



# Master Gardener Thymes

[www.lakelandsmastergardener.org](http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org)

December 2009



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

## Sandy's Corner

**Ed. Note: The following announcements are repeated from previous newsletters as reminders. If anyone has updated information, please send it to me and I will pass it on. Thanks.**

**ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH at 6:30, unless otherwise noted. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!!!**

## Upcoming Meetings!!

### **December 10: Annual Christmas Party**

To be held at St. Mark's Methodist Church Social Hall

The Lakelands Master Gardeners will have their annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 10 at 6:30 at the St. Marks Methodist Church old social hall. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share. Also, please RSVP to Evie Galloway if you plan to attend and indicate the number of people attending. Her email is [evelynalloway@msn.com](mailto:evelynalloway@msn.com) and phone number is 223-3666. This year we will not be having a gift exchange. If you have any questions, call Evie.

**Location needed for our January 14, 2010 graduation/awards banquet.** This is an eating meeting so a kitchen would be helpful. We always have a terrific crowd too, so please keep that in mind. If you have a place available, please contact Sandy Stachurski [drglenn7@embarqmail.com](mailto:drglenn7@embarqmail.com) or call 229-7444 office, 227-2769 home or cell 554-1235. Thanks

**Ed. Note: As far as I know, we still don't have a place for the banquet. If I find out differently, I'll let you know.**

### **Officers and Board Members for 2010**

We will be nominating members to serve as Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested in serving in one of these capacities, please give your name to a current board member. The current board consists of Sandy Stachurski, Uma Sridharan, Julee Marshall, Louise Powell and Susu Wallace.

According to our by-laws, the **Vice-President** will serve a 3-year term, with the first year as Vice-President, the second year as President, and the third year as Past President. The Vice-President will preside at meetings in the absence of the President.

The **Treasurer** will serve a 2-year term. The Treasurer will collect dues and other authorized contributions, maintain financial records, report the status of the treasury to the membership, and expend funds as authorized by the Board of Directors.

The **Secretary** will serve a 2-year term. The Secretary will record and report minutes of all meetings and handle any necessary correspondence.

### **Committee Chairs for 2010**

It is time to fill our chair positions on committees also. Board Members are in the process of contacting chairs for 2009 to see if they would still like to chair for 2010. To date, these are the committee and chairs that have agreed. If you are

interested in filling an open position, please contact a board member.

**Community Projects:**

**Education:** Helen Spiller

**Finance/Fundraising:** John Wham

**Phone:**

**Membership:**

**Newsletter:** Jean Anderson

**Programs/Speakers:** Catherine Swindell

**Public Relations:**

**Social Activities:**

**Web Site:** Chuck Bender

### Master Gardener of the Year for 2009

Do you have somebody in mind that you would like to nominate for Master Gardener of the Year? In the past, the board has made the decision for this prestigious award but this year every single Master Gardener will have the opportunity to choose a person they think has gone above and beyond the Master Gardener "call of duty." A written nomination for the person must be sent to our Secretary, Susu Wallace via email [susuwallace@embarqmail.com](mailto:susuwallace@embarqmail.com) or snail mail 523 E. Creswell Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646.

Any Master Gardener is a possibility with the exception of the current President. The current President is not eligible to be nominated or receive this award. There are some requirements that the nominee must meet. A person must participate in most of the different activities sponsored by the Master Gardeners over the past year. Some of the activities include but are not limited to: our plant sale, our social activities, the Festival of Flowers, Railroad Historical Center, planting daffodils, Old Brewer Sign Project, Fall Container Garden Project, and Hospice Tree. Don't forget about our Master Gardeners who share their knowledge with the community by presenting horticulture information to groups of adults or children. The person must attend most of our regular monthly meetings and they must continue to participate in activities year after year.

This award will be presented at the Clemson Extension Annual Meeting which is usually held in March. All nominations **MUST** be received by Susu before midnight of **December 31, 2009**. The

nominations will be published for everyone to review and voting will take place and be completed by February 11, 2010.

## DUES ARE DUE

Yes, we know it is early. But, all dues for 2010 will need to be paid in full before December 31, 2009. Dues can be paid to **Louise Powell** at general meetings or mail them to her at **107 Crestview Drive, Greenwood, SC 29649**.

If you are in the new class, your tuition covers dues for 2009, but you will be responsible to pay the 2010 dues.

Please keep in mind, if your dues are not paid by the **December 31, 2009 deadline** your name will not appear in the directory, nor will you receive any newsletters. We thank you in advance for your participation.

59 years old and under	\$15.00
60+ years old	\$10.00
Married couples 59 and under	\$20.00
Married couples 60+	\$15.00
Lifetime Membership	\$125.00

## Wanted:

Our Greenwood Beautification Commission needs new members. This committee meets about 5-7 times per year on Tuesday afternoons from 4-5 PM and judges the Clean campus contest in the school districts.

We especially need someone in the Ninety Six area. Contact me if you might be interested.

I will begin to do some training exercises for our Master Gardener office volunteers as we wind down the new class. Let me know if you are interested in helping at our office in the future.

James F. Hodges

Greenwood County Extension

223-3264 X 116

October 30, 2009

## Carolina Fence Garden

The Boonesborough township historical society funded and engaged us to build a Carolina Fence Garden. The garden is beginning to look like a garden. A great and beautiful fence was constructed by Dan Hershberger. 17 different plants have been planted, with support by Rebecca of Lakeland's nursery. A river stone path, bird houses, wood and stone pile are in the making.

My thank you to Dr. Jan Haldeman and Dan Hershberger for all their hands on support over the last few months.

