



Master Gardener Thymes

www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

August 2009



ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, unless otherwise noted. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!!!

Upcoming Meetings!!

August 13: “Protecting Our Pollinators”
– Donna Boozer

To be held at Donna’s backyard Apiary @ Donna’s 311 Grange Rd., Greenwood

We will also be honoring Steve Odom for his years of continuous and loyal service through Clemson Extension to our Lakelands Master Gardener Program at this meeting. Everyone please try to attend and bring a “cool” appetizer or finger-food. Beverages will be provided.

(Directions: Traveling southwest from the Mall @ Hwy 25 and Hwy 72, you will cross over Mathis Rd., Calhoun Rd. and Old Abbeville Hwy. Turn left on Grange Rd. Donna’s driveway is less than ½ mile down Grange Rd, on the right side of the road. Her address is on her mailbox. Please bring your own lawn chair.

September 10: “Edible and Medicinal Wild Plants” – Dr. Jan Haldeman

Dr. Janice Haldeman, a native of Tampa, Florida, holds the B.S. from Rollins College in Winter Park,

Fla., the master’s degree in biology from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, and the Ph.D. in plant physiology from Clemson University. She has lived for 48 years in Due West, SC, where she taught biology at Erskine College from 1967 until her retirement in May 2002.

She continues to teach Botany part-time at Erskine, and for the past five years has directed the development of Erskine’s Pressly Heritage Garden. A member of the South Carolina Native Plant Society, Dr. Haldeman has a special interest in invasive plants and how they are affecting diversity of plants in the southeast. Dr. Haldeman is married to Richard Haldeman, retired director of public relations at Erskine College, and they have three adult children and two grandchildren.

Whether you live in a rural or urban setting, common wild edible and medicinal plants are often readily available. Common lawn plants including dandelion, broad leaf plantain, clovers, as well as oak, dogwood and pine trees have a long tradition of medicinal and food uses. We’ll have a scavenger hunt to locate plants and find answers to questions about them at selected sites. Teams may compete to find plants and information! We’ll also discuss some current and past uses of plants for survival as well as precautions for medicinal and food uses of wild plants. Resources including recipes and formulas for producing foods and medicines will be provided.

We will gather for an introduction on the first floor, of Erskine’s Daniel Moultrie Science Center in Room 148. The building is located at the corner of Bonner and Wightman Streets in Due West.

(Directions: When coming to Due West on Hwy20/185, turn left at the stop sign on to Main Street. Go one block to Bonner Street and turn left <Just beyond Pavin Gas Station>).

Proceed down Bonner and counting the corner building, the Science Center is the fifth building on the right. There is parking along the street near the Bowie Arts Center, and there is a large parking lot on the left if you turn right down Wightman Street just beyond the Science Center.

Weather permitting, we will move to the outdoor classroom in Erskine's Pressly Garden for the program.

**October 8: "Host Plants for South Carolina Butterflies" – Anne Marie Glawe
(To be held at the Roots and Shoots Garden @ Oakland Elementary School)**

A native of Wisconsin, she moved to the South Atlanta, Georgia area in 1990 where she and her husband, Troy, raised their two daughters. She began using butterflies in her teaching while in Georgia. She has won awards in teaching, including Elementary Science Teacher of the Year, Gifted Teacher in the Classroom and Walmart Teacher of the Year. She traveled to Mexico in pursuit of Monarch Butterflies with other scientists and teachers with the "Monarchs Across Georgia Group".

Ann Marie and her family have lived at Lake Greenwood since 2004 and cherish their home and all the native species around them. They enjoy being a part of the Greenwood community.

She has currently been teaching 2nd grade at Pinecrest Elementary and helps Mary Van Ellenberg in the Pinecrest Fence Garden where they have planted Asclepias, Fennel and many other plants for butterfly gardening and observation. However, "Hot off the Press", Ann Marie has just informed me that she has been transferred to Springfield Elementary School where she will be teaching the Gifted and Talented. Congratulations Anne Marie!!

Don't miss this presentation because Anne Marie has all sorts of surprises in store for us!

