



Master Gardener Thymes

WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

December 2014

President's Message

By Sandy Orr



Our November meeting featured permaculture speaker Eliza Lord, who used slides to educate us about hugelkultur and herb spirals. She also presented Geoff Lawton's brief YouTube video "Greening the Desert". This video is the hook that draws multitudes to the permaculture ethos. It's exciting to see a barren wasteland transformed to productive tilth, to the point that mushrooms grow in once-desert conditions.

Eliza is teaching bi-weekly courses on varied topics related to Urban Farming at Swamp Rabbit Café in

Greenville. Reservations can be made on Eliza's website, appalachianfeet.com. I'm attending her Southeastern seeds talk to learn what some of the best vegetable varieties are for our region. I hear there is a sweet potato with edible leaves that taste like spinach.

We had another propagation clinic with the City. Our own propagation expert Renea Sprowl had eight of us sticking *Alternanthera* and sedum for the topiaries. Besides the requirement of frequent misting, I learned that the specialized soilless rooting mix must never totally dry out, or it will resist re-wetting.

CHRISTMAS IS HERE!!! Our annual Christmas social will be Thursday Dec. 11, at 6:30 at Greenwood Metro District. The food is always great because we bring potluck. Make your reservation with Susanne Blumer. You should have received your invite by now. The flyer in the newsletter includes details for contacting her. Those of us on the Social Committee should contact Susanne to reassure her that she has help on the day.

If you've neglected to re-up your membership in LMG, please take this opportunity to send \$20 to Melody McInville at 345 Klugh Rd., Abbeville, SC 29620, or bring it to the Christmas Party so that you can continue to enjoy membership benefits in 2015.

Be sure to send your year-end hours to Linda Halsey ASAP, as she wants them now, instead of Dec. 31st. It's always fun to review the year in Christmas party slides to see how we earned all those hours. See you Dec. 11th.

Dates to Remember:

- DECEMBER 5TH ARBOR DAY USC UPSTATE [HTTP://WWW.USCUPSTATE.EDU/ARBORDAY/](http://WWW.USCUPSTATE.EDU/ARBORDAY/) 10:00 AM
- DECEMBER 11TH HOLIDAY SOCIAL GMD 6:30 PM SEE FLYER
- FEBRUARY 28TH JOY OF GARDENING SYMPOSIUM <http://symposium.yorkmg.org/program>
- TIMES AND LOCATIONS WILL BE POSTED WHEN EVENTS ARE CLOSER. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE EVENTS IN 2015

The Lakelands Master Gardeners Association is a volunteer organization made up of Master Gardeners from Abbeville and Greenwood Counties in SC.

Membership (form p. 6) Hours form attached



'Tis the season to turn in your hours. This quarter they are due on **December 6th**. Any submissions after that date will be rolled into the next quarter. We are looking forward to a productive quarter! Compiled for you below is a list of questions to induce your hour tallying skills!

1. What **HOURS** have I accumulated through: helping neighbors, taking classes, teaching friends, or volunteering?
2. Which friends and **CONTACTS** received that information?
3. How many **MILES** did I drive this month: to and from classes or to volunteer?

Thank you to all those who have already sent in your hours for this quarter, it is appreciated!

If you have any questions you can call or text me at [864-378-8496](tel:864-378-8496) or call my home phone at [864-374-7253](tel:864-374-7253). Emails are also welcome at halseyfarm@embarqmail.com.

Wishing you all a Merry **Christmas**,
Linda Halsey

The mission of the Lakelands Master Gardeners, in association with the Greenwood County Clemson Extension office, is to extend to the public research-based education, horticultural programs and activities that enhance our environment, lives and community.

Weeds or Wildflowers?

By Janet Ledebuhr

Last month's answers—



Plant 'A'- woody stems, blooms in August, simple leaf arrangement **Hypericum hypericoides** St. Andrew's Cross



Plant 'B' - vine, blooms in late summer, compound leaves— **Apios Americana** Ground Nut

See if you can ID the following wildflowers-



Plant "C"- blooms in May, compound leaf, pea like bloom



Plant "D"- blooms compound leaves, thorny trunk

Plant IDs can be made online at namethatplant.net

Send your guesses to thequeenofseaford@gmail.com



Many of the Master Gardeners are participating in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow reporting. This is a citizen volunteer program to report your precipitation amounts. The reporting area is not just the United States but Canada and just recently Puerto Rico is also joining the ranks. To participate you just order their rain gauge (they like uniform measuring instruments) and then report your precipitation between the hours of 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM. On your way out the door and can't get to your computer before 9:00? They have apps for Android and Apple smart phones.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/>

Each month I will share some of our local stations' rain fall amounts— like they say— rain doesn't fall the same in every location!

Nov. 1– 30, 2014

SC-GW-15	3.54 inches
SC-AB-4	4.39 inches
SC-GW-20	3.01 inches
SC-GW-13	3.53 inches
SC-GW-14	4.34 inches

Think about joining!!



Have you joined? Send me your station number so it can be included.

