

Lakelands Master Gardeners



March 2017

President's Message by Jimmy McInville

Hello Master Gardeners spring is HERE...76 degrees in February! And it's almost March I'm sure most of you are running wide open just like me. I'm going to hit the high lights and make sure you get the good stuff,

Thank you, Barbra Wells and Donna Feldmaier for taking the lead this past year. It was a joy working with you and I look forward to all that lies ahead. This year we will continue to build on everything we have learned. Our annual banquet was a full house if this trend keeps up we will be looking for larger venue for next year. The challenge has been issued now get out there and spread the word only five months before the new classes start. Great food, friends and gardening what more could you want? This growth would not be possible without every member of LMG. Not just the ones, who speak to groups, teach classes or make it to every volunteer opportunity but also the ones who prefer to stay low key. They share their knowledge with friends, neighbors or the stranger shopping at the garden center. Every person we teach is a seed planted and from that seed a garden grows. Spread your knowledge far and wide my friends, who knows that tiny seed may be the therapy that

changes a life.

Congratulations to Sandy Orr for being named Master Gardener of the Year! This came as no surprise to those of us who know Sandy well. She can always be found in a garden, the City Garden, Rice Elementary where she spends countless hours every week, or a Garden halfway around the world. Where ever she travels she always comes home to share her discoveries with us. Her eye for design was transferred from garden to our tabletops for the banquet, what a treasure.

Here are your board members that were elected at our annual banquet Jan Coffey, *Public Relations*; Sherry Edwards, *Projects*; Donna Feldmaier, *Membership*; Annie Keith & Julee Marshall, *Plant Sale Co Chairs*; Jimmy McInville, *President*; Melody McInville, *Tres*; Christine Moon, *Sec*; Sandy Orr, *News Letter*; Vince Plotczyk, *EXT. Off.*; Bonnie Rothwell & Candace White *Social Co Chairs*; Donna Sears & Wally Sears, *Co VP*; Marla Starling, *FB/ Web*; Mary Jane Vivas, *Facebook*; Barbara Wells, *Past Pres.*

Great job in 2016 I know together we are up for any challenge 2017 can bring. We have several new exciting opportunities coming our way, more information com-

ing soon. Remember LMG is what we the member's make of it pick a project and get involved. Don't see a project that catches your interest suggest one. We are an active group, we want interaction with all out members, get those ideas to us. Let's see those smiling faces at the meetings and events. Yes it can be work but together we gain knowledge, experience and have a good time. Our first speaker meeting of 2017 Backyard Birds is March 9, by our very own Rusty Wilson. Our annual plant sale is coming up fast April 21 & 22. This warm weather has those plants jumping up left and right. I've have bee balm, Shasta daisy, day lily, and Black-eyed Susan coming up. Have you divided those annuals for the sale? Be on the lookout for signup sheets for the plant sale.

The City greenhouses are in full gear, designing, stuffing and planting topiaries, propagating plants from cuttings and seeds. Our Jeep (the LMG topiary) will need weekly attention, she's getting new interior for 2017, come help get her showroom ready.



2017 Calendar

- 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.
- 3/11 TOPIARIES 9- 12
- 3/12 TOPIARIES NOON- 3 PM
- 3/16 BOARD MEETING LIBRARY

Magnification of our caterpillar



Lichens

Vincent Plotczyk

I have been asked many times and you may have also “What is this fungus that is killing my tree /shrub?” This is not unusual since lichens are seen on limbs and trunks of declining or dead trees and shrubs.



Lichens on the trunk of a tree



Lichens on a tree

Lichens are not responsible for the poor health of the trees and shrubs they are attached to.

What are Lichens?

Lichens are part fungus and part green or gray-green alga. Together the fungus and alga can survive some very harsh conditions such as freezing, thawing, high light and intense heat. They also can dry out for a long period of time and become active again when rehydrated. Lichens can be found on a wide range of exposed surfaces. Trees, shrubs, fence posts, soil, rocks.



Lichens on a metal shed

Lichens grow very slowly and like real sunny places. They will not thrive in highly shaded spots. Lichens are classified into three major communities 1) Corticolous (grow on tree bark) 2) Terricolous (grow on soil) 3) Saxicolous (grow on rocks). Lichens are also classified into three morphological groups 1) Fruticose (shrubby) 2) Foliose (leafy) 3) Crustose (crusty).



Fruiticose lichens

Lichens reproduce when small pieces break off and are carried by the wind, splashing water or other means. The fungal part of lichens produce spores.



Crustose lichens

No pesticides are registered for the control of lichens on trees and shrubs. Keeping plants healthy is the best defense against lichens. Trees and shrubs that are in extremely poor condition should be replaced.

