

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens Announces 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Garden Festival on March 21, 2009**

Savannah, GA Tuesday, March 21 2009 -- Families looking for a family-friendly outdoor activity this spring should plan to visit the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens' Spring Garden and Art Festival Saturday, March 21, from 9 am to 4 pm. Sponsored by the Friends of Coastal Gardens, this fund-raising event includes educational lectures, activities for children, plant vendors, arts and crafts vendors, and demonstrations. Watch hand-spinning and weaving of bamboo fiber with Bonnie Carter. Watch and learn knitting with bamboo fiber. Learn how and when to plant over 30 different vegetables in your back yard with Dave Linvill, Chatham County Extension Agent in "Vegetable Gardening in the Low Country." Learn how to preserve your harvest in "So Easy to Preserve Your Harvest from the Garden" with Jackie Ogden, Chatham County Extension Agent.

There will be face painting and hay rides, a Panda Club and free balloons for small children, Southside Fire Department's fire truck and Chatham Mosquito Control's helicopter. Admission to the festival is free but there will be a \$2 charge for parking. Some activities are free while others have a small charge.

Visitors to the 50-acre Bamboo Farm will experience one of Savannah's hidden treasures. Display gardens, bamboo groves, pick-your-own strawberries and blackberries in season, places to picnic and to walk are to be found in this historic site. Nationally known for the bamboo collection and palm collection, the farm is now developing an extensive camellia garden with the help of the Southeast Camellia Society. Recently the Farm drew public attention for research into growing bananas in the local area.

Begun in 1918 as a USDA plant introduction station, the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens is today a part of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension with the mission to provide education, public outreach and applied research in horticulture and environmental sciences. The Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens is located at the intersection of U. S. 17 South, going toward Richmond Hill, and Canebrake Road. The entrance is a quarter mile south of Wal-Mart and a mile north of the Ogeechee River Bridge.

Contact:

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Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens

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