



2016 Dates

3/05 "Care and pruning of boxwoods", Abbeville Civic Center Classroom, 9-2 James Hodges for benefit of Stark House \$25 w/lucheon.

3/05 "Cultivate", Greenville organic growing conference http://scorganicliving.com/Cultivate_Classes.html

3/10 6:00 Clemson Extension Office Membership Meeting, 6:30 Speaker Meeting "Landscape Tricks from Iconic English Gardens"

3/19 Soil Sample Dropoff at Lowe's 10-1

3/26 Soil Sample Dropoff at Lowe's 10-1

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



Donna hands-off to Barbara

President's Letter-Barbara Wells

Greetings Master Gardeners!

As I sat on this rainy day (Boy, do we gardeners love to discuss the weather!) and pondered what to include in my first official President's letter, my mind wandered to the fact that my wonderful husband Scott and I have now lived in the Greenwood area a little over three years. That led to the fact that I have been a part of the Lakelands Master Gardeners for about half that time. And then that led to the fact that I can think of no other group I would rather garden with, laugh with, work with, or just generally spend time with.

Together, we wrapped up the past year and began our new year at the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. What a wonderful evening! Special thanks to Charlotte Cabri and Ella Wham, along with everyone else who did what they always graciously do to make this a special night. The event included the announcement that Jimmy McInville has been selected as Master Gardener of the Year. A big shout out of congratulations to Jimmy. We are so fortunate to have you!

Many, many thanks to Donna Feldmaier, who has so effectively led us in the past year. I count my lucky stars that as Past President she will continue to be a part of the group that guides us as we move into our new year.

New volunteers to the Board this year are Donna Sears (Community Projects), Wally Sears (Education/Outreach), John Wham (Plant Sale/Fundraising), Anissa Lawrence (Programs/Speakers), and Marla Starling (Public Relations). Those continuing on in their present leadership roles will be Melody McInville (Treasurer), Chris Moon (Secretary), Jimmy McInville, (Community Projects), Linda Halsey (Education/Outreach), Betsy Russ (Membership), Sandy Orr (Plant Sale/Fundraising, and Newsletter), Chuck Bender (Website/Bylaws), Janet Ledebuhr (Email Blasts), Mary Jane Vivas (Facebook), Vince Plotczyk (Office), Charlotte Cabri (Social) and Ella Wham (Social). Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Looking to the future, now is the time to plan for our annual Plant Sale and Set Up, April 7-9, coordinated by Sandy Orr and John Wham. This is an excellent opportunity to earn volunteer hours by helping with set up or the plant sale itself. Also, any time spent planting and nurturing seeds for plants to be donated, or dividing and potting up plants for donation can be counted as volunteer hours. Our goal is for each member to donate a minimum of 10 plants, a goal easily reached.

**4/16 Rain
Garden Work
Day at Extension
Office. Time not
determined yet.**

**4/16 SCNPS
Spring Native
Plant Sale,
Conestee
Park, 840
Mauldin Rd.
G'ville. 9-1.**

**4/29
SC Garden
Jamboree
8:30 AM - 3:30
PM
Saluda Shoals
Park
5605 Old Bush
River Road
Columbia, SC**

**4/30 G'ville
MG'ers annual
plant
Sale, 8-1, Jeff
Lynch Appliance,
17 Roper Mt. Rd.**

**5/14 Annual
LMG Picnic at
Connie Maxwell**

**6/9 Uptown
Topiary Walk
with Ann
Barklow**

**8/11 LMG Board
Meeting, 6:00 at
Clemson Ext.
Office.**

**9/8 Speaker and
membership
meeting. TBD**

**10/13 LMG
Board Meeting,
6:00 at Clemson**

Proceeds from the plant sale fund scholarships for incoming Master Gardeners, and I can't emphasize enough how important this is to our continuing work in the community. So please help!

Also on the calendar is our next membership and speaker meeting on Thursday, March 10. The membership meeting begins at 6:00, followed by a program on Ideas to Steal from Iconic English Gardens by our own Sandy Orr. The meeting will be at the Cooperative Extension Office, which is a location change from what was listed in our last newsletter.

Before I finish I have one more thank you to add. Thank you for having faith in me and being patient with me as we begin our new year. You are what makes our group so special and I look forward to working with each of you. Let's roll up our sleeves and get dirty.

