



Master Gardener Thymes



WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

February 2010

Master Gardener Year in Review 2010/2011 Future



Urban Tree Monitoring Project

By James Hodges

After reviewing the Volunteer sheets turned in by Master Gardener for 2010, I am amazed at the number of activities Master Gardeners are involved with again this year. First, let me say thank you for all the individual and Associa-

tion effort this year to improve many horticultural areas in the Lakelands. Over 5500 volunteers hours and 500 hours of continuing education were completed by Lakelands Master Gardeners.

The New Year brings opportunities for new projects, educational programs and providing the public with educational materials. I plan a meeting at 5:30PM on **February 2nd** at the extension office for Master Gardeners interested in an Urban Tree monitoring project I will propose to the Board. Please email me or give me a call to let me know

you are coming. This meeting is earlier than most, but parking can be an issue if we are not there before 6 PM until basketball season ends later in February.

Also, there is interest from several Master Gardeners to formulate several public programs and/or demonstration presentations for the late winter and spring season such as how to plant trees, prune trees, examining trees for girdling roots, etc. We can discuss these ideas and others at the February 2nd meeting and/or the Board/committee meeting in February.

Master Gardener of the Year Nominations

It's time again to make your nomination for the MG of The Year. This MG should be an active, involved member. A person who represents our organization at its very best. To nominate a MG submit the name and a brief explanation as to why you think they should be MG of The Year. Send all nominations to Jimmy McInville truerain-water@yahoo.com, or Pattie Larson greenwood_patti@yahoo.com. Get to work on those nominations ASAP.



Dates to Remember:

- WEDNESDAY FEB. 2ND 5:30 PM URBAN TREE MONITORING PROJECT, EXTENSION OFFICE
- WEDNESDAY FEB. 9TH ARBORICULTURE SESSION 2—1:30- 4 PM OR 6-8:30 PM
- THURSDAY FEB. 10TH, 6 PM **BOARD MEETING**
- THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 6:30 PM— **GENERAL MEETING WITH SPEAKER**
- THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH, 6 PM **BOARD MEETING**
- THURSDAY, MAY 12TH, 6:30 PM — **ANNUAL PICNIC AND PLANT SWAP**
- THURSDAY, JULY 14TH, 6:30 PM — **GENERAL MEETING**
- THURSDAY, AUGUST 11TH, 6 PM **BOARD MEETING**
- THURSDAY, SEPT. 8TH, 6:30 PM **GENERAL MEETING WITH SPEAKER**
- THURSDAY, OCT. 13TH, 6 PM **BOARD MEETING**
- THURSDAY, NOV. 10TH, 6 PM **BOARD MEETING— BUDGET MEETING**
- THURSDAY, DEC. 8TH, 6:30 PM **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

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

Master Gardener Thymes



Lakelands Master Gardener Shutterfly

RECORD HIGH
OF OVER 6,000
HOURS OF
VOLUNTEERING!



Pictures of LMG Events on The Web

By Chuck Bender
The Website Committee is trying to improve/freshen up information on the Web for our members. As part of this, we have created a Shutterfly site for LMG pictures. (This is much easier and more efficient than trying insert into our own website) . The URL address for pictures only is: <http://lakelandsmastergardeners.shutterfly.com/> Once at the site, the password is "gardener" to gain access. You can browse

whatever pictures you like, leave a comment on a picture, and even download a picture (if you're a Shutterfly member, no cost to register). If you take any pictures at any LMG social events, work days, programs, etc., please email them to caben70@hotmail.com, so that we can add them to the Shutterfly site. Try to label each picture with a partially descriptive file name or at least give background information in the email on how they should

be labeled. In the last several months we've also added a monthly calendar to the regular website --- <http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/index.html> --- as another way of helping members track LMG events and meetings. If you have any other ideas for freshening up the website, please email them to caben70@hotmail.com . What would really help would be any current news or information articles that would be of interest.

