can stand on an upturned drywall bucket

Editor's Note:

When I saw this essay, I felt that I just HAD to share it with you, because it fits so well with my experiences. Taking just one example, I sometimes have to almost kick myself to get started on something. It rarely is as hard or long as I fear, but the trepidation before starting can be really difficult to overcome.

Don't leave things to do later.

I'm loading tools and materials onto my pickup truck. I put a couple of 2x4s up on the humber rack and think to myself, "I'll tie them down later." Bad idea. I'll forget, and in 10 minutes, when I slam on the brakes at a stoplight, the 2x4s will go flying into the S-Class Mercedes in front of me. (It's never a 20-year-old Corolla.)

At this point, I can usually recognize those tasks that are likely to be forgotten, like grabbing my coffee mug off the bumper of my pickup or putting in the rest of the screws when installing drawer slides. I do them when I think of them, and if I can't, I write them down on a list. (Of course, remembering to look at the list is a whole other problem.)

Don't try to solve problems at the end of the day.

I can't tell you the number of times when I made a mistake or encountered a problem toward the end of the day, and it seemed insumountable. But when I arrived at work the next morning I had a solution.

I recently built a dedicated coffee station into a small niche in my kitchen-12-in.-deep cabinets below, a counter where the coffee maker and grinder would sit, and 12-in. cabinets above. I was very careful to leave enough space between the upper and lower cabinets for the coffee maker. I even went online and looked at other coffee makers to make sure that

any future appliances would fit. But after building and installing the plywood boxes, I suddenly got that sinking feeling in my gut. Yes, there was room for coffee maker, but there wasn't room to flip open its lid, much less pour water into it. Typically, a coffee maker sits on a 25-in deep counter, and you can slide the coffee maker forward to fill it. My counter was only going to be 12 in. deep. Uh oh.

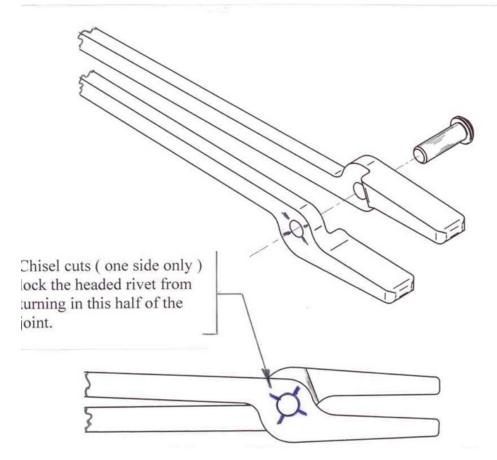
It was the end of the day. I was tired. I was angry. And I was pretty sure I would have to scrap the coffee station idea. But I walked away, knowing that if there was a solution, it would come later, not at that moment

The next day I had the answer. I could install the counter on full-extension drawer slides. Pull it out to fill the coffee maker, then push it back in place for brewing. And in the interest of full disclosure, yes, my wife might have suggested this particular solution—but that doesn't negate the rule.

I have lots of other rules question your assumptions, never leave tools on top of the step ladder, don't put tools away before the end of the day—but those listed above are the ones I find most useful

They may not be right for you. You may have to come up with your own. If so, the goal is to create rules that help you work efficiently, achieve good results, and, most important, counteract your own worst impulses. And if at all possible, pass along your rules to someone else with less experience.

Kevin Ireton, [FHB] editor at large, is a writer and remodeling contractor who divides his time between Connecticut and Arizona. Saltfork Craftsmen ABA member Levi makes pretty good tongs; I'm fortunate to have a pair or two he made for me. Several years ago Levi showed me a tip to take about half the slack out of the tongs riveted joint. A small chisel or an old star drill (hand concrete drill) is used to cut small notches at the outside of a hole in the joint. It is best to make these cuts on the side of the tongs that will have the rivet headed. These notches prevent the headed rivet from rotating in that side of the tool. Notching other single riveted joints, such as the legs connected to a campfire cooking trivet, works nearly as well as a square rivet in preventing unwanted rotation. For the trivet legs, chisel cut both the ring and the legs; heat and forge both ends of the rivet.