FREE GYPSUM FOR THE TAKING - Sandy Orr



I have used bulk gypsum from the Greenwood Coop to soften my ground to build raised beds. I usually wet the ground, sprinkle the gypsum, cover it with wet cardboard and mulch over it. Well....Isn't wallboard simply gypsum sealed between two flimsy cardboard layers? Doesn't wallboard fill construction site dumpsters? I was inspired by permaculture which advocates creative use of all your resources. On my morning dog walk, I spied on three construction sites to anticipate their disposal of wallboard waste. With the crew's permission I loaded up several wheelbarrows with wallboard pieces and trundled home.

I have a red clay hillside that I can't get a spade into. Naturally I took a soil sample before doing anything crazy. It came back that there was not excess calcium. (Although, my veggie plot was way off the calcium scale, so no wallboard for you). I waited for a rain and spread out the slabs of wallboard. I watered it and covered it with compost. It has been two weeks and it is beginning to break down, because I took a shovel and cracked the wallboard in many places. Subsequent rain is helping melt

the hard white gypsum filling. I only hope significant incorporation occurs before the mowers start running in the spring. I'll report back to you on the softening that hopefully will occur.

I met one of the new neighbors at a party the other night. They indicated that they'd seen me trundling my wheelbarrow down the road with their wallboard. Now all I need is an old grocery cart with a cardboard box in it to complete the homeless picture.

WELCOME TO THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENERS

Graduates 2014 Class



Class from left front to Right front row:

Fred Botts, Donnie Alford, Sue Carson, Jim Andrighetti, Trey Starling, Barbara Wells

Second Row from left

James Hodges, extension agent, Scott Prevatte, Ken Claphan, Marla Starling

Nine students have completed class and taken final exam. Two more still have to take the exam.

ROOT PROPAGATION OF CARDOONS

by Renea Sprowl and Ann Barklow
City of Greenwood Horticulturists



Cardoon is an architectural splendor with bold grey texture and a statuesque, vase-shaped frame. It is topped with round, purple, thistle like flowers in summer that can be cut and used in dry arrangements. This picture was taken at the corner of Monument and Maxwell.

Cardoon can reach up to 5 feet tall and 4 feet wide.

This is the perfect time to try your hand at root propagation. For some woody plants and perennials this is done between November and February when the plant is dormant. By this time much of it's energy reserves are stored in the roots and the plant will experience less stress since it isn't actively growing. Believe it or not, root propagation is one of the most economical and reliable ways to propagate woody ornamentals and perennials.

Because the germination rate from seeds of Cardoons is so low and the prickly task to get to the seeds is unpleasant, Renea and I set out to do some root cuttings because, to be honest, it is extremely easy and in only four easy steps.

First: Carefully dig on one side of the Cardoon near the base to find some nice fleshy roots. It is recommended to use pencil size roots but Renea and I only found thumb size



Carefully dig on one side



Examine and cut roots

Second: Thoroughly examine the roots and make sure they are healthy, fleshy, and living and that they don't belong to any surrounding plants. Keep track of the "up" and "down" of the root. The "up" end is the one closest to the parent plant. The "down" end is the tip furthest down into the soil. To keep track cut a flat cut on the end closest to the plant and a slanted cut at the other end.

Continued page 5

Third: Trim your roots into 2-3" pieces. Remember to use the straight cut for the end that was closest to the plant and slanted cut for the other. **They won't root upside down.** Use a deep pot to plant the roots in. We used a 4" pot so it would dry out faster. Any larger would hold water longer and might rot the root. You can dip the slanted end in sulfur and add a little sand in the bottom of the hole to control fungi and help keep the roots from rotting. We decided to live dangerously and bypassed this step but will be careful to not over water.

Fourth: Plant the roots in moist potting soil slanted end down. We used a germinating mix. The slanted cut end goes into the potting soil and the straight horizontal cut is just below the surface.

Be careful not to over water and protect from frost.

In three to four weeks they should have roots and when sprouts appear you can start fertilizing. Once they are established they can be potted up or put out in the landscape protecting them from freezing weather.

Note: Variegated plants cannot be propagated this way because they will not have variegation. Also, grafted plants cannot be propagated by roots since it is the upper graft that is the desirable part.

For more plants that you can take root cuttings visit [this page](http://www.weekendgardener.net/plant-propagation/rootcuttings-120812.htm). (http://www.weekendgardener.net/plant-propagation/rootcuttings-120812.htm)



List of Plants For Root Cuttings:

Woody Plants

Angel's Trumpet (Brugmansia)
Crabapple (Malus)
Crape Myrtle (Lagerstroemia)
Figs (Ficus carica)
Glory bowers (Clerodendrum)
Hydrangeas (Hydrangea spp.)
Japanese Aralia (Fatsia)
Lilacs (Syringa vulgaris)
Mock oranges (Philadelphus coronarius)
Oregon grapehollies (Mahonia aquifolium)
Poplar (Populus)
Pussy willow (Salix discolor)
Raspberry and Blackberry (Rubus spp.)
Red and yellow twig dogwoods (Cornus stolonifera)
Rose of Sharons (Hibiscus syriacus)
Roses, nongrafted types (Rosa spp.)
Snowball bush (Viburnum)
St.John's-wort (Hypericum)
Sumac (Rhus typhina)
Trumpet vine (Campsis radicans)
Weeping willow (Salix babylonica)
Wisteria
Yucca

