

# Leaders In Our Community:

## Linda Cobb's passionate support plays vital role in the SCC horticulture program

When students and visitors drive along Community College Drive, a touch of the English countryside greets them in front of the Tracey J. Gaines Auditorium. This neatly kept plot of land is an informal nod to one of Spartanburg Community College's most enthusiastic supporters, Linda Cobb.



Linda Cobb

A certified Master Gardener with a passion for education, Cobb's contributions to the SCC horticulture department are immeasurable. Cobb "lives and breathes" horticulture, said Department Chair Jason Bagwell.

Through her wide array of contacts, Cobb has connected SCC with a network of internationally renowned horticulturists and gardeners. In 2013, Cobb was instrumental in bringing Fergus Garrett, head gardener at the 15th century estate, Great Dixter, in East Sussex, England - part of an ongoing relationship between the two institutions. Cobb has also been a catalyst for providing internships to SCC students, and, of course, is a tremendous supporter of the SCC Arboretum.

An avid lecturer, Cobb is passionate about teaching gardening and inspiring her fellow gardeners to success.

"Enthusiasm ... You cannot talk about Linda Cobb without the word enthusiasm," Bagwell said.

The former host of WSPA-TV's "Rookie Gardener," Cobb continues to pen a gardening column for the Herald-Journal in Spartanburg, and her expertise has been featured in publications including South Carolina Home, Garden Magazine and Better Homes and Gardens.

Cobb's English cottage garden at her Spartanburg home features 300 David Austin English roses as well as many perennials and shrubs. She is the author of "My Gardener's Guide ... Easy Steps to a Better Garden," and its follow-up, "My Gardener's Guide 2 ... More Easy Steps to a Better Garden," which was published in April 2009.