



## Lowcountry Master Gardener Association

[www.LowcountryMasterGardeners.org](http://www.LowcountryMasterGardeners.org)

### Master Gardener & Master Naturalist volunteers work together to save the Colleton River waterfront at the Waddell Mariculture Center in Bluffton

Approximately 250' of waterfront land at the Center was rapidly eroding, putting the Nature Center building in peril. Hundreds of perennials, grasses and shrubs were purchased with funds granted by the Lowcountry Master Gardeners Association, the Lowcountry Master Naturalists, and plants donated by The Spring Island Trust. Volunteers hauled compost to the bluff and tilled it into the soil, then dug holes and installed the plants. This new buffer area will stabilize the shoreline and help prevent further erosion of this valuable waterfront.



An irrigation system is planned, and a regular maintenance schedule has been set up to insure that the plantings survive and prosper. This project will become a showcase to help the public understand how they can create buffer zones between their property and bodies of water to prevent erosion but also to prevent contaminants from running off their property into the water. Al Stokes and his team at Waddell have been great partners on this project and have helped us every step of the way.



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Stormwater runoff is often polluted by fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides and other chemicals, endangering fish and wildlife. Waterfront buffer areas not only stabilize shorelines, but act as natural filters of stormwater runoff.

Further volunteer workdays will complete the project by next spring. . Additionally, new foundation plantings will be installed at the building which houses offices, displays and breeding tanks. This will complete the planting portion.





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## WADDELL MARICULTURE CENTER UPDATE

July 15, 2013

The Waddell Mariculture Center's Buffer Garden project, which began in 2012, is complete. Future volunteer work on the garden will be limited to occasional maintenance workdays.



The Firebush is proving impervious to deer browsing, thanks to a new systemic deer repellent. Side by side trials show that plants treated with the new "pills" remain untouched, while those left untreated were nibbled to the ground.





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Hardworking volunteers brought wheel barrows, shovels and rakes to spread a truckload of mulch. The new irrigation system funded by the LMGA is working perfectly. This completes the Waddell Mariculture Buffer Garden Project. Other work on the property will probably begin this fall.