Sources:

Lichens by Mark Halcomb
University of Tennessee Extension
Clemson Cooperative Extension HGIC 2354
Spanish Moss, Lichens & Slime Molds
Alabama Cooperative Extension ANR-857
Lichens on Woody Shrubs and Trees
National Park Service
Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Foliose lichens

Lichens do not have roots, stems or leaves. They absorb most of their nutrients from rainfall.

Banquet, Graduation, Master Gardener of the Year

Photos by Vince Plotczyk



Congratulations to Sandy Orr, Master Gardener of the year





SANDY, JAN, ANN, AND SHERRY PREPARE CENTER-PIECES

Topiaries and City Volunteers



Hemming and Hawing about Hemp

Let's consider the hemp plant and the difference between Industrial Hemp and Marijuana. Botanically, they have the same scientific name, *Cannabis sativa*, but they differ anatomically and chemically. The Hemp plant originated in the Middle East, and has been an important crop for thousands of years. Industrial Hemp is a fiber crop plant and Marijuana Hemp is a psychoactive and medicinal crop. The species name means "cultivated" and Industrial Hemp plants have been selected over centuries to grow tall and thin with long useful fibers for rope, paper, canvas (word derived from cannabis). Also healthful oil comes from its seeds, and its flowers are a superior plant for honeybees. Hemp selected over centuries for recreational and medical use is called Marijuana and its plants grow shorter and broader with poor fibers. They have been selected for high levels of the psychoactive chemical delta-9tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, usually

for crops. So technically, though both plants are "Hemp" *Cannabis sativa* selection has created very different varieties. Sometimes Marijuana is given the name *Cannabis indica* because of its early selection and development in India. And the one other species of genus is *Cannabis ruderalis* a native of Russia a small plant, growing to just 2 feet, low in THC, has been used for Cannabis breeding programs because of flowering characteristics.

More about Hemp technology at this link:

<http://www.hemp-technologies.com/nz/page83/page83.html>



In

Diagram of Industrial Hemp, Marijuana and Ruderalis showing relative sizes leaves and plants.



Tall Industrial Hemp growing and hemp harvest

varying from 2 to 20 percent concentration, with buds of female flowers containing highest amounts. Industrial Hemp plants have very low amounts of THC and to grow it legally as a crop, THC concentration cannot exceed 0.3 percent as determined by regular laboratory testing. Industrial Hemp is non-psychoactive in any form. In other words you cannot get high on Industrial Hemp. Currently there are over 20 varieties of Industrial Hemp with less than 0.2 percent THC that are available

colonial times Industrial Hemp was grown in South Carolina, providing raw material for important sail cloth and ship riggings, as well as tents for soldiers of the American Revolution. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew hemp and Ben Franklin had a mill that made hemp paper. Famous documents written on hemp paper include the Gutenberg and King James Bibles and first two drafts of our Declaration of Independence! Later South Carolina's hemp crops were replaced by cotton and tobacco, and by the 20th century, Industrial Hemp had become criminalized in the U.S.A. after being equated with psychoactive marijuana. Hemp products have had to be imported from then on. A good article on hemp in colonial times with nice images is at this link:

<https://history.org/foundation/journal/Winter15/hemp.cfm>



ever on the same spot," unlike tobacco and cotton which are notorious soil depleters. Small farmers are able to grow some hemp for their bees and harvest and sell the seed to larger farms with larger crops to harvest and sell for other products. And again, this bill does NOT legalize recreational or medical marijuana, and does NOT decriminalize marijuana. There remains some lobbying against Bill 1866, but hopefully the facts will bring about thoughtful consideration and support. It will be a shame if South Carolina passes up an opportunity for reintroducing a very useful crop, called a super crop by many, that could offer great economic benefits to South Carolina and its farmers and beekeepers.

By Janice H. Haldeman, PhD
Professor Emerita of Biology

Illustration of Industrial Hemp products

In 2009 the Industrial Hemp Farming Act, Bill 1866, was introduced in the US Congress by Ron Paul and Barney Frank. The bill makes clear these differences between Marijuana and Industrial Hemp. Eventually, if passed, it would legalize growing of Industrial Hemp in the U.S. At present, only in Colorado, Kentucky and Vermont can Industrial Hemp be grown legally. Kentucky is expected to have over 12,000 acres in hemp production this year. South Carolina is one of several states whose legislatures are considering passage of a Bill to allow farming of Industrial Hemp. On January 24, 2017 South Carolina Industrial Hemp Cultivation Bill H.3559 was introduced to the House of Representatives with eleven sponsors, including Abbeville's Graig Gagnon, and Belton's Jay West. This bill only legalizes growing Industrial Hemp, it does NOT legalize recreational or medical marijuana. South Carolina Farmers are in favor the bill's passage, and no wonder. This variety of Hemp grows well even on poor soils, and does not need chemical pesticides or fertilizers or crop rotation. To quote Jefferson, hemp "is abundantly productive and will grow for-



Declaration of Independence second draft, printed on hemp paper.

