

Dates to Remember:

February 2015

President's Message

By Sandy Orr



What an exciting time for my final newsletter as President. Thanks to everyone who volunteered for new

assignments as officers and Board members. In addition, we'll be installing our new class of full-fledged Master Gardeners at our Annual Meeting February 12th at 6:30 at GMD. This will be a potluck buffet dinner. You will receive an evite from Susanne Blumer soon. Spring has reared its gorgeous head temporarily. All of my hellebores, including the fabulous gawky Dr. Seuss-ish stinking hellebores are in bloom.



After suffering cabin fever the last three weeks, I prematurely tapped a birch tree to get the sap. Usually, one waits until new growth is spotted at the top of the tree. Used fresh, the sap is called birch water and is supposed to have all sorts of health

benefits. I used a dripline irrigation plug and tubing to drain into an old plastic water bottle.

This can be done to generate syrup with maples and black walnuts, but you have to get 12 1/2 gallons of sap to reduce down to just one quart of syrup. I just tasted the birch water and it is distinctly watery, without the advertised winter-green tang



The upcoming year promises fun speakers and great City Greenhouse experiences with Ann Barklow. The March speaker program is still being set up and may need to be at an unusual daytime meeting time. Stay tuned for final details in the March newsletter. The upcoming April 10, 11, 2015 Farmers Market Plant Festival means we should begin dividing our treasures soon. My goal is for each Master Gardener to provide 10 plants. If you are planning on starting seeds, please start them now.

- FEBRUARY 7– GREATER GREENVILLE GARDEN SYMPOSIUM
- FEBRUARY 12– ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS BANQUET 6:30 PM
- FEBRUARY 28th JOY OF GARDENING SYMPOSIUM <http://symposium.yorkmng.org/program>
- MARCH 12– LMG BOARD MEETING AND TBD SPEAKER PROGRAM 6:00 PM BOARD, 6:15 MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 6:30 SPEAKER
- APRIL 10 & 11 LMG PLANT SALE AT FARMER'S MARKET
- MAY 16th– LMG PICNIC
- JUNE 25-27 FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS EVENTS
- AUGUST 13– LMG BOARD MEETING GWD LIBRARY 4:30 PM
- SEPTEMBER 10– SPEAKER AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6 PM MEMBERSHIP, 6:30 SPEAKER
- OCTOBER 15– LMG BOARD MEETING GWD LIBRARY 4:30 PM
- NOVEMBER 12– SPEAKER AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TIMES AND LOCATIONS WILL BE POSTED WHEN EVENTS ARE CLOSER. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE EVENTS IN 2015

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.

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

Incoming President, Donna Feldmaier

The tease of warm weather a few weeks ago, that coincided with James' article on, "Gardening Tasks for Early 2015", sent me eagerly out to work in the yard. My gardening companion Zoey (our year-old golden retriever) and I have cleaned up most of the flower gardens, picked up thousands of sticks and have begun the pruning. How I love every minute of being outside.

I have been having a marvelous time working in the greenhouse weekly. Last week we planted seeds of Ageratum Everest Blue, Dusty Miller, Echinacea Pyro Urea, White Swan and lastly Petunia Wave in blue, coral and white. I believe we planted over 1600 seeds. Lesson learned that day: Mark the cell you are seeding, when someone talks to you. Some seeds are very tiny!

Since I have limited knowledge on local pests, and Ann Barklow is an excellent teacher, I have the joined the greenhouse "Pest Scouts". Ann is correct in saying this is an amazing learning opportunity and asset to our community.

Speaking of being assets to our community, we Master Gardeners have done a great job sharing out talents this year by volunteering over 189 hours!



**FARMERS MARKET
SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL**
FRIDAY APRIL 10th
8:00AM - 4:00PM
SATURDAY APRIL 11th
8:00 AM - 2:00PM

**FLOWERS
VEGETABLES HERBS
GARDEN CRAFTS
& LAKELANDS
MASTER GARDENERS**

AT THE **GREENWOOD FARMER'S MARKET**
SC HWY 72/221 EAST

MARKET MANAGER
NEWTON ODELL
843-234-4888

 Save the date

Get your plants divided and potted for the sale! Well rooted plants are most successful.

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!

Jan. 1– 31, 2015

SC-GW-15 2.07 inches
SC-AB-4 3.17 inches
SC-GW-13 2.98 inches
SC-GW-14 2.73 inches

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

Think about joining!!



