



Master Gardener Thymes

WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

March 2014

President's Message

By Sandy Orr

"Life begins the day you start a garden"- Old Chinese Proverb.

Congratulations to all the new officers and committee chairs who were elected at the Annual Meeting.

Many thanks to retiring President Ann Barklow for inspiring us all with her generous sharing of knowledge and time. Her commitment to communication and education is unparalleled. The agenda for the upcoming year will be to continue featuring compelling speaker meetings. I hope we can draw from the talents of our own membership in order to do so. We will continue to emphasize the Plant Sale, and perhaps add an educational element to it to draw a crowd. I'd love to inaugurate a Seed Swap in conjunction with the Plant Sale (details yet to be determined). The Board will discuss this in March.

Work on the topiary Jeep continues. The planting is almost complete. I recently toured Dwight Young's propagation operation that supplies many of the City plantings and some of the topiary plantings. It is a master class in propagation. If there are more topiary work days, take advantage of the opportunity to see the whole operation.

The Greenville Master Gardener Symposium was held in early February, featuring top notch speakers. Gordon Hayward, a multi-talented landscape designer and stone mason from New England addressed "Art in the Garden".

Brie Arthur, one of six young horticultural stars discovered by Ken Druse, spoke about her work as a propagator at Camellia Forest Nursery.



Carol Reese spoke about unusual plants with her usual ribald humor. Chris Crowder, the head gardener of Levens Hall, the premier topiary garden in England, crossed the pond to discuss a yearly gardening cycle at the Hall. This was the first time an international speaker graced their stage. Every detail of the day was perfect. Everyone should put this on their schedule for next year.

Our members have been very well received as speakers at many Garden Club meetings. Rusty Wilson has delighted several clubs with his bird talk. Ann Barklow gave a talk about the nuts and bolts of topiary preparation. This is great exposure for the Master Gardener program. Let's continue to show Greenwood what a valuable asset the LMG program is.

Dates to Remember:

- MARCH 13TH BOARD MEETING 4:30 PM EXT. OFFICE
- MARCH 26TH GARDEN CLUB LUNCHEON 11:30 AM
- APRIL 11 & 12TH 2014 PLANT SALE FARMERS MARKET (SEE ATTACHED FLYER)
- APRIL 11TH & 12TH CLEMSON SCBG PLANT SALE (SEE INFO P. 2)
- APRIL 17TH SPEAKER MEETING
- MAY 17TH 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.

Lakelands Master Gardeners Plant Sale April 11, 12, 2014

By Ginny Wilson & Sarah Carroll

Our only fundraiser is only six weeks away official spring is just three weeks away. In order to make this fundraiser a success I am asking all forty-five of our current members to commit to either donating \$25.00 in gardening product and or purchasing \$25.00 during our sale. This would give us a great start to surpass last year's numbers. Come on board and make this the best fundraiser ever.

Thank You

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.



***Annual Meeting of the Greenwood
Council of Garden Clubs Luncheon***

Wednesday, March 26, 2014, 11:30 AM

First Baptist Church, Grace St.

Tried & True Garden Styles

Join *Marian St. Clair* for a hopscotch around the world to explore features of *Asian, English, French, and Mediterranean* gardens.

Marian is a garden writer for the Greenville News and Carolina Gardener magazine. She is also a garden tour coordinator, Master Gardener, and Master Naturalist, who nurtures an earth-friendly garden on the banks of the Reedy River.

Reservations are \$15, paid by check to GCGC and mailed to Shirley Logan, 114 Hulsey Drive, Greenwood, SC 29646 before March 19th.

For more information, contact Sandy Orr, 543-4888

Master Gardeners and the Public are Welcome

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This event will be our March function. Hope to see you there!

South Carolina Botanical Garden Plant Sale

Friday, April 11 & Saturdays, April 12 & 26:

The catalog will be available on-line in late March (www.clemson.edu/public/scbg). If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Briggs at jeanneb@clemson.edu or 864-656-2458.