Waxing Camellia Blooms

By Marian St. Clair

Nearly a lost art, waxing camellias is one of the first memorable things I learned when I moved from Virginia to the Deep South (eons ago) and joined a garden club. My instructor, a grande dame of the Columbia, South Carolina Garden Council, was a fun and vivacious flower-lover who was eager to share her knowledge. The gift of her tutelage was not lost on me; it is her enduring legacy.

When the temperature of the wax is correct, hold leaves away from the flower and dip the bloom into the mixture with a sweeping motion. Twirl the flower as you move it through the mix, being careful not to touch the hot pan, and then lift it sideways from the wax. Give the bloom a gentle shake or two before dipping the bloom into a bowl of ice-cold water. Again, plunge the flower with a sweeping sideways motion to preserve the natural shape of the flower. Hold the bloom in the cold water for a few seconds, and then place it aside to dry.



Creating the porcelain-like bloom of a waxed camellia is relatively simple, but instructions must be followed to the letter to ensure success. Before you begin, note that pink, white, and variegated blooms are usually more successful than red, and that single and semi-double forms will produce a better result than double flowers.

Always collect flowers early in the morning when they are at their peak. If necessary, clean them with a dry, soft brush or gently blow away dirt and debris. Trim stems to 3 or 4-inches long and remove all but a couple of leaves. Keep stems in water while preparing the wax.

To begin the process, heat five pounds of paraffin wax with one and a half pints of mineral oil in a double boiler or a heavy, four-quart saucepan. Once melted, cool or heat the wax to exactly 138 degrees F. Temperature is critical. If too hot, the wax will scorch the bloom; if too cool, it will coat the flower too thickly.



Hold leaves away from stem



Lift gently to preserve flower form



Twirl in cold water



Set aside to dry

Waxing a camellia bloom will preserve its beauty for several weeks. Handle flowers gently, however, as the petals will turn brown if the wax seal is broken. Other blooms can be preserved in a similar manner. As the weather warms and more plants flower, experiment with the branches of quince and forsythia and even stems of narcissus or other bulbs.

More articles from Marian can be found at <https://marianstclair.wordpress.com>

Volunteer hours add up

By Linda Halsey

2017 first quarter totals are **due March 20th**. If you volunteer any time after that date, such as March 21st, those hours will be added to next quarter's totals.

hours (office, continuing education, and community projects),

contacts (the total of people to whom you have shared horticultural information, and

mileage (distance to and from a horticultural activity).

If you have **any** questions or need a new excel file, please send me an e-mail at halsey-farm@embarqmail.com.

As Master Gardeners we put in a lot of miles to the

various community projects that come our way. If you are a Master Gardener that itemizes his or her taxes; according to the Independent Sector, you are able to deduct .14 cents per mile driven to charitable activities.

Independent Sector also states that the value of your time as of 2015 is worth 23.56 per hour. Every hour counts and is appreciated by Clemson Extension, cities (Greenwood and Abbeville just to name a couple), schools, churches, family and friends.

Here is a look at how we fared the past two years.

| Name Totals 2016 | Total hours | Off. Vol. | Contacts | Cont. Ed. | Comm. Vol. | Mileage |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Year totals | 3917 | 555 | 54499 | 524 | 2839 | 18115 |
| First Quarter | 892 | 91 | 10640 | 131 | 670 | 4320 |
| Second Quarter | 1166 | 201 | 15112 | 110 | 856 | 5325 |
| Third Quarter | 967 | 142 | 21801 | 168 | 658 | 4770 |
| Fourth Quarter | 892 | 122 | 6946 | 115 | 655 | 3701 |
| Quarter Totals | 3917 | 555 | 54499 | 524 | 2839 | 18115 |

| 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 | 4538.9 | 507.25 | 24167 | 709.5 | 3324.2 | 17839 |

Thank you to the 2016 top volunteers.

100 hours or Greater

Ann Barklow
Susan Bender
Mike Brown
Nancy Collin
Donna Sears
Wally Sears
Clint Price

150 hours or Greater

Sharon Alvarez
Donna Feldmaier
Linda Halsey
Gene Yarowchowicz

200 hours or Greater

Sherry Edwards
Jimmy McInville
Sandy Orr