



Master Gardener Thymes



WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

May 2013

President's Message by Ann Barklow

Well, April was a good month for us with a very successful plant sale, raising a record high of \$1480.00. Good job to Sarah Carroll and Ginny Wilson and all of you that donated plants and volunteered your time.

We also had a very well attended membership meeting and a great speaker in April. Organic Farmer Daniel Parsons gave an inspiring talk and Susie Bender had display boards that encouraged all of us to grow our own food. Daniel talked about his method of farming invites pests so he plants buckwheat to invite the predators. I will bring some buckwheat seeds to our upcoming picnic on May 9. If you haven't let Donna Feldmaier know that you are coming, please contact her and let her know what you will be bringing. There is an announcement in this newsletter.

The jeep topiary that we sponsor is growing nicely. Actually, too nicely, so Jimmy will be organizing one more workday to prune it soon. Jimmy also wrote an interesting article on our topiary moss that we use, so look for that in our newsletter. I've decided to include the plant list of the plant material used in the topiaries this year. We were all amazed that there is 30 plant species used! I will highlight *Hypossetes phyllostachya* in an article this issue.

I hope you are all enjoying this rather mild and wet spring. My garden is bursting with lettuce, collards, broccoli, chinese cabbage, bok choy, swiss chard, and spinach. Just yesterday I brought in a laundry basket full of greens. I have been harvesting some sugar snap peas, asparagus, and strawberries and drooling

over the hundreds of peaches that are pecan size right now. My blueberries are almost ready and my bush beans just poked their heads up out of the soil. I like the mild weather but am anxious for the heat to get my tomatoes growing faster. Since my husband increased my raised bed area I am adventuring into growing potatoes, peanuts, and sweet potatoes this year.

If all goes as planned, Dwight Long and I will be hosting a drip irrigation seminar at my home for my raised beds. I have everything ready for installation so I will keep you posted. I also included an article about my Power Hat that I use to hunt pests in the night so please take some time to enjoy this great issue of the Master Gardener Thymes. I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual picnic!



Dates to Remember:

- MAY 9TH PICNIC CONNIE MAXWELL 6:30 PM
- JUNE 1- 23 FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS
- JUNE 1-2 UPSTATE FARM TOUR WEBLINK FOR INFO ON PAGE 3
- JUNE 13TH BOARD MEETING 4:30 PM LIBRARY
- JULY 18TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:00 PM SPEAKER, REECE LYERLY 6:30 LIBRARY
- AUG. 8TH BOARD MEETING 4:30 PM LIBRARY
- SEPT. 12TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:00 PM SPEAKER, PANEL DISCUSSION 6:30 PM LIBRARY
- OCT. 10TH BOARD MEETING 4:30 PM CLEMSON OFFICE
- NOV. 14TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:00 PM SPEAKER, PANEL DISCUSSION 6:30 PM LIBRARY
- DEC. 12TH MEMBER SOCIAL 6:30 PM GMD

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.

Greenwood Farmers Market Senior Voucher Distribution

By James Hodges

Volunteers needed for the Farmer Market Voucher Distribution to Greenwood county seniors. I had a large number of Master Gardener's signup at the meeting a few weeks back, but we can use more. The Farmers Market will open on June 1st and this will be the 11th year we've been part of providing nutritious vegetables to low income seniors.

I will find out more details in the next couple of weeks; then we will hold several training sessions prior to distribution. I will conduct morning and evening sessions based on volunteer availability. We will do several small distributions at local senior centers in late May, during the day but the big crowd will be on Saturday morning, June 1st at the Market. We will follow up on Wednesday morning, June 5th and should finish.

If you are interested in signing up send me an email at jmhodge@clermson.edu and indicate if you would attend an hour + training on a week day morning or if you would need to attend one in the evening.

I Finally Got Around To It

by Steve Maxwell

If you're like me, and, sadly, most people are, you have a time management problem. It goes along with being human, so don't despair. You're in good company. About 40 years ago (and 60-70 pounds ago) I reported to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, as an Army private "selected" to study the Hungarian language, as part of the military intelligence community's Cold War effort. The Monterey Peninsula is a Master Gardener's paradise, but I was too young, and stupid, to recognize it at the time. But, back to time management. On orientation day in Monterey, several hundred of us filed into the post theater to hear mostly rhetoric from various departments of the school. I only remember one presentation, from the post chaplain. In our orientation packets he had enclosed a circle cut from construction paper with the letters "TUIT" written in the middle.

"I invite almost every soldier I meet to our Sunday chapel services," the chaplain explained. "The most common response I get is 'I really meant to come to chapel last week, Colonel, but I just didn't get around to it.' Each of you has a round "TUIT" in your packet," he said. "I expect to see you Sunday!"