Susanne Bender

Sonnenhof@wctel.net

Email me if you have any Questions Susi

### Railroad Historical Center Workday – November, 2009

A group of 10 Master Gardeners and volunteers worked last month for a total of over 26 hours to get the gardens at the Railroad Historical Center (RRHC) ready for the winter. The group included Mary Woodiwiss, Vincent Plotczyk, Melody McInville, Sarah Carroll, Anita Herzsprung and her grandson – Daniel Hering, Sarah Sowell, Charlotte Cabri, Klaus Neubner and Sandra Johnson. The weather was perfect for a Saturday morning of gardening.

The team picked up limbs, pruned shrubs, raked, cleared walkways, etc. The RRHC will reopen in April 2010 each Saturday from 10 until 4. Great job, volunteers!!! Thanks to all!



## Gardening in a Jar

From a newsletter from Mike McGroaty  
*submitted by Susanne Bender*

### How to Grow Sprouts

When the cold winter wind howls outside and our gardens are fast asleep, gardeners may still crave crisp, fresh greens. Satisfy those cravings by growing your own sprouts. All you need is a wide-mouth glass jar and some seeds, and you can be putting fresh greens on your table all year round.

To grow your own sprouts, first start with good quality seeds. Always purchase untreated seeds for sprouting. Do not buy the little packets of seeds sold in racks at the hardware store as these have often been treated with chemicals to prevent fungus. Instead, look for untreated or organic seeds that are offered by many seed catalogs these days, or buy organic beans and seeds at the local health food store. If you're lucky, you'll find seeds sold especially for sprouting.

Start by sprouting a small amount of seeds until you determine how many sprouts you will eat in a week. A quarter cup of seeds generally yields about two cups of sprouts.

Place your seeds in a wide-mouth glass jar, then cover the seeds with water and allow them to soak overnight, about eight hours. This will begin to soften the seeds and help them to germinate. Once they are soaked, skim off any seeds that are floating. Floating seeds generally don't sprout.

Cover the jar with a fine mesh screen or several layers of cheesecloth and strain off as much of the soaking water as you can. Then give the jar a shake to evenly distribute the seeds within it.

With the mesh or cheesecloth still over the mouth of the jar, place the jar on its side within a bowl or on a plate, keeping it tipped at a slight angle so any excess water can safely drip out. Keep the jar out of direct sunlight but in a place where it will receive bright light, unless you are sprouting mung beans. Mung bean sprouts need to be kept in the dark or they will become bitter.

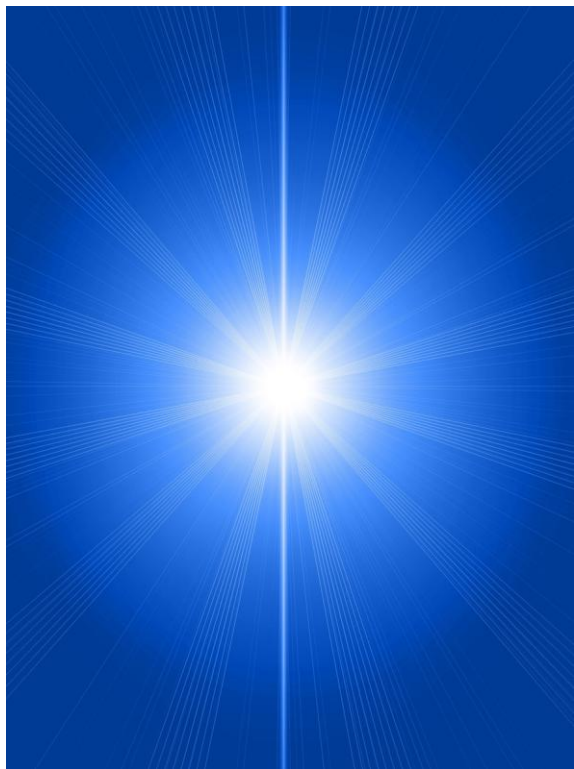
Rinse the sprouting seeds twice a day by filling the jar with water, swirling it around a bit, and draining off the water. Within four to six days, the sprouts will be ready to eat.

Store the sprouts in the refrigerator within their sprouting jar. Replace the mesh screen or cheesecloth with the jar's original lid. Your homegrown sprouts can remain fresh for a week if stored properly in the refrigerator.

For more details on how to grow a variety of tasty sprouts, visit <http://freeplants.com/gardening-in-jar.h>

Have a great week, and as always, stay inspired!  
-Mike McGroarty

McGroarty Enterprises Inc.  
P.O. Box 338  
Perry, Ohio 44081, USA



*Christmas Blessings to Everyone!*

## Syrphid Fly

Vincent Plotczyk



Syrphid flies also called hover flies or flower flies resemble bees or wasps.

The flies are from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long and most are black or brown with yellow banded abdomens and body markings. The syrphid flies are able to hover in flight. The larvae feed on aphids, small caterpillars and thrips. Each larvae can consume up to 400 aphids during development. The adults feed on plant nectar, honey dew, and pollen.

Most syrphids are considered beneficial because at the larval stage they are predators of aphids and at the adult stage they pollinate flowers. Three to seven generations of syrphid flies occur each year.

### Sources:

University of Wyoming  
Texas AgriLIFE EXTENSION

***One last editor's note: This newsletter is short because everyone is too busy at this time of year to write for the newsletter. A SPECIAL thanks to those who did contribute! Remember, there will be no newsletter at the first of the year, but get articles in for the first of February. Any updates sent to me, I will forward via e-mail.***