



Master Gardener Thymes



WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

May 2012

Notes from your President and Board

By Patti Larson

This has been a very busy few weeks. Thanks to our wonderful Committee Chairs- we are busting at the seams!!!! Just to highlight a few:

Park Seed has signed the agreement. We are setting up a stand/ table saying **"Ask a Master Gardener"** on Saturdays in June only (coincides with FOF month). Are you interested in helping volunteer on Saturday June 2, 9, 16, 23 or 30th? Please let Patti Larson know at greenwood_patti@yahoo.com . More info will be sent out also....

Vince is no longer the web site chair. He resigned because of other obligations with Connie Maxwell but is remaining the Office Comm. Chair...thanks Vince!). **He needs our support on this project....**

Nancy Collin has become the Topiary Committee Chair. The topiaries are looking great and if you helped, **please let me know because I will be putting the list together for the volunteer t-shirts by May 13th**. Email me at: greenwood_patti@yahoo.com

We have reserved a table at the huge July 4th celebration in "96" to distribute info (much like we do at Park Seed on FOF Day) BUT we are including a FUND Raiser....selling raffle tickets to win a beautiful potted plant. **Would you like to volunteer to work our table at this?**

Our Annual Picnic is soon...May 10th at 6:30PM. It is being moved to Connie Maxwell...directions will be sent out. We

Lakelands Master Gardeners Spring Picnic

Lakelands Master Gardeners Spring Picnic will be Thursday, May 10, 2012 6:30 PM. Please make plans now to join your fellow master gardeners at our annual spring picnic. This year our picnic will be held at the farm at Connie Maxwell Children's Home. Brad Martin, the home's farm manager will speak briefly about his work with the garden and farm. Connie Maxwell has a lovely updated facility with a covered picnic shelter and full kitchen. Burgers and hot dogs will be served and we ask that you bring a favorite side dish or dessert. We hope you will join us for this fun evening! Please RSVP to Ann Stoddard at bstoddard@emerald.com or (864)388-9125.



will be having a plant exchange and also asking everyone to bring a copy of their favorite recipe and holding a 50/50 raffle so don't forget your \$1.00!

Don't forget to send in your hours to Linda Halsey. Janet has included information in the newsletter each quarter.

Have fun planting your gardens this May.....hope it's not going to be such a hot summer! Any new ideas and tips, please share with Janet so they can be included in our newsletter.....

Thanks to each of you for all that you do to make this Association so wonderful, Patti

Dates to Remember:

- MAY 10TH, LMG PICNIC 6:30 PM CONNIE MAXWELL CHILDREN'S HOME
- MAY 12, 9 AM- 10 AM DRIP IRRIGATION CLASS, YMCA
- MAY 19TH RAIN GARDEN 9:00AM EXTENSION OFFICE
- MAY 24TH, 6:30 PM LANDSCAPE DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC
- JUNE 14TH, BOARD MEETING LIBRARY 6:30 PM
- JULY 12TH, SPEAKER MEETING, ANN BARKLOW "ALTERNATIVE TO PESTICIDES" LIBRARY 6:30 PM
- AUGUST 9TH, SPEAKER MEETING TRADD COTTER "MUSHROOM GROWING" 6:30PM LIBRARY
- SEPTEMBER 13TH, SPEAKER MEETING JACK AND PATRICIA DEVROOMEN "HOSTA" LIBRARY 6:30 PM
- OCTOBER 11TH, BOARD MEETING BUDGET MEETING LIBRARY 6:30 PM
- NOVEMBER 8TH, SPEAKER MEETING DR. JOE JAMES "THE MIGHTY GIANT, THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT" LIBRARY 6:30 PM
- DECEMBER 13TH, CHRISTMAS PARTY GREENWOOD METRO DISTRICT 6:30 PM

The Lakelands Master Gardeners Association is a volunteer organization made up of Master Gardeners from Abbeville and Greenwood Counties in SC.

Festival of Flower Topiaries



Nancy Collin – you can't hide from us!

By Patti Larson

Can you believe the Festival of Flowers is only a month away?

Our topiaries---the Jeep and the 45th Anniversary Cake look great thanks to so many volunteers that have helped. The LMG are also helping Wyatt Farms out by working on all the topiaries under the direction of Nancy Collin...our new Topiary Committee chair.

We need to know if you volunteered on the topiaries this year and what size t shirt you would like.

Please email Patti Larson at [green-](mailto:green-wood_patti@yahoo.com)

[wood_patti@yahoo.com](mailto:green-wood_patti@yahoo.com) and give her your shirt size for a FOF volunteer shirt by May 14th.