This summarizes my Master Gardener experience. I want to participate, but life's details keep me from getting a round "TUIT." Last year I was a no-show. I'm doing better this time around, but I have been meaning to send Janet an article for the newsletter for over 3 months now, but guess what? I haven't gotten around to it, until now. Maybe we all need to cut out a circle of paper, write the letters "TUIT" in it, and attach it to our computer screens. I never made it to post chapel, but I did attend a local church (sporadically). Hopefully, we can all be a little more than sporadic in supporting our Lakelands MG Association. Let's get a round "TUIT!"

Power Hat

by Ann Barklow



My husband bought me a power hat! They have them at Lowe's near the cash registers where the flashlights are.

This is an extremely handy garden item. It says it can be used for hunting and that is what I use it for. About an hour after sundown several nights a week if possible I go hunting. Mostly my prey is slugs but I've been known to find a caterpillar or two also. I have found that aphids that curl up in my kale are also easier to see at night under lights. I always carry my weapon with me when I go hunting. This is a solo cup with soapy water. I use dish soap and clear plastic cup so I can gloat over my killings.

I also use beer baits and Sluggo iron phosphate baits to kill slugs but find hunting at night to be the most effective. Here is the link if you want to read about my Power Hat!

<http://www.panthervision.com/cat-94-2-15/powercap.htm>

Angel Moss By Jimmy McInville



A lot of questions have been asked about the moss we use to stuff the topiaries. So I went straight to the supplier for as many answers as I could get.

Angel Moss is a brand name for 100% sphagnum moss grown on the West Coast of New Zealand. The high rainfall (about 170" a year) on the West Coast of the South Island provides the perfect growing environment for sphagnum moss to thrive and regenerate itself every four to five years.

The moss is carefully harvested by hand using pitch forks from natural swamps. No heavy machinery is used. It is then dried for growing medium or to be transformed into soil conditioner and liners for baskets.

Angel Moss is regarded as being a sterile medium that is naturally aseptic which means it contains no bacteria, viruses or other micro-organisms. It contains a natural antibiotic called 'Tropolene' which prevents the growth of micro-organisms.

Every part of the moss is permeated with minute tubes and spaces resulting in a capillary system having the effect of a very fine sponge. The moss readily absorbs and retains water to a capacity of up to 20 times its dry weight. This means 1 lb. of moss can hold up to 2 gallons of water. Having no nutritional value itself, the moss's high exchange capacity enables it to transfer fluids and nutrients extremely well to the plants, making it the perfect planting medium for our topiaries.

This and That- from our members



- <http://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/UpstateFarmTour.2013.pdf>
Upstate Farm tour information brochure. Farm tour is June 1-2

- <http://www.earthgauge.net/>

Earth Gauge® is a free information service designed to make it easy to talk about links between weather and environment. Originally developed for weathercasters, the information is also available to the general public, educators, parents and students.

 * Botanical terms-
 * Rugosa- wrinkled -*Rosa rugosa* Rough rose
 *
 * Phyllostachya- leaf spike
 * *Hypoestes phyllostachya* Polka
 * Dot plant
 *
 * *Cineraria*- ashy-gray, usually
 * the foliage *Senecio cineraria*,
 * Dusty Miller
 *



John Wham with a few of the bird houses he painted and donated to the plant sale. These are from gourds! These sold out quickly, thanks John.

Fragrant Plants in the Landscape



Rosa rugosa

May—

- *Osmanthus fragrans*, Tea Olive
- *Rosa rugosa*- Rose
- *Salvia* 'May Night'

Do you have something fragrantly blooming now? Share your information to add to the newsletter. I know you have something fragrant in your garden!

Moore Farms Botanical Gardens

by Sandy Orr



Moore Farms Botanical Gardens is a hoot. I told you last month about the Open Day about to occur at the Lake City garden of Darla Moore. My visit was last week, and it was a Low Country dream. Plants were used in great swathes, and there was very clever use of common plants.

The entry was surrounded by fields of mammoth red clover in full bloom. *Baptisias* of every color were abundant, with a field of Screaming Yellow native Carolina *baptisia* used as a feature. Big clumps of *Angelica pachycarpa* were throughout the garden. This species actually blooms, unlike the *Angelica gigas*, which melts in our heat. Many varieties of our native Bald Cypress were in

evidence. Miniature, twisty, naked-stemmed ones were used throughout the town of Lake City, which was also landscaped by Moore Farms. Weeping Bald Cyresses were shaped into arbors. Grancy graybeards (*Chionanthus virginicus*) were in abundance. Darla's extensive vegetable garden parterre featured cardoons in each boxwood square.

Pearl Fryar, South Carolina's world famous topiarist, clearly frequents the Farm. His hand is seen in the stunted and cloud-pruned loblolly pines (I really must try this) of the Pine Alley. Darla's back yard shows his handiwork in low undulating sculpted pillows of boxwood.

