



# NEW DISCOVERIES...

By Gwen Thurmond and Joquita Burka

At every turn in the road, every day of your visit to South Carolina, you'll discover something new. It may be the newest restaurant, an "undiscovered" artist, a hidden garden or an artisan practicing in the "old ways." This year's discoveries cover everything from butterflies to blacksmiths, sea turtles to showcase homes. No matter how many times you come to South Carolina, you never find just exactly the same adventure.

## BUTTERFLY PAVILION

The 22,500-square-foot **Butterfly Pavilion**, slated to open in the spring of 2001 at Broadway at the Beach in Myrtle Beach, is the first facility in the United States to incorporate a fully enclosed glass conservatory featuring native North American butterflies. A fun-filled attraction and learning center for nature enthusiasts of all ages, Butterfly Pavilion features hands-on science exhibits and aviaries housing more than

2,000 butterflies, moths and birds. The facility allows visitors to observe these living creatures interacting in a carefully reproduced natural habitat.

The Butterfly Pavilion's *Nature Zone Discovery Center* features live insects, reptiles, amphibians and arachnids. Visitors are transported to the mountains of Mexico surrounded by a re-creation of towering fir trees and thousands of overwintering Monarch butterflies in a breathtaking sunrise setting.

The *Butterfly Conservatory*, a glass structure towering 40 feet, encompasses 9,000 square feet of lush landscape. Thousands of native North American butterflies and moths make their homes among carefully reproduced natural habitats transformed into tropical, woodlands, cottage and formal gardens.



## SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM

Visitors to the Charleston area are discovering the **South Carolina Aquarium**, a \$70-million science museum located on the edge of the Cooper River at Charleston Harbor. The facility showcases a stunning depiction of the state's biodiversity. Its theme, "From the Mountains to the Sea" takes visitors on a journey through the five distinct regions of the Appalachian Watershed as represented in South Carolina.

Sea otters are fast at play in the Mountain Forest region, while fiddler crabs and shorebirds are discovered in the Salt Marsh. In the Coastal Plain, eels and snakes are found. Sharks, rays and sea turtles are found abundantly throughout the Atlantic Ocean region, and more than 330,000 gallons of seawater containing hundreds of animals and plants can be seen in the Great Ocean tank. Another unique exhibit includes a deep, lichen-covered mountain gorge with cascading waterfalls.

