



Master Gardener Thymes

www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

JULY 2007

MEETING CALENDAR FOR JULY

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at NW Volunteer Fire Department @ 6:30pm, unless otherwise noted. The Fire Department is located behind Harris Baptist Church off of Center Street.

JULY 12th—Lakelands Master Gardeners Annual Picnic 6:00pm at Cokesbury College. The Master Gardeners Annual Picnic will be held at Cokesbury College at 6:00 on July 12th. It will be inside so no need to bring chairs. In addition to a game, there will be a walking tour of the college. Door prizes will be provided, as well as a prize for the most original/clever Fourth of July costume. Everyone is encouraged to bring their spouse or significant other and WEAR THEIR NAME TAGS. Barbeque will be provided. Evie Galloway has the sign up sheet for food. If you did not sign up at the June General Meeting, please call or email Evie Galloway. (evelynalloway@msn.com, home #223-3666, cell #941-2204). Deadline for signups was June 27th so we will know how much barbeque to get.

I HOPE EVERYONE SIGNED UP WITH EVIE FOR THE PICNIC!!!! IF YOU MISSED THE CUTOFF DATE, CALL EVIE AND SEE IF IT IS TOO LATE!

AUGUST 9th---Phyllis Zulkie will speak on recreational parks in our area. Come here about existing and future parks for our area. More in the next newsletter.

PRESIDENTS CORNER—*Julee Marshall*

Since Lauren said she wanted recipes, I thought I would submit one of my favorite summertime picnic dishes. I made this for supper one night during the 2005 Master Gardener class and one of the members remarked, "I think that is the best pasta salad I have ever had." I got the original recipe years ago at a Tupperware party and have added some additional ingredients to jazz it up a bit. I hope you enjoy it.

For Dressing Whisk Together:

1/2 cup olive oil or canola oil (mixed is good)
1/3 cup vinegar (I like white wine and regular mixed)
1 tsp. dry mustard
1 tsp dried oregano
1 tsp dried basil
1 clove minced garlic
Salt and pepper to taste

Feel free to use whatever herbs you like. To save time, use your favorite oil and vinegar bottled dressing. Paul Newman's is very good. (8oz bottle)

Salad:

8 oz. corkscrew pasta
8 oz. cubed cheddar cheese
1 large chopped sweet red or green pepper
Small can sliced ripe olives
3 cups torn fresh spinach

Optional Additions:

Turkey pepperoni-chopped
Steamed shrimp
Sliced green olives
Baby arugala instead of spinach

Cook pasta according to directions; drain. Mix and pour dressing over hot pasta. Stir well or shake in covered plastic container. Let cool to room temperature. Add other ingredients except greens. Chill for several hours or overnight. Shake or stir several times. Add fresh spinach when ready to serve.

JUDY KELLEY'S CORNER—*A Gardener's Journal*

As I've looked through my yard, I've had no problem deciding the flowers I'm going to share thoughts about. Every where my eyes look, I see a different color. I actually never thought I could relate any fond memories to the daylily (hemerocallis). For me, the daylilies started quite a while before they actually reached the Kelley yard. My parents had become avid fans of this flower and introduced them into their yard. It was fine with me that I just walk among the daylilies with my mother admiring and deadheading them.

Because of my parent's love for these flowers, we met our son in Atlanta and went on a field trip to the Turnipseed Daylily Gardens. My Mother oo'd and ah'd and tried to deadhead those. Our son was drawn to the Red Volunteer and bought a plant for my husband for Father's Day. Thus began daylilies for the Kelley's. This plant became the highlight of our yard as well as the first of many. Since it moved in, it has multiplied and been divided enough to provide many plants for our enjoyment.

Now, the original plan was that this would be the only daylily in our yard. Why was I being so picky? You see, it became my place in life to take care of my parent's BEDS of daylilies. Several years ago, I thought I had everything weeded and ready for enjoyment. There would be no more plants. Then a phone call – free daylilies! Off my Dad and I went to Greenville to Cynthia's Daylily Gardens. Two years later I finally finished making new beds to accommodate those. In the meantime several of these moved into my yard. OK, now I'm finished! No more room for anymore.

Last summer we decided to drive to Cynthia's just to see hers in bloom. On the way back home it dawned on me that I was hooked. I had actually bought eight new DAYLILIES for my yard. Have I lost my mind? Another bed would have to be made in addition to the extra time I was pulling grass out at my Dad's. Well, you gardeners know how it is – we just get busy and get to work. No time to think about it!

Daylily years have come and gone. This year, my sister helped me move the flowers from one bed to other locations at my Dad's. And do you know what I did – I separated some to place in my yard. Can you believe that? Of course, when I stand at my kitchen window, drive into our yard, take a walk around the yard with my husband and see the beautiful blooms I find it easy to forget all the work required.

It's easy to focus on the role the daylily plays in my life – the love of a son for his father to give him such a beautiful gift, seeing the joy my Mother and Father received as they were able to walk together basking in the beauty of their flowers, the precious time spent with my sister this year working in my Dad's daylily beds, and finally- the beauty of each bloom to cheer my day.

Oh, did I forget to mention that I'm planning to go tour someone else's daylilies during the Festival of Flowers. I wonder if there will be a new one that will reach out and grab me!!

RAILROAD HISTORIC MUSEUM THANK YOU—*Submitted by Sandra Johnson*

What do the cities of Chandler Arizona, Dillon SC, Anchorage Alaska, Fort Mill SC, Las Vegas Nevada, Aiken SC, Ithaca NY, Charleston SC, St Petersburg FL, Chesterfield SC, St Louis MO, and Ft Mill SC have in common? They all have residents who enjoyed the gardens of the Railroad Historical Center (RRHC) during Festival of Flowers weekend.

Over 500 people toured the gardens. The Lakelands Master Gardeners had photographs of the project on display. Numerous Master Gardeners from other areas around South Carolina came through the RRHC.

Lakelands Master Gardeners that served as greeters during the weekend included Peggy Ticehurst, Joe Wham, Catherine Swindell, Linda Kellam, Stuart Menaker, Lee Natvig, Paul Drew, Sandy Stachurski, and Sandra Johnson. Many thanks to those of you who volunteered your time to help out during a busy weekend.

For those of you who missed the event, the RRHC is open on Saturdays from 10 until 4 through October. Come out and see all the work that's been done!

JAPANESE BEETLE UPDATE---*Submitted by Lauren Boylston*

Every year I battle Japanese Beetles in my yard. Each and every fall I ask Jim to spread an insecticide on the lawn to control the grubs in an effort to lower the Japanese beetle population in the summer. And every year he blows me off. It became apparent that I had to take the problem in hand. On the **University of Arkansas** website, there was a blurb about a product made by Bayer that you applied in late winter/early spring to control Japanese Beetles (and many other insects) systemically. Since the little buggers seem to prefer my "Disco Bells" perennial Hibiscus, my Weeping Cherry tree and my beautiful Contorted Hazelnut "Harry Lauder's Walking Stick", I decided to apply the treatment to these three plants. I followed the directions very closely and poured the milky "brew" around the base of the plants. You apply this product in concentrations based on plant height and width. Once applied, all you can do is wait for June and see what happens. WELL, June is here and I am thrilled to tell you that my "Disco Bells" is bigger than ever and COVERED in platter sized gorgeous red blooms....nary a lacy leaf on the entire plant! In fact, all three of the treated plants have ZERO Japanese beetle damage. This is nothing short of a miracle! If you have specific plants that these little creatures devour in your yard, plan now to treat them in the early spring!!! It is a one time treatment for each season, lasting a full 12 months. While a bit expensive, it is worth every dime. **Bayer 12 Month Insect Control**

A TOUR OF A PUBLIC GARDEN---Submitted by Lauren Boylston

My husband had a Pathology Symposium to attend in Boston last month. I don't always tag along but decided to this year since we would stop in New York City for a few days and then take the train on up to Boston. I love New York City and I love Boston. Since he was in lectures all day, I had plenty of time to amuse myself and what better way then to walk the Boston Public Gardens and Boston Commons in downtown Boston? Fortunately, we were staying right in downtown and Boston is a great city to get around in by foot.

With camera in hand, on a BEAUTIFUL spring like sunny day, I walked towards the gardens. I entered through a side gate and was immediately taken by the size of this huge green space in the middle of a major city. Much like Central Park in New York City, the Boston Public Gardens were designed and planned by none other than Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed the Biltmore House gardens in Asheville. The Public Garden opened in 1839 and the greater chain of green space known as the Emerald Necklace, was completed in 1896. This "necklace" stretches from the Public Garden all the way through Boston to the Roxbury, a suburb of the city.

In the Public Garden proper there is much to see. All of the large and mature trees are marked with both common and Latin names. I saw the largest Ginkgo I think I have ever seen! Just huge! But my favorite tree of all was the Weeping Beech. This glorious and beautiful tree sways and waves with each passing breeze. I must have one! There is a large lagoon or lake in the center of the garden with a beautifully planted island in the center. There are ducks, of course, but also many swans! I got a picture of a swan sitting on her well made nest, keeping her eggs warm for the hatching.

