



Master Gardener Thymes

www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

FEBRUARY 2007

MEETING CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at NW Volunteer Fire Department @ 6:30pm, unless otherwise noted. The Fire Department is located behind Harris Baptist Church off of Center Street.

FEBRUARY 8TH—Mike Runyan on Bonsai. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Mike Runyan, Botany Professor at Lander University, speak on his passion....the art of growing Bonsai. Mike will be bringing along some of his favorite bonsai specimens for us to drool over. Not only is Mike a Bonsai specialist and professor at Lander, he also serves on the Lander Arboretum Committee and is one of the key individuals involved with making a Lander University an "Arboretum" campus. This meeting is open to the public and counts towards continuing education for Master Gardeners.

MARCH 8TH---Program to be announced.

DUES NEWS—Remember your dues need to be paid no later than March 1st. PERIOD!!!!!!

Lakelands Master Gardeners will be increasing dues for fiscal year 2007. The new dues, starting in January 2007, will be as follows:

- Regular dues \$15.00
- Senior rate (>60 years) \$10.00
- Couple (regardless of age) \$15.00
- Lifetime membership (one time only) \$125.00

These rates still keep our organization well below most membership fees around the state. We use these dues to defray the cost of the newsletter, website and social events. If you have questions, please contact any Board member. Bring your dues to the next meeting or mail them to Terri Mostiller @617 Cochran Road Donalds, SC 29638

PRESIDENTS CORNER—Message from New President, Julee Marshall

Greetings Fellow Master Gardeners:

Here's to 2007! I'm sure it will be another great year for the LMGA. Once again, we have opportunities for growth, education, fellowship, and community service.

The graduation held on January 11 was, as usual, one of our biggest events. Congratulations to the Class of 2006. We look forward to getting to know you all as you earn your certification this year. And a big "Way to Go" to all of us from the Class of 2005 who achieved certification. I hope you all enjoyed the year as much as I did.

Thanks to all who made the graduation a success. The ladies of the Social Committee did a great job of getting everything together and decorating. Thank you Evie Galloway, Carol Fritz, Gail Murph, Connie Norman, and Cathy Zak. And thank you all who contributed those wonderful side dishes and desserts. We really need a recipe collection! And a special thank you to Jane Price and James Hodges for putting the awards ceremony together.

The first board meeting of the year, held January 25, was used as an opportunity to meet with the new committees and their chairs. After a short group meeting to review general objectives, the committees and board liaisons had time to meet separately to begin preparations for the upcoming year.

You are all invited to share your thoughts and suggestions as to what you would like to see happen in 2007. Do you know of a possible community project or educational opportunity? Do you have a suggestion that would improve the organization? Please feel free to contact me or the other board members anytime.

Happy Gardening,

Julee Marshall

CLEMSON EXTENSION CORNER—James Hodges

Productive Pruning Seminar

A pruning training is scheduled for Saturday February 17th from 9:30AM- Noon at the Depot in Ninety Six. Bring your pruning tools because there will be a hands on portion to the training. It is open to homeowners or professionals. We will cover my favorite, Crape myrtle, and many other woody plants. Many of us have to deal with our overgrown landscapes so we will discuss this area too. You may want to check out pruning information bulletins on line at Clemson's HGIC website <http://hgic.clemson.edu> before you attend. There is a small \$5 fee to cover handouts and refreshments. It is free to Master Gardeners as continuing education training. Please call the Clemson Extension office at (942-8590) to pre-register by February 15th so we can prepare materials.

Another Case of It Depends

I continue to get flack about answering a question with the question, "It Depends". Another great example of "It Depends", is the answer to a pruning questions on Clematis vines.

Clematis is a favorite garden flowering vine of mine. These flowering vines can be worked over an arbor, a light post, a garden fence, or a tree. Growing them is fairly easy when placed in a good location with the right growing conditions. Pruning clematis, on the other hand, tends to create much confusion among gardeners. Pruning clematis breaks down to which species you have, or when your clematis blooms. So pruning "depends" on species or flowering type and gardener goals.

We prune clematis vines to encourage new growth, reduce size and if done right, it can results in more flowers. Unfortunately, there are three pruning categories of clematis plants . Left unpruned the new growth is confined to the tops or ends of the vines and that is where your flowers will be. Pruning can help to train a clematis vine to bloom at a level where it is more useful, particularly if small space is available for the plant.

