

The Carolina Children's Garden had a very active fall with lots of school groups visiting and picnicking during Sandhill's Fall Festival. The new water fountain got quite a workout!

December began with our annual tree planting on Arbor Day. A Carolina Sapphire cypress (*Cupressus arizonica* 'Carolina Sapphire') was planted, and it is hoped that this tree will grow to become our official Christmas tree for many years to come. Activities and holiday decorations were provided for families and each child attending was given a seedling to take home and plant.



Our first ever **Reindogs and Elves** fundraiser was held December 15, 2013 and it was a resounding success! Costumed dogs and children of all ages vied for prizes and gift certificates. Our panel of distinguished judges had a tough time deciding on the prize winners! With refreshments, vendors, and canine demonstrations, the garden was filled with happy sounds on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. A good time was had by all! Even Santa Paws was there to pose for pictures!

We decided to share our bounty with the nonprofits who participated, and 30% of our net profits will be divided between Pets, Inc., The Heartworm Project, and Hoof and Paw Benevolent Society.

This undertaking was a group effort, and we could not have done it without the help of so many people! Grateful thanks to all! We hope to do it again in December, 2014 and hope you will all plan to become part of a new tradition!



Our January work day was rained out but our next will be held Saturday, February 22nd and then Friday, March 21st. Please plan to come out either morning (or both!) and we'll put you to work!

We had the first of a series of Nature Discovery Hikes, conducted by one of our distinguished volunteers, John Galbary, in January. More than twenty hardy souls braved the cold and enjoyed the invigorating walk. Schedule for the monthly hikes is

listed below:

Sunday Feb.23, 1:00-2:30pm.

Saturday, March 15, 1:00-2:30pm

Saturday, April 19, 1:00-2:30pm

No registration required, just meet John at the entrance to the garden.

The annual Great Backyard Bird Count will be Saturday, February 15th from 8:30-10:00am. Registration is required. This is always a popular event and requires registration at [Carolina Children's Garden](http://www.birdcount.org).

Just a reminder that annual dues for Friends of the Carolina Children's Garden are now due and can be paid online at [Carolina Children's Garden](#) under Support>Gifts and Donations or sent to P.O. Box 23205, Columbia, SC., 29224.

Thanks again for all your support!