While I had missed the tulips and daffodils, there were still many other spring plants blooming. And I was surprised at the Rhododendrons blooming everywhere. Who knew? There was Deutzia and Alliums and many other lovely plants.

Most of the people I saw were just cutting through the garden on their way to work. As I was taking pictures, many of them looked at me like I was a bit weird (fair enough) and I realized they walk through this beautiful garden everyday and probably never realize what a privilege it is. I am sure each season is remarkable. What a lovely way to start and end each day!

If you are ever in Boston, make sure to take the time to walk through this lovely patch of green in a teeming and historic city.



Weeping Beech—Boston Public Gardens

CLEMSON EXTENSION AGENT CORNER—*James Hodges*

I would like to thank everyone who called, emailed or showed up at county council to support Clemson Extension's proposal to add a 4H agent with the county's support. We did not get full support for this proposal, but the council did make available additional funds to support 4H programming next year. We hope to support more 4H programs, including Junior Master Gardener classes next year. I have a conference call with my superiors scheduled in a couple of weeks to discuss how we can leverage this money.

This year's first Junior Master Gardener class at Pinecrest was very successful with 8 graduates. Thanks to Mary Ellenberg and Anne Marie Glawe for leading this group. Mary reports that 32 parents responded to a survey requesting a spot in next year's class. They are working on plans for next year. I know that other MG's are interested in this program too. Donna Boozer has expressed interest in working on a program at another school. If you are interested in working with this type of program contact the MG leadership or me.

Advanced Master Gardening Training Opportunities in the Works

I attended a two day Master Gardener coordinator training in Columbia in early June that was a train the trainer exercise for Extension Agents and a few Master Gardeners. The course was on Urban Forestry. It was supported by a grant and conducted by University of Georgia Extension experts. The goal is to provide additional intensive training for Master Gardeners who can answer questions or make home visits on tree problems for the agents.

I came home with a complete library of books on managing urban trees and a complete set of power point presentations to conduct at home training for Master Gardeners. The trainings have been conducted in Georgia with great success. The course is designed for small groups of no more than 15 people for 5 sessions of 4 hours to cover everything from tree biology, diseases, insects, abiotic problems, to plant ID for the extension caller. The fee for the course was only \$30-40 to cover materials.

Master Gardeners in urban areas are able to answer more calls than just an agent can. In a post training meeting with new state MG coordinator, Tim Davis, we discussed the use of more training in other areas such as vegetable gardening, turf, landscape layout, indoor plants or others as a way to expand our overall home horticulture coverage while providing more training for current Master Gardeners.

I know that there are many Master Gardeners who might be interested in more involvement in horticulture education. I will provide more information in the future on this idea. Tim Davis ran a large MG program in the Columbia area and has used intensively trained Master Gardeners in several areas for years to aid his horticulture program.

New Master Gardener Class

Plans are to hold the organization meeting for our next class on Tuesday, July 31st at the Civic Center. Before this takes place I will begin advertising the new class in the newspaper and I encourage current Master Gardeners to recruit new members over the next few weeks. We have a large number of names on the waiting list, but many will not follow through on taking the course this fall, so additional recruiting is encouraged.

The education committee will meet later in the month to set up call lists for those on the waiting list. We contact everyone on the list and then mail out applications to those who are still interested. Plans are to start the class on Tuesday, August 14th and continue up to Thanksgiving. Helen Spiller will be out of town for a couple of weeks, but we will make final arrangements after mid-July.

GARDEN UPDATE—*Submitted by Lauren Boylston*

In the early spring, I shared with all of you my "spring routine" as it regards preparing my beds for warm weather. I mentioned that I was incorporating a new fertilizing method recommended and used by Linda Cobb of Spartanburg, a well known Master Gardener and writer. This involved mixing 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 10-10-10 with trace minerals and 1/3 cottonseed meal. I mixed mine in a wheel barrow as I needed it and place a handful (at least) around each and every plant that I fertilize in the spring. Well, I want to report that I have had a tremendous bloom season with many of my plants. My daylilies have produced so many blooms that I could barely keep up with deadheading (which I do throughout the daylily bloom season). Some days I was deadheading as many as 300 blooms from the day before!!! Holy Smoke!

Due to the late freeze, I was anticipating a less than lovely Hydrangea season and that has pretty much held true. However, those that were well established and under good tree coverage have produced many beautiful blooms and the plants are VERY healthy. I think the new fertilizer helped here, too. I really do!

