

# Beat Back Alien Invaders



One of the good guys:  
Carolina jessamine

**W**e haven't spotted any UFOs yet, but it's easy to find scary green aliens around our state. We're talking about invasive plants that threaten to choke out native vegetation. To identify both good and evil species, visit [www.namethatplant.net](http://www.namethatplant.net). This terrific new site features more than 2,400 plants and 7,800 photos. Webmaster Janie Marlow of Travelers Rest keeps adding more info in her quest to document the native plants of the Carolinas and Georgia. Check out the recommendations for using native plants in landscaping.

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## Taste of the South

We take pride in our state's signature foods: There's shrimp and grits, of course, as well as delectable May River oysters and pimiento cheese. Add to the list lotus chips, a crunchy, munchy sesame treat. You can make your own, but we recommend Lotus Chips from Jane Burns and Harriett Kinard of Greenwood. To order or find a retailer near you, visit [www.lotuschips.com](http://www.lotuschips.com).

## *Bop With the Best*

Top beach dancers from coast to coast boogie into Myrtle Beach this month for the 26th annual National Shag Dance Championship. The biggest swing event of the year sees competitors vying in finals scheduled for March 12-14. For ticket information visit [www.shagnationals.com](http://www.shagnationals.com).

## Honor a Hometown Hero

In challenging times, it's important to recognize those who give of themselves to make life better for all. Please tell us about someone whose generosity and dedication inspires and supports your community. We're looking for folks in towns large and small, from the Upstate to the Low-country. Send nominations, with a brief description and contact information, to [pat\\_wilens@timeinc.com](mailto:pat_wilens@timeinc.com). Candidates must be available for interview and photos.