

## 2016

### DATES

2/1 "Home Fruit Production" at Ext Office 2:15-4:30 or 5:30-7:15, \$20, 223-3264

2/11 6:30 Gwd Metro District Bldg, LMG potluck Annual Awards Meeting (see flyer included)

2/13 G'vl MG'ers Symposium 8-3 TD Convention Center [www.gqmgga.org](http://www.gqmgga.org)

2/27 York Co. MG'ers Symposium 8-3 Baxter Hood Cntr, Rock Hill, [symposium@yorkmg.org](mailto:symposium@yorkmg.org)

3/05 "Cultivate", Greenville organic growing conference [http://scorga.nicliving.com/Cultivate\\_Clas](http://scorga.nicliving.com/Cultivate_Clas)



### President's Letter-Donna Feldmaier

I am writing this the day after our little snow event. As you know, I am not a fan of the white stuff. Hopefully, it is our last snow and we can look forward to spring!

I want to thank Sandy Orr and Ann Barklow for their wonderful job on the January speaker meeting. Not only did they secure the very knowledgeable speaker, Bill Stringer, but they also impressed us all with their savvy parking attendant skills! Sandy entertained us with a gardening quiz and rewarded the winners with native plants from her garden. I was lucky enough to win a pot of zephyranthes atamasca (rain lily). I planted half and potted up the other half for our plant sale.

The nominating committee has completed their hunt (almost) and has submitted the names of our new board. I am very excited that three new interns and one new member were willing to take a position. The names will be presented at the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on February 11. We will also find out who is the new Master Gardener of the Year. It will be a very enjoyable evening. I hope everyone has turned in their RSVP to Charlotte Cabri.

It is hard to believe this is my final article as president. It has been a wonderful year and I have learned a lot. I am very excited to pass the baton to Barbara Wells. She will serve the Lakeland Master Gardeners well. Now dear friends, I am off to dream about playing in the dirt.

### GENTLE REMINDERS:- Sandy Orr

If you haven't sent your dues in for next year's membership, please do so right now, so your vote can be counted February 11 at our Annual Meeting to install officers.

Keep the April Master Gardener Plant Sale in mind when dividing plants and planting winter seeds. Plants potted now will have time to establish good root systems.

[ses.html](#)

3/10 6:00  
Gwd Library,  
LMG  
Membership  
Meeting, 6:30  
Speaker  
Meeting TBA.  
See ballot at  
right to vote  
for meeting  
you want.

4/7,8,9 GWD  
Farmer's  
Market Spring  
Plant Festival  
setup and sale  
days. LMG  
Plant Sale  
Friday and  
Saturday.

**Lakelands Master Gardeners  
Recognition and Awards Banquet**

**Thursday, February 11, 2016**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Green Metropolitan District**

**110 Metro Drive**

**Please join us as we vote in new members  
Of the board and celebrate our  
Newest graduates and the 2016 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:**

**Charlotte Cabri  
[ccabri@lander.edu](mailto:ccabri@lander.edu)**

**993-2833**

**[NATIVE PLANTS AND SUPPORT FOR TOTAL ECOYSTEM- Chuck Bender](#)**

On January 14, 2016 Dr. Bill Stringer, Clemson University retired, gave a most interesting talk for our LMG members on native plants and how they are critical to our total ecosystem. He was previously an Associate Professor in the School of Agricultural, Forest, and Environmental Sciences and is very active with the upstate chapter of the SC Native Plant Society. For those of you who might have missed this meeting, here is a brief summary.

Most of us have heard numerous times about how we should consider and use native plants, but not much time is spent discussing the reasons why. Dr. Stringer presented a total overview

of our ecosystem, which is the interactive community of living organisms in which we live. This encompasses the complex relationship in which both plants and animals (which includes us) must depend on each other. We've all heard about the danger of nonnative, invasive species that can run rampant and take over our landscaping. We also know that native plants are usually better able to contend with our bad, highly acidic soil with low nutrients and less insects. Yet there are numerous other perspectives that need to be considered.

