



Master Gardener Thymes



WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

January 2014

President's Message

By Ann Barklow

Happy New Year Lakelands Master Gardeners!!

I have a few days off with the holidays so I am actually writing this before Janet prompted us with an e-mail. That's a first for me!

I have been enjoying browsing through the seed catalogues that have come in the mail during the holiday season. I don't go to just one supermarket to get my groceries and I don't go to one seed company for my seeds. I will be getting a lot from [Fedco seeds](#) that our local farmers use for many of my seeds in particular for the winter garden. They offer organic, sustainable and non-GMO seeds. They are considered the source for cold-hardy selections. They also have a great offer for schools to sell seeds as a fundraiser! I spend hours looking for seeds and planning and I love every minute of it. I will also buy from two of my favorites: [Territorial Seeds](#) and [Johnny's Seeds](#). I order all my seeds for the entire year in January. If you need to know when and what to plant for your vegetable garden be sure to check out [HGIC bulletin 1256](#) for their Planting Chart for the Piedmont.

Believe it or not I am still planting seeds of lettuce and chard under row covers and spinach and beets out in the open in my raised beds. I was amazed how they germinated in the cold weather. I am following farmer Penny Parisi's advice of trying different times of planting and varieties and don't be afraid of failure because you learn. Of course, I suspect



with that last 2 inches of rain we just had I may have lost a few seeds.

I was amazed how a huge patch of parsley germinated from a plant I had this summer and I have been harvesting the small seedlings for meals and

juicing. At this writing I am harvesting collards, broccoli, swiss chard, lettuce, bok choy, spinach, green onions, and three varieties of kale. Beets and cauliflower are growing nicely, in particular the cauliflower under the row covers.

Since I started juicing I use tons of leafy greens so this coming spring and next fall and winter I will need to grow lots more. I owe all this fun and nutrition to the Lakelands Master Gardeners and the extensive knowledge I have received since being a member.

This will be my second to last President's message and our elections are at the Annual Meeting in February where the members will vote on a new President, Vice President and Treasurer. We have one member on our nomination list for Treasurer and are eagerly anticipating the members that will fill the important leadership roles as President and VP. One of our Board members said if we don't get anyone to step up to these important positions the organization will need to fold. Let's all make sure that doesn't happen!

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Dates to Remember:

- JAN. 9TH BOARD MEETING LIBRARY
- FEB. 1ST GREENVILLE GARDEN SYMPOSIUM
- FEB. 13TH ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER GMD
- MARCH 13TH BOARD MEETING
- APRIL 11 & 12TH 2014 PLANT SALE FARMERS MARKET
- APRIL 17TH SPEAKER MEETING
- MAY 10TH SPRING PICNIC
- JUNE 12TH BOARD MEETING
- JULY 10TH SPEAKER MEETING
- AUGUST 14TH BOARD MEETING
- SEPTEMBER 11TH SPEAKER MEETING
- OCTOBER 9TH BOARD MEETING
- OCTOBER 23RD SCMMGA SYMPOSIUM
- NOVEMBER 13TH SPEAKER MEETING
- DECEMBER 11TH HOLIDAY SOCIAL GMD

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

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.

I was asked recently how many hours I put in as President. Let me say first, I LOVE being President and because my husband was so busy with school I had a little more time than most of you might have. I can average 30 hours a month in volunteer hours. This also includes conferences, teaching and lots of articles that not every president will want or need to do. In fairness we could probably figure 10 hours a month or less to keep things rolling. I will be active as Past President so can guide the new leaders. Please contact me if you know of a member that you would like to nominate or if you would like to be put on the ballot. Time is running out. A leadership role will need to be someone:

- That has some time to devote to the position
- Has organizational and computer skills
- Is friendly and outgoing
- Can delegate
- Can be a team player and work well with others
- Can lead board meetings and keep it on subject
- Is dependable.

I have found the most important requirement is the same one for having a great garden and that is to not have long stretches of neglect. Every week or two you will likely have to do something in regards to leading the group. Fortunately, for anyone one that steps up to the plate you will be blessed with a friendly, supportive and energetic board that will walk with you and help you.