Celebration Time

By Linda Halsey
Many thanks to all who turned in their volunteer hours this past year as we wonderfully hit a new record high of over 6,000 hours and over 27,600 miles driven to our gardening destinations. When I began collecting hours/miles some years ago, it was a thrill to report three thousand volunteered

hours and now it is ever so exciting that over the years we have more than doubled our efforts. Whether you have made our meetings run smoothly, plugged and groomed the topiaries, taught a new generation of gardeners via Jr. Master Gardening classes and or made our plant sale a huge success, helped James at the Extension Office, kept

our web-site afloat, volunteered at the Railroad Museum, gave time to a community garden, took classes to further your gardening knowledge and or any other type of commitment you have plodded through, your time has made us for the size of our county a huge success, with deep gratitude I thank you.

Training at the Clemson Extension Office "Weeds in Your Lawn"

by Ann Barklow
Certified Horticulturist and Master Gardener 2010

On my arrival for my first day of training at the Clemson Extension office, Vince Plotczyk had me sit down in a chair and prepared me for role playing. I was the Master Gardener and he

was the customer. He plopped down a bag of weeds and said: "These are in my lawn. How do I get rid of them?"

After a few minutes of stut-tering, I said, "Well first I have to identify them," hoping to get his number and then he would leave so I could figure out what to do next. "No." he

explained calmly, "First, you have to find out what kind of lawn it is because without that information, you won't be able to tell what control measure to use."

"What if I recommend, hand pulling them," I said innocently.

Con't p.3

I knew this idea wouldn't fly, since
Con't p.3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2– Training at the Clemson Extension Office

pulling weeds on acres of grass in 100 degree weather is probably not an option, but I can't help myself. When I left Los Angeles, I packed up my Lifetime Environmental Hero Award that I received from the Mayor for my work establishing a Pesticide Free Zone in parks and right of ways in my home town. I spent 20 years teaching the Los Angeles Master Gardeners "Alternatives to Pesticides." I was also the founding member of the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden, an earth-friendly demonstration garden. Vince smiled and said: *"I don't want to pull them; I want something to kill them."*

Okay, I thought, I'll play along. *"What kind of lawn do you have?"* Once I found out it was Centipede, I started to identify the weeds. I needed to know what the weeds were because the label of the herbicide will have the names of the weeds it will kill.

I understood this line of reasoning. I did obtain a Pesticide Application License for my Landscape Maintenance Business in Los Angeles County and had more hours of pesticide classes than anyone should be subjected to. I knew it was the law to follow the label and the weed needed to be listed on it.

Vince explained that there were lawns that were sensitive to certain herbicides and they would have to be used at reduced rates. I was sensitive to herbicides too, partially because one of my dogs was poisoned after ingesting some grass laden with herbicides along a trail we used to walk on.

I tried to ignore my aversion to herbicides and get back to my training. I found a weed book in the office, but the large binder that Vince had put together with pictures of local weeds was the best.

After I found the weeds, I was able to research them on line at the Clemson Home and Garden Information Center. I kept getting stuck on the first sentence on the weed control sheets:

"Hand pulling is a simple, practical approach for small areas. Improve the health and density of the lawn by fertilizing at the right time and with the correct amount; maintaining an appropriate soil pH; mowing at the recommended height; and watering properly."

So, with this new information I said to my customer (Vince). *"Is your lawn dense and well cared for? Have you had a soil test and fertilized according to that test?"* He laughed and said: *"No, it's a pathetic looking lawn. What can I use on the weeds?"*

I told him he could treat the weeds but if he didn't improve the condition of the lawn, they would just return, so it might be best to improve the lawn condition so that the dense, vigorous turf will out compete the weeds and prevent more from germinating. He politely reminded me that he was just looking for something to kill the weeds.

Exhausted and upon further research, I did find the best herbicide for the weeds I had identified. I discovered they could be used on Centipede but at a reduced rate and I read the label on several of the ones recommended and all of the weeds I identified were on the label.

I learned a lot that day. I was grateful to Vince for his patience as he watched me struggle with my belief system and how well he demonstrated what I may encounter on my days there. I was assured that the type of customer he played was the most difficult one and not the majority. I learned that a one time, simple, inexpensive solution is not the answer to this complicated crop. The popular Weed N Feed products sound easy but the timing of feeding a lawn is not the timing to apply herbicides so these products are not sound turf management.

