2017 Calendar

2/09 LMG Annual Mtng and Graduation Potluck Dinner 6:30 at Greenwood Metro, 110 Metro Drive. Please attend with or without food. Phone Sandy for directions: 543-4888.

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

3/09 LMG Membership Mtng 6PM, Speaker Mtng 6:30 "Backyard Birds" Rusty Wilson

4/20,21,22- LMG Farmer's Market Plant Sale. Setup Thurs. PM, Sale Fri/Sat.

SOUTH CAROLINA Master Gardener A CLEMSON EXTENSION PROGRAM

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

It's February and that means my term as president of the Lakelands Master Gardeners will soon be coming to an end. I've enjoyed our monthly newsletter chats, though they often seemed a bit one sided.

In this, my last president's letter, I have a small confession to make. I make lists. Sometimes many lists. Occasionally I even add an item to my to do list that's just been done so I can cross it off my list. List making is a way to organize thoughts, remember things, avoid procrastination, and minimize stress. A lot of people make lists. Famous list makers include Thomas Jefferson, Johnny Cash, and Santa. I suppose I'm in good company.

Today, I would like to share a few Lakelands Master Gardener related lists with you. You may notice that this is a list of lists. No comments, please.

List 1. Plants now blooming in my yard: Edgeworthia chrysantha (paper bush), Daphne odora (winter daphne), Violas, Pansies, Phlox stolonifera (creeping phlox), Helleborus orientalis, Acer palmatum 'Sangokaku' (coral bark maple). OK, I admit the coral bark maple is not actually blooming and never will bloom, but the red bark against the yellow green underplanting of Brigadoon St. John's Wort is stunning, even if I do say so myself.

List 2. Plants now blooming I wish I had in my yard: Sarcococca confusa (sweet box), Lonicera fragrantissima (winter honeysuckle), Chimonanthus praecox (wintersweet), Narcissus tazetta (paperwhites), Mahonia 'Soft Caress'.

List 3. Garden to do list for February: Cut back ornamental grasses and liriope (if never crossed off January's list), cut back the Rosa Mutabilis, decide which of the "way more than I'll ever grow" seeds to actually attempt to grow for personal use and for the plant sale, divide more perennials for the plant sale (hint, hint), apply Milorganite again to pansies and violas to repel deer, prune dead or crossed tree branches, cut back butterfly bushes, weed (all that rain!).

List 4. What's happening soon with Lakelands Master Gardeners: Annual Awards Banquet, Master Gardener Symposium in Greenville, Rusty Wilson's program on Backyard Birds, our Annual Plant Sale. See the sidebar for details on all of these.

List 5. Folks to thank: Annie Keith for her wonderful program on Bokashi composting, everyone who served on the LMG Board this past year, all who have agreed to remain on the board this coming year, those that answered "yes" when asked to join the board, and Donna Feldmaier for leading the charge to find those who answered "yes". And last but not least, thanks to all of you for allowing me to ride along with you this past year. It's been a wonderful adventure.

Signing Off, B.

"People who want to appear clever rely on memory. People who want to get things done make lists." Peter McWilliams

"Wherever you go, go with all your heart." Confucius

This annual awards banquet is fun even if you haven't done anything award-worthy. It's always the best food and camaraderie of the year. There will be pictures of LMG loved ones. If you accidentally neglect to call Barbara to reserve, please come anyway. If you can't cook, you can still come, there will be plenty.

ERSKINE COLLEGE CAMELLIAS- Dr. Janice Haldeman, Professor Emeritus

Though it's still officially winter, as spring term begins our campus is fortunate to have camellia shrubs adding their floral color. Since fall, we have had camellias blooming, and many continued to bloom through Christmas holidays. The fall blooming species is Camellia sasanqua. This evergreen shrub originated in Japan where it is known as "Sazanka," which means "the flower of autumn," and we call its varieties "sasanquas." Now blooming is the species Camellia japonica, whose varieties we call "japonicas." Both fall and spring blooming Camellias are widely grown here for their beautiful blossoms, the result of many years cultivation and selection.

They are available in red, many shades of pink, and white, with either delicate single or fluffy double petals. There are also a number of other Camellia species and even some hybrid camellias known only in cultivat**ion. Japonicas generally bloom** from February through March, but start sooner when early winter is mild, as it has been this year. A late hard freeze can wipe out slightly opened bloom buds.

History.

Camellias were brought to Europe early in the 18th century, and Linnaeus named the genus for 17th century Jesuit lay missionary, pharmacist and botanist Georg Joseph Camel. Plants may have been brought to Charleston as early as 1786 by renowned French botanist Andre Michaux. They were found to be well suited to climate and soils of the southeast and soon became established, cultivated, and available from American nurseries early in the 19th century.

Tiny Little Tea Leaves and More.

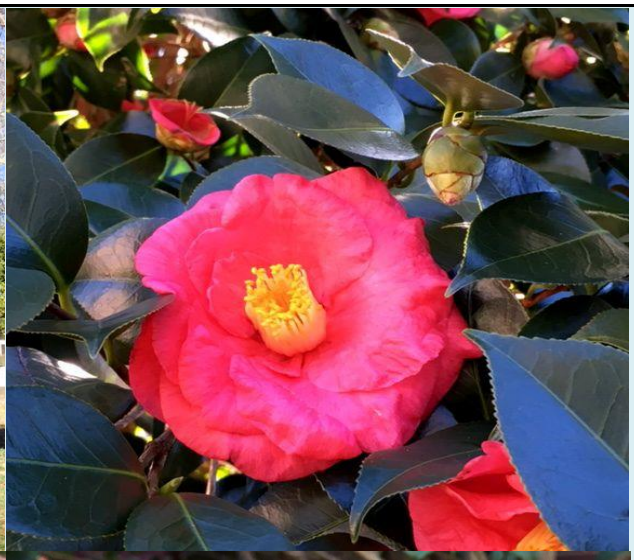
There are at least 80 species of camellias, which are members of the tea family, Theaceae. Tea is produced from youngest leaves of Camellia sinensis, (sinensis = Chinese), as both the plant and its drink originated in China. **(**"All the tea in China!") Tea plants grow well in our region, are evergreen, and can grow to small tree size if not kept trimmed. Like "Sasanqua," Tea is a fall bloomer with small white fragrant flowers. And like other camellias, the capsules, green at first then turning brown, produce marble sized brown seeds. Our campus has Tea plants growing **in** at least three locations; the shrub bed in front of the "President's house" on main street, the shrub bed behind Philo Hall, and the shrub bed in front of Daniel Moultrie Science Canter.

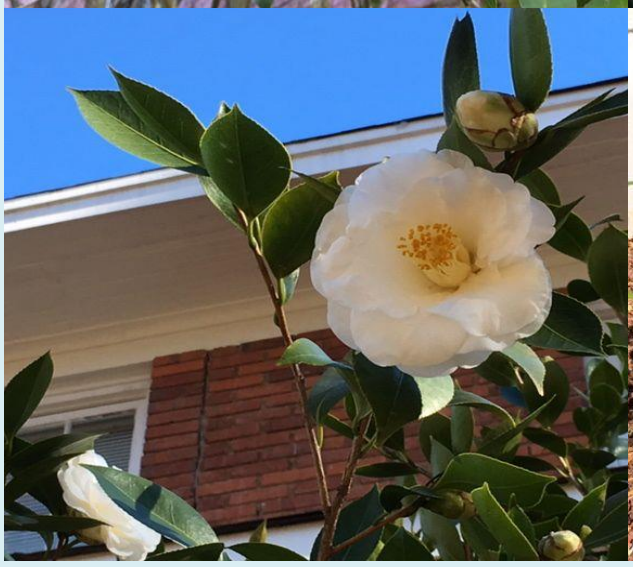
South Carolina has been home to Camellia sinensis since colonial times, and is the only state that has produced tea commercially. A very successful tea plantation called Pinehurst operated in Summerville in the latter part of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century. Since the 1960s South Carolina's American Classic Tea has been produced by the Charleston Tea Plantation on Wadmalaw Island. Now owned and operated by Bigelow, the plantation has been expanded and features year 'round events and tours.