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy. They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." Marcel Proust



Lakelands Master Gardeners

**Ideas to steal from
iconic British Gardens**

**Tour some lush British borders
with Sandy Orr**

Membership meeting 6 pm - Public Meeting 6:30 pm

March 10

Clemson Extension Office - 105 North University St. - Greenwood

 **LakelandsMasterGardeners**

11/10 Speaker
and Membership
Meeting. TBD

12/8 LMG Board
Meeting



**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 **GREENWOOD FARMER'S MARKET**

SC HWY 72/221 EAST

MARKET MANAGER
NEWTON O'DELL
864-223-6305

CERTIFIED SC GROWERS

Set up for the plant sale will be Thursday April 7th at 4:00. Work shifts will be 2 hours to be signed up for later in March.

LMG 2016 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER – pictures by Vince and Chuck

It was the best food ever, and a wonderful turnout. James Hodges presented the class of 2014 with their permanent badges, and he knighted the class of 2015 with their lanyards.



Congratulations to full-fledged LMG'ers Barbara Wells, Marla Starling, Donnie Alford, Fred Botts, Scott Prevatte, Trey Starling, and James Hodges



James Hodges with his fledgling intern LMG'ers Wallace Sears, Donna Sears, Teresa Martin, Gene Yarochowicz, Bonnie Rothwell, Anna Dominick, Anissa Lawrence, Chandler White, and Mike White. Congratulations!



Connoisseurs debate merits of each dish.

2016 MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR, JIMMY MC INVILLE



Jimmy McInville won MGOY by volunteering for every LMG project for the past eight years. He's worked on the Railroad Museum jungle clearance, the Veteran's Center planting bed, the Burton House wheel-chair accessible beds, the topiaries every year, the City Garden, and he spearheaded the Chamber of Commerce beautification project last year.

He's written beautifully for this newsletter and is always joyous, smiling, and has great tips for gardening. His German Shepherd puppy, bred by Melody McInville, (our Treasurer and his

stepmother), keeps him laughing. Jimmy is a voracious plant hound and will take most cuttings or divisions that are offered. His yard must be lush. He is so plant-crazed that his spare bedroom is now occupied by a plant propagation table. He's growing cleome for the upcoming Plant Sale in April!

JM Propagation tip: 3 for \$10 Sunblaster light bulbs from Amazon put into clip lights from Tractor Supply. The light from these is strong he says. Jimmy's favorite plant is salvia, since it comes in a variety of colors and is an easy perennial.

Jimmy worked for Greenwood Mills, BMW, and the City of Greenwood. His son Austin often attends LMG events and his daughter Alyssa lives in Ware Shoals.

We are so lucky that Jimmy shares his many talents with us.

60 DEGREE THURSDAYS AT THE CITY GREENHOUSE. COME JOIN US!



It's snowing in the greenhouse. Ann, Fred, and Sherry tackle pesky foam packing material in plant plugs.

Hour, Miles, Contacts ~ Why Do They Matter?

Next due date ~ March 15, 2016

Linda Halsey @ halseyfarm@embarqmail.com or 864-374-7253 home or 864-302-3199 cell

Your hours matter because -

- Quarterly reports are sent to the state via James Hodges - he teaches - our hours show that his efforts have not been done in vain. Also, the hours show the state that the tax dollars channeled to the Extension Office have merit.
- We are ranked amongst other counties. We are now fourth, though very close to third, which is great considering we are identified as "rural". **see ranking below ***we are listed on this website because we send our hours in via James. Also, many members send in their hours via snail mail, phone, and or hand written sheets. So if we were to start using Extensioninternet system, it would not be an accurate representation of our volunteering.
- Volunteer hours do have an "unseen" monetary value. Volunteering time latest estimated value for our region is \$23.07 per hour. Source - https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

Our totals are up from last year! Thank you to everyone!

| Name Totals 2015 | Total Hours | Off. Vol. | Contacts | Cont. Ed. | Comm . Vol. | Mileage |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|--------------|----------------|---------|
| Year Totals | 4552.9 | 507.25 | 24171 | 709.5 | 3340.7 | 17895 |
| First Quarter | 955.4 | 205.25 | 2463.8 | 210.5 | 539.65 | 4793.4 |
| Second Quarter | 869.5 | 74.5 | 8578 | 76.5 | 718.5 | 4804.5 |
| Third Quarter | 2006.5 | 168 | 13024 | 371.5 | 1469 | 5523.5 |
| Fourth Quarter | 707.5 | 59.5 | 101 | 51 | 597 | 2718 |
| Quarter Totals | 4552.9 | 507.25 | 24167 | 709.5 | 3324.2 | 17839 |

Contacts matter because -

- Shows James and the state how many people benefitted from you sharing your horticultural knowledge. And or your willingness to research (Continuing Education) to find answers for those who ask.