**November 12: Live Wreath Workshop –
Judy Sieckman
(To be held at Lakelands Nursery)**

For our November meeting, Judy Sieckman will lead us in a Make-and-Take workshop. We will be making Living Wreaths of pansies and violas.

These can be hung outside and can be given as gifts or used in your holiday decorating. The wreaths are constructed of good quality wire with feet to hold it out from the surface. They come already stuffed with spagnum moss and can be replanted as the season changes. For those who want to make a wreath the charge will be a \$20 to cover the cost of the wreath and the plant plugs. Participants will need to bring something such as a dibble for poking planting holes and gloves if you are sensitive to moss. We will need to have the names of those who plan to make a wreath and their \$20 no later than the ***September** general meeting. Of course, there is no charge for watching!

Because we have had such a **great response to this workshop (17 people have already signed up) and the fact that our Wreath and Plug suppliers only need a few weeks lead time, Judy has decided to extend the deadline.*

December 10: Annual Christmas Party

To be held at St. Mark's Methodist Church
Social Hall
(Details to be announced)

**Extension and Master Gardener Changes in
Location: August 2009**

Extension has completed the move of our office locations from Park Plaza and the Greenwood Mall. After nearly ten years at the Mall we decided it was time to close the site because of tight budgets and the upcoming loss of extension part time staffers Steve Odom, Kay Gregory and Linda Carroll at the end of August. Thanks to all those who helped with the move from the Mall. Visits to the Mall office had actually been up so it unfortunate that we needed to make this move.

Fortunately, our East Cambridge office site does have space available to house a portion of our Master Gardener equipment and library. With the help of Vince Plotczyk we have set up an office for our Master Gardeners to work from. We had room for our computer (now high speed internet), a smaller version of our library and hort. resource collection. Our plans are to utilize this on Thursdays and Fridays as we did at the mall. Vince has begun to come in at various times Thursdays and Fridays to handle calls and analyze problems. Let me know if you are interested. We hope that others will consider working in the office at times too. After August 31st we will have a much smaller staff at the new office and Master Gardeners are needed to answer calls and take questions at other times of the week. Once we get our office arrangements finished up and the new Master Gardener class started I will hold several continuing education short programs on taking calls, gathering information and analyzing problems for Master Gardener volunteers. .

Our next Master Gardener class is taking shape. We had excellent response when our Education committee members called people on the waiting list. In fact, I am worried that we have more people interested than space available. This is great considering our present economy. Our Introductory and signup meeting will be held on August 4th at 6:00PM at our new office location. Classes are scheduled to begin August 18th and will be held from 6-9 PM on Tuesday nights again this year. Helen Spiller will begin to set up a volunteer schedule for these classes for those interested.

I may offer a short set of Hort. 101 (3-5 topics) for those prospective new class members who don't want to take a full class or are reluctant to commit to volunteer hours this fall. I am working on a format which is likely to be 1-2 hour session on topics such as vegetable growing, short version of landscape design and establishment, pruning, lawn care and a few other topics. These will be fee based at (\$15-20) each. These would be open to anyone.

Directions to the Extension Office

Several people have asked, "Where are you located". Our official address is 105 North University St. in Greenwood. Physically we are located at the corner of East Cambridge (700

Block) and North University Street. This is part of the old Brewer School facility. From the Bypass south of BiLo take East Cambridge Avenue toward downtown at Jerry's Produce. We are 2-3 blocks down East Cambridge headed toward Downtown on the right. Go by East End Elementary School and North University is the second street on the right. The converted school classroom is the first building on the left as you travel on North University Street. The parking lot is newly paved and our Clemson Extension sign is on the side of our brick building. Our **new phone number is 223-3264.**

James

Community Projects Committee

The topiary project for the Festival of Flowers is now history. Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a success. You volunteered your time selflessly.

The jeep was a big attraction for the visitors for the Flower Festival as well as the Festival of Discovery.

Please make sure that you turn in all of your hours that you volunteered on every project that you worked with. It is important. It's not just for your required Master Gardener hours.

Future projects will be announced later.