April 11, 2-6 p.m.: Members Only Sale

**Memberships will available for purchase at the gate. Contact LaShaunda Soto at 656-3405 for more info on SCBG membership.*

April 12 & 26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.: Open to all

Free AARP Tax Preparation

The AARP offers free federal/SC tax preparation at the Main Street United Methodist Church (in the building closest to the old, closed library). Hours are 9:30 - 12:30, Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday and also Tuesday evenings. Appointments must be scheduled in advance by calling the Greenwood Library at 941-4650. Most returns with wages, interest, dividends, stock sales, pensions, social security, etc. can be done. Some more complicated returns may be "out of scope" and can't be handled. Those filing jointly, both husband and wife need to be present to sign form.

Index-Journal Home and Garden Show March 28-29th

By Janet Ledebuhr

The Lakeland Master Gardeners will have a table at this year's Home and Garden Show as we did last year. It is a great opportunity to offer horticultural information to the community and share a little about the Lakelands Master Gardener program. The event is March 28, Friday from 1:00 PM—6:00 PM and Saturday the 29th from 10:00 AM—3:00 PM. I am looking for volunteers to assist with setup on Thursday and volunteers to staff the table during the show. If you could work at least a two hour block that would be wonderful. Our job at the show is answering questions about topics that range from weeds in the lawn to problems with insects in the vegetable garden. The easiest answer is "I don't know but I will research the answer and get back to you". New Master Gardeners will be teamed with seasoned MG's so you won't feel as though you are put on the spot.

If you are able to volunteer please email me at thequeenofseaford@gmail.com and I will put together a schedule. If you have preferred times, let me know. It was a great time last year and a lot of fun.



Jeep Topiary

Work continues on the Jeep topiary— Donna Feldmaier and husband Doug refurbished the hubcaps.

Rusty Wilson and Donna Feldmaier braved the cold and snowy weather to come work on the Jeep.



Master Gardener of the Year– Sue Monaghan

Presented by Ann Barklow

In 2009 Sue took the Master Gardener Class. She was concerned that her elder status might make it difficult to learn, after all, she was a bit out of practice.

Her first lessons about bacteria plugging vascular tubes and viruses diverting energy from plants did little in discouraging those concerns. Sue used to tell me the best part about the Master Gardener Class was that she realized she was gardening all wrong.

She first introduced me to one of the projects within the LMG when I moved here in 2010 by taking me to Piedmont Tech to work on the topiaries with her mentor, Nancy Collins. It was about 100 degrees that day but it didn't wilt Sue's enthusiasm as she opened my eyes to the caring of the topiaries.

Fresh from California, with 25 years in the landscaping industry, I thought she was a bit strange in asking me to cut off all the flowers on the butterfly.

Besides Sue's hours on the topiaries and various projects within the organization, Sue also mentors new students and encourages them along their journey. She teaches container gardening classes and helps with the Plant Sale, Master Gardener Classes, Social Events, Office work and now serves on the Board of Directors as the Chair of the Projects Committee.

In keeping with the mission of our organization of sharing horticultural knowledge and helping the Extension Service meet the demand for gardening information and providing volunteer service to improve our communities along with promoting the training of Master Gardeners you can see why:

It is with great pleasure that I present the award of Master Gardener of the Year 2013 to my gardening buddy, Sue Monaghan.



Interns from the 2013 Class were honored with their diplomas at the Annual Meeting.



It was a small turnout but not small in appreciation of their hard work to get this far. Congratulations!!

Pictured from left to right: David Belcher, Whitney Newby, Olivia Reynolds, Calvin Simpkins, and Lola Wynter

Not Pictured: Bill Aaron, Cyndy Aaron, Billy Morgan, Mary Rylander, Susanne Blumer, Chris Ester, Steve Loggins, Renea Sprowl, Renee Wynn, Sara Kummer, Sharon Mobley, Tickie Mobley, Nancy Bruce, Tom Simpson

WELCOME NEW MASTER GARDENERS!!