Perennial Plants

Aster
Anchusia Italica (Related to Forget-me-not)
Barrenworts (Epimedium spp.)
Bear's breeches (Acanthus mollis)
Bellflower(Campanula)
Blanket Flower (Gaillardia)
Blue stars (Amsonia spp.)
Cardoon (Cynara cardunculus)
Colewort (Crambe cordifolia)
Comfrees (Symphytum spp.)
Cranesbill (Erodium)
Epimediums (all do well)
False sunflower (Heliopsis helianthoides)
Garden phloxes (Phlox paniculata)
Gernaium (Gernaium spp.)
Globe Thistle (Echniops)
Hollyhocks (Alcea rosea)
Horseradish (Brassicaceae)
Japanese anemones (Anemone X hybrida)
Japanese aster (Kalimeris pinnatifida)
Joe Pye weed (Eupatorium fistulosum)
Matilija poppy (Romneya)
Oriental poppies (Papaver orientale)
Pasque flowers (Pulsatilla spp.)
Primrose (Primula)
Rhubarb
Sage (Salvia spp.)
Sea hollies (Eryngium planum)
Sea Kale (Crambe maritima)
Statice (Limonium spp.)
Yarrow (Achillea)

Check one: Renewal New Member/Transfer

Please renew your MG membership by completing this form and paying your dues for the coming year. Members who pay dues by October 31st will be included in the Lakelands Master Gardener Association Membership Directory and will receive uninterrupted membership benefits. Lifetime Members please update your contact info and indicate your interests for the coming year.

Master Gardener Membership Dues: (Select your Membership Category by checking)

Individual \$20

Make your check payable to Lakelands Master Gardener Organization (LMGO) and mail to:

Melody McInville
345 Klugh Rd.
Abbeville, SC 29620

Membership dues are due by October 31st of each year.

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Phone# - Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Year Graduated MG Program: _____ Transfer? (Y/N) _____ From: _____

- Check here if you do **not** wish to be listed in the directory.
- Special Instructions for publishing personal data in directory:

Please indicate the committee(s) you are interested in working with: (Number from most important to least important)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ Community Projects | _____ Membership | _____ Public Relations |
| _____ Education | _____ Clemson Ext office | _____ Web Site |
| _____ Face Book Page | _____ Newsletter | _____ Social Activities |
| _____ Fund Raising | _____ Programs & Speakers | _____ FOF Topiary work |
| _____ Phone | _____ Public Relations | |

Suggested topics/activities for the meetings or continuing education: _____



Lakelands Master Gardeners

Christmas Social

Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 6:30 pm

Greenwood Metropolitan District

Emmett F. Brooks Facility

110 Metro Drive, Greenwood

Drinks will be provided.

Please bring a Main Dish, Side Dish, Appetizer, Salad or Dessert

You may RSVP your attendance & Dish Selection through the online Evite, email to susanne@huckfarm.com or by calling

Susanne Blumer at 554-3651.



www.lakelandsmastergardener.org



Shutterfly - <http://lakelandsmastergardeners.shutterfly.com>

Clemson Cooperative Extension Office– Greenwood– 864-223-3264

Don't forget the photos from our Christmas social and other LMG events are on our Shutterfly page. (see link above) You can leave comments or download photos from the Shutterfly page. The password has been sent in the email with this newsletter attached.

LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENERS

Lakelands Master Gardener Name Badge Order Form

Master Gardener Information			
Last Name		First Name	
Mailing Address			
City		Zip Code	
Home ()	Cell ()	Other ()	
e-mail address			
For Office Use Only	Received	Confirmation	Delivered

Orders are filled upon receipt of order form. There is no deadline to send money and form to Chuck. Please *Print* Information the way you would like it to appear on your name badge

Cost: \$10/badge
Cash or Check accepted
Make Checks payable to: Lakelands Master Gardeners
Remit Payment and Order Form together to:
Melody McInville
345 Klugh Rd
Abbeville, SC 29620



☹ **Missing a newsletter?** Looking for an earlier edition? All of our newsletters can be found at our website at— <http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/newslet2014.html>

THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2012

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| President – Sandy Orr | and Ann Barklow | Olivia Reynolds |
| Vice President – Donna Feldmaier | Finance and Fund Raising – | FB – Ann Barklow |
| Treasurer – Melody McInville | Cyndy Aaron (| Web – Chuck Bender |
| Secretary – Steve Tabor | Membership – Betsy Russ | Social – Susanne Blumer |
| Past President - Ann Barklow | Co chair -Linda Halsey (hours) | Office - Vince Plotczyk |
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| Community Projects – Jimmy McInville and Sue Monaghan | Programs and Speakers – Bill Aaron | |
| Education Chair - Linda Halsey | Media – PR– Trish Bridges and | |