Links for more information:

Nice images of flowers at: http://sazanka.org/about/ For more about tea in South Carolina check:

http://www.charlestonteaplantation.com/








1.Mature Camellia japonica in front yard of Presidents home 110 N Main Street, that has been kept trimmed and is about 10 feet tall. Shrub in full bloom, and recent rains quickened blossom shedding.
2. Blossom from camellia image 1.
3. Deep red double blooms of old 'Professor Sargent' at Main St. side of Robinson Dorm. This variety considered a Christmas bloomer, and has the right Christmas colors. Strong root stock for local grafters.
4. Pink double blooms at Bonner Hall.
5. White bloom at side of Edwards Guest House.
6. Tea plant Camellia sinensis at back of Philo Hall.
7. Peppermint striped pink flowers on the Washington St side of Belk Hall.
8. Camellia hiemalis, a winter bloomer (possibly Sasanqua hybrid) at Snapper's patio and also now at front and back of Watkins.
9. Bloom of Camellia hiemalis.
10. Bloom of Moffatt parking lot Japonica!

TO COVER OR NOT TO COVER?- by Ann Barklow

As I write this article for the newsletter, it is 23 degrees but feels like16. When these winter storms come through, this California girl gets online to research the hardiness of some of my winter vegetable plants and the plants in Uptown Greenwood where I work.

These decisions to cover are not always easy to make First I have to look at the particular plantings I'm concerned will die from a hard freeze:

Are they in a protected area?

Are they higher up in elevation (cold travels downhill)

Are they more established with a good root system and repeated exposure to increased c**hill**?

Is the ground moist? (Wet soil insulates roots and moderates temperature extremes.)

Is there going to be early morning sun after a hard freeze that will thaw the plant too rapidly causing damage.

Is there a large investment (labor and money) in the plantings to warrant more caution

I LOVE weather apps!! This makes my decisions so much easier. I can look at the exact hours of a hard freeze over several days. Most times I'm looking for anytime the temperature gets below 26 degrees for longer than 2 hours to qualify as a hard freeze.

The City of Greenwood Horticultural team planted almost 10,000 pansies in the Uptown area. What is factored into our decision on whether we need to expend time, effort and money into covering the pansies?

We grew them from tiny plugs and cared for them for several months before planting.
Many volunteers from the LMG helped in the care, design and planting.
The many designs by our staff using pansies and kale are absolutely stunning!
We began planting in September and will keep them out in the landscape until April.
They have already given us 3 months of beauty.

There are many University websites that have research on growing pansies and what temperatures they will survive in winter. Using a University source and getting research based information from trial and error gives us the best option for our pansy's success.

According to Texas A & M and the University of Georgia Extension, pansies will be damaged if there is over 2 hours of temperatures under 20 degrees. On the weekend of January 7, according to my weather app there was a prediction of 13 hours of under 20 degrees. Both Universities recommend to place 2-4" of pine straw over pansies to keep them insulated under these harsh conditions. According to the University of Georgia: "Pine straw, applied 2 to 4 inches thick over the top of the entire bed (plants and all) during extreme cold is one of the best ways to save a pansy planting from freeze injury. Pine straw helps trap heat in the soil, prevents it from freezing and greatly reduces exposure to cold, desiccating wind. Carefully rake the pine straw off the bed when the cold weather passes. Special frost protection fabrics have also been used successfully. These special freeze protection measures are generally taken only when the air temperature is expected to drop below 20° F for several hours, when dehydrating winds accompany the cold, and when the soil is in jeopardy of freezing. Healthy plants can generally survive short periods of temperatures down to the single digits without protection."

A quick decision needed to be made at the City. Maybe the pansies would make it through that 13 hours in the teens but what happens if the forecast changes to even colder temperatures and/or longer hours. After discussion and research we headed out to buy 50 bales of pinestraw and with a crew of 4 got the pansies covered in 2 hours. We left Maxwell street uncovered because we ran out of pinestraw and time but will be able to use this as our education of pansy hardiness. We also left some pansies exposed in areas that were more protected. Of course we will need to remove all of this pinestraw which will be more labor intensive than spreading it. It will be less labor and more gratifying than taking out dead pansies, though.