I discovered that the real skill as a master gardener is to not only know the herbicide to use, but the information on what management is needed to grow good grass so the weeds will not return. I was instructed on other questions to ask, such as, how much sun the grass receives, how is the drainage, is the soil compacted, and was there any past liming done. It appears that weeds are opportunist and will invade stressed lawns. Grass is a very time consuming plant culture and most of us, me included, don't want to put that much time into it. Herbicides are not a substitute for sound cultural practices.

I prefer my "mixed-media centipede lawn" that has a selection of weeds but is free of any poisons, so myself, my dogs, the rabbits, earthworms, deer, frogs, lizards, and lightening bugs can enjoy it without being exposed to anything harmful.



Renew and Remove Crowded Shrubs



From thisto thisin one season

By James Hodges

Overgrown and overcrowded shrubs are a common landscape problem which can lead to a yearly cycle of prune, prune and prune in a never ending cycle. My garage contained a double layer of shrubs covering the twenty foot length. Six 'Nana' Japanese hollies had been planted less than two feet from the building and four dwarf yaupon hollies were space a couple of feet in front.

The plants with vigorous growth each season, required multiple prunings during the season and severe pruning each winter and still grew "in mass" rather than distinct shrubs. In March of 2010, I cut the six Japanese hollies to the ground and continued to remove the sprouts as needed.



The four dwarf yaupon hollies were pruned to one foot in height. They quickly sprouted and filled in quickly, resulting in well shaped shrubs by mid-summer. They did not require pruning except for a few clips here and there. I now have good spacing between plants and between plants and the building. I can now maintain the remaining shrub in a much healthier, easier to maintain and higher quality planting. I can go with moderate pruning this year to keep plants in a manageable size.

2009/2010 Graduate Dinner Text- Patti Larson Photos- Vince Plotczyk



The following individuals earned their full certification after volunteering at least 40 hours this past year:
Class 2009 -Bob Bentley, Kim Hastings, Sue Monaghan, Charlotte Cabri, Anita Herzsprung, Skip Norton, Sarah Carroll, Jason Jordan, Betty Tabor, Maureen Colby, Steve Maxwell, Stephen Tabor, Sharon Harwell, Mike McKinney, Glen Witt, and Mary Woodiwiss



The 2010 class were recognized as Interns : Erwin Abell, Eugene Dickert, Janet Ledebuhr, Ann Barklow, Bill Grayson, Maxine Syrkett, Julie Bowles, Christopher Hawkins, Rusty Wilson, Barbara Consorte, Pamela Kelly, and Terri Burgin



James Hodges recognized Catherine Swindell with a Special Thank You for the 10 years she has been with us and serving as a Chairperson on many committees throughout the years. She was also recognized for the many hours she spent on the two recent functions- the Christmas dinner and the graduation dinner. THANK YOU Catherine!

A very special THANK YOU to all members who attended and for the delicious food provided. It made the evening wonderful!!

Membership Report January 2011

Thank you to all of the members that have paid your dues. We still have about **one-third** of our members that have not paid. Please send your membership dues ASAP.
A membership form is included for you to complete and send in with your dues.
Any questions concerning payment, please call Patti at 864-554-1600.

Lakelands Master Gardener Association

2011 Dues Remittance

2011 MG Membership Dues: (Select your Membership Option by checking)

Individual, 59 years old and under—\$15

Individual, 60+ years old— \$10

Married couple, 59 and under—\$20

Married couple, 60+—\$15

Individual, Lifetime Membership— \$125

Make your check payable to **Lakelands Master Gardener Association.**

Mail it with this completed form to: Patti Larson

325 Nautical Way

Greenwood, SC 29649

Name:

Address:

City/St/Zip:

Preferred Phone No: _____ (circle: cell, home, business, other)

Optional Phone No: _____ (circle: cell, home, business, other)

E-Mail Address:

Year Graduated MG Program: _____

Transfer from another MG Association (Y/N) _____

From:

