

## The Farmer's Table

Written by Mark Shaffer

Wednesday, 07 October 2015 05:06

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***Bestselling Author/Designer James Farmer***



### ***Comes to the Lowcountry***

Interview by Mark Shaffer

Photos courtesy of James Farmer

Sea Island Garden Club brings internationally known lifestyle expert and author James Farmer to the Dataw Club Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. A native of Kathleen, Georgia, Farmer's authored a number of bestselling books including *A Time To*

*Plant, Sip & Savor, Porch Living, A Time to Cook,*  
*and Dinner on the Grounds*

. He is also an editor-at-large for

*Southern Living Magazine*

and has been featured on NBC TODAY, HGTV Gardens, Paula's Home Cooking, as well as in *Harper's Bazaar, Good Housekeeping Magazine*

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and

*Woman's Day*.

According to jamesfarmer.com his "love of Southern food and cooking have put him at the forefront of the garden-to-table lifestyle. James was taught as a young boy how to pull vegetables, herbs and flowers from the family farm and kitchen garden to provide much of the food, decor and flavor of his family's everyday life." I spoke to him by phone from his design and antique store in downtown Perry, Georgia.

Mark Shaffer: How did growing up in a small southern town influence your work?

James Farmer: I still live in that same small town where I grew up, so "influence" is a key word. It's very much the present tense. There's a charm that some small southern towns just portray naturally. The way we as southerners decorate our homes and entertain our families and friends is a natural extension of our personas. People like my mother and my grandmother – great entertainers – really set the bar for where I wanted to be.

MS: No one entertains like southerners.

JF: That's the truth.

MS: Why is that? What's different?

JF: I think we entertain and treat our guests as if they were family. My grandmother

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