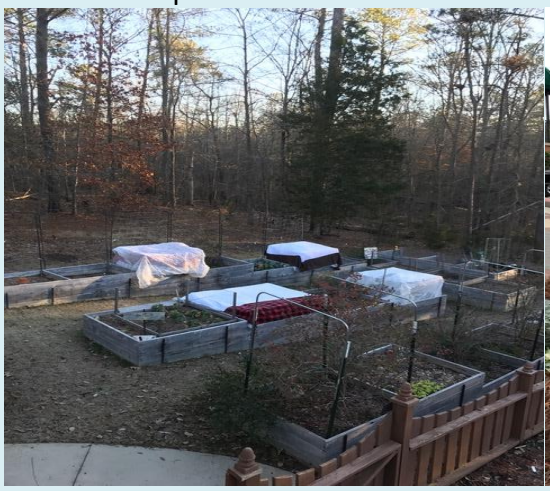
On the home front, I have kale, lettuce, and collards. I ended up covering all but the collards. I have found collards to be extremely hardy but have found lettuce and cabbage to be less likely

to survive in a hard frost of that duration. The kale would have likely survived but **I did not want to stress it,** since it is one of my favorite winter crops. My plants are covered with cages for deer protection so to cover them with sheets, old blankets and row covers is not difficult.

This is my 7th year in the south learning about how a freeze damages plants. This is a great description of what goes on inside the plant from Texas A & M Horticulture.

"Water in the plant, outside the cell walls, is relatively pure and freezes when it reaches 32 degrees F., while water inside the cells of plants contains dissolved salts, sugars, enzymes, and other substances which act as "anti- freeze." As ice crystals form between cells, the water inside the cells is drawn out through the cell walls. This causes the cells to get smaller. The resulting pressure and stress may cause the walls to break. If the temperature drop is sudden and extreme, ice crystals may form inside the cells of some species rupturing the cell protoplasm and killing the cell in this way."

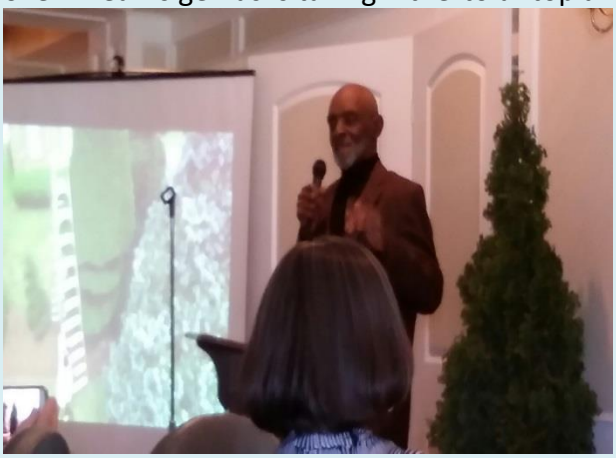
As our extension agent, James Hodges would say if asked whether to cover a plant for a freeze: "It depends."