There is a lot of machinery and labor required to maintain the 35 acres of ponds, pines, and manicured areas. Their huge carpentry and maintenance shed has a South Carolina style green roof, which the public strolls beside via a circular stair and walkway. Succulents don't work too well on it



because of our humidity. Instead, there is a more billowy planting of shrubs, brassicas, wildflowers, lettuce, bulbs, and coneflowers. The plantings are changed out seasonally. One side wall of the building featured a living wall that they hand-built, since the commercial system was too expensive for such an expanse. The staff was eager to talk with the guests and gave away seeds, cuttings, and rootings. I scored 2 *Allium Schubertii* seeds!!

TOPIARY PLANTS

(This monthly article will highlight some of the plant species used in the Festival of Flowers topiraries)

by Ann Barklow

Horticultural Crew Chief for the City of Greenwood

Hypoestes (hy-poh-ES-teez) is a flowering tender tropical plant. It is native to Africa and can be treated as an annual here. It is often used as a houseplant with its lovely pink shades adding interest in our homes. It can grow about 18" tall but of course we keep them pruned back on the topiary. The species we use is known as *phyllostachya* (fy-lo-STAK-ee-uh). The colors we use are pink, rose, and white but there is also a red. I love the common names such as Flamingo, Freckle Face, Polka Dot Plant, Measles Plant, and Confete. You will notice this lovely plant in white on the swan, as a pink and white accent on the camera, in the markings of the butterfly, the Labrador's collar, and under the tiger's claws. The only pest we have found that likes them is slugs and we use organic iron phosphate bait to keep them under control. We also have had many sightings of lizards and frogs that are likely munching on the escargot.



Why does this plant make an ideal topiary plant? It has these fine qualities:

- Moderate grower
- Part Sun to Shade
- Medium to moist soil with adequate drainage
- Takes shearing well
- Easily propagated from cuttings
- Thrives in heat
- Colorful foliage

Plant list for 2013 Topiraries

Common name & Scientific name

Irish Moss--*Sagina subulata*

Platt's Black Brass Buttons--*Leptinella squalida* 'Platt's Black'

Hens and Chicks--*Sempervivum tectorum* 'Hens and Chicks'

Creeping Fig--*Ficus pumila*

Mexican Feather Grass--*Nassella tenuissima*

Burgundy Glow Bugleweed--*Ajuga reptans* 'Burgundy Glow'

Flossflower--*Ageratum houstonianum*

Begonias--*Begonias*

Mondo Grass--*Ophiopogon japonicas*

Creeping Jenny--*Lysimachia nummularia*

Angelina--*Sedum repustre* 'Ogon'

Blue Spruce Stonecrop--*Sedum reflexum* 'Blue Spuce'

Ogon Stonecrop--*Sedum makinoi* 'Ogon'

Red Threads--*Alternanthera ficoidea* 'Red Threads'

Dusty Miller--*Senecio cineraria*

Squalida Brass Buttons--*Leptinella squalida*

Coral Reef--*Sedum tectractinum* 'Coral Reef'

Chocolate Chip Bugleweed--*Ajuga reptans* 'Valfredda'

Polka Dot Plant--*Hypoestes phyllostachya*

Petunias--*Petunias*

Japanese Painted Ferns--*Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum'

Moss Rose--*Portulaca grandiflora*

Creeping Mazus--*Mazus reptans*

Crinkle Red Alternanthera--*Alternanthera dentata* 'Crinkle Red'

Creeping Thyme--*Thymus serpyllum*

Coleus--*Solenostemon scutellariodes*

Celosia--*Celosia*

Blue Star Creeper--*Isotoma fluviatilis*

Black Scallop Bugleweed--*Ajuga reptans* 'Black Scallop'

Ice Plant--*Delosperma cooperi*

Voles Alert

Greenwood County Extension
864-223-3264 X 116
April 26, 2013
James Hodges

Few home owners or landscape professionals realize there are many different small furry creatures that cause damage to lawns, landscape plants, fruit orchard trees and gardens. The most visible and well known are moles so they often get blamed for holes and plant damage that are caused by voles.

Over the last few weeks, I received samples, checked several homeowner and commercial sites with woody plant damage that indicated higher level of activity from these furry little rodents called Voles in landscape plantings than usual.



A short tailed mouse (pine vole) - contributed by my cat Eddie. Pine voles are dark brown 3-5 inches long and have small ears covered with fur.



Notice the holes opened by pine voles that extend into the lawn near a new sidewalk where a tree was cut.

Little did I realize the extent of the problem and the large amount of damage occurring until I brought up the topic in last Friday's newspaper article. Even my barber mentioned his plant problems during a visit last week. I took Friday off, but had four information requests waiting for me on Monday. I was stopped at church on Sunday morning by a couple with significant losses and plant damage.

Unfortunately, the culprits love nandina, hostas, many woody shrubs and even one inch dogwood and camellia samples. The main problem for landscape plants are pine voles. They dig burrows under shrubs and love old tree stumps and heavy mulched beds. They are native in our state and can quickly move back and forth from forest to your yard in wooded subdivisions.

Most callers ask specifically for something that will kill them all, which is not going to happen. An IPM approach that samples with an "apple test" in fall and spