





About Our Cover

On Johns Island, South Carolina stands the majestic Angel Oak, one of the oldest live oak trees (*Quercus virginiana*). Its age is estimated to be between 200 and 300 years but it could be older. The tree towers 65 feet high and has a circumference of 25.5 feet. Its area of shade is 17,000 square feet, and its largest limb has a circumference of 11.5 feet and a length of 89 feet. Live oaks are not particularly tall trees but have wide-spreading canopies. Only in very old specimens do you find massive limbs resting on the ground. The City of Charleston acquired the Angel Oak Park in 1991. The live oak is the principal evergreen oak in South Carolina. Although it is adapted to all of South Carolina, it favors conditions along the coast, where it grows wild. The full development of the live oak in this state can be expected only within the warm, humid environment of its natural range. This image was taken by Kathy Hare with a Canon EOS 7D 18 megapixel Digital SLR camera at f/4; 1/250 sec; ISO-640. Kathy is a former law enforcement officer, who now devotes her time to photography in Charleston. Her photographs are on permanent display throughout the grounds of Magnolia Plantation and Gardens and are sold in various Charleston gift shops. E-mail: kathyhare@comcast.net.

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