



For Immediate Release
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unearth, a celebration of naturally inspired art
Multi-day Art Event Celebrates Nature at Saluda Shoals Park

Columbia, Irmo, and Lexington, SC – *unearth, a celebration of naturally inspired art* will be held at Saluda Shoals Park from September 30 to October 4, 2009. This annual celebration of the arts showcases visual, performing and literary arts in an outdoor setting. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in art, nature, and the creative process. This unique multi-day art extravaganza includes: a photography contest; demonstrations and instruction by artists; poetry reading; a variety of musical, dance and dramatic performances; and a songwriting workshop.

Activities include:

- Wednesday, Sept. 30 – ***unearth* Opening Reception**, Amateur Photography Contest will be displayed and awards presented.
- Thursday, October 1
 - **Songwriting Workshop** led by local musician, Danielle Howle. Participants are invited to learn songwriting and solar recording techniques. Hosted in partnership with the Musicians & Songwriters Guild of South Carolina.
 - **Art, Food & Business Market** – hosted in partnership with the Irmo Chamber of Commerce, this event showcases talented artists, local businesses and restaurants.
- Friday, October 2 – **Shaggin' on the Shoals**, a fundraising event featuring the sounds of the Dick Goodwin Orchestra.
- Saturday, October 3 – **Palmetto Mastersingers POP Concert** featuring the Dick Goodwin Band. Guests are invited to bring a picnic and enjoy this outdoor concert!
- Sunday, October 5 – **A Nature-Inspired Celebration of Art!** Experience the creative process as artists share their talents in a natural setting. Visitors will find more than 40 artists painting, sculpting, dancing, and singing as they use Saluda Shoals Park trailways and outdoor structures as galleries and stages. Winning songs from the *unearth* songwriting competition, held in September, will be performed. The event concludes with a concert by the **Lake Murray Symphony Orchestra**.

To connect children to this art experience, teachers and students from throughout the Midlands have been invited participate in a sketchbook activity. On Sunday, these students will receive a sketchbook to document their experience and have the opportunity to create art with objects found in the park.

“*unearth* allows people to see through the eyes of an artist what the park means in human terms,” says Fred B. Johnston, Chairman of the Saluda Shoals Foundation. “This event communicates the essence and spirit of Saluda Shoals Park.”

unearth is presented by the Saluda Shoals Foundation and Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission. The Saluda Shoals Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization committed to serving as a steward of and an advocate for the preservation and sustainability Saluda Shoals Park programs and the environment.

Photos are available upon request. For more information about *unearth* or the Saluda Shoals Foundation, please contact Dolly Patton at 213-2035.