



Academy for
LIFELONG LEARNING
FELLOWSHIP • KNOWLEDGE • ADVENTURE

The Spiral

April, 2009

President's Message

Last spring a cruel ice bearing frost destroyed the first leafing of the lacy red leafed Maple beyond the breakfast table window. During the fall and winter withered leaves remained attached by dry stems to the branches which spawned their existence after the cruel spring freeze. A new spring arrived today, and many of the now ashen gray leaves remain waving in the warm breezes the season brings.

Unlike its neighboring pin oak this tree routinely and completely shed its leaves in each of the seven fall seasons of its existence. But, these after frost second chance leaves have shown themselves somehow different. One can only observe to note if this tree has changed its shedding cycle because of this one time freeze.

It was pitiful to see those first leaf sprouts blighted and killed by a few hours duration of hard ice in mid March while they were unfolding from their winter bud and spring protective sheath. Within days the slain emergent growth fell from the tree's sap filled limbs to surrender to moldering decay upon the earth. There they would be returned, as is all life, to nurture future generations of life forms.

Weeks of spring warmth and extended light and gentle rains passed with no hint of growth from the sap reddened limbs of the tree. Surrounded by hearty white dogwood flowers and azaleas blooming in full pink, white and red colors she looked alone, fragile, and out of place barren of her fresh red leaves adding to the painted landscape.

Then without so much as a murmur the emergence of life began. First one, then another, then two, three, five, eight, thirteen, even as many as twenty-one leaves emerged on each red branch. Her final bloom proved not to be as full as in previous years. There remained barren lengths on many limbs. But, after suffering loss of its earliest bloom the resulting foliage could only be described as luxurious.

Now mid March and spring have returned as the earth has completed its annual orbit about the sun. White stems and dried leaves that remain on the tree will either break away or be pulled by birds to prepare their nests. The first of these longest remaining ashen leaves have fallen with the bud sheathes that have grown and broken open to reveal the new mahogany red leaf sprouts. These emerging beauty queens will grow in size and color. They will shimmer and deflect the sunlight, sway with each breeze and provide shade to cool the earth below.

It remains to be seen if these next generation leaves will break away and flutter to the ground in the fall or remain through the winter like their most recent predecessors. We must observe the cycle for alteration. In our search of nature for answers and understanding we find beauty, understanding of events past, and a view to the future. Barring disease or killing frosts during spring leafing, the lacy leaf red Maple will appear alone and fragile no more. She will flourish until her final spring and summer of lifting nutrients from the earth – the season of her leaves last dance displaying their marvelous mahogany red beauty. We will be gone then.

Larry Peyser, Academy President

Clemson/Pendleton Bus Trip Canceled

The bus trip scheduled for April 24 has been canceled because the trip failed to attract enough reservations to justify the trip. Those who reserved spaces and paid for their reservations should have been contacted by USCA by now. If you have any questions, contact Laura Anderson at USCA (641-3563 / lauraa@usca.edu).

Academy Monthly General Meeting April 17

The Academy Monthly Meeting, normally held the second Friday of the month will be the THIRD Friday in April.

Dr. Clint Wolfe to address the Academy at the April Monthly Meeting

Dr. Clint R. Wolfe, Executive Director of the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness will be the guest

speaker at the general meeting of the Academy on April 17, 2009, at 2:00 PM in Penland 106. Dr. Wolfe has a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of New Mexico with a combined minor in Mathematics and Physics. Dr. Wolfe will address "What's Happening – A Look at Nuclear". This talk is an overview that touches on all areas of nuclear energy; educating the public about various aspects concerning baseload, environmental concerns, waste, human development, design and construction of power reactors in the US and other countries.

Academy members and guests may attend. There will be a reception afterwards with refreshments.

Kauffman award to be presented at the April Monthly Meeting

Every April, the Academy presents the Earl Kauffman Award to recognize outstanding individual contributions to the organization. This year's presentation will be made at the April Monthly Meeting, 2pm April 17, in Room 106 in the USCA Penland Administration Building.

Policy on Inclement Weather Determined

At the March Board meeting, the Academy Officers adopted a policy regarding the effect of inclement weather upon classes scheduled for USCA facilities. In the future, when USC-Aiken cancels classes due to inclement weather, any Academy classes scheduled to meet at the same time will also be cancelled.

Academy Elects Officers for 2009-2010

Congratulations to the new slate of Academy officers elected at the March Members meeting. Your board for the upcoming academic year will be:

- Vince Coughlin, President
- Glenn Knowles, President-Elect
- Erna Arkin, Secretary
- Jane Friis, Treasurer
- Richard Baxter, Curriculum Chair
- Susan Sadowski, Curriculum Chair-elect
- Kathy Shultz, Membership Chair
- Gladys Olson and LaVerne Specca, Publicity Co-chairs

The new officers' terms will begin this July.

Courses Beginning in April

Please see the published course catalog for more complete descriptions (available on the web at <http://web.usca.edu/dotAsset/5157.pdf>). To enroll, return the form in the published catalog or contact Laura Anderson at USCA (641-3563 / lauraa@usca.edu).

- **Amendments to the Constitution - To Heller and Back** – Past Academy President Vince

Coughlin returns with another of his popular discussions of US Supreme Court decisions and how they relate to the US Constitution.