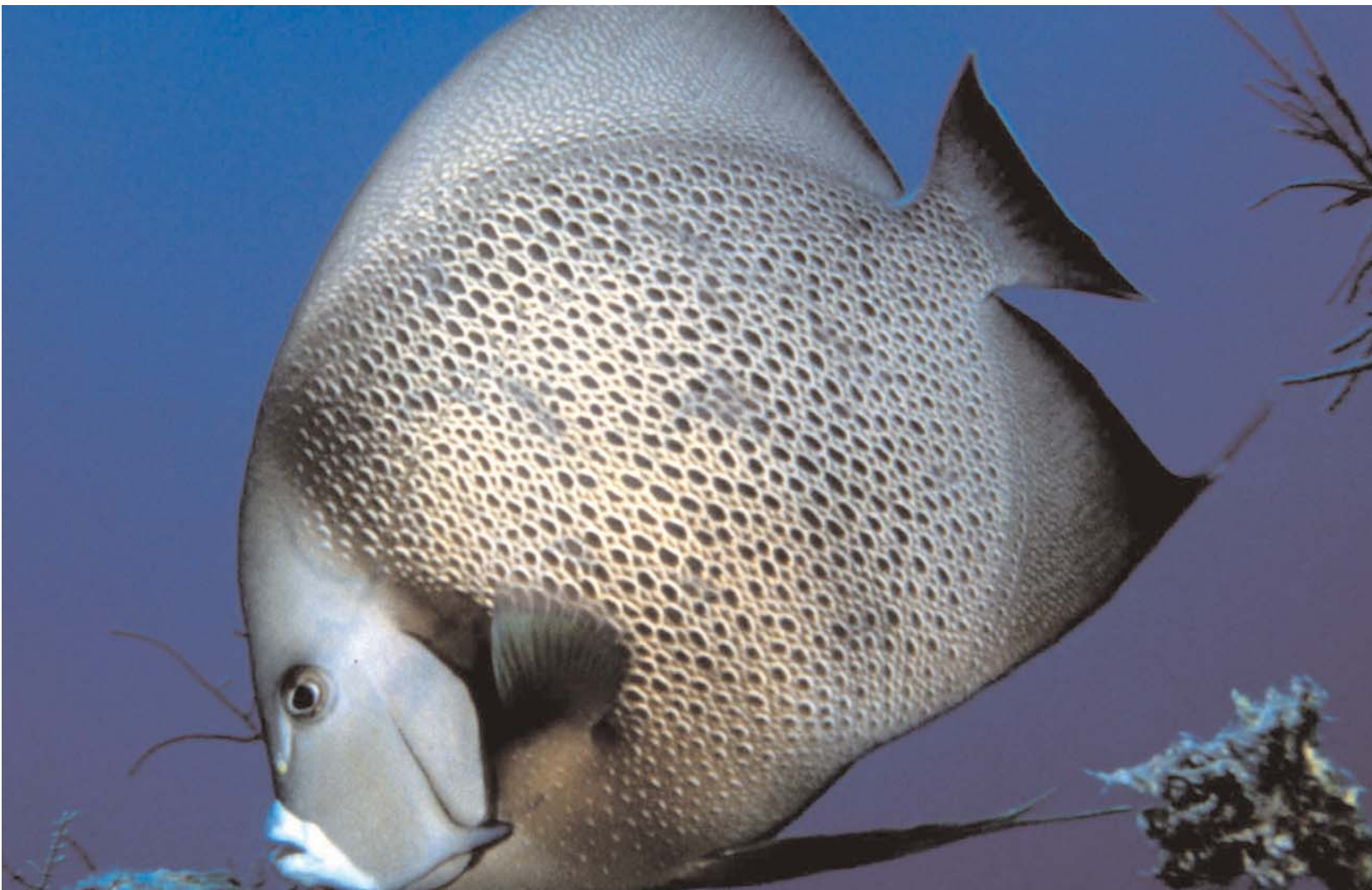
## CHARLESTON IMAX THEATRE

Adjacent to the South Carolina Aquarium, the new **IMAX Theatre** offers audiences nature in a big way with three outstanding shows. Visitors are transported back 65 million years in time for a face-to-face encounter with *T-Rex in 3-D*.

From the banks of the Bahamas to the seas of Argentina, visitors will go underwater to meet *Dolphins* and get a new perspective on their lives and remarkable intelligence. *Everest*, a 44-minute inspirational and spell-binding documentary, follows a 1996 expedition as three climbers train and travel Katmandu through the Himalayas and finally reach the summit of the world's highest mountain.

## SOUTHERN LIVING HOUSE AT BROOKGREEN GARDENS

New on the grounds of Brookgreen Gardens near Murrells Inlet is the **Brookgreen Cottage**. A Southern Living Showcase Home, the 2,200-square-foot cottage is nestled on the edge of Jessamine Pond among mature pines and oaks, emphasizing the importance of integrating house and garden. The South Carolina Lowcountry inspired various details both inside and outside the house. The result is a series of indoor and outdoor living spaces refined for life at the turn of the century. Visitors can tour the fully furnished home and learn about its construction and interior decor, as well as the distinctive walled garden that makes the home's setting so unique. The home is open for tours.





## CAROLINA FOOTHILLS ARTISANS CENTER

The **Carolina Foothills Artisans Center** opened its doors in downtown Chesnee late last year. The 3,200-square-foot facility features juried art from artists throughout the state, and is intended to bring fine arts, educational programming, artists demonstrations and workshops to northern Spartanburg County. Officials hope the center will attract travelers passing through the area on the Cherokee Foothills National Scenic Highway and US 221 and that it will serve as a cultural springboard for the ongoing revitalization of downtown Chesnee.

## SOUTH BEACH ADVENTURE

**South Beach Adventure**, a family activity park, is located on the south end of Myrtle Beach at the corner of Kings Highway and Ocean Boulevard. Plans include running the park as is, which consists of 10 go-cart tracks (for ages varying from 3 years and up), bumper boats, batting cages, an arcade and the addition of kiddie rides.