Sleep tight, little kales

PEARL FRYAR CUTS A SWATH THROUGH GREENWOOD-Sandy Orr

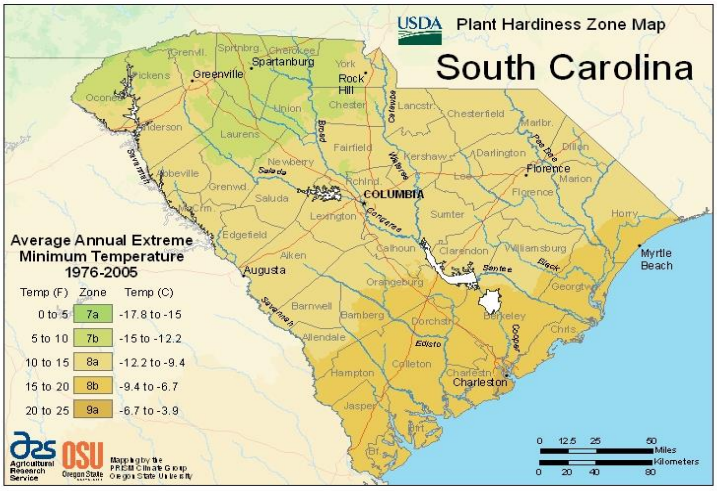
Pearl Fryar, master topiarist from Bishopville SC, regaled the crowd at Greenwood Country Club with stories of his life and spread his motivational gospel. His gardening advice included cutting 6" trenches around trees about 10 feet out from the trunk. In his soil, this encourages tree roots to go down, so that they survive better in drought and protects them from being mowed over. Pearl's genius is taking hitherto untopiaried tree species and turning them into sculptures.




FATSHEDERA PROPAGATION EXPERIMENT-Ann Barklow

Barbara Wells had a disturbing occurrence at home when her favorite fatshedera (a cross between fatsia and hedera or ivy) broke a large branch. Barbara brought it to the City Greenhouse and we are experimenting with three types of propagation. Sherry Edwards taught us leaf propagation using rooting hormone and the other two were from cuttings using rooting hormone powder and **jar of water.** We will keep you posted. Which one do you think will root quickest?

USDA PLANT HARDINESS ZONES- USDA article supplied by Jimmy McInville



Hardiness zones are based on the average annual extreme minimum temperature during a 30-

year period in the past, not the lowest temperature that has ever occurred in the past or might occur in the future. Gardeners should keep that in mind when selecting plants, especially if they choose to "push" their hardiness zone by growing plants not rated for their zone.

Microclimates, which are fine-scale climate variations, can be small heat islands – such as those created in parking lots and walk ways – or cool spots caused by small hills and valleys. Individual gardens also may have very localized microclimates. Your entire yard could be somewhat warmer or cooler than the surrounding area because it is sheltered or exposed. You also could have pockets within your garden that are warmer or cooler than the general zone for your area or for the rest of your yard, such as a sheltered area in front of a south-facing wall or a low spot where cool air pools first. No hardiness zone map can take the place of the detailed knowledge that gardeners pick up about their own gardens through hands-on experience.

Many species of plants gradually acquire cold hardiness in the fall when they experience shorter days and cooler temperatures. This hardiness is normally lost gradually in late winter as temperatures warm and days become longer. A bout of extremely cold weather early in the fall may injure plants even though the temperatures may not reach the average lowest temperature for your zone. Similarly, exceptionally warm weather in midwinter followed by a sharp change to seasonably cold weather may cause injury to plants as well. Such factors are not taken into account in the USDA PHZM (Plant Hardiness Zone Map).

All PHZM are just guides. They are based on the average lowest temperatures, not the lowest ever. Growing plants at the extreme of the coldest zone where they are adapted means that they could experience a year with a rare, extreme cold snap that last just a day or two, and plants that have thrived happily for several years could be lost. Gardeners need to keep in mind and understand that past weather records cannot be a guarantee for future variation in weather.

<u>Other Factors</u>

Many other environmental factors, in addition to hardiness zones, contribute to the success or failure of plants. Wind, soil type, soil moisture, humidity, pollution, snow, and winter sunshine can greatly affect the survival of plants. The way plants are placed in the landscape, how they are planted, and their size and health might also influence their survival.

Light: To thrive, plants need to be planted where they will receive the proper amount of light. For example, plants that require partial shade that are at the limits of hardiness in your area might be injured by too much sun during winter because it might cause rapid changes in the plant's temperature.

Soil moisture: Plants have different requirements for soil moisture, and this might vary seasonally. Plants that might otherwise be hardy in your zone might be injured if soil moisture is too low in late autumn and they enter dormancy while suffering moisture stress.

Temperature: Plants grow best within a range of optimum temperatures, both cold and hot.

That range may be wide for some varieties and species but narrow for others.