Dr. Stringer distributed a very interesting article by Douglas W. Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and author of the book "Bringing Nature Home". This article suggests that losses to biodiversity are a sign that our own life-support systems are failing. This biodiversity "generates oxygen and clean water, creates topsoil out of rock, buffers extreme weather events like droughts and floods, pollinates our crops, and recycles the mountains of garbage we create every day." He notes that "humans cannot live as the only species on this planet because it is other species that create the ecosystem services essential to our survival." Among his conclusions is that "in the past we have not designed gardens that play a critical ecological role in the landscape, but we must do so in the future." Studies have shown that "even modest increases in the native plant cover on suburban properties" can have beneficial effects.

As more and more undeveloped land is taken over for residential and commercial use, there are less native plants to support pollinators, songbirds and many other animals. Dr. Stringer noted that things that we take for granted, such as using beautiful plants in building landscaping, are contributing greatly to this problem and need to be revisited. For instance camellias are very beautiful and noninvasive, yet they have no beneficial effects for pollinators and displace native plants that would. Nandina is also very beautiful but its berries are toxic to some animals. There are numerous housing development common roads/areas and miles of highway shoulders planted with grass. These are regularly mowed which further reduces native plant habitats, as well as producing ruts and land erosion. Something as simple as reducing roadside mowing to only several times per year and planting native flower beds could help support native plants and their pollinators.

Even some commonly accepted "good" plants may not help as much as we think. Beautiful lawns can produce clover and can attract bees. Yet many of these bees are then eliminated by lawn mowers. Butterfly Bushes may produce lots of nectar, but they also produce berries which are toxic. So even though they can initially be a welcoming host for caterpillars, their eggs can die when they hatch. Tropical milkweed can attract Monarch butterflies to lay their eggs, but it may do so when it blooms in the Fall. This is the time of year when Monarchs should be migrating further South to lay the eggs.

As with most things in life, moderation and balance in landscaping is desirable. One does not have to eliminate using beautiful harmless plants, but it would be good to retain and incorporate as many native plants as possible. To be more ecosystem friendly, here are some tips that may be helpful when considering plants:

1. Visit the SC Native Plant website for ideas on beneficial native plants and where to purchase: [www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org)
2. Consider Serviceberry as an alternative to Bradford Pear trees.

3. Reduce the size of formal lawn areas and incorporate more native plants beneficial to pollinators.
4. Leave some natural, native plant borders along the edge of your landscaping.
5. Avoid plants from states further North that may not tolerate our heat well.

### **EAT YOUR WHEATIES AND LEARN YOUR LATIN- Jimmy McInville**

It has happened to all of us at one time or another. You go into a nursery ask for Black-eyed Susan take them home only to find they don't look like the ones your Grandma had. The reason could be Common Names are different in different areas and so many varieties. Was it Rudbeckia fulgida or hirta? Or after searching through stacks of catalogs you finally find that perfect plant you have been hunting, look at the name and....Muhlenbergia capillaris. What? You're supposed to go to the local nursery and ask for Muhwhat capswho? No it's not a tongue twister. It's Latin and thanks to the internet there is help. Not hours of on line classes, you don't have time for that you have a family and volunteer projects to get too, Right? But web sites that will not only give you the scientific name, but audio of the correct pronunciation, the common name, plant requirements, culture and characteristics. One such website I use regularly is The Missouri Botanical Gardens Plant Finder. It's as simple to use as fill in the blanks. Now go have fun!

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>



**FARMERS MARKET  
SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL**

**FRIDAY APRIL 8th**  
8:00AM - 4:00PM

**SATURDAY APRIL 9th**  
8:00 AM - 2:00PM

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

AT THE **SC HWY 72/221 EAST**

**GREENWOOD FARMER'S MARKET**

MARKET MANAGER  
NEWTON O'DELL  
864-223-6305

The poster features a sun icon in the top left, a 'CERTIFIED SC GROWS' logo, and a photograph of various vegetables like bell peppers and tomatoes in the bottom right.