Plant Recommendations

One of My Favorite Things ~ Harry Lauder's walking stick

~ Mary Woodiwiss

While most plants garner our attention in their blooming prime, *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' is most striking in the spare days of winter. Also known as Harry Lauder's walking stick, contorted hazelnut, contorted filbert, and corkscrew hazel, this 8'x10' deciduous shrub holds our interest with its twisted stems and dangling, male catkins that persist through the winter. Catkins emerge pale green, turning golden yellow in early spring, then settling into a subtle, yellowish brown. The observable female flower parts are carmine in color, but tiny and inconspicuous. Unlike others in the genus, this cultivar usually does not bear fruit and is grown primarily for its ornamental value. It will thrive in full sun or partial shade, and is not prone to diseases or pests in our zone.



Since being introduced to this distinctive shrub some 20 years ago, I wanted one for my very own. But at the time, I lived in a suburb of Chicago on a postage stamp-sized plot where the only logical spot in my tiny garden was out front and best suited for a specimen tree. What would new neighbors and passerby surmise about a household with this sort of solitary, spooky display?

Here in Greenwood, I've planted three of these strange beauties. (They are discreetly tucked into the interior of our back garden, where anyone who notices them will likely have been invited in and have already formed an impression of the

family residing here!) They have required minimal care past the initial, essential watering and mulching. Leafed out in corrugated, medium green, they look rather untidy. But by that season, there are so many other things springing up in the landscape that we're less likely to even notice.



Corylus avellana 'Contorta' is the sort of plant that generates excitement - even in a longtime acquaintance - when it is discovered in other far-flung, public garden settings, such as Brookgreen Gardens, Atlanta Botanical Garden or the Shakespeare Garden in Central Park. ("Well met, honest gentleman!"). The most distinctive common name for this winter wonder commemorates the Scottish vaudeville singer and comedian of the early 20th century, known for appearing with a crooked walking stick. As a sort of namesake for this showman, it is a show-off in the garden, providing a fine contrast to brightly-blooming camellias and glossy-leaved hollies. Stems are abundant, and so can be cut and added to floral and leafy arrangements for a whimsical touch.

I Love Japanese Maples— Janet Ledebuhr

One of my favorite Japanese maples in our garden is *Acer palmatum* 'Glowing Embers'. We call it our Anniversary tree as it was purchased as our gift to each on a wedding anniversary. It is an upright vase form, at maturity it will be approximately 20 – 30 feet tall and wide. It holds its leaves later in the season, making the glowing fiery orange red leaves really stand out in the landscape. Summer leaf color is green, but once fall comes, lookout! What a show. Growing conditions include full sun and moist soil.



Gardening Activities With the City

By Ann Barklow



This picture shows the difference between digging the holes twice the size of the rootball of these ornamental kales.



This picture shows what happens when you dig the hole the same size as the rootball. It's a little extra work unless you use a soil auger and a drill like we do but what great results.



The pest scouting, or as Chris Ester calls it the Plant Police, are doing great at the city greenhouses. They found mealybugs, fungus gnats and ants this time around. Thank you Pest Scout team Chris Ester and Christine Cornetto.



Our faithful vice president, Donna Feldmaier, performs the delicate job of planting seeds of *Erigeron karvinskianus* Santa Barbara Daisy and *Zinnia zahara* at the City of Greenwood Growing Greenhouse. The Lakeland Master Gardeners have logged in over 189 hours doing tasks such as pest and disease research, pest scouting, propagation, uptown maintenance, water feature maintenance, and topiary work. The City of Greenwood has immense gratitude for this partnership with the Lakeland Master Gardeners.



Lakelands Master Gardeners
Recognition and Awards Banquet

Thursday, February 12, 2015
6:30 pm
Greenwood Metropolitan District

Please join us as we vote in new members
Of the board and celebrate our
Newest graduates and the 2015 Master Gardener of
the year!

Drinks will be provided. Please bring a Main Course,
Casserole, Side Dish, Finger Food or Dessert

Please RSVP your attendance and your dish selection

to:

Susanne Blumer

Susanne@huckfarm.com

Or

Look for the evite next week!

Your assistance is needed for our banquet. We are looking for some folks to volunteer to help set up and others to help clean up.