Dates: 4 Wednesdays, starting Apr 1

Time: 3:30 p

- **The ABC's of Creating Water Features** - Considering a water feature for your yard? Master Gardeners Chris and Sandy Randall will present four classes to help you. The fourth class will be a tour of the Randall's beautiful garden and water features.

Dates: 4 Thursdays, starting April 9

Time: 1:00 pm

- **Springing into Poetry Forms for Pleasure** – Mike Lythgoe, past Academy President and award winning published poet, presents a series of classes exploring poetry of the Spring season.

Dates: 5 Mondays, starting Apr 13

Time: 11 am

- **Special Event: Bus Trip to Clemson Botanical Garden and Historic Pendleton** – Trip Cancelled

March Board Meeting Summary

President Peyser called the meeting to order. Present were Erna Arkin, Doug Wilson, Mary Anne Cavanaugh, Judy Perkins, Kathy Schulz, Vince Coughlin, Glenn Knowles and Roy Wright.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed.

Roy, using current numbers and long past experience, explained our University account will have at least a \$5,000 surplus or more by this coming July 1st. As stated last month, that amount is in keeping with past practice.

The Academy checking account, at near \$500, was as it should be.

Committee Reports

Curriculum: Erna advised the committee has arranged for 21 different courses for next fall, although dates and times still need to be finalized pending professor and class room schedules.

There are no trips planned for the fall semester.

Erna also raised the issue of the India Cooking class. The board voted to spend \$100 to help defray costs.

She also expressed concern about confusion regarding Academy activities during inclement weather. It was decided the Academy should follow the lead of the University. In other words, if the University shuts down, the Academy will as well.

Communications: Doug will have an article in *Mature Times* about our '08-'09 scholarship recipients with research provided by Elizabeth Majors.

Doug also pointed out Laura Anderson could not e-mail copies of *The Spiral* to non members. Doug can and will.

Publicity: Judy continues her activities, particularly, cultivating the *Aiken Standard* and the *Augusta Chronicle*.

Membership: Kathy reported we have 319 registered members for this spring.

For December's Christmas luncheon she has arranged to have Maureen Simpson and a piano accompanist for entertainment. It was agreed the Academy would pay for our guests. The board also had an opportunity to discuss the menu for this event thanks to Kathy's research.

Mary Anne Cavanaugh advised the University will need to increase their per Academy student fee from \$25 to \$35 for the '09 to '10 school year and beyond. The cost to us for our catalog will also increase from \$3600 to \$4400 per year.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee. The efforts of this group were reported. Nominations from the floor for all positions will be sought during the upcoming the general meeting.

New Business:

Scholarships and Endowment funding: A long and deliberate discussion was held regarding these expenditures. Roy Wright, while making several important points, was able to show us we could fund for '09-'10 our new Retention Scholarship at \$2500 and the long standing \$1000 Academy scholarship. And conservatively, we could make an additional \$4000 contribution to the Academy's Program Endowment for '08-'09 for a total of \$6000 to that fund for this year. It was thought that the latter might help fund FYRE, a freshman year reading program. A motion for each of these received a unanimous vote.

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Academy Officers: Larry Peyser, President; Vince Coughlin, Immediate Past President; (Vacancy), President Elect; Glenn Knowles, Secretary, and (Vacancy), Treasurer.

Chairpersons and Other Members of the Academy:

Board of Directors: Erna Arkin, Curriculum Chair; (Vacancy), Curriculum Chair-Elect; Judy Perkins and Elizabeth Majors, Publicity Co-Chairs; Kathy Shulz, Membership Chair.

Non-Members: Mary Anne Cavanaugh, Director of Conferences & Continuing Education; Dr. Elaine Lacey, Faculty Liaison; Dr. Deidre Martin, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement.

Academy on the Web:

<http://web.usca.edu/conted/academy/>

ACADEMY CALENDAR – April 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>Curriculum Committee</i> 9am [B Conf] <i>Soldier & Society</i> 12 noon [P106] <i>To Heller & Back</i> 3:30 p [CC]	2 <i>Great Decisions</i> 2 p – 3:30 p [P110]	3	4
5	6	7	8 <i>Soldier & Society</i> 12 noon [P106] <i>To Heller & Back</i> 3:30 p [CC]	9 <i>Water Features</i> 1 p [P106] [<i>Great Decisions</i> does not meet today]	10	11
12	13 <i>Springing into Poetry</i> 11 am [P106]	14	15 <i>To Heller & Back</i> 3:30 p [CC]	16 <i>Water Features</i> 1 p [P106] <i>Great Decisions</i> 2 p – 3:30 p [P110]	17 <i>General Meeting Kauffmann Award Presentation</i> 2pm [P106]	18
19	20 <i>Springing into Poetry</i> 11 am [P106]	21	22 <i>To Heller & Back</i> 3:30 p [CC]	23 <i>Water Features</i> 1 p [P106] <i>Great Decisions</i> 2 p – 3:30 p [P110]	24 <i>Bus Trip to Clemson Pendleton</i> (Trip cancelled)	25
26	27 <i>Springing into Poetry</i> 11 am [P106]	28	29	30 <i>Water Features</i> 1 p [Garden Tour] <i>Great Decisions</i> 2 p – 3:30 p [P110]		

[Location Codes] B = Business & Education Bldg @ USCA H = Humanities & Social Sciences Bldg @ USCA
 N = Nursing Bldg @ USCA P = Penland Bldg @ USCA CC = Cedar Creek Community Building