If you have any projects that you would like to present, please let me know. My e-mail address is cksnipies@embarqmail.com or you can call me at 223-0168. My home address is 210 Heathwood Drive, Greenwood, SC 29649.

Chris Snipes

Sandy's Corner

Where in the World is the New Master Gardener Office?

Have you gone over to the Greenwood Mall looking for the Master Gardeners? If so, you'll see an empty building. Our office is now located at the Old Brewer Complex along with the rest of the Clemson Extension staff. I'll give you directions to the new location beginning at the main entrance to

Lander University on Montague Avenue as if you were going toward Uptown Greenwood. At the next red light you will turn LEFT onto Cambridge Avenue. (This is the intersection just past St. Andrews Church where the Rite Aid is on the Right.) Continue on Cambridge passing Main Street Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church on the right and further on the left, National Healthcare. Continue on, crossing over railroad tracks. Approximately ½ mile after you cross over the railroad tracks you will see the Brewer Complex on the LEFT. Just past the school, turn LEFT onto N. University St. Turn LEFT into the first parking lot and you will see a Clemson Extension sign on the door to the far LEFT. Upon entering, the Clemson office is through the first door to the LEFT. Please plug the new number 223-3264 into your cell phone in case you get lost. By the way, if you come to the intersection of Cambridge and the 72 Bypass where Jerry's Produce is on the corner you missed the turn. Good Luck!!

Living Wreath Workshop

For our November meeting, Judy Sieckman will lead us in a Make-and-Take workshop. We will be making Living Wreaths of pansies and violas. These can be hung outside, or used in your holiday decorating. For our men in the group, this is just planting in a circle and will be a great gift to give your wife. They come already stuffed with sphagnum moss and can be replanted as the season changes. The charge for the workshop will be a \$20.00 to cover the cost of the wreath and the plant plugs. Of course, there is no charge for watching.

If you are interested in this program, please contact Judy Sieckman at lensieckman@embarqmail.com or give her a call at 223-2671 to sign up. The **deadline for sign-up and payment will be September 10. Please make checks payable to Lakelands Master Gardeners and mail to Judy at 156 Woodridge Road, Greenwood, SC 29646.**

The meeting will be held at Lakelands Nursery at 6:30 on Nov. 12.

Participants will need to bring something such as a dibble for poking planting holes and gloves if you are sensitive to moss.

Worm Castings

If you ordered and paid for worm castings but were unable to pick them up on June 11, please contact Sandy Stachurski at drglenn7@embarqmail.com or call 229-7444 office, 227-2769 home or 554-1235 cell.

Fall Vegetable Container Garden Project

We have an exciting new project in the making for fall. We will offer a mini-seminar on vegetable container gardening to members of our local community. As Master Gardeners it is our responsibility to share our knowledge of gardening with others. Many folks may not realize they can grow their own food; we are taking the challenge to help. Gil Sampson at Doris' Greenhouse has agreed to germinate and maintain our vegetable seeds. We will need volunteers to help transplant the seedlings prior to the event. We also need folks to teach our fellow community members how to plant, maintain and harvest the container. If you don't feel qualified yet, don't worry...we will have one person train the trainers, prior to the event, so everyone is giving the same information to all participants. We will also need volunteers to help promote and secure interested individuals. Since we have moved, the event will take place in mid September at the Old Brewer Building. The Lakelands Master Gardeners will be supplying containers, soil and plants to community members. They will just need the enthusiasm to learn. Thanks to Rebecca McClain at Lakelands Nursery for helping in the purchase of the containers. If you are interested in any part of this project, please contact Sandy Stachurski at drglenn7@embarqmail.com or call 229-7444 office, 227-2769 home or 554-1235 cell. If you don't contact me, I may be calling asking for your assistance. Why not just pick up the phone and call me now and let me know I can count on you?

Rain Garden at the Brewer Complex

Keep an eye on your emails and newsletters for information on the upcoming Rain Garden project at the Brewer Complex. You won't want to miss out on this exciting educational project.