If you can help please email Susanne at

Susanne@huckfarm

Or Donna at

donnafeldy@aol.com

Calling all Citizen Pruners:

City of Greenwood and the Lakeland Master Gardeners will have their first SHRUB pruning day!

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 (Will be rescheduled in case of snow or rain)

We will hold two sessions.

First one is a **morning session 8:00-10:00** and the Second one is an **afternoon session 1:00-3:00**. **YOU MAY ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS!**

BRING YOUR OWN GLOVES! WEAR STURDY SHOES, YOUR BADGES, AND DRESS WARM IN LAYERS!

The shrubs we will be pruning are:

January/February	Location
Beautyberry	Swings, museum
Hypericum	panels, Buffalo
Abelia	Main, Oak
Butterfly Bush	City hall
Clethra alnifolia	Jury parking lot
Wax myrtle club med	Jury
Osmanthus fortunei	Jury
Illicium	Main, Oak
Spirea	Parking lot uptown
Yews	Courtyard (tall and short)
Otto Leuken	
Peach trees	Farmers market

These workshops provide:

- Hours toward your certification
- Community Outreach when citizens ask you questions
- Education on shrub identification, proper pruning and timing
- Fun times with our fellow master gardeners

Please let me know you are coming so we have plenty of safety vests and tools.

Ann Barklow 344-0120 or annbarklow@embarqmail.com

Adios, auf wiedersehen, à bientôt

I want to say good bye as editor of the Lakelands Master Gardener newsletter. I have been doing the newsletter since I graduated from the class in 2010, except for one month where Vince took over. It is a great job to have in the organization as you are privy to all that is going on. As with any other job within an organization, it is good to have new folks take over and make it their own. The newsletter has evolved over the years, with lots of great information from many of our members. Sandy Orr will be stepping up to the computer and taking over with the next issue. Let's all support her by giving her articles throughout the year to fill the pages. Thank you to all who have written articles for the newsletter while I was at the helm... the newsletter is only as good as those articles that fill it.

Janet Ledebuhr

TORTURE YOUR TREES – Sandy Orr

Ever wanted to waterboard a terrorist? Instead, you might try pleaching, pollarding, or coppicing, your shrubbery and trees. Let's start at the top of the tree.

Pleaching: Pleaching is espalier-training on a grand scale. You often see pleached hornbeams in European gardens. "Pleach" comes from the Latin word meaning to plait, or weave together. Usually, medium or small trees/shrubs are flattened into a linear hedge, and the side branches are interwoven so that "inosculation" can take place. Inosculation naturally occurs when the branches are tied together and eventually merge. Most pleaching creates a stilted hedge with bare trunks at the bottom. Umbrellas can also be created by interweaving a platform of branches at the tops of trees.



This picture is of pleached and and pollarded trees.

Pollarding: This is seen all over the South when "crepe murder" is committed and knobby stubs result. Europeans and Japanese strive for this effect, pollarding willows, oak, lime, ash, hornbeam, and beech. Virtually any hardwood will work, since the purpose was originally to generate large supplies of renewable firewood. Trees were cut above animal grazing height at 7 feet. Epping Forest, north of London, once had 500,000 pollarded trees intensively planted at 296 per acre. Several decorative patterns are common. Goblets, flat planes, or linear trunks with knobs from top to bottom are popular.

Trees outlive unpruned trees, with some pollarded trees lasting 1600 years. Willows and dogwoods are pollarded to produce the colorful flush of new growth that red twig dogwood and redosier willows put out. I also heard that pollarded mimosas resemble Australian tree ferns (which are not hardy here). The 25 foot mimosa in the woods across the street wasn't doing much, so I chopped it at four feet last winter, neglecting the European woodsmen's advice to cut it ABOVE the level of animal grazing. All the new growth sprouted at four feet and the deer promptly ate it all. So, I'm planting many new mimosas to chop at seven feet instead.

Painting by Vincent Van Gogh of pollarded willows.

Coppicing: Coppicing is pollarding virtually down to the ground. I do this to red and yellow twig dogwoods at Rice Elementary Garden, so that the new post-January-cut growth is vivid and plentiful. The cut branches are used for basket/fence weaving or flower arrangements. Paulownia grows leaves that are 2 feet across when it is treated this way. Trees are turned into multi-stemmed shrubs, when cut to the ground each year.



Cornus kousa and styrax can be converted with coppicing. Willow and hazel are coppiced to generate plant supports and garden fencing. It attracts more small woodland wildlife and birds to the woods.