ANOTHER ARTICLE FROM JAMES---Submitted by James Hodges

WATER WATER WATER

Most of you remember these infamous words from Jimmy Walters' class on urban forestry. If not, you probably missed that exam question about the three most important things to do for newly planted trees.

Well, as we struggle nearly 3 years out of 4 with drought and extended periods of low rainfall, I become more convinced than ever that water is the most important gardening tool. Its availability in appropriate amounts at critical times can make or break landscapes. I can add fertilize, lime, cut the weeds, mulch or add compost, but my one armed sprinkler can't keep up with my plant's needs during drought.

Monday afternoon and evening, June 25th was a torture for me. I checked the local radar as clouds darken to my north and south out on Bucklevel road. Severe storm warning were everywhere. But, no luck for me or my parched plants during the afternoon on Monday. One storm drenched Laurens and Abbeville counties and the other hit south Greenwood and Saluda. My one armed sprinkler continued to catch up on one spot in my yard, but there were hundreds of plants still waiting for a good drink.

My poor daylilies never recovered from the spring freeze to bloom in full display because I could not water often enough to provide the appropriate amount of water and cooling that comes with a good rain. Drought does one good thing for me. It brings in the birds to my yard. When my pasture and the woods are dry the population of birds is always high in my yard because some green plants, seeds and insects are better than none. I have 3 different places for birds to come in my yard for water.

As I prepared for bed on Monday night around eleven I heard thunder teasing me again in the distance. I did not need this again. As I entered my bedroom, I heard something strange. Yes, rain hitting the side of my house. I had to close my garage doors because it was blowing sideways, but it was really raining.

It is a miracle what 1.1 inches of rain can do for a landscape, if only for a week in our heat. Water, water, water.

(Editor's note: My water bill broke the \$300.00 mark this month but I do WHATEVER James says!!!!!!)

POETRY CORNER---Submitted by Lauren Boylston

I Wandered Lonely As a Cloud **William Wordsworth**

I WANDERED lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
The stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Outdid the sparkling waves in glee;
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company;
I gazed -- and gazed -- but little thought
What wealth to me the show had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

A Thank You Note to Festival of Flowers Volunteers---*Julee Marshall*

I want to thank all that volunteered to help with the garden tours and our table at Park Seed during the Festival of Flowers. First, a great big THANK YOU goes to Jane Price. I asked her to "help me" set up our table at Park Seed on Saturday, June 23, since I had never done that before. Well, bless her heart, she ended up doing the whole thing. She bought display racks for the garden information handouts, picked up the copies from the Clemson office, had laminated copies made, and delivered it all to Park Seed where we arranged everything and hung our banner. Then, I heard through the grape vine that she helped get some additional handouts for the table when it looked like they would run out early in the day. When I took the presidency, I teased her about being my personal slave. I didn't mean it, Jane. Thank you for all you do.

Then I had organized a group of twelve MGs to man the table the rest of the day. Linda Kellam and Bryan Wesson had the 9:30 slot. When Bryan called me to say they were running out of material, Jane and Linda helped get some more handouts. When Beth Kapperman was unable to make her 11:00 time, Bryan, Jean Anderson, Sandy Stachurski, and Susu Wallace helped to gill the gap. I got several responses to my call to help Miriam Smith at 2:00. Betty Reece, Ken Reece, and Cindy Rushton all joined her. Sounds like a party. Then Paul Drew and Stuart Menaker volunteered to take the 3:30 slot and break everything down. It was excellent group cooperation and I really appreciate all of you and your efforts.

We also offered our services to Shelley Gilchrist who was in charge of the garden tours. She was very busy renovating and moving to her new home and had not organized any volunteers for the gardens. She was thrilled when I called and offered our help. Cathy Zak, Donna Boozer and Mike McKenzie helped at the Maybun garden; Lynn Borneman was at the Zimmerman garden; Cathy Swindell went to Cokesbury to help Mary and Tommy O'Dell; Connie Norman went to the Masters home; Sonya Masterson went to the Burton place; Glennis Cannon was at the Thompson garden; and Linda Halsey, Sue Moore, and myself were at the Patrick home. We also had quite a good turnout of help at the Railroad Museum, which by the way, looked fantastic when I stopped by on Friday morning. Sandra Johnson was very thankful for everyone and has mentioned you all in her article. I've not been able to contact Shelley to confirm the final list of volunteers, so I hope I haven't left anyone out. My apologies, if I did. Shelley expressed her appreciation to me each time I spoke with her before the event. Thank you all for your time and support.

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