Wow.....we even built this topiary!!!
Hard at work!



Mary Jo Cook and Sue Monahan Hard at work!

A complete schedule of all the activities planned for the Festival will be emailed once it is finalized!

Any questions about the FOF please email Patti Larson or call her at 554-1600.

Mini Workshop for Lakelands Master Gardeners and their Guests

“Drip Demystified”

Instructor: Doug Crawford

Want to spend more time enjoying your garden and less time watering?

Would you like to save money on your water bill and waste less water?

Then this class is for you!



Please join us at the YMCA for a hands on workshop installing the drip system in the raised beds of the recently installed Community Garden.

Presenter: Doug Crawford

Date: ! Saturday, May 12, 2012

Time: 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Location: YMCA, 1760 Calhoun Road, Greenwood, SC

You will learn all you need to know to set up your own system and those attending can help install the drip tubing. Please meet in the classroom to the left as you go through the front door entrance to the YMCA.

No reservations are required. Those arriving late can find us outside in the back garden, around the left side of the building. **Please do not go through the gym.** For more information or questions please contact Ann Barklow 344-0120 or annbarklow@embarqmail.com

Special thanks to the YMCA Executive Director, Gray Stall-

Farmers Market Voucher Distribution in May

By James Hodges

Our Greenwood County Farmers Market and other new local markets have seen drastic growth in the last few years as a renewed interest in fresh food and locally grown food has developed with the public. Fresh vegetables are more nutritious and tasty than those harvested early, held in cold storage and transported large distances.

Clemson Extension and other volunteer groups in town will again help to distribute senior voucher to low income resident in the county intended to encourage healthy eating and even more production of healthy local food. Several Master Gardeners have asked to help with this distribution again this year. We haven't received word on what Greenwood County will receive and when, but it should be in early May.

Master Gardeners interested in helping with this public service project please let me know by email

jmhodge@clemson.edu or call me at 223-3264 x 116.

We will schedule several short training sessions for volunteers sometime in May.

Lakeland 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

Master Gardener Name Badge Information			
Last Name		First Name	
County		Year Graduated From Master Gardener Training Course	

Cost: \$10/badge Cash or Check accepted
 Make Checks payable to: Lakelands Master Gardeners *Remit Payment and Order Form together to:*
Patti Larson
325 Nautical Way
Greenwood, SC 29649
 Questions, please e-mail Patti Larson: greenwood_patti@yahoo.com or call 554-1600



Upcoming Event

Low-Impact Vegetable Gardening

By James Hodges
 Master Gardeners please spread the word.
 Limited to 12 and open to Abbeville, Greenwood or surrounding Counties.

Low-Impact Vegetable Gardening

Thursday May 10th from 6-8:30PM-- Abbeville Extension Office-- 256 Industrial Park Rd.-- Abbeville, SC -864-446-2276 X 414
 Learn how to plan, prepare and plant a garden with more eco-friendly methods that include many organic principles and methods. Some hands on exercises and crop specific information.

Space is limited. Cost is \$30 which includes Clemson Vegetable Growing Book, Insect Guide, Hand Lens, pre-paid sample bag. Register at the Greenwood Extension office 864-223-3264 or Abbeville Extension office.

- **Upstate Farm Tour**— Local farms are open the weekend of June 2-3 to tour. Located in Hodges, Huckleberry Farm is new this year . Details- <http://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/upstatefarmtour.shtml>
- **From Patti Larson**- Disposable diapers?????.....try lining your outdoor pots and hanging baskets with a disposable diaper with the inside of the diaper facing up and then cover with your soil. The gel beads in the diaper expand and helps to hold moisture in the pot and the plastic side (facing down) also helps to hold the moisture in the pot!
- **This from Jason Jordan**— Master Gardeners that they should go check out the steel flowers on the corner of Maxwell and Edgefield streets that the art students from Lander made, they are amazing.
- **From Rusty Wilson**— We have scheduled a rain garden work day. The workday has been scheduled for the rain garden at the Extension Service office for Saturday, May 19. We will meet at the Extension Service office at 9:00AM. Please bring garden tools if possible, i.e., rakes, shovels, spades, etc.

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THANK YOU NOTE FOR PLANT SALE PARTICIPANTS

By Julee Marshall
Fund Raising Chair

The annual plant sale fund raising event has come and gone and my heartfelt thanks go out to all the folks who volunteered their plants and their time! On Thursday, April 5, we collected plants at the Farmers Market and set up our tables for the sale. On arrival we found this huge stack of boxes in the corner with a sign that said "Do not throw away!" Ella Wham, our honorary Master Gardener, had gone to Aldi's and "helped" them rearrange their merchandise enabling her to bring a pickup truck load of boxes for people to carry their purchases. I think we had enough to supply every vendor in the building. Cathie Swindell, Sue Monaghan, Sandra Johnson, Linda Halsey, and John Wham all came to help me with the set up and organization. Cathie Swindell's granddaughters helped us put pricing stickers on the plants. It was nice to have some young people involved.