Grab your hand pruning saw and twist ties and try tree shaping. You'll like it. It's one more thing to create interest on your garden walks.

Spider Mites

Vincent Plotczyk

While working at the Master Gardener office I had the chance to look at some samples that were dropped off. I diagnosed the problem as Spider Mites and thought this would make a good newsletter article to share.



Spider Mite

Mites are common in both landscapes and gardens and are pests to over 180 different plant species. Spider mites look like tiny moving dots and you can see them with a 10X hand lens or you can tap the infected leaf on a sheet of white paper and look for tiny moving dots. The most common spider mite is the two spotted spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae*. The two-spotted spider mite has four life stages; egg, larva, nymph, and adult. The female two spotted spider mite is larger than the male and has a rounded posterior where the male is smaller and has a pointed posterior. Adult mites have 8 legs and an oval body with two red eye-spots near the head. Newly hatched larvae have only 6 legs.

Spider mites live in colonies and can be found on the undersides of leaves. The presence of silk webbing is an easy way you can distinguish spider mites from other insects like aphids and thrips.



Mite colony on underside of leaf

Spider mites pierce individual cells of leaves with their needle like mouthparts called a chelicerae. This causes stippling. Heavy infestations of spider mites can reduce photosynthesis which can cause leaves to fall and can cause the death of the plant.



Spider mite overwintering coloration

Spider mites overwinter as red or orange mated females under rough bark scales, ground litter and trash. Spider mites begin feeding and laying eggs in the spring. In greenhouses, female spider mites do not enter a resting phase so populations are continuous throughout the year.



Spider Mite Egg



Spider Mite Eggs

Spider Mite eggs are spherical and translucent becoming cream colored before hatching. Female spider mites lay up to a dozen eggs a day and average one hundred eggs in a lifetime. After an incubation period of 3 [(75°F or 24°C) to 19 (50°F or 10°C)] days the eggs hatch.

Control Measures

Many factors must be taken into consideration before a control measure is applied. Host plant, climatic conditions and scouting reports are some factors to be considered. **Be sure mites are present before you treat.**

Cultural Controls

Maintain an environment that is high in humidity and low in temperature. A high pressure spray of water directed to the underside of leaves will wash the spider mites off. This will need to be done about every three days to be effective.

Encourage natural enemies such as lady beetles, predatory thrips, and predatory mites.

Chemical Control

If more control is needed you can use an insecticidal soap or insecticidal oil. **DO NOT USE SOAPS OR OILS ON WATER-STRESSED PLANTS OR WHEN TEMPERATURES EXCEED 90 °F.**

Read the labels and/or test on a portion of foliage several days before applying a full treatment.

Oils and soaps must come into contact with mites to kill them. Oils and soaps will kill the egg stage.

Spider mites exposed to carbaryl (Sevin) in the laboratory have been shown to increase mite reproduction.

Sulfur sprays can be used on some vegetables, fruit trees, and ornamentals. This product will burn cucurbits and other plants. **DO NOT USE SULFUR UNLESS IT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE SAFE FOR THE PLANT IN YOUR LOCALITY.**

Do not use sulfur if temperatures exceed 90 °F. Sulfur is a skin irritant and eye and respiratory hazard. Always wear appropriate protective clothing.

A labeled miticide can be used. Miticides only kill nymphs and adults. Eggs are unaffected by most miticides. Two treatments at one week intervals should be applied.

Do not use sulfur if temperatures exceed 90 °F. Sulfur is a skin irritant and eye and respiratory hazard. Always wear appropriate protective clothing.

A labeled miticide can be used. Miticides only kill nymphs and adults. Eggs are unaffected by most miticides. Two treatments at one week intervals should be applied.

References

MITES

Greg Hodges

Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Division of Plant Industry
Gainesville, FL 32614

Dan Horton

Department of Entomology
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Donn Johnson

University of Arkansas

Clemson Cooperative Extension
Information Series Spider Mites

Pest Notes

Mites
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Management Program

Purdue University

Two-Spotted Spider Mite

Colorado State University Extension Spider Mites

W.S. Cranshaw & D.C. Sclar

Department of Entomology

Fayetteville, AR 72701

Entomology Insect Information Series

Spider Mites

Publication 7405

University of California
Statewide Integrated Pest

Field Crops IPM



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

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|--|---|--------------------------------|
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