Our organization has had a great year! Here is a list of Items to be proud of for 2012:

- Financially we are in good shape.
- We had a big class of 19 students and they all passed!
- We approved and contributed to 4 scholarships
- We had Mentors for every student
- We had LMG volunteers at every class
- We provided food for the Registration meeting and the first class
- We got the Jeep looking gorgeous for the Festival of Flowers.
- We volunteered at the Ask a Master Gardener Booth at Park Seed Flower Day
- Had a booth at the Home and Garden Show at Greenwood Mall and taught a Container Garden Class
- We had several Landscape Clinics with good attendance.
- We had a Pruning clinic for the LMG's and a tour of the City Greenhouses.
- We had the most successful Plant Sale on record.
- We got to socialize with each other at our Annual Picnic and Christmas Social

- We became a corporation and have new governing bylaws
- We have a Code of Ethics
- We have a larger, diverse Board of Directors to serve our members
- We changed our membership dues for simplicity and financial security
- We have 90 members
- We have produced 12 fantastic newsletters with education galore
- We have consistent e-mail blasts kept LMG's in tune with all the gardening happenings
- We had one of our member's garden featured on the Garden Tour for the Festival of Flowers
- We resurrected the Membership Meetings and the Nomination Committee
- We had an amazing array of speakers and topics after our membership meetings
- We had LMG volunteers set up hundreds of Seniors with Farmers Market vouchers
- We have an active Facebook Page and Website
- We advertised our Corporation for a month at the County Library Display
- We made some landscape improvements and re-planted the container gardens at Greenwood Metro
- We approved a community garden project with Greenwood Lutheran Church
- Seaboard Community Garden is still very active and moved to a better location

Please let me take this time to Thank all of you that helped with these major undertakings. We may not have got our hands in the dirt much this past year but we did strengthen our structure to make it run easier and more efficiently. We also are protected by our corporation status. We got more word out about our organization and in turn were blessed with a large class of students. We reached out in our community touching more residents with research based information on gardening.

I will miss being the President of this great organization but am looking forward to the passing of the baton and some extra time with my husband and black labs and of course Emmett the cat!

Hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting and Potluck at the Greenwood Metro District on Thursday, February 13. We will put together a fun slide presentation and honor the 2012 Class into full fledged Master Gardeners, acknowledge our new interns of 2013 and announce the recipient of the Master Gardener of the Year. You won't want to miss it!

Greetings Master Gardeners and Friends

By Susanne Bender

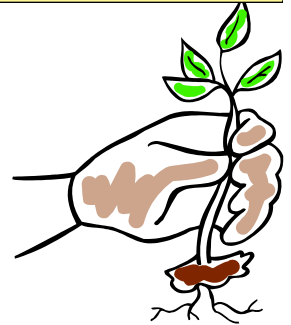
Thanksgiving is a great time to express one's thank you and gratitude for my over two years as your speakers meeting chair. I am thankful for the opportunity and the great learning experience I derived.

It has been my pleasure to get to know so many of you and I am grateful to all for your support. My goal was to educate myself in the diversity of the southern soil and its vegetation a never ending learning curve. Thank you all again and "Auf wieder sehen"

Lakelands Master Gardeners Plant Sale April 11, 12, 2014

By Ginny Wilson and Sarah Carroll

We are only four months away from our annual Plant Sale and biggest fundraiser of the year. If you are a seed enthusiast please plant some seeds of your favorite plants, we will get together and have a transplant party at the end of February. Gardeners who shop with us love family heirloom flowers the kind their grandmothers had when they were growing up. If you have perennials that have been passed down please share them with us for the sale. A big Thank You for all your help in making the Plant Sale 2014 the most profitable to date.



The Plight of the Honey (and other) Bees

Bill Stringer

SC Native Plant Society

We are seeing a surge of reporting on the plight of honey bees and native bees that serve as pollinators for many of our food crops.

Most vegetable, berry and tree fruit crops depend on bees to carry out the cross-pollination required for producing the tomatoes, blueberries and apples, etc. that we eat. The populations of these important facilitators of food crop production are plunging from a number of causes, some identified, and some still clouded in mystery. Pest mites, fungal and bacterial diseases, and certain insecticides that are widely used to control crop pests have all been implicated. Another factor with potential to have large negative effect is the current increasing reliance by farmers on wind-pollinated crops such as corn and wheat. These plants rely on wind to spread their pollen, and thus don't produce nectar that bees harvest for energy and honey production. Areas with a large proportion of the crop acreage devoted to these wind-pollinated crops will have a low value as bee habitat.

