



News Release

301 Gervais St. • Loading Zone D • Columbia SC 29201
Phone (803) 898-4921 • Fax (803) 898-4969
publicrelations@scmuseum.org or visit southcarolinastatemuseum.org

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Contact: Tut Underwood or
Celeste Wszola

State Museum Silver
Program Series Continues in
July and August

Columbia, S.C. – Fans of South Carolina silver have a few more weeks to enjoy the South Carolina State Museum’s elegant exhibit *South Carolina Silver: Varieties in Society 1750 – 1935*, which closes Saturday, Aug. 28. They also have three opportunities to enjoy a series of fascinating silver programs by nationally renowned silver expert Dawn E. Corley, better known as “The Charleston Silver Lady.” The programs are scheduled before the end of the exhibit and feature Corley’s captivating Tabletops series and enthralling silver workshop.

The Charleston Silver Lady’s gorgeous displays of china, silver and seasonal decorations from her extensive personal collection will inspire attendees’ own gala celebrations of summer on Saturday, July 30 from 10 a.m. until noon and Sunday, Aug. 14 from 2 – 4 p.m. Participants will learn how resplendent family heirlooms and treasures have graced Southern tables through the generations.

On Saturday, Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. – noon, Corley will close out the series with a program devoted to antique silver. Using more than 300 objects from her extensive private collection, Corley will teach class participants how to read the quality of a piece as well as how to determine its age and value. Attendees may bring one silver item to be verbally appraised at each workshop.

“At the heart of these unique programs and intrinsic to these items is history, living and personal, and the specific role silver played in the everyday lives of early

South Carolinians,” said State Museum Programs Manager Celeste Wszola. “Telling the stories of the master craftsmen who created these beautiful objects and the generations of families who used them in their everyday lives, Corley paints a fascinating portrait of bygone eras through meticulous research and hands-on expertise, providing a memorable experience for program participants.”

Another highlight of the programs is a tour of the Museum’s exhibit *South Carolina Silver: Varieties in Society 1750 – 1935*, guided by Corley, who will draw on her hands-on expertise and knowledge to illustrate the important role silver played in Colonial society as well as other periods in South Carolina history. The State Museum’s collection of silver used in the Palmetto State over two centuries takes center stage in the exhibit, rounded out by pieces on loan from Corley herself.

“The Charleston Silver Lady is no stranger to the hundreds of guests who have attended the Museum Road Show at the State Museum over the last decade,” said Wszola. “She is much sought after as an appraiser of fine silver and antique jewelry and has presented programs to U.S. presidents and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as to hundreds of private organizations and groups.”

Corley’s expertise led to her selection to evaluate the jewelry discovered on the *H.L. Hunley* submarine after it was raised from Charleston Harbor in 2000. With maternal ties to one of Charleston’s earliest silversmiths, many of the pieces loaned by her for the *South Carolina Silver* exhibition were crafted by her Charleston ancestors.

“We have been very proud and excited to offer these programs with The Charleston Silver Lady over the length of the exhibit,” said Wszola. “It’s hard not to appreciate the pride of craftsmanship that went into these one-of-a-kind pieces included in the lecture, but once you hear their histories, what they were used for and why—you’re hooked! That is Dawn’s strength and her gift—to open that window on the past. It’s so enthralling, most of our attendees don’t want the program to end!”

Cost for the programs is \$30 general public, \$25 State Museum members.

For information and to register for the programs, call 803-898-4952, e-mail publicprograms@scmuseum.org, or visit the Museum’s Web site at southcarolinastatemuseum.org.

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CUTLINE FOR SILVER PROGRAM AT S.C. STATE MUSEUM

Silver expert Dawn Corley, the “Charleston Silver Lady,” will present programs on antique silver at the South Carolina State Museum July 30 and Aug. 14. The programs are presented in conjunction with the museum’s current exhibit *South Carolina Silver: Varieties in Society 1750 – 1935*, which runs through Saturday, Aug. 28.

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