Miles matter because -

- Our state desires to know how far you drive from each and every volunteering hour. Estimate if you are not sure.

** 2015 South Carolina Hour Ranking & Totals

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1 st | Charleston | 7185.15 |
| 2 nd | Greenville | 6026.52 |
| 3 rd | Beaufort | 4594.65 |
| 4 th | Richland | 4181.36 |
| 5 th | Lexington | 3314.80 |
| 6 th | Aiken | 2485.20 |
| 7 th | Dorchester | 2243.75 |
| 8 th | Sumter | 1930.05 |
| 9 th | Spartanburg | 1588.95 |
| 10 th | Kershaw | 1273.00 |

By Popular Demand, Barbara Wells' Chocolate Cake Recipe from the Annual Awards Dinner



PRINT

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1½ teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon [espresso powder](#)
- 1 cup milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable or canola oil
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons [vanilla extract](#)
- 1 cup boiling water
- [Chocolate Buttercream Frosting Recipe](#)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Prepare two 9-inch cake pans by spraying with baking spray or buttering and lightly flouring.
2. **For the cake:**
3. Add flour, sugar, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda, salt and espresso powder to a large bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer. Whisk through to combine or, using your paddle attachment, stir through flour mixture until combined well.
4. Add milk, vegetable oil, eggs, and vanilla to flour mixture and mix together on medium speed until well combined. Reduce speed and carefully add boiling water to the cake batter. Beat on high speed for about 1 minute to add air to the batter.
5. Distribute cake batter evenly between the two prepared cake pans. Bake for 30-35 minutes, until a toothpick or cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean.
6. Remove from the oven and allow to cool for about 10 minutes, remove from the pan and cool completely.
7. Frost cake with [Chocolate Buttercream Frosting](#).

The cake batter will be very thin after adding the boiling water. This is correct and results in the most delicious and moist chocolate cake I've ever tasted!

PERFECT CHOCOLATE BUTTERCREAM FROSTING RECIPE

[PRINT](#)

INGREDIENTS

- 1½ cups butter (3 sticks), softened
- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 5 cups confectioner's sugar
- ½ cup milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon espresso powder

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add cocoa to a large bowl or bowl of stand mixer. Whisk through to remove any lumps.
2. Cream together butter and cocoa powder until well-combined.
3. Add sugar and milk to cocoa mixture by adding 1 cup of sugar followed by about a tablespoon of milk. After each addition has been combined, turn mixer onto a high speed for about a minute. Repeat until all sugar and milk have been added.
4. Add vanilla extract and espresso powder and combine well.
5. If frosting appears too dry, add more milk, a tablespoon at a time until it reaches the right consistency. If it appears to wet and does not hold its form, add more confectioner's sugar, a tablespoon at a time until it reaches the right consistency.

TABLETOP ARRANGEMENT OF THINGS FOUND IN YARD IN FEBRUARY-Hellebores, nandina, a few storebought roses, and some dusty Zenobia (shrub that holds orange fall color long into winter) provide luncheon arrangement, with succulents borrowed from Greenhouse. (blue rosettes barely visible). Flame the cut ends of the hellebores for 30 seconds before using them in water or oasis to avoid wilting. This works for any milky sapped plants such as poppies too.



NEW NEWSLETTER CONTEST PRIZE! Barbara Wells' husband Scott created this lovely bowl from a deceased oak and is offering it as a prize to whomever reads the entire newsletter and counts the number of times the word "plant" is used. Submit your guess to sandyorr@embarqmail.com and she will determine the winner. Ties will result in a random drawing. Next month's newsletter will feature a variety of methods to grow tomatoes. **Please submit how you grow yours** to sandy (above), since I've never successfully grown a SINGLE tomato in South Carolina.



FRUITS OF WINTER SOWING EMERGE-Arugula, peas, lettuce, white honesty, orange chard, and teasel grace a sun spot. Peas will not be eaten by squirrels if they are pre-sprouted, rather than planted directly into the ground! These seedlings will be transplanted to small recycled cell packs.



Lakelands Master Gardener Board

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: Marla Starling

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