But most of us are not farmers, so we are not making decisions on which crops to grow, or which pesticide to use on millions of acres. So what can we do? A lot, it turns out. You probably have white clover in your lawn; most lawns do. Ever notice all those bees flying around the clover flowers when you are mowing? They are after the nectar and pollen from those flowers, and are very happy to find your "weedy" white clover. Yet a significant number of home owners apply an herbicide to their lawn in an effort to stamp out the clover. My suggestion? - leave the clover, and supplant the pride in a uniform, dark green lawn, with the knowledge that you are helping our great friends the bees.

Another easy thing we can do is to not be so quick to mow our "edges" to control "unsightly" flowering plants that grow there. Managers of roadside rights-of-way can make a huge contribution by reducing the frequency of mowing roadsides. I am an ardent admirer of native sunflowers, milkweeds and other wildflowers that grow naturally on our roadsides. In particular, by early July, I know where every

butterfly milkweed plant can be found along roads that I frequent. If you've ever looked closely at a milkweed or sunflower in bloom, you've seen how many honeybees, native bees and butterflies that are working the flowers. Yet, two to three times during a growing season, I will travel those roads, and note with sadness that the mowers were there yesterday, and all those blooms are gone. Where are those bees going to find a replacement food source for today? With luck they can find a white clover lawn nearby? Well, maybe not. We could reduce the number of mowings, reduce the cost of right-of-way maintenance, and improve the lives of our pollinator friends. The point is we need to expand our horizons, and evolve our esthetic, to make room for more wildflowers in our surroundings. We will be helping to support bees and other pollinators, and where there are more insects there will be more songbirds. So, here's a challenge for you: next summer, stop along a country road (find a safe pull-over spot), step off the road shoulder, and take a few minutes to look (closely) at the plants growing on the edges (beyond the mowed grass). You will find there are lots of different plant species growing there. And if they are blooming you will see lots of bees and other insects working the flowers. There is authentic beauty to be found in diversity and in the knowledge that we have improved the functioning of the ecosystems that surround us.





Lakelands Beekeepers Association

Beginning Certified Level Beekeeping Class

Location: Greenwood County Library Auditorium
600 South Main Street, Greenwood, SC

Dates/Times: Thursdays, February 6 through March 27, 2014
6:30 to 9:00 pm

Costs: \$60 per individual, \$80 for couples (scholarships for youth 10-18)
Includes: text, handout materials, 1 year membership in state and local bee associations

Session topics include:

- Basics (getting started, basic equipment, selecting an apiary site, supply sources)
- Getting to know the honeybee (bee biology, races of bees, bee history)
- Diseases and Pests (treatments, pesticides, IPM)
- Building equipment & lighting a smoker
- Working with Honeybees (starting a bee hive, installing a package/nuc, swarms and swarm control)
- Thinking like a honeybee (things they collect, nectar & pollen sources, products of the honeybee, honey packaging and labeling)
- Review and Certified Level written test
- Field day at a local apiary: hands on instruction

To register mail the appropriate fee with the following information to: Donna Boozer, 311 Grange Road, Greenwood, SC 29646.
Make checks payable to Lakelands Beekeepers Association.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell #: _____

Email: _____

For more information, call Donna Boozer, 864-992-3025, donnaboozer@embarqmail.com
Registration deadline: January 24, 2013. Class size is limited to 30 students. Register early.

MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR

BY Ann Barklow

It is that time again to select a Lakelands Master Gardener worthy of the award of Master Gardener of the Year! The reason this honor is so prestigious is because it is given by our peers. Please send me any suggestions of members that might fit the below criteria by **January 8th**. The MG doesn't have to have done all of the below bullet points but the more well rounded they are the more knowledgeable they are about the organization and the better candidate for this award. Board officers are exempt from this honor. The presentation will be made at our annual meeting on February 13.

Criteria:

1. In order to be considered for this award, the Master Gardener must be in good standing (paid dues)
2. The Master Gardener with the total number of points will be the recipient of the award. Each category below is worth 5 points.