## CONGAREE SWAMP NATIONAL MONUMENT HARRY HAMPTON VISITOR CENTER

Rising from the bluff overlooking the old-growth forest of Congaree Swamp National Monument is the recently constructed **Harry Hampton Visitor Center**. Almost completely hidden among the trees, the new center offers visitors the opportunity to better understand the story of the ancient forest of Congaree Swamp.

A new winding paved road leads to the ample parking area for cars, over-sized vehicles, and buses. Visitors enter the new facility from a breezeway that opens to the forest. The breezeway separates the restrooms and the screened classroom from the interpretive exhibits. Among the exhibits is a full-size model of a bald cypress tree with an opening large enough for visitors to experience the inside of the tree, seeing and hearing some of its animal inhabitants. The park's new 12-minute introductory video can be viewed in the 75-seat theater. Continuing through the breezeway, is the beginning of the 2-1/2 mile boardwalk loop. The boardwalk, which is wheelchair accessible, takes visitors through a section of the old-growth forest, and serves as a trailhead to over 18 miles of wilderness hiking trails.

Exhibits in the development stage include a full-size model of a 60-foot "tip over" oak tree, and interpretive displays that tell the story of the forest ecology, geology, and hydrology, as well as the human impact on this floodplain forest.

Congaree Swamp National Monument, a unit of the National Park Service, protects the largest remaining tract of old-growth floodplain forest in the U.S. The old-growth forest is among the tallest broad-leaved forests in the world and is home to state and national champion trees.

## THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH SHOP

The **Village Blacksmith Shop** is now open in downtown Edgefield. The shop was built in 1917 and recently restored by the Edgefield County Historical Society. Restoration of the coal forge, hand-cranked blower, post vice and anvil as well as repairs to the building were largely done by local artisans. Blacksmith Linda Rosi turns out wrought iron items such as candle holders, hardware, fireplace tools, andirons, gates, railings and reproductions of antique iron works for sale.



## BUTTERFLY PAVILION

1185 Celebrity Circle, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
843-839-4444 or 877-280-2751  
Open daily, 9am. Closing hours vary by season.  
Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas  
Admission: \$12.95 age 13+, \$7.95 ages 5-12 and \$2.95 ages 2-4  
[www.butterflypavilion.net](http://www.butterflypavilion.net)

## SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM

100 Aquarium Wharf, Charleston, SC 29413  
843-720-1990  
Open daily, June 15-Aug. 15 9am-6pm;  
Aug. 16-June 14 9am-5pm  
Admission: \$14 adults, \$12 senior citizens and students ages 13 to 17, children ages 4 to 12 \$7, with those ages 3 and younger admitted free  
[www.scaquarium.org](http://www.scaquarium.org)

## CHARLESTON IMAX THEATRE

360 Concord Street, Charleston, SC 29401  
843-725-IMAX (4629)  
Show times vary, call for details  
Admission: T-Rex in 3-D, \$9 adults, \$8 seniors, \$8 children ages 3-12. Dolphins and Everest tickets are \$8 adults, \$7 seniors and \$7 children ages 3-12  
[www.charlestonimax.com](http://www.charlestonimax.com)

## BROOKGREEN GARDENS

US 17 S, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576  
843-235-6000 or 800-849-1931  
For group information, call 843-235-6001  
Open daily, 9:30am- 5pm  
Admission: Garden admission \$8.50; Brookgreen Cottage tour \$6  
Email: [info@brookgreen.org](mailto:info@brookgreen.org)  
[www.brookgreen.org](http://www.brookgreen.org)

## CAROLINA FOOTHILLS ARTISANS CENTER

Intersection of SC 11 & US 221, Chesnee, SC 29323  
864-461-3050  
Open M, Tu, Th & F 10am-6pm; Sa 10am-1pm  
or by appt.  
Closed W & Su

## SOUTH BEACH ADVENTURE

3201 Hwy. 17 S, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
843-238-8946  
Open March-October, seasonal hours

## CONGAREE SWAMP NATIONAL MONUMENT

Harry Hampton Visitor Center  
200 Carolina Sims Road, Hopkins, SC 29061  
803-776-4396  
[www.nps.gov/cosw](http://www.nps.gov/cosw)

## THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH SHOP

206 Jeter Street, Edgefield, SC 29824  
803-637-9008  
Open Tu-Sa, 9am-5pm