There are 3 categories of clematis for pruning purposes:

Spring Bloomers

Summer or Fall Bloomers

Repeat Bloomers

If you don't know which pruning category your clematis falls into or maybe even what type of clematis it is, watch the plant for a season and check when and how often it blooms. Then check Clemson website: [Http://hgic.clemson.edu](http://hgic.clemson.edu) for details on when to prune.

Many new species, cultivars within species and hybrids between species continue to appear on the market each year for all types of plants. It is more important than ever for a good gardener to record your new plant introductions in the landscape in a safe place such as a rough landscape design map and garden journal. Plant labels and memories have a way of fading with age. I encourage all of us to store and protect the name or new plants so that when its time to prune, purchase another specimen or recommend to friends we don't have to guess.

I sure wish I knew what several of my camellia, clematis, hydrangea and daylily names were. Birds have a way of destroying aluminum tags.

GRADUATION NIGHT RECAP—Lauren Boylston

Well, it was another huge Master Gardener bash and "pig out" for Graduation night and if you missed it, make plans now to come next year. Congratulations to this years new graduates: Jean Anderson, Paul Drew, Evelyn Irwin, Mark Jabcobsen, Lanell Johnson, Beth Kapperman, Bill Laster, Donna Laster, Peggy McQuown, Stuart Menaker, Sue Moore, Daniel Nolan, Connie Normand, Chris Snipes, Peggy Ticehurst, Don Tyler, Joe Upchurch, Rick Wagner, Bryan Wesson, John Wham, Kathy Zak. Also, a big congratulations to the class of 2005 Master Gardeners that became certified: Debbie Ashley, Kris Cheeseman, Evie Galloway, Sandra Johnson, Julee Marshall, Lee Natvig, Louise Powell, Betty Reece, Ken Reece, Cindy Rushton, Miriam Smith and Jeff Thomas.

People passing Volunteer Hours Milestones for 2006:

250 Hours: Patty Huff, Linda Kellam, Joyce Marshall, Gail Murph and Jane Price

500 Hours: Sharon Alvarez, Lauren Boylston, Glennis Cannon, Mary O'Dell and Judy Sieckman

750 Hours: Dana Ellis and Tommy O'Dell

1000 Hours: Donna Boozer and Paula Lemond

I hope by now everyone's New Year has gotten off to a GREAT START! It's hard to believe that, as I write this article, the month of January, 2007, is almost in the past. During the past few days, I've been having some nostalgic moments (that's what they call reminiscing when you get to my age, you know) about the plants in my yard. Have you ever watched the program on TV entitled "If Walls Could Talk"? Well, I was just thinking, "What if yards could talk? Just what hidden thoughts and remembrances would my yard have to say about the plants that are there?" Needless to say, I do have a goal each year to plant perennials and annuals for us to enjoy, but what about my other plants that they join each spring?

Recently, we visited a young couple who had just purchased an older home in Greenwood. The yard was filled with great plants, and best of all, the previous owner had done a journal of each of her plants, including information about each as well as location. She presented the journal to the wife when they moved in. What a wonderful way to keep your yard alive after you're gone.

I have been going through my yard, (in my mind, of course) and trying to get my thoughts together to make a journal. True, my little place will definitely never make it on a Tour of Homes or in a gardening magazine, but I want its history to continue on when we move away someday.

As I look out my kitchen window, there's my "Fringe Tree" (*Chionanthus Virginicus*) or "Granddaddy Graybeard" as my mother called it. When we moved back to Greenwood, I had two reasons for really not wanting to relocate – one was leaving our children in the Atlanta area and the second was leaving my big "Fringe Tree". Right after we bought our house here, our children appeared with, what do you suppose – a baby "Fringe" When I look at it, I am reminded of how they wanted me to be happy with this move.

Close by is the "Yellow Bell" bush (*Forsythia X Intermedia*) that came from a rooting from my Grandmother Swyger's back yard. My grandparents lived next door to us as we grew up, and my sister, Nita, and I spent many hours playing house beneath the sweeping branches of the "Yellow Bell" bushes while smelling the lilac blooms close by in the spring.

Oh well, I could go on and on today, but I think I'll wait until next month to add to my story. How about you? Do you have some plants that could be included in your own personal journal that you'd like to share the personal history of with our fellow Master Gardeners? If you'd like to email me your thoughts, I'll add them each month as an extra to my article. My email address is: jskelley@simplepc.net. Just title them as Garden Journal.