- Attendance at Meetings (Board, General, and Committee)
- Board Member or Officer

- Assists with Master Gardener Class
- Committee Chair
- Community project participation
- Fundraising
- Office Volunteering
- Mentoring
- Newsletter Submission
- Programs for General Meetings
- Speaking Engagements
- Website and FB updates

Past recipients:

Lauren Boylston, 2005 Jane Price, 2006
Julee Marshall, 2007 Mike Brown, 2008
Nancy Collin 2009 Cathie Swindell 2010
Vince Plotczyk 2011 Linda Halsey 2012

BITS AND PIECES

- *We are trying something new with the volunteer hour reporting, each month a form will be sent with the newsletter. Each month fill out your hours and send it in to Linda Halsey at mrs.lindahalsey@gmail.com*
- *Master Gardener of the Year selection— see above*
- *The **SC Midlands Master Gardener Association (SCMMGA)** would like to thank all who attended our recent annual Garden Symposium. We hope you enjoyed a delightful day visiting with other garden enthusiasts, shopping for new plants and garden accessories, and expanding your knowledge of gardening. Our Symposium Committee has begun planning another great Garden Symposium scheduled for **October 23, 2014**. We are in the process of contacting a number of outstanding speakers. You will not want to miss this next exciting event. Reminders with details will be sent to you as well as posted on the SCMMGA website at www.scmnga.org*
- *February Social is coming up! Mark your calendars now. February 13th*
- *Read the attached article by Dr. Jan Haldeman titled 'Tannenbaum'*

Christmas Party Pictures on Shutterfly

Pictures from the December LMG Christmas Party are now available for viewing on Shutterfly: <http://lakelandsmastergardeners.shutterfly.com/> See a few on the next page.

Password: is included in the email that sent this newsletter

Thanks to our wonderful Social Committee for the set up and beautiful decorations, the Greenwood Metropolitan District for the meeting room and Vince for the pictures.

Photos from the Christmas Social



What to do with January “Downtime”

by Sandy Orr

Okay, I'm an Anglophile. As a youth, I preferred Monty Python to my own family. My current pretension is a subscription to the premier British gardening magazine, 'Gardens Illustrated'. It is a bit pricey (\$45), but my heart skips a beat when it arrives. It leads me down so many fascinating rabbit holes.

In the latest issue, Fergus Garrett, chief gardener at Great Dixter, (You Tube it sometime), advises us on what to do with our January downtime. We should review or start a garden Journal which should include goals for the next year, mistakes of past years (more stakes in my case), lists of coveted plants, and propagation plans to fill the garden. Load up on potting mix, cottonseed meal, diatomaceous earth, and seed-starting mix. Order seeds if you haven't already. Winter sow the hardy and half-hardy perennial seeds that have arrived already. If you don't know how to winter sow, go to wintersown.org. I'm also taking hardwood cuttings of grancy graybeard, *Oxydendron* or sourwood, serviceberry, and smokebush. Having just seen Fergus's garden, I was impressed by the maintenance area which was stacked with pea sticks and wattle. This is the time of year to collect these things to prop up peonies, mountain mint, baptisia, Shasta daisies, monarda, and anything else you noticed flopping last year.

Muscadine vines can be severely pruned in January to make beautiful peony supports (above) or lovely over scale grapevine wreaths. This year, I plan to use the vines for woven cloches to keep out bunnies in the veggie patch. (See below)



Other January tasks include spreading composted manure, your own composted leaf litter, and ashes from the fireplace in your beds. Onions and fruit trees appreciate the ash. Be sure to wear something that keeps you warm enough to stay out all day. My husband's camouflage onesie is my apparel of choice. It's "soooo" attractive.



facebook

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 Patti. 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:
Chuck Bender
998-3123
108 Inlet Point
Cross Hill, SC 29332



☹ **Missing a newsletter?** Looking for an earlier edition? All of our newsletters can be found at our website at— <http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/newslet2013.html>

THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2012

President- Ann Barklow	Finance and Fund Raising – open (plant sale) Sarah Carroll & Ginny Wilson	FB – Ann Barklow, Web – open
Vice President – vacant		Social – Donna Feldmaier and Chris Moon
Treasurer- Chuck Bender	Membership – Sandy Orr	Office- Vince Plotczyk
Secretary – Steve Tabor	Co chair -Linda Halsey (hours)	
Past President- Jimmy McInville	Newsletter – Janet Ledebuhr	
Clemson Advisor- James Hodges	Phone -Priscilla Ellis	
Community Projects – Jimmy McInville and Sue Monaghan	Programs and Speakers – open	
Education Chair- Linda Halsey	Media – PR– Trish Bridges	