

BUZZING AROUND SOUTH CAROLINA

What's Waiting in Walterboro...

Historic Walterboro often is called “The Front Porch of the Lowcountry” and indeed it is. We drove to Walterboro on a beautiful South Carolina fall day from Charleston at the urging of our friend Dargan Fishburne Moore. Dargan wanted us to visit the Hampton Bed & Breakfast and see its collection of dolls and dollhouses. The house, built in 1912, was previously owned by Dargan’s parents and is now owned by Diane and Henry Forde.

We were met by Diane Forde (*above right*) and given a tour of this elegant house, which is home to The Forde Doll and Doll House Collection. The largest in the Southeast, it’s a rare exhibit of more than 50 doll- houses, room boxes, toy kitchens, paper dolls and antique dolls all on permanent display. Here you’ll find German bisque dolls, an 1890 French grocery store and two small 1880 china heads. Diane will keep you spellbound as you walk around the room, not believing what you are seeing.

The bed and breakfast consists of three lovely bedrooms with queen-size canopy beds, each with a private bath. You can either have your full country breakfast in the elegant dining room or out by the pool. Then you can go for a dip in the pool or head for a nearby golf course. Sounds like our idea of a wonderful weekend away from home.



Photo courtesy Diane Forde

Diane Forde is a lady of many talents. Included in the house is a gallery where she displays her paintings, handmade jewelry, evening bags, drawings, prints, note cards and postcards.

All of this is located at 500 Hampton Street, Walterboro, SC 29488. The Fordes welcome you as guests or visitors, and give private tours by appointment to groups and clubs. Just call first: (843) 542-9498.

After leaving Diane and Dargan, we headed downtown to the antique district. We also paid a visit to the SC Artisans Center, which is always a treat. Stop by the Welcome Center for more information on Walterboro. ●



Photo courtesy Diane Forde