From Left to Right-Claudette Bannerman, Trish Bridges, Louann Collins, Donna Feldmaier, Linda Hamrick, Glori-etta Jones, Susan Lawson, Chris Moon, Betsy Rush and Mary-Jane Vivas. *Not pictured:* David McCall, Phyllis Krohn, Bonnie Baumhoffer, Savannah Durham

Please welcome the new Lakelands Master Gardeners!! This organization is always thrilled to get fresh interns and master gardeners. We have a very strong presence in our community and have thousands of residents that need re-search based horticultural knowledge to enrich their lives. This fledgling group of master gardeners is already active in our group participating on the board, committees and out in the community doing service to others. Some of them walked away with their diploma, badge, and even a volunteer excellence pin for 100 or 250 hours of service. That well exceeds the 40 hours needed to get certified. We are very proud of every one of them for their hours of studying and learning and their willingness to serve. Welcome aboard!

The Lakelands Master Gardeners Board of Directors and Extension Agent Advisor



We now have 15 Board Members to represent your membership. This brings a diverse range of ideas to our organization. This board consists of Interns, New Master Gardeners as well as more seasoned members to bring you a wide range of experience. Please give them a huge thank you!

Left to Right- Officers are in **BOLD**, Recently Elected or Appointed are in **BLUE**

- 1. Jimmy McInville, Co-chair Projects Committee**
- 2. Sue Monaghan, Chair Projects Committee**
- 3. Donna Feldmaier, Vice President**
- 4. Olivia Reynolds, Co-chair Public Relations/Media**
- 5. Trish Bridges, Chair Public Relations/Media**
- 6. Melody McInville, Treasurer**
- 7. Chuck Bender, Website Chair**
- 8. Sandy Orr, President**

9. Ann Barklow, Past President, Chair Nomination Committee and Facebook and Education Committee Co-chair
10. Linda Halsey, Education Committee Chair and Hour Tracker

11. Betsy Russ, Membership Chair

James Hodges, Extension Agent and Advisor to the Board
Not Pictured:

12. Janet Ledebuhr, Newsletter

13. Steve Tabor, Secretary

14. Bill Aaron, Programs Chair (Pro Tem awaiting membership vote)

15. Cyndy Aaron, Fundraising Chair

Non-Board Committees

Susanne Blumer- Social Committee Chair

Priscilla Ellis- Phone Committee Chair

Vince Plotczyk- Office Chair

My Little Cold Frame

(The One in the Garden, not Me!) Sandy Orr

At our fall speaker meeting, Penny Parisi, the organic grower at the Farmer's Market, stressed experimenting with season extension for vegetable gardens. Thus inspired, I bought a tiny, reasonably priced cold frame. (\$40ish), since my past efforts at building a homemade frame had all disintegrated. Assembly took 2 hours instead of the 10 minutes indicated on the box, but I'm thrilled with the results. I've started kale, spinach, lettuce, and arugula. Ordinarily, the weather might permit me to start these seeds in the garden ground, but the cold frame has proved useful during this winter's freakish cold. These starts are all in containers, not planted in the dirt under the cold frame.

In addition to vegetable seedlings, which are permanent cold frame residents until spring, winter sown perennials such as borage, *Eryngium* 'Miss Wilmott's Ghost', and *Anthriscus sylvestris* (English cow parsley) vacation in the relatively balmy cold frame when it dips to below freezing. Pots of bottlebrush buckeye divisions, which are slated for the Plant Sale, live in the cold frame too. When we have the odd warm day, these all join other winter sown milk jugs in my container ghetto on the patio.



Polyester horticultural fleece protects my overwintered cabbages that are in the ground. I'm thinking of permanently covering my whole vegetable plot in this miracle-worker, since it also prevents bug, rabbit, or squirrel damage on the leaves.

During these bleak gray cold spells, it's great fun to bundle up and peek at the little green shoots of my winter plantings, which are harbingers of springtime.

Mistletoe -Medicine, Myth, and More!

(abridged) by Jan Haldeman

This intriguing parasitic plant is easy to spot in winter trees-capes, mostly deciduous oaks of our region. In other words, plants can be

more easily seen without leaf cover of their host trees. Mistletoe of our region blooms in the fall, and female plants produce fruit, the white berries, during winter. Flowers on male plants produce pollen and then wither.

