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State Museum Hosts Silver in the Garden Featuring Nationally Recognized Silver Expert

The Charleston Silver Lady to give table top presentation at garden-themed event

COLUMBIA, S.C., Thursday, May 28, 2015 — Join nationally-recognized silver expert Dawn Corley, known as the “Charleston Silver Lady,” at Silver in the Garden from 2 – 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14 at the South Carolina State Museum. Both garden-themed events will offer a unique look into the history, design and use of fine silver, porcelain and china, as well as an opportunity for Corley to examine pieces brought in by event attendees.

The program will feature five exquisite tabletops, including garden and floral-themed pieces, from Corley’s extensive collection of silver, porcelain and china. Corley will explore the history of these pieces, how they were produced, and how to identify their origins and value. The program will also feature natural decoration techniques using flowers and greenery to accent antique pieces. In addition, guests are invited to bring one piece from their own collection for an informal verbal appraisal by Corley. Garden party bites, nibbles and sweets, along with a variety of beverages including a summer bourbon punch, will be provided to event attendees.

“We are excited to have Dawn return to the State Museum to present a new silver program,” said State Museum public programs manager Celeste Wszola. “Her presentations are always very popular because guests are able to see unique treasures and pieces while stepping back in time to learn fascinating stories behind the objects and people who once owned them.”

Corley is a native of Charleston, where she perfected her expertise on silver in antique and silver shops on King Street. Corley has become a much sought after lecturer and has given presentations and lectures to U.S. presidents, foreign heads of state and dignitaries as well as many corporate and Fortune 500 groups, including the Family Circle Cup, Norfolk Southern and Southern Living. Corley has taught extensively and is a former fellow with Charleston Antiques School. She is considered an expert in fine jewelry and was the assessor and appraiser of the jewelry that was discovered in the raising of the USS Hunley from the Charleston harbor. She owns and runs Antiques on Main at Historic Karle Place in Lexington, S.C. and has an expansive private collection that has been showcased in museums and exhibitions across the country.

Tickets to Silver in the Garden are \$40 for the public and \$32 for museum members. Visit scmuseum.org to purchase tickets.

PHOTOS: [Click here](#) to download high-resolution photos.

About the South Carolina State Museum: *As the state’s largest and most comprehensive museum, the South Carolina State Museum offers a unique, entertaining and educational experience to visitors throughout its 225,000 square foot facility located in the heart of downtown Columbia’s Congaree Vista. The State Museum is housed in one of its greatest artifacts, an 1894 old textile mill full of character and charm. In addition to beautiful meeting spaces throughout the facility, guests can explore outer space in one of the largest planetariums in the Southeast, watch an interactive 4D movie and look through a vintage telescope in a one-of-a-kind observatory. These exciting opportunities are all in addition to the four floors of South Carolina art, cultural history, natural history and science/technology. Visit scmuseum.org to learn more.*