Plant donations were made by Chuck Bender, Sarah Carroll, Glennis Cannon, Sharon Grooms, Sandra Johnson, Linda Halsey, Patti Larson, Rick Larson, Sandy Orr, Melody McInville, Jimmy McInville, Stuart Menaker, Sue Monaghan, Susu Wallace, Rusty Wilson, Ginny Wilson, and I. Glennis brought these beautiful packets of dried French marigold seeds that I'm sure were a labor of love. Thank you all for taking the time and effort of starting, digging, dividing and potting those plants. There would have been no plant sale without you.

Sue Monaghan, Melody McInville, Sarah Carroll, John Wham, Rusty Wilson, and I gathered early on the cool and rainy Friday morning for the beginning of the plant sale. We ate a few biscuits and sold a few plants. The afternoon shifts were manned by Maureen Colby, Sandy Orr, John Wham, Peggy Ticehurst, and Jimmy McInville. The turn out and sales were light, but we had a good time anyway. I learn so much from these knowledgeable gardeners.

On Saturday morning, Beth Osteen (new intern) joined in and Sue Monaghan came back for her third shift. I think she must have wanted another bacon biscuit. Why else would you show up two days in a row at 7:45 am?! Maureen Colby came back for a second time at the tables and old friends Sandra Johnson and Susu Wallace rounded out the crew. John Wham was ever present throughout the sale. In fact, he picked some dandelions for me to plant in my garden. Isn't he the most thoughtful fellow? It was a great group! Sure did have fun with you all.

Things always start winding down on Saturday afternoon, which means we start wheeling and dealing, so we don't have to take any plants home. It also means we have to take down all the tables and clean up after ourselves. Not the most fun part, needless to say. However, I had a fine group of tried, true, and faithful volunteers for that task. Stuart Menaker, Ken Reece, Betty Reece, Miriam Smith, Mike Brown, Chuck Bender, John Wham all came to the rescue. Thank you all so much. There was no way I could have lugged all those tables by myself!

I certainly hope that I have not left anyone out of this acknowledgement. If so, I certainly apologize. I wasn't quite as organized as I should have been with keeping records of who did what. I know that I had a great time and I hope that all of you that participated did as well. The 16 hypertufa pots that I made and planted with various succulents seemed to be a hit. I was so happy that people liked them. They all sold and there seems to be interest in a mini seminar on how to make the pots. We will let you know if that pans out.

We managed to clear about \$500 which wasn't the best sale on record. But, it is what it is. Hopefully, that will be enough to give a couple of scholarships to would be Master Gardeners in the fall class and that's what counts. The Lakelands Master Gardeners are valued contributors to this community. Hopefully, we will continue to grow and contribute for many years to come.

Thank you again to all that participated. It is greatly appreciated.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL LAKELAND MASTER GARDENER PROJECT!

By Ann Barklow

LMG President, Patti Larson and Vice-president, Ann Barklow worked with the kids at the YMCA, April 21, 2012. With thunderstorms threatening all week, we were blessed with a warm and sunny afternoon of planting. The community garden installation was part of the Healthy Kids Day that the YMCA celebrates every year. YMCA Executive Director, Gray Stallworth approached the master gardeners a few months ago and the planning began with a design and planting plan. "Many of the staff at the YMCA are very knowledgeable about farming," explained Ann, "and they did most of the work; buying materials, making the raised beds, filling them with soil, and mulching the paths. They are a great organization to work for."

The kids filtered in all afternoon, making the work steady but not hectic. Planted from seed were: corn, pole, bush, and lima beans, southern peas, yellow squash, and zucchini along with zinnia, cosmos, and sunflowers. Plants were: peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, basil, rosemary, tarragon, thyme, oregano, mint, and parsley with a sprinkling of marigolds throughout the raised beds.

The garden will be maintained by the after school and summer camp kids under the occasional supervision and consultation of the LMG's. Master Gardener intern, Doug Crawford will be installing the drip system on May 12, 2012 as part of an education mini series for master gardeners.



Master Garden, Ann Barklow getting the kids ready to plant the herb garden

Container Workshop Success



Sue Monahan showing a participant some ideas....