By the way, here are the answers to the riddles from last time: 1. Aster 2. Cowslip 3. Johnny-jump-up 4. Bluebells 5. Carnation 6. Phlox 7. Goatsbeard 8. Lady's Mantle 9. Coneflower (missing answer) 10. Black-eyed Susan 11. Bluet 12. Baby's Breath 13. Lily of the valley 14. Jonquil 15. Freesia

Not-always-purple Coneflowers

Submitted by Jean Anderson

Do you like coneflowers? I do. But I had no idea there were so many different kinds until I started doing some research. My favorite of these is the *Echinacea purpurea*, which has been hybridized into a number of colorful varieties. This perennial herb is very hardy and takes practically no care, but rewards the grower with a long season of flowers and is attractive to butterflies and birds.

E. purpurea (eastern coneflower), *E. augustifolia* (narrow leafed coneflower), and *E. pallida* (pale coneflower) are the three most common. *Augustifolia* and *purpurea* are most commonly used for herbal remedies. *Augustifolia* is the only one of the three not found naturally in South Carolina, but is native to the central portion of the country from Texas to North Dakota.

The following are much rarer: *E. atropurpurea*, *E. paradoxa* (which is yellow), *E. sanguinea*, and *E. simulata*, which is native to most of the Eastern third of the U. S., but not so far found in South Carolina. Also, *E. tennesseensis* is only found in Tennessee and was one of the first plants to be placed on the endangered species list. The rarest of all, *E. laevigata* (smooth coneflower) is found in only a few eastern states, including South Carolina, and is believed to only have about 6,000 existing plants.

The name "Echinacea" comes from the Greek word "echinos", which means "hedgehog", of course referring to its central cone which gets very prickly when the flower is mature. In England, the coneflower is also known as the hedgehog flower.

Echinacea has been used as medicine in many ancient cultures, including that of Native Americans. The root and/or the above ground part was used fresh or to brew medicinal teas. Today, parts of the plant are processed commercially and made into capsules or other forms. It is said to boost the immune system, though studies disagree on the validity of the claim. There are little to no known side effects from using *echinacea* except for possible allergic reactions. Anyone with asthma or allergies to related species, such as ragweed, chrysanthemums, marigolds or daisies, should probably avoid taking it.

Ancient herbalists based their claims of the value of *echinacea* on its form, among other things. For example, the long stems which didn't need staking indicated strength and the dark green color of its leaves was supposed to be a "vitalizing" color. It had round stems, which indicated balance and harmony. The hairiness of the stems was a sign that it had a healing effect on the skin and respiratory system. (I don't explain it, just report it!) And the fact that the flowers seem to reach toward the sun indicated optimism. I like that last one. It reminds me why gardeners love growing things. The ancients also connected growing things with signs of the zodiac. That information can be found at www.realmagick.com, if anyone is interested.

So, now that I've told you more than you ever wanted to know about coneflowers, maybe you'll be curious enough to add this "optimistic" flower to your collection. If you haven't already tried them, you can find a variety to fit any garden, from 18 inches to over 4 feet tall. Whichever you choose, propagate your favorite by division or root cuttings in the spring. Soon you'll have a long season of flowers for cutting or drying and lots of color for that sunny spot in your garden.

RECIPE CORNER

Baked Asparagus Dip

*Submitted by Glennis Cannon
From the Recipe of Laura Bentley*

2 – cans asparagus pieces
1 – cup mayonnaise
1 – cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 – teaspoon of garlic powder

Drain the asparagus. With your hands, squeeze the pieces into a mush. Take out any stems that are tough. Add mayonnaise, Parmesan cheese and garlic powder. Stir until creamy. Bake for 25-30 minutes on 350 degrees. Serve warm with crackers.

Carrot Sandwiches

Submitted by Helen Spiller

8 oz. cream cheese (at room temperature)
2 ½ cups carrots—grated fine
1 teaspoon grated onion and juice
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
¼ teaspoon Tabasco
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup walnuts—finely chopped

Squeeze juice from grated carrots and save. Add about 2 teaspoons of carrot juice to softened cream cheese and cream until fluffy. Add all other ingredients—nuts last. Spread cracked wheat bread with mayonnaise and carrot mixture. Cut into small sandwiches.

