

BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT

CLOSING THE RESIDENTIAL WILDLIFE EDUCATION GAP



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences

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PROGRAM NEED & GOAL:

South Carolina's rapid residential growth is reducing functional wildlife habitat, while traditional Extension programming primarily serves large landowners. A gap exists in research-based wildlife education for homeowners managing small-acreage and urban landscapes.

Goal: Deliver scalable, research-based education that enables homeowners to create functional wildlife habitat.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- Identify methods homeowners could use to make their backyards more wildlife-friendly by incorporating food, shelter, water, and space into their landscapes
- Provide homeowners with a free resource that is non-biased and research-based
- Demonstrate and install a backyard wildlife habitat garden in a public area that features plants and wildlife-enhancement items that can replicated

METHODS:

1. ONLINE SHORT COURSE

- 5 modules, self-paced, free
- Focused on wildlife needs: food, water, shelter, space
- Participants complete active learning (yard inventories, habitat planning)
- Quality Matters Higher Education Course Certification

SIGN-UP HERE:



2. DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

- Partnered with the South Carolina Botanical Gardens
- Installed native plantings and wildlife enhancements
- Interpretive signage

3. TRADITIONAL EXTENSION METHODS

- In-person Native Plant Lecture Series
- Field Days
- Southeastern Master Naturalist Continuing Education Webinar Series



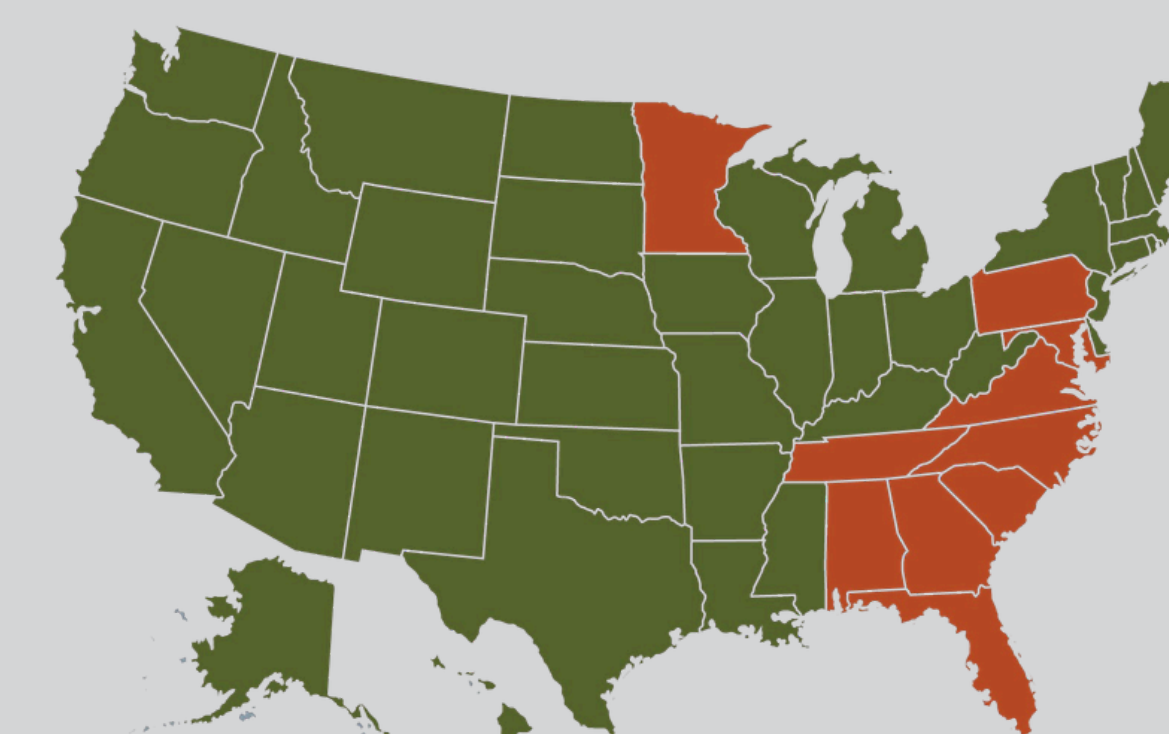
IMPACT & RESULTS:

ONLINE COURSE



COURSE REACH:

751 PARTICIPANTS TOOK THE ONLINE COURSE



REPRESENTING 10 STATES & 3 COUNTRIES

ONLINE COURSE RESULTS:

100% INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE OF WILDLIFE NEEDS

84% OF PARTICIPANTS INTEND TO ADOPT PRACTICES LEARNED

99% AVERAGE POST-QUIZ COURSE ASSESSMENT

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

- Installed in Clemson, SC, in 2024
- Practical model for homeowners
- Time-lapse video highlighting the installation and a visit to the garden 1 year later



350,000 ANNUAL VISITORS



DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AT THE SCBG



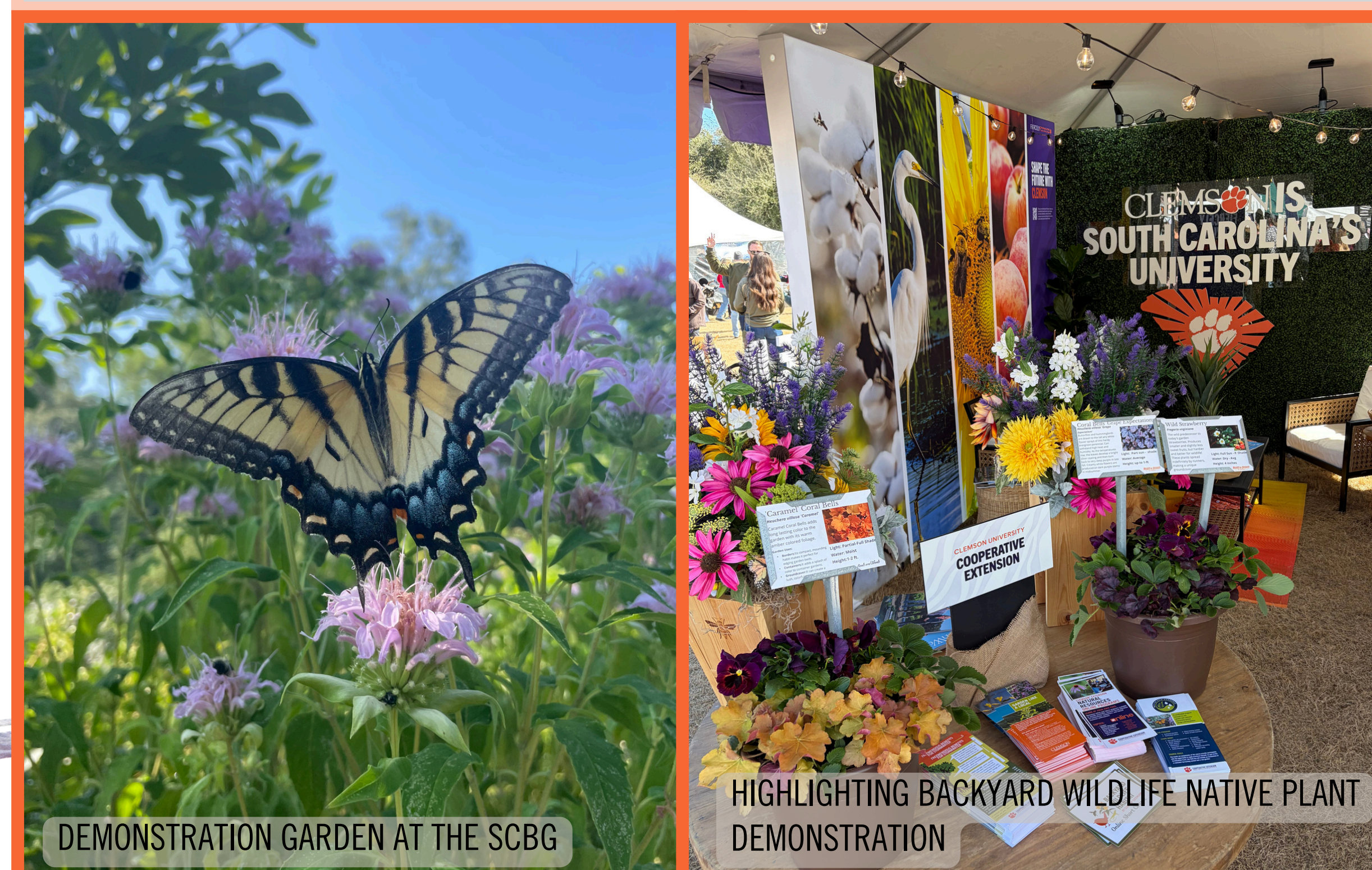
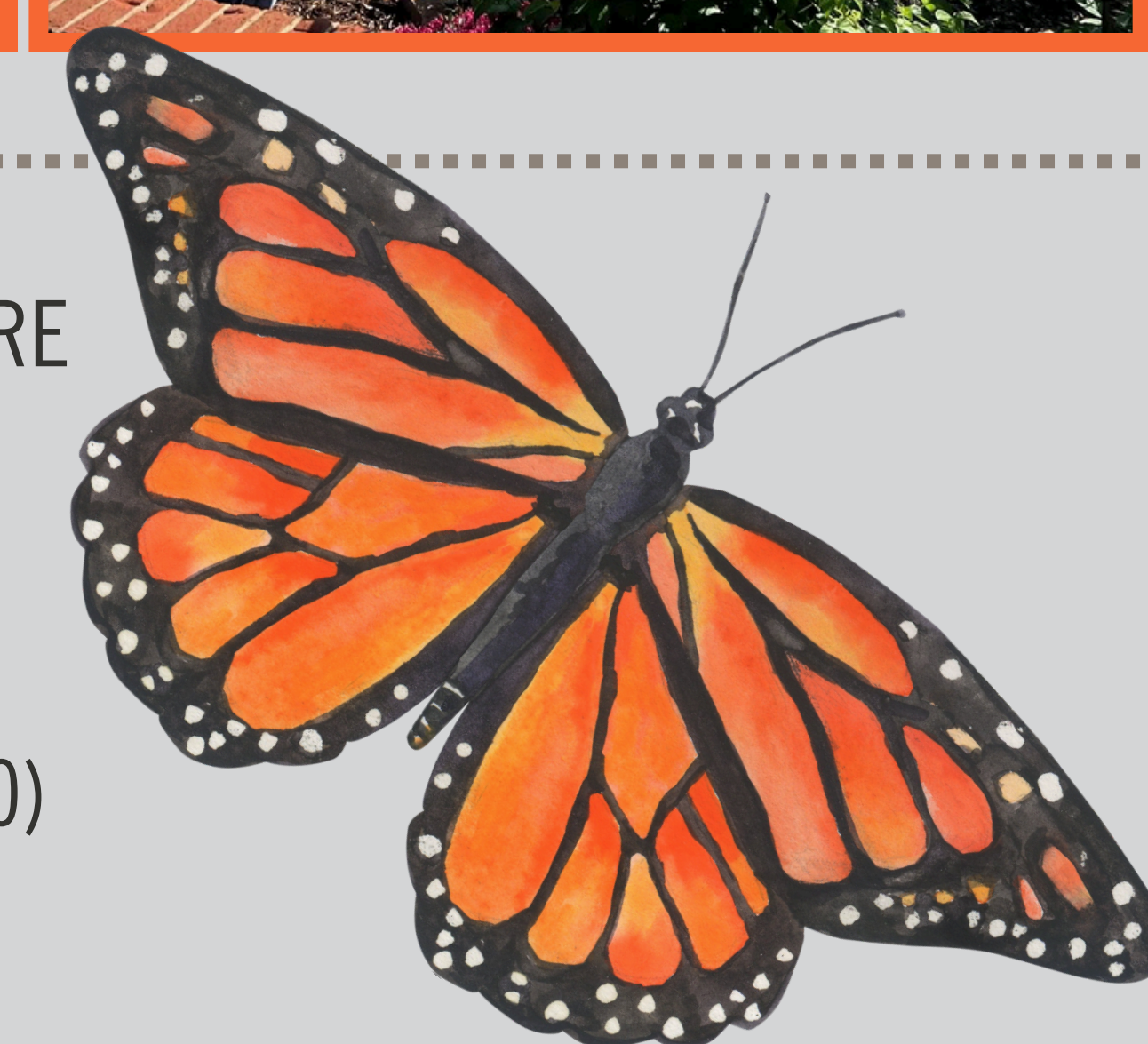
PARTICIPANTS AT FIELD DAY

LECTURE SERIES, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

Topics on native plants, pollinators, habitat, rain gardens, and landscape design aimed for the homeowner audience

395 PARTICIPANTS AT LECTURE SERIES, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

100% OF PARTICIPANTS (N-120) INTEND ON APPLYING PRACTICES LEARNED



DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AT THE SCBG

HIGHLIGHTING BACKYARD WILDLIFE NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION

FUTURE OUTLOOK:

- Seasonal Backyard Habitat Maintenance Calendar
- Bloom & Fruiting Calendar
- Additional online homeowner-focused courses
- Expanded demonstration garden media