James instructing the Container workshop on April 21, 2012



Sue Monahan showing examples of various container plantings at the April 21st Container workshop.



Two of the participants very proud of their planting!



Busy at work!!!!!!

South Carolina Farmer's Festival

The National Bean Market Museum in Lake City, SC is planning the South Carolina Farmer's Festival June 14 -16. June 15 there will be a Gardener/Landscaper 'Meet and Greet' at 8 AM with guest speakers. The schedule is:

- 8:00 am Gardeners/Landscapers Coffee Meet and Greet
- 8:30 am Evan Clement (Landscaping plants and designs)
- 9:00 am Tony Melton (Home Grown Maters)
- 9:30 am Blake Landford (Pee Dee Agri-Tourism)
- 10:00 am Will Goins (From BBQ to Grits)
- 11:00 am Gail Wagner (Can Nature Knowledge Save the World)
- 12:00 pm Break
- 1:00 pm Aida Rogers (SC Ain't We Got Food)

This event will be held at the National Bean Market Museum in Lake City. The address is 111 Henry Street, Lake City, SC 29560.

Landscape Diagnostic Clinic

By Patti Larson



We held our first Landscape Diagnostic Clinic at Mary and Ashley Woodiwiss' house this past Thursday April 26th.

Thanks to Janet Ledebuhr, a few of Mary's neighbors and nine LMG members were informed of various topics such as fire ant management, rose diseases, fungal leaf spot diseases, inspecting your landscape trees for hazards!

Mary's yard was a very ma-



ture garden and many issues had been inherited. It was a lovely yard and she served the best cookies and biscuits made including fresh herbs from her yard!

The next Clinic will be May 24th at Patti Larson's house: 325 Nautical Way (Harborside). This will be the exact opposite of Mary's as Patti's gardens are only 5 years old and hosts many different issues!

Please plan on joining us at this informative clinic.

Educational Program



By Susanne Bender & Patti Larson

Our first 2012 educational program—“What’s the Buzz in Greenwood” was attended by 17 guests and many of our own Association members at the Greenwood County Library.

Donna Booser, our guest speaker, presented an educational power point program to explain to us “*The plight of the Honey Bees and how we can prevent any further loss*”. It was an exceptional presentation and clearly demonstrated her own her love of bee’s and their problems. Donna was supported by a panel -- **Sarah Sowell**, a certified beekeeper, **Becky Leski**, recent graduate who learned to overcome her fear of bees, and **Ray Farmer** - 2010 "SC Beekeeper of the Year" Lakelands area "bee rescuer" who brought a single frame of live bees, protected by glass, to present to the audience.

Donna and her panel brought several honey products including honey lip balm, facial creams and of course honey! Some lucky members won various items donated by the speakers (THANK YOU)...

The evening ended with a spread of various fruits and nuts that were chosen to illustrate that these products all need pollination by bees or they would no longer be available if we don't protect our bees. A very healthy and tasty choice of refreshments which was presented by Susanne Bender, thank you so much

A very special thank you to all my fellow beekeeper speakers for a wonderful presentation!!

Additionally, thanks for the support of our LMG members who helped organize and setup the library forum to provide a welcome to all that attended!!!

FYI....here are a couple of hints when substituting honey for sugar in a recipe:

- 1. If the measuring cup is lightly coated with oil before measuring the honey, the honey will run out of the cup easily.*
- 2. When substituting honey for sugar in a recipe, reduce the amount as honey is much sweeter. 3/4 Cup honey will take the place of one cup of sugar. Also remember honey is liquid so reduce the amount of liquid slightly.*
- 3. Remember various honeys have distinct flavors so some are better suited to others in recipes. For example, chestnut honey is great mixed with ricotta cheese and put in warm pasta with a little rosemary. Local wild flower honey is usually best but sometimes a recipe calls for some special honey for its unique flavor.*
- 4. Lower the oven by 25° when using honey instead of sugar in baked goods. Also add a pinch of baking soda.*

A good web page to check out is:

<http://www.liberty4hbees.com/htmlpages/RecipePage.htm>

Succulents: Many More Choices

By James Hodges

Almost every home or business landscape, patio or planter location has at least one growing spot or location that seems to be a nightmare for plants. Dry soil, scorching sun and heat create conditions that frustrate even experienced gardeners. A good remedy for dry conditions can be many cactus and succulent species.

The few past selections of hen and chicks (*Sempervivum tetorum*), or hardy cactus did not give consumers many choices. By contrast, succulents in particular, have been hot in recent years with plant breeders and developers as they released many new and interesting plants for the market. A large selection of plants in various colors, texture, floral displays and plant forms are now available.