Helen's Chicken and Pasta Salad

Submitted by Helen Spiller

1 lb. angel hair pasta, cooked al dente
5-6 chicken breast halves, poached and chopped
2 small cans sliced black olives, drained
2 small cans artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
8-10 green onions, chopped thin
1 medium jar pimentos, drained and pat dry
1 cup mayonnaise
Newman's Own Oil and Vinegar salad dressing
Tony Chackere's Creole Seasoning, to taste

Combine first 6 ingredients in large bowl. Mix mayonnaise and enough Oil and Vinegar dressing to create a sauce with a creamy consistency. Pour over combined ingredients, stir and refrigerate overnight.

Do you have a recipe you would like to share? Please send it to LBoylston@earthlink.net. We need recipes, garden book reviews, garden tour reviews, garden information and other stories for our newsletter. It has been suggested we might start an "Ask a Master Gardener" column to the newsletter. Someone would write in a question that would be posted in the newsletter one month and then Master Gardeners could write in with their answers, which would be posted the next month. Let me know what you think about this idea.

Maybe you have a BETTER idea???? Please forward your ideas and comments to me at LBoylston@earthlink.net.

Remember....this is YOUR newsletter....please consider contributing.

Happy Gardening!!!!

BOARD MEMBER UPDATE

The Board Members and Officers for Lakelands Master Gardeners for 2007 are as follows:

President: Julee Marshall patmarshall@bellsouth.net 998-3189

Vice President: This position is open

Secretary: Kris Cheeseman ewcheese@aol.com 227-0492

Treasurer: Terri Mostiller tmostiller@wesleycommons.org 227-7480 (H) 456-2664 (W)

Past President: Jane Price derf007@greenwood.net 227-8992

Please feel free to contact your Board Members with questions, comments or suggestions. Your participation and opinion are greatly appreciated. If you would like to recommend someone for the Vice President position, please contact a Board member today!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There will be an afternoon training session with **Linda Halsey** at the mall office March 16th from 1-4 pm. This training will cover how to report your volunteer hours using the computer spread sheet available for Excel. This is truly the best way to keep your hours up-to-date and organized. If you have access to a computer and want to learn how to use this process, please plan on attending this training session.
 - On the same date as mentioned above, James Hodges will be at the mall office to train anyone interested in working in the Master Gardener/Clemson Extension Mall office. If you have signed up to work in the mall office and need to be given training on what to expect, how to use the resource material or any other aspect of the office, please plan on attending this training session. It is also from 1-4pm. Gain some confidence and get a feel for the layout of this important part of our organization.
 - Lakelands Master Gardener, Patricia (Pat) Burnett died Monday, January 22, 2007, after a long battle with cancer. Pat was a devoted and long time member of the Lakelands Master Gardeners. She made every attempt to stay involved with our group even as she battled her disease. She will be greatly missed and always remembered. Be thinking about a way we can memorialize Pat in our organization. If you have an idea or suggestion, please contact a Board member.
 - The Midlands Master Gardeners Association of Columbia SC is holding its annual Symposium in Columbia March 22, 2007. This year's theme is "Ask a Master Gardener". Speakers include Flo Chaffin "Hydrangeas: What is Old Will Be New Again", Dabney Peeples "Making Your Garden Uniquely Yours" and Rita Randolph "The Art of Container Gardening". The day includes a plant sale with plants from the Riverbanks Gardens, a silent auction, lunch and demonstrations. For more information, contact their website at www.scmnga.org/symposium_2007.htm
 - Don't forget the International Master Gardener Conference in Little Rock Arkansas May 2-5. This looks like it is going to be a terrific event and is really filling up fast. The next IMGC will not be until 2009 and will be on the west coast. Take advantage of this great opportunity while it is on our side of the country!
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Check out www.clemson.edu/scbg/

This is the website for the South Carolina Botanical Gardens at Clemson. On this website you will find a listing for their Winter Garden Lecture Series for the month of February and on. There are 4 lectures in February, one on each Saturday of the month. Cost is usually quite reasonable at about \$12.00 each for non-members of the SCBG. These lectures are usually held in the mornings (not TOO early) at about 10am. Check out their website for more information.

Stay tuned to this newsletter for information about new Community Projects, including a great new one at Lander University!!!!

**Lakelands Master Gardeners
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