Jim Carothers has been a real asset to me as a newsletter editor-he submits articles!!! Jim wrote this one when he lived in Oklahoma. It is a good tip on anything needing a rivet.

I was working on my Colonial braiser legs to keep them from moving. I should have remembered this...Barry



I don't know if any of you jumped on Jim Carothers suggestion and my "execution" of a burnt out forge fix that I put in the last newsletter, but I am not enthralled with it! It works well if I don't forge too long; don't forge items that are too big; or remember to clean out all of the flyash that accumulates in it from forging. Other than that, it works great...

The problem is that there is no escape for the ash and clinker. The ash accumulates and the clinker gloms to the iron as it builds up. Also, the single hole keeps the fire from getting big enough to do a Damascus billet. Maybe a slot or shorter stub would work, but as I have another firepot, I am headed in that direction.

Just thought I should tell you... Barry

For Sale

Todd Elder is offering Beginning Blacksmithing and Knifemaking Classes. Contact him at (864-978-7232)

Guild Coal (in Sumter): 3 buckets, \$30; 6 buckets or 30 gal barrel—\$45.00; 11 buckets - 55 gal barrel - \$60.00; 15 buckets - 1/4 ton - \$70.00; 30 buckets - 1/2 ton - \$140.00; 60 buckets - 1 ton - \$280.00. Contact **Walt Beard 803-464-8483 in Sumter.**

Forkruck tine sections for striking anvils. \$30. Jody Durham, 864-985-3919 ironsmith@gmail.com

Clay Spenser's Tire Hammer Plans and his new book on *Flat Dies Power Hammer Tools*, each \$30. clay@tirehammer.com or check/mo to 73 Penniston, AL 35670.

Upcoming events:

Meeting Schedule:

Open Forge: Contact Rusty Osburne, 803-374-7987

The Batson Bladesmithing Symposium and Knife Show will be conducted at Tannehill Ironworks, Birmingham, AL on April 5-7-2024

AACB Conference, May 16-18, Murfreesboro, TN

June 6-9th. 2024 ABANA 50-Year Anniversary Johnstown, Pa. There will be a Ring Project and a Team Forging Competition. Abana.org for more information

June Meeting: Roger and Gail Marcengill's. 12 Ringing Anvil Rd. Westminster SC June 15.

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Membership Application

Name:	New Member RenewalAddress:
City:	State:Zip:Phone:
email:	Sponsor
Dues are \$15.00 per pe	rson/family, per year. Make checks out to PSABG Please remit to:

Jason Jaco, 931 1/2 Texas Street, Columbia, SC 29201 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSMPUMPTION OF RISK

I acknowledge that blacksmithing and related activities are inherently dangerous and involve risks and dangers to participants and spectators that may result in serious injury or death. I have considered these risks and I knowingly assume them. I agree that I am responsible for my own safety during Guild events, including wearing appropriate clothing and protective gear and remaining a safe distance from all dangerous activities. I agree to hold Philip Simmons Artist Blacksmith Guild and guest demonstrators of our craft harmless from liability and expenses arising from of my actions and/or omissions.

When was the last time you paid dues?

There is a note below your address on the last page of our newsletters. It will say something like...

""Dues Last Paid 2023, Dues for 2024 are Due, or Dues Paid for 2024"

This note is updated for each newsletter. We appreciate your prompt payments.

COME to Magnolia Gardens April Meeting, 4/27 Demo beginning at 10AM

Bring a side, dessert, or drinks and something you might actually want for the iron-in-the-hat

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens is located on SC 61 between Charleston and Summerville on the river side.

3550 Ashley River Road Charleston SC 29414