

**2016-2017**

**Calendar**

**12/13** LMG  
 Board Xmas Pty  
 Feldy's 6:30

**1/5** LMG Board  
 Meeting

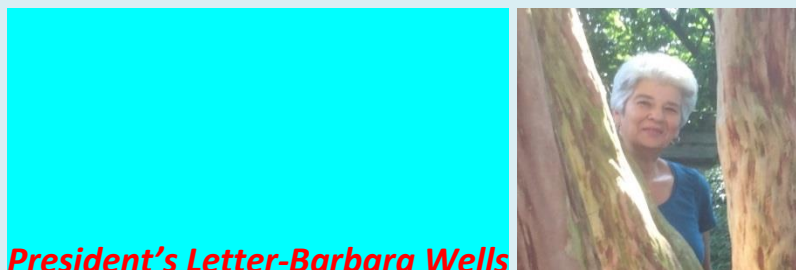
**1/12** LMG  
 Membership  
 Mtng, 6PM and  
 Public Talk 6:30  
 by Annie Keith  
 "Bokashi  
 Composting  
 Made Easy"

**2/09** LMG  
 Annual Mtng  
 and Graduation  
 Potluck Dinner  
 6:30 at  
 Greenwood  
 Metro

**2/11**, 8-3:45  
 Greenville  
 Master  
 Gardener's  
 Seminar, TD  
 Convention Ctr.

**3/09** LMG  
 Membership  
 Mtng 6PM,  
 Speaker Mtng  
 6:30

**4/21,22** Spring  
 Farmer's  
 Market Plant  
 Sale



***President's Letter-Barbara Wells***

By the time you read this it will be early December, but as I write this it is the week of Thanksgiving and I am on my way (once again) to visit family in Virginia. As the miles go by and I count my blessings, I think of the gardeners in my family who nurtured, in one way or another, the seed of gardening in my soul.

My paternal grandmother was an avid gardener but foremost a farmer, illustrated by the fact that her perennials were always planted in neat orderly rows. No curving sweeps of color for her. No...sir...ee. Even into her late eighties, I would see her sitting in an old straight backed painted farm chair with a hand woven bark seat, dressed in long sleeves despite the summer heat, as she slowly moved up and down the rows patiently weeding in her very rectangular flower bed.

My father was raised on the farm, and told me many times that when he was an older teenager he couldn't wait to leave the farm. But, as time went by, it became apparent you could take the boy off the farm, but not the farm out of the man. For years, he grew a small vegetable garden in our back yard. As my siblings and I became old enough, he taught the four of us basic gardening skills whether we welcomed the lessons or not. He was quite proud of how weed free his garden remained, though I don't think he ever knew my mom paid each of us a quarter an hour (worth considerably more then, especially to a child) to weed the garden while he was at work.

My mom's true garden loves were her hybrid tea roses, particularly her Peace, John F. Kennedy, and Mister Lincoln roses. We always teased her that it seemed feeding her roses took priority over feeding us. This was obviously not true since I grew to my current height of six feet the summer I turned twelve. My apologies, Mom. Maybe eating all those fresh vegetables did help a bit.

Most of were born into a family with at at least one gardener in its history. We are also blessed to have gardeners that are family by choice. The Lakelands Master Gardeners are happy to welcome a new class of Master Gardeners into our chosen family. They recently completed their coursework and exam and are now officially Master Gardener Interns. Congratulations to all sixteen! We will recognize you more formally at the Awards Banquet in February.

A big thanks to Donna Boozer for her outstanding presentation on Honeybees in the Garden. Her program was absolutely perfect for our group. We heard all about honeybees and

we also travelled the world of honey. Donna generously shared honey from local sources and from as far away as Israel and Italy. Donna donated door prizes, too. Thank you, Donna!

Our January Membership/Speaker Meeting will feature Annie Keith, a recent transfer Master Gardener. Annie will be speaking on Bokashi, a form of composting that uses fermentation. We all adore compost! Mark your calendars now, and look for more information later.

Winter work continues at the city greenhouse where it is warm and dry. This time of year, the projects lean more towards propagating plants to be used next year. Don't miss Ann Barklow's related article in this newsletter.

If you haven't voted yet for 2016 Master Gardener of the Year, please do so. The deadline for voting is Friday, January 13. You can vote at the January 12 Membership/Speaker Meeting or call me with a verbal vote at 804-314-6503 or email me at [wscott471@gmail.com](mailto:wscott471@gmail.com). We're operating on the honor system; one vote per member please. This year's recipient will be announced at the Awards Banquet.

Also, please take a minute to renew your membership. I know I've mentioned this before and I don't want to nag, but it is that time of year.

