

**From:** SC News from SCIWAY <sciway-news@sc-news.net>  
**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
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**Subject:** Enjoy Them Here: SC Photos of the Month + May's Best SC Events

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## { SC's May Calendar + Our Featured SC Event }

May 1-2 — This year's [May Calendar of SC Events](#) is brought to you by the award-winning [Carolina Strawberry Festival](#), Fort Mill's signature salute to spring! Join us in 2015 for a week of events and activities, culminating in the festival on May 1 and 2. Admission is free. The event features a dozen concerts – including the Gin Blossoms – plus amusement rides, pig racing, a car show, canine athletes, a pancake breakfast, a golf tournament, a horse race, a wing-eating contest, wrestling matches, and an appearance by 2015's three Strawberry Queens!

Click to [see all the other great South Carolina events coming up in May](#).

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## { Magnolia Plantation: Blooming with Beauty }

One of the oldest estates in South Carolina, [Magnolia Plantation](#) dates to 1672. It stands proud on the [Ashley River](#) near [Charleston](#). Though named for the grand [Southern magnolia tree](#), the place is better known for its wide variety of camellias and azaleas. Together, along with a profusion of colorful flora, they make Magnolia the Lowcountry's most visited plantation.

( [Vanessa Kauffmann](#) of [Charleston](#) © Do Not Use Without Written Consent )

Originally granted to Morris Matthews during the [Colonial period](#), the property was acquired by John and Ann Drayton in 1676. The Draytons, who had come to Charleston from Barbados, built a small house on their land and quickly established a successful rice plantation, cultivating what would come to be known as Carolina Gold Rice. This cash crop made Lowcountry planters extremely wealthy, the

included.

( [Vanessa Kauffmann](#) of [Charleston](#) © Do Not Use Without Written Consent )

Beloved for their sprawling beauty, Magnolia's gardens originated from a much smaller, form Thomas and Ann Drayton added the first garden, which they would later name Flowerdale, sh the completion of their home in the mid-1680s. However, the gardens and estate suffered muc when the property was used as an encampment for both British and American forces c [Revolutionary War](#). The Drayton sons fought against the British and later became South statesmen.

**Want more? Click to [read the full article + see many more pictures](#).**

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