"Our" mistletoe species growing throughout the southeast is commonly called American Mistletoe. Its botanical name is *Phoradendron leucocarpum*, from Greek meaning "thief of a tree with white fruit"; Phor = thief, dendron = tree, Leuco = white and carpum = fruit. It is actually a "small time thief," because its parasitic roots extend only into vessels of xylem tissue from which it steals water and minerals. American mistletoe has green leaves which photosynthesize. Its roots do not extend into sugar-conducting tissue (phloem). For a healthy tree, mistletoe is mostly a benign pest. But a mistletoe infestation can ultimately kill a tree if it already is, or becomes, diseased or damaged.

There are 1300 or so species of plants called "mistletoe." The name "mistletoe" originated from two Anglo-Saxon words: "mistel" for dung and "tan" for twig. How so? Probably because it had been observed that mistletoe plants grow from spots on tree twigs that have been spattered with bird poop, containing sticky mistletoe seeds. A number of bird species feed on mistletoe berries and show no adverse effects, though these fruits are toxic to humans and caution should be taken decorating with fruiting mistletoe in homes with young children and pets.

Some species of mistletoe are complete parasites, making no food by photosynthesis and therefore stealing sugar as well as water and minerals. In forests of Canada, Minnesota and Michigan, and especially in pine forests of the north and southwestern United States, mistletoes that infest spruce and pine species are considered serious pests. One commonly called "Pine Dwarf Mistletoe" infests important species of the Northwest. Growing on pine stems, this mistletoe causes clumps of abnormal shoot growth called "Witches Brooms." This form of mistletoe has a fruit that builds up hydrostatic pressure as it ripens and when ripe, shoots its sticky seed with a force strong enough to propel it 60 mph to a distance of up to 30 feet!

So what about mistletoe as a medicinal plant? American



as well as European, Korean, and Australian mistletoes (different species in different families) have been used for medical remedies for centuries. Teas and extracts are prepared from leaves and berries. Because of toxicity its medical use is controversial. As a folk medicine, mistletoe preparations are reported to relieve digestive upsets, and mental

disturbances such as epilepsy. It has been shown to stimulate smooth muscles and has been used to prevent hemorrhage after childbirth. Migraine headaches, rheumatism, asthma, and diarrhea have been treated with mistletoes. Effects on blood pressure are apparently the opposite for American and European mistletoes. American mistletoe causes blood pressure to rise; European mistletoe causes it to drop. Mistletoe extracts are available for purchase from many herbal medicine stores (pharmacies in Europe) as well as on line.

An extract of European mistletoe named Iscador has gained considerable interest as a treatment for cancer. It is reported to act by stimulating the immune system in a manner that enhances destruction of cancerous cells. Mistletoe extracts have been used to treat AIDS. In 1996 a patent was granted for a mistletoe component named T4GEN, and a synthetic version has been produced. This was to be tested for potential as a cancer drug.

And finally, how about myths of mistletoe? These go back to pre-Christian Europe, when Druids welcomed the New Year with branches of mistletoe. It was considered a mystical plant because it appeared suddenly in trees and lacked roots. There are various stories of mistletoe in the lore of Vikings and Celts. Plants were said to have miraculous healing powers, to enhance fertility of animals and humans, and to give protection from witches and ghosts. The tradition of kissing under the mistletoe comes from Vikings who viewed it as the sacred plant of Frigga their Goddess of Love. A story tells how she revived her slain son Balda, whereupon her tears of joy turned into white mistletoe berries, and she kissed everyone who passed beneath the tree where it grew! This naturally evolved into Christian tradition of Love that conquers Death, as well as a number of symbols of friendship and goodwill for Christmas Season.

To read more about mistletoes and their toxicity, check this site:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0003393/>

And there's a neat story about a tropical mistletoe with red flowers at this blog:

<http://accidentalbotanist.wordpress.com/2010/11/06/tropical-mistletoe/>





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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

President – Sandy Orr	and Ann Barklow	Aaron
Vice President – Donna Feldmaier	Finance and Fund Raising –	Media – PR– Trish Bridges and
Treasurer – Melody McInville	Cyndy Aaron (plant sale) Sarah	Olivia Reynolds
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