*Come get warm with the gang in the City's hoop house! Only 14,000 more cuttings to go.*

**"MAKING IT GROW" with Ann Barklow- by Sandy Orr**



*Brilliant plantsman, Amanda McNulty, Ann Barklow, Stephanie Turner, and Chat Room Mgr.*

Our own Ann Barklow livened up SCETV's "Making It Grow" TV show, along with Stephanie Turner from the Greenwood Farmer's Market. This is a weekly show on Channel 29, Tuesdays at 7:00PM originating from Sumter. Master Gardeners get credit for their hours if they watch! Ann fielded tough questions from the audience and the terrifying "Mystery Plant" question from Dr. John Nelson from the SC Herbarium. Amanda Mc Nulty (the hatted one) featured Ann's salad greens in the spotlight segment. They offered to feed Ann at the station, but she didn't want just any old Iceberg lettuce, so she BYOG'd it, (Bring Your Own Greens). They stole her dinner and peered at it under the camera lens. Ann's bounty of very cold hardy Tuscan kale, Red Russian kale, Green Ice lettuce, North Pole lettuce, Swiss Chard, Bok Choi, Savoy mini-cabbage (very sweet and tender), Conehead cabbage, Golden beets,

Brussel sprouts, Purple Sprouting Broccoli, oregano, thyme, and mint amazed them. She'd started these seeds in July/Aug to get these winter yields. Ann covers all these crops with a single layer of the thinnest horticultural fleece for weather down to 30 degrees. When it's in the twenties, she adds an additional layer of protection which is removed when it warms up again. In January, she started seeds of these cole crops and greens inside for a spring crop.

You can access Ann's "On Demand" episode at the Making It Grow website. Ann was a hit and will be back in a spring segment on the Festival of Flowers topiaries! Be sure to watch your email for the date.

### TOPIARY CONSTRUCTION FREQUENCY BEGINS



*Indefatigable Nancy Collins rehabs Gertie the Giraffe.*

*Geepers, creepers, where'd you get those peepers?*

### VOTE FOR THE MARCH LMG MEETING TOPIC YOU MOST WANT TO EXPERIENCE IN FULL AUDIOVISUAL SPLENDOR

It being an election year, let's exercise our democratic right and vote for the topic of your choice. Send your vote to [sandyorr@embarqmail.com](mailto:sandyorr@embarqmail.com)

- 1) Landscape tricks we can steal from iconic English Gardens
- 2) Topiary- Pearl Fryar and Beyond: How you can add topiary interest to your yard, using techniques from Pearl Fryar, Jake Hobson, and Levens Hall. Demonstration shrub. Won't just be about Pearl, but will include espalier etc.
- 3) 5 Unique New York/Hudson Valley gardens that you can visit: NYC High Line, Wave Hill, and three others. What we can learn from them.

Check one:  Renewal  New Member/Transfer

Please renew your MG membership by completing this form and paying your dues for the coming calendar 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 are \$20.00**

**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: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Year 40 hours were completed)

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

Please indicate at least one committee(s) you are interested in working with:

- |                          |                               |                          |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ Community Projects | _____ Membership              | _____ Plant Sale         |
| _____ Education          | _____ Clemson Ext office      | _____ Web Site           |
| _____ Face Book Page     | _____ Newsletter              | _____ Social Activities  |
| _____ Fund Raising       | _____ Programs & Speakers     | _____ Topiary/greenhouse |
| _____ Home & Garden show | _____ Public Relations        | _____ Mentoring          |
| _____ Citizen Pruners    | _____ Community Voucher Distr | _____ Community Garden   |

Suggested topics/activities for the meetings or continuing education: \_\_\_\_\_

-----Please do not write below this line---this is for office use-----

\_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date Membership list updated

## **Lakelands Master Gardener Board**

### **Voting Members**

#### *Executive Committee*

President: Donna Feldmaier

Vice President: Barbara Wells

Treasurer: Melody McInville

Secretary: Chris Moon

Past President: Sandy Orr

### **General Board Members**

Community Projects: Jimmy McInville and Sue Monaghan

Education: Linda Halsey

Membership: Betsy Russ

Plant Sale/Fund Raising: Sandy Orr

Programs/Speakers: Bill Aaron

Public Relations: Olivia Reynolds and Chris Cornetto

Website/By-Laws: Chuck Bender

### **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: Charlotte Cabri