Please indicate the committee (s) you are interested in working with this coming year and

Indicate your 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice:

Community Projects

Newsletter

Education

Programs and Speakers

Finance & Fund Raising

Public Relations

Phone

Social Activities & Field Trips

Membership

Web Site

MG Office

Suggested topics/activities for the coming year:

THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2011

President- Jimmy McInville

Secretary- Sandy Orr

Vice President- Patti Larson

Past President- Dwight Long

Treasurer- Patti Larson

Clemson Advisor- James Hodges

Community Projects- Sandra Johnson

Phone- Nicole Ellis

Education- Helen Spiller

Programs & Speakers- Ann Barklow

Finance and Fund Raising- OPEN

Public Relations- OPEN

Membership- Cindy Wilkins

Social- Catherine Swindel

Newsletter- Janet Ledebuhr

Web Site- Chuck Bender

Office- Vince Plotczyk



GET YOUR GARDENS GROWING AT THE

GREENWOOD FARMER'S MARKET

SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL

APRIL 22nd & 23rd

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

8:00AM - 4:00PM

FLOWERS, HERBS, VEGETABLE PLANTS & GARDEN CRAFTS

LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER PLANT PROBLEM CLINIC

GOOD FRIDAY IS EARTH DAY



LAKELAND MASTER GARDENERS

newsletter editor-Janet Ledebuhr
articles due by the 15th of the month—
queenofseaford@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Each month there are various opportunities to volunteer listed on the back page of the newsletter. Have a committee where you could use an extra hand? Send it to the newsletter and it will be listed.

1. Urban Tree project
2. board member positions
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

LMG General Meetings will be held at:
The Greenwood Metro District Meeting Room
110 Metro Dr., Greenwood, SC 29646

Directions

From Self Regional Hospital: Take West Alexander to Premier Dr. – stay on Premier Dr. by turning right – turn left on Metro Dr. From 225 Ext: Going South on 225 Ext., turn left on W. Alexander, turn right on Joe Bernat Dr., turn left on Premier Dr., turn right on Metro Dr.

Board Meetings are held in February, April, June, August, and October on the second Thursday of the month @ 6:00 pm @ The Clemson Extension Office @ The Brewer Center

Miles and Hours - please submit to Linda Halsey halseyfarm@embarqmail.com, 864-374-7253, or P.O. Box 82, Hodges, SC 29653



UPCOMING CLASSES IN THE COMMUNITY

Starting Seeds Indoors

Date: Saturday, February 12, 2011 (rain or shine)

Time: 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Location: Wyatt Farms Garden Center (indoors)

Address: 103 Wyatt Court, Greenwood, SC

(on Center Street just north of Lakeview School)

Cost: Free

Join Master Gardener

Ann Barklow

for an informative demonstration and lecture on how to start seeds

indoors under lights or in a bright window

Starting your own seeds increases the varieties that you can grow and gives

you a higher success rate than direct sown

Wyatt Farms will have organic and heirloom seeds

for sale and the supplies

you will need to get started. All you need is lights or a bright window

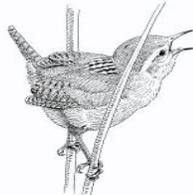
Ann will teach the basics of what a seed needs to germinate and how to care

for it and harden it off before it gets planted in your garden.

GET A JUMP ON SPRING!

Wyatt Farms Workshop Series

864-229-6252



Native Plants Native Insects Native Songbirds

by Dr. Bill Stringer

Increase the presence of songbirds in your landscape by providing the habitat that is vital for their nesting success

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2011

Time: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Where: Greenwood Metropolitan District
"Emmett F. Brooks" Facility
110 Metro Drive, Greenwood, SC 29646
(Off Premier Drive)

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

For more information contact Ann 864-229-3019 or annbarklow@embarqmail.com

Dr. Stringer was an Agronomist at Penn State and Clemson University and past President of the South Carolina Native Plant Society. Recently retired, Bill lives with his wife Sharon in Liberty and enjoys a home on Lake Greenwood.

*Presented by
The Lakelands Master Gardeners*