Since I was a little late with my Thanksgiving blessings, I'll close by sending an early wish for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each of you, my chosen family of gardeners. -B

*Hem your blessings with thankfulness so they don't unravel. Unknown.*

**DONNA BOOZER'S BEES WERE KILLER:** We had a great crowd for her November talk and tasting. Our January Speaker will be Annie Keith. She will teach us to Bokashi compost.



Susie Bender offers variety of Donna's personal stash of exotic honeys.

## NEW LMG GRADUATING CLASS CELEBRATES WITH LINDA HALSEY'S CAKE



First Row- Marsha Whittington, Jan Coffey, Lillian Moneyhun, Suzie Martin, Eilene Webber, Julia Ciezadlo, Cora Blair, Melinda Fincham, Sarah Bowen Hecox Second Row- Shirley Pate, Mack Tharpe, Mark Sakowitz, Bob Koch, Donna Holmes, Sarah Bradley (not pictured Ernestine Colson)

## NEW 2016 MASTER GARDENER CLASS INTERNS- James Hodges:

We now have 16 new and ready to go Master Gardeners from the 2016 class. I want to thank all the current Master Gardeners who helped with the class and/or taught different sections of the programs. Special Thanks to Linda Halsey who helped to coordinate volunteers and provide the cake for our exam night celebration. Thanks to Mike Brown and all the volunteers who helped to grade papers, set up breaks and clean up after each class. It made for a very smoothly run program again in 2016.

Also, thanks to Vince Plotczyk, Donna Boozer and Paula Lemond who provided their expertise in specific classes and different exercises during the class. Also, I want to thank the Master Gardener Association for the continued scholarship support they provided that gave extra opportunities to more students. Each new class helps us to continue to have a strong Master Gardener program and Association in Greenwood and the Lakelands area.

## HAPPY VOLUNTEERS AT CITY GREENHOUSE AND PLANTING BEDS



Julie, Sherry, Barbara, Sandy, Annie, and Sarah pot it up.



Christine (low), Mary and Sandy

## **THE CITY IS ABUSING THE FREE LABOR OF THE MASTER GARDENERS!**- Ann Barklow

I'm sorry, I just needed an eye catching title.

I must make a confession. When I went through the Master Gardener class in 2010, I thought the Topiaries were ridiculous! Some of my fellow classmates will recall those hushed conversations (gossip) I would have about the Association's involvement with these silly "works of art" and how they have lost their way with the mission of the Lakelands Master Gardeners. That was when I joined the Board...to get them back on track! I led the way to establish our Bylaws and Incorporate our Association into a Non- Profit Organization. Of course, the rest is history. With the understanding of our mission, it was clear that the City Volunteers complete several of our missions and I hope to highlight them here with this article.

When I started to entertain the idea of using volunteers at the greenhouses and Uptown Greenwood, we had a good number of volunteers already participating. There were the Gamecock and Clemson Club, Lander Alumni, Piedmont Tech Horticultural Students, Leadership Greenwood, local grade schools, YMCA After School Program, and of course the Lakelands Master Gardeners. The majority of volunteers would fall under the category of Community Pride.

So, by the time I discussed increasing the use of volunteers with the City Manager and the Director of Public Works, volunteering for the City was well under way. One thing I stressed with the City was I would not be able to use the Master Gardeners as a work force without providing a knowledge-based curriculum for them. This needed to be done every time we worked together. I worked too long on our bylaws to not know our mission statement. That is why I have never asked the volunteers to pull weeds. If I ever do, it will be an educational workshop, which actually sounds fun now that I'm thinking about it!

To be honest, the current regular volunteers provide so much knowledge of their own to us, I end up learning as much as they do if not more.

Sandy Orr is my Podcast Fellow Addict. If you need to know anything about plants, she is the one. I try to stump her regularly. I mean, really, how many of you have heard of the Hairy Ball plant? Well, Sandy not only knew it, she grew it at Rice Elementary School garden and has used it in flower arrangements! Transplant Master Gardener, Sherry Edwards is another one of my gurus and has shared much of her knowledge, seeds and plants with us. She is also faithful, rarely missing a Thursday and if she can't make it she will try to come another day. She is often carting a student or intern with her. How about Jimmy McInville? This wonderful Master Gardener has so much enthusiasm and has taught us a whole new level of recycling. He can't even go to the Dollar Store without looking at a soup ladle with dreams of making it a hanging planter for succulents. Maybe you haven't seen his repurposed chandelier with pansies. I don't know too many volunteers that are willing to spend 240 hours and experience hot glue burns to cover the giraffes with palm fiber. Not only that, but Nancy Collin is a topiary artist and shares her expertise with us to make the topiaries look better than Disney! The crew fondly refers to her as our full time unpaid crew member.