This small container filled with succulents of various sizes, colors and foliage types displays only a few of the choices available. There are plants suited to various light and growing conditions available too.

Plant growing conditions vary greatly for the many possible selections. Not all succulents and cactus prefer intense heat and low moisture. Some actually are suited to partial shade. When mixing plants in containers, select plants with similar light, nutrient and water needs. Match their growth rates too, otherwise you may end up with a few dominate plants that suppress slower growing varieties.

Succulents can be a great addition to any plant enthusiast's collection. Several of our local nurseries and greenhouses have plants in stock.



The topiary alligator (covered with succulents) spends the off season in a local greenhouse to protect freeze sensitive plants

Suddenly containers, rock gardens and dry hot spots near buildings can be filled with colorful and interesting plants. If you looked closely at the topiary displays of the alligator and dinosaur at the Festival of Flowers last year, you would have seen many succulents growing.

One thing to keep in mind is that many of the new plants are not winter hardy outside in the Lakelands. Select hardy outdoor plants if your intention is to create a permanent planting. Many succulents fit small containers that can be moved inside during the winter.



Cactus and various succulent plants thrive in a narrow strip of dry soil next to a local church where few other plants survive.



LAKELAND MASTER GARDENERS

Newsletter Editor-Janet Ledebuhr
articles due by the 25th of the month—
queenofseaford@yahoo.com

LMG General Meetings will be held
at: Greenwood Public Library, 600
S. Main St. Greenwood, SC @6:30
pm

*Board Meetings are held in Febru-
ary, April, June, August, and Octo-
ber on the second Thursday of the
month @ 6:30 pm @ Greenwood
Public Library, 600 S. Main St.,
Greenwood, SC*

Miles and Hours - please submit
to
Linda Halsey
halseyfarm@embarqmail.com, 864
-374-7253, or P.O. Box 82,
Hodges, SC 29653

Don't forget to check the Shut-
terfly website for photos. See
address at the top of the page.
Chuck keeps updating the
page with more photos of our
activities. The password is avail-
able.

**Master Gardener Office
Needs Volunteers**

Need hours? Volunteer to work in
the Master Gardener office any
time Monday thru Friday. The of-
fice hours are from 8:30a.m - 5
p.m. Schedules are posted at the
office for sign-ups. We encourage
everyone to work in the office for
Office Volunteer Hours.

You can sign up two ways: Go to
the Extension
office and
add your
name to the
schedule; or
call the Ex-
tension office
at 223-3264.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Have a committee where you could
use an extra hand? Send it to the
newsletter and it will be listed.
1. Landscape Diagnostic Clinic
2. FoF Topiaries

☹ **Missing a newsletter?** Looking for an earlier edi-
tion? All of our newsletters can be found at our website at— [http://
www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/newslet2012.html](http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/newslet2012.html)

THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2012

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|---|--|
| President- Patti Larson | Membership- Cindy Wilkins |
| Vice President– Ann Barklow | Newsletter- Janet Ledebuhr |
| Treasurer- Chuck Bender | Phone– Ann Barklow |
| Secretary- Sandy Orr | Programs and Speakers– Su-
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| Past President- Jimmy McInville | Media – (3 chairs)- Catherine
Swindell (PR) Doug Crawford |
| Clemson Advisor- James Hodges | (Facebook) Vince Plotczyk (Web
Site) |
| Community Projects– Sandra
Johnson & charlotte Cabri | Social– Ann Stoddard |
| Education Co-Chair- Linda Halsey
and Helen Spiller | Office- Vince Plotczyk |
| Finance and Fund Raising– Julee
Marshall | |

Volunteer hours are reported quarterly to Linda Halsey at
halseyfarm@embarq.com. March, June, September and December I will attach
an Excel form for the quarter. If you do not have Excel and need a word document,
please let me know—queenofseaford@yahoo.com

**This Association shall be operated for the growth and development of its
members and for the following purposes:**

1. Sharing horticultural information and guidance with South Carolina resi-
dents based on research specific to the local climate, soils, and plants;
2. Volunteering time to assist the Extension Service in meeting the demand for
reliable gardening information;
3. Providing volunteer service to improve our communities through a wide vari-
ety of horticultural projects;
4. Promoting the training of Master Gardeners and keeping Master Gardeners
active in service;
5. Encouraging interest in gardening by all citizens;
6. Encouraging the utilization of all resources for better gardening, including
the Department of Agriculture and Clemson University Extension Service;
7. Encouraging local environmental beautification and preservation; and
8. Helping those less fortunate prosper from the benefits of horticulture.