Reporting Volunteer Hours

Recently you received a message about submitting volunteer hours on line. Since there are some administrative transitions going on this fall, we've

decided to continue sending our hours to Linda Halsey at harlseyfarm@gogenesis.com or mail to her at PO Box 82, Hodges, SC 29653 to avoid any confusion. Please go ahead and send your hours to Linda now so she can update her records.

New Officers/Committee Chairs and Members

It is almost that time of year when we'll begin looking for new officers and committee chairs and members. If you are interested in serving our association in a specific area, please let Sandy Stachurski know. Contact information is drglenn7@embarqmail.com 229-7444 office, 227-2769 home or 554-1235 cell.

A Visitor Came to Breakfast Vincent Plotczyk

Early one morning I was looking out my window checking on my garden when I noticed that some of the leaves on the top of one of my tomato plants had disappeared (See fig. 1). This immediately got my attention and off I went to investigate what had happened.



(Fig.1) Photo by Vincent Plotczyk

Once I got to the plant, I immediately started to look the tomato plant over. While checking the plant I found a hornworm (See fig. 2). This gave me the idea for a newsletter article on hornworms for the Master Gardener Newsletter.



(Fig.2) Photo by Vincent Plotczyk

There are two common types of hornworms, tomato and tobacco hornworms. At the larval stage the hornworm is a 3 1/2 to 4 inch long pale green caterpillar. The larva feeds on leaves, stems and fruit of tomato plants. The hornworm will not bore into the fruit but will feed on the surface leaving large, open scars. Loss of leaves is more common than fruit damage. Hornworms will also feed on tobacco, eggplant and pepper. Hornworms can eat 4 times their weight in food.

The pale green color of the hornworm helps them blend in well with the vegetation so you will have to look carefully to find the hornworm. The tobacco hornworm has 7 diagonal white stripes and a red horn. The tomato hornworm has V shaped markings and a black horn. There are two generations a year.

While working on this article I was sent by e-mail a picture for identification.

The picture is a hornworm being parasitized by wasp larva (See fig. 3).

The Brachonid wasp is one of the most common insects to parasitize the hornworm.



(Fig. 3) Photo by Dr. George Wilson
Photo used with permission.

If found like this, leave the hornworm alone. The wasps will kill the hornworm when they emerge from the cocoons. The Brachonid wasp is a beneficial insect which can provide a source of biological control. Some other effective control methods for the home garden are handpicking and insecticides. Rototilling the soil after harvest may destroy any pupae that may be overwintering there.

Sources:

University of Wisconsin Extension
Kansas State University Research and Extension
Judy Sedbrook, Colorado State University
Cooperative Extension

Interesting Fall Spiders

Submitted by James Hodges

Spider populations and the size of individual spiders peak at this time of year. Food is readily available as the insect populations tend to be high for many species as summer winds down. One interesting spider, if you think any spiders are interesting, is the banana spider. If you visit the woods or pastures during this time of year you will very likely run into some of these large web builders. You may even experience them in your suburban backyard at times.

It is not a pleasant experience to be covered with a large section of spider web, not knowing whether the owner is on you or not. These large, long legged, bright yellow and black spiders look dangerous, but are not poisonous. They are feeding heavily on all those flies, mosquitoes and moths that have been pestering you and your plants all season.

I don't recommend killing these biological insect controls, but I always take a stick with me in the woods this time of year. NO, not to hit the spiders with, but to swing in front of me as I walk so that I don't run into a face full of web.

At home, I have had occasional contests with spiders. I have battled determined spiders that are sure that my path to the backyard through several trees is their hunting site. Webs are quickly rebuilt overnight after I clear my path each day. I clear them away as needed and put up with the hassle and take advantage of their insect control methods. As cool weather arrives the number of spiders will decline.

Do be cautious working in your landscape plants and hardscape areas this time of year because there are more poisonous black widow spiders lurking. They tend to hide more under heavy foliage, dead grass, piles of plant debris, stacks of wood or branches and piles of stone. Good work gloves and a caution are recommended when working this time of year. Use care when lifting, carrying or moving materials in the yard too.

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