Duration of exposure to cold: Many plants that can survive a short period of exposure to cold may not tolerate longer periods of cold weather.

Humidity: High relative humidity limits cold damage by reducing moisture loss from leaves, branches, and buds. Cold injury can be more severe if the humidity is low, especially for evergreens. When expecting severe cold events water plants heavily the day before. This will hydrate leaf tissue, raise local humidity around plants and reduce freeze damage. If the temperature goes below a certain level sensitive flower buds may still suffer.

The PHZM are a guide to help us pick what will thrive in our gardens but we so often pick what our eyes like. So find those microclimates in your garden chances are you will find a new must-have to fill it.

THE MUSROOM LADY - Susie Bender

Susie is offering monthly learning and tasting events to help understand the benefits of fresh and dehydrated mushrooms. The first tasting will be February 14 at noon at Bernie Brooks Inn, Abbeville, SC 29620. For reservations call 864-366-8310. The cost is $15.00

A FUNGUS AMONG US- Ann Barklow

What's that in the shade garden by the Art Center?? Onion rings? French fries? It is a European native fungus, Clathrus ruber. The white eggs that it is growing out of are used as a raw delicacy in parts of Europe where it is pickled and called Devil's Eggs. You wouldn't want to eat the fruiting body since it smells like rotten meat. Actually when I smelled it I thought of cat feces. But the flies seem to love it!

ANNIE's BOKASHI SHOW IS A HIT

LMG's own newly- transplanted Beaufort Master Gardener drew a sizeable crowd. We learned how to pickle our compost to speed up decomposition and eliminate malodorous kitchen bins. Even the fungus mentioned above would emerge from bokashi bran smelling like a rose.

VEGETABLE BROTH FROM SCRAPS- **Ann Barklow**

Podcasts are opening me up to so many things. Now I take all my scraps from making salads and kale chips etc and put in a pot and make veggie broth. Do you know where I can buy seaweed in Greenwood? I want to add it to my broth. This is from a podcast called "A Way to Grow" by Margaret Roach, who posts on Itunes. Now what will I have to put in my bokashi composter?

LMG PLANT SALE APRIL 21,22- START DIVIDING PLANTS AND PLANTING SEEDS

Let's make sure we have a lot of plants to sell by April 21,22. If every Master Gardener provides 10 plants, we'll have plenty. Red Solo cup-sized plants are just fine. Instructions to sign up to work the Sale will be in the March newsletter.

CHUCK BENDER , THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Chris Ester, Ann Barklow, Chuck Bender clone, Jimmy McInville and Barbara Wells (low for a change)

Even though Chuck has relocated to Raleigh, we took a "cutting" of him, and it blossomed into our website manager.

Don't forget!
If you haven't paid your 2017 LMG Dues yet, you can pay at the Annual Banquet on February 9.
Dues are $20.
But don't forget a check or cash.
Renewal forms will be available at the Banquet. For your convenience the renewal form is also included below.

Lakelands Master Gardener Association 2017 Membership Renewal
Check one: Renewal New Member/Transfer
Master Gardener Membership Dues are $20.00.
Payment is due by the Awards Banquet to be eligible to vote.
Make your check payable to Lakelands Master Gardener Organization (LMGO) and mail to:
Melody McInville
345 Klugh Rd.
Abbeville, SC 29620
Name: _____Spouse: _____
Address: _____ _____
City/State/Zip: _____ _____
Phone # Home: _____Work: _____Cell: _____
Email 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) on which you are interested in working. Please mark at least one.
(Number from most preferred to least. 1 is by top preference, 2 by 2nd choice, etc.)
_____ Community Projects _____ Membership _____ Plant Sale
_____ Education _____ Clemson Extension Office _____ Web Site
_____ Face Book Page _____ Newsletter _____ Social Activities
_____ Fund Raising _____ Programs & Speakers _____ Topiary/Greenhouse
_____ Public Relations _____ Community Voucher Distribution _____ Community Garden
Suggested topics/activities for the meetings or continuing education:
_____
_____
_____

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: 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: Ella Wham