One of the best parts of the topiaries, greenhouse, and Uptown is that when we are involved in

helping, they are then maintained by the Horticulturists at the City. I think we can all agree one of our largest frustrations is beautifying Greenwood with various projects like the Veterans Healing Garden and the Burtons Center Sensory garden and watch them fall into disrepair for lack of maintenance, knowledge, and care.

One of our missions in our Master Gardener Corporation is “Improving our communities through a wide variety of horticultural projects.” We certainly nail that mission since Uptown Greenwood, the Topiaries, Pollinator Gardens, the Monarch Waystation and Monarch Monitoring is largely done by this band of expert gardeners.

Another mission is: “Promoting the training of Master Gardeners and keeping Master Gardeners active in service.” This one is my personal favorite. I have my volunteers work but I also make them work for knowledge. If a volunteer Master Gardener has not received between 2 and 5 lessons every week by volunteering with me, I haven’t done my job! The greenhouses are also a very safe place for the new students to learn on the job training and to get to know us. It sort of kick starts their career as a Lakelands Master Gardener. It also allows us to get to know them, and we can learn where they might be best in service to our organization. (Please don’t tell them that)

What about winter? Most of us hang up our tools, browse seed catalogues, and wait for spring but not at the greenhouses and Uptown! We keep ourselves busy and the volunteers get the first-hand knowledge of what seeds we will be growing for the topiaries and Uptown. There is an amazing amount of education about seed propagation from scarification to vernalization. We also begin our shrub pruning in winter and the LMG is the only Citizen Pruners we use. All learn from this and the Citizen Pruner days end up extending to their own yard when they get home. I used to say, “Why volunteer to prune shrubs in Uptown when I haven’t even done mine?” It has been the experience of our volunteers that it primes the pump to do their own and gives them confidence after they learn the proper way and timing to do it.

I’m so grateful to the many volunteers that come and help us and of course we in turn provide our used pots, give away plants, and grow some of the plants to donate for the plant sale to support the Master Gardener scholarships. The City also pays to put all the horticultural crew through the Master Gardener classes. This year we have Sarah Bradley. Last year was Clint and Gene.

All that being said, every year I can predict there will be a few naysayers with their hushed toned conversations about the abuse of our volunteers. Come on, you’ve heard it: “The City uses the volunteers for a free workforce!” I was one of them. Of course, I had never volunteered over there but I was pretty sure I was right!

We are clearly partners. I think the America in Bloom judges phrased it the best after we won the National Floral Displays for our Topiaries and Landscape Displays in Uptown.:

“The City of Greenwood benefits tremendously from the volunteer efforts and generosity of the many public and private non-profit organizations that make up the fabric of the community. These organizations appear to have adopted their own sponsorship priorities and have worked hard to achieve success with many projects that collectively improve the quality of life within Greenwood.”

Thank you volunteers! You also nailed two more of our mission statements: "Encouraging interest in gardening by all citizens; and Encouraging local environmental beautification and preservation." As the Extension Agent in McCormick said: The Lakelands Master Gardeners have a strong presence in their community." Yes they do!

But don't believe me. Below are some comments from a few of our regular volunteers or better yet come and help us during the upcoming months and learn and be a part of this great organization and experience an extreme level of Community Pride.

What has volunteering for the City of Greenwood meant to me as a Master Gardener Volunteer?

Barbara Wells, President of the LMG:

I love volunteering as a Master Gardener in Greenwood because there is a high level of personal satisfaction working beside like minded people towards a common goal of making our community a beautiful place to live and work.

I also enjoy volunteering because I love learning. Each volunteer session offers a unique opportunity to learn from Ann and other volunteers. You never know where the horticultural conversations may go.

Adding to the overall enjoyment is the fact that I truly enjoy spending time and working with people who enjoy gardening as much as I do. This time together offers the opportunity to get to know individual Master Gardeners on a more personal level.

Finally, and not to be overlooked, I love getting free plants that Ann so generously shares with the volunteers.

So there you have it.

Why do I volunteer? Community pride, continuing education, being a part of a group of gardeners, and plant lust. And not necessarily in that order.

From Jimmy McInville, Projects Coordinator

Volunteering with the LMG and the City of Greenwood has opened up many new opportunities. The partnership is beneficial for all involved. Together we select plants for the Uptown discovering which varieties work best in our local environment. This knowledge we pass on to the shoppers in Uptown who always stop to comment on how great everything looks and ask about the newest additions, where they can find it, and if it will grow in their garden. When we don't have answers for them we can get their e-mail and send them answers. This is a great place to promote our organization and to be an outreach of research based knowledge to the community.

There's always something new to discover and learn about on our ventures into Uptown, a cup fungus growing among the mulch, an irrigation issue in part of a topiary, plant dieback in a bed. Ann often instructs us to Investigate, research then write an article for the newsletter.

The Festival of Flowers brings thousands of visitors to Greenwood it has been my pleasure to have the chance to talk to people from all over this country while working on the topiaries discussing the topiary frames themselves, the moss, plants, irrigation, and even their storage. I've had the chance to speak to a few garden clubs passing on my knowledge of the topiaries.

In the greenhouse we propagate from cuttings and start seeds. You can read about it but nothing beats hands on learning. If it grows, I can propagate it and can teach anyone to do it.

From Donna Feldmaier, Past President:

I moved here from Michigan and was clueless on how to garden in this wonderful state. I took the class and learned that there was this organization called the Lakelands Master Gardeners who would love for me to get involved. I signed up to work on the Social committee and started to go to the greenhouse. I was totally amazed about the endless things I could learn about gardening. As a plus I got to work on the topiaries, learn the correct process for planting seed and propagation. Wow! I am doing a happy dance, because soon I will be able to spend more time at the greenhouse and working Uptown. My little bit of heaven.

#### CITY OF GREENWOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Every Thursday from 8:30 to Noon

Other days are available by appointment

An email is sent out before each volunteer day describing what we will be doing and where to meet

Contact Ann Barklow, the Horticultural Crew Chief for more information

[annbarklow@embarqmail.com](mailto:annbarklow@embarqmail.com)

864-344-0120

#### **BEST FALL COLOR EVER, or ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK-** Sandy Orr



Bonnie Baumhofer's magnificent Chinese Pistache.



Colorful crepe myrtle.



Winter-blooming Kniphofia rooperi.

### WINTER SALAD FORAGING - Sandy Orr



Clockwise from 12 o'clock: Sorrel, kale, salad burnet, chard, green onion, levesticum (lovage), Land cress, parsley, beet green

My husband doesn't eat veggies, but will eat salads if they are filled with croutons (or honey-sesame sticks from the Pantry Store). Salad greens are pricey in the winter, so I enhance bagged spinach with homegrown winter foraging. If you can grow your own spinach, Bravo!, and please write an article for the newsletter about it. Working in the City Greenhouse on Thursdays helps me fill a pot with some sort of brassica that Ann Barklow is generously sharing. I cut the leaves off of purple sprouting broccoli or whatever kale she has and the leaves resprout if you leave a few. Brussel sprout leaves and kohlrabi leaves work well too. I have a shady 10'X10' salad plot, so only shade-loving greens can be grown. Sorrel, a miraculous lemony winter evergreen, arugula, a nutty peppery salad or pizza-topper, salad burnet, parsley, and levesticum or lovage, live in this shade plot. Salad burnet is a gorgeous evergreen mound of almost tasteless greenery in the winter. It transforms in to a watermelon tasting green in the



summer. Lovage is perennial and celery substitute. It adds a celery pop to soups and salads. (It does better in full sun, but puts up with my shade). This year I'm growing land cress for the first time. It's like water cress but doesn't need to live in water. It's like arugula in taste. Spring onions keep going year round in my shade plot. Don't pull up the bulb and just cut the greens. You'll never have to buy green onions again. These can be grown anywhere in your beds, since the deer and bunnies don't bother them. I suppose I could really be earthy and pick dandelion greens and plantain, but I already feed my dog plantain as a vitamin boost, and she has priority over my husband.

### **JIMMY WALKER'S TREE SEMINAR-** Ann Barklow



Clint, James, Shirley Pate, Jimmy Walker, Ann, Sarah, and Melinda Fincham

Three master gardeners, three interns and James Hodges joined the City of Greenwood to learn from Urban Forester and arborist, Jimmy Walters. Besides learning incredible knowledge of pests and diseases of trees, we of course wondered into other topics while out in the field. These included invasive plants, mistletoe, tree pruning, tree ID tips, tools for checking for decay, staking and more!.

Thank you Jimmy!! What a fun day!

## Lakelands Master Gardener Board/Committee Chairs

### **Voting Members**

#### *Executive Committee*

President: Barbara Wells

Vice President: ? Open to volunteers

Treasurer: Melody McInville

Secretary: Chris Moon

Past President: Donna Feldmaier

### **General Board Members**

Community Projects: Jimmy McInville and Donna Sears

Education: Linda Halsey and Wally Sears

Membership: Betsy Russ

Plant Sale/Fund Raising: Sandy Orr and John Wham

Programs/Speakers: Anissa Lawrence

Public Relations: Donna Sears

Website: Marla Starling

### **Non-voting Board Members**

Clemson Advisor: James Hodges

Email Blasts: Janet Ledebuhr

Facebook: Mary Jane Vivas and Marla Starling

Newsletter: Sandy Orr

Office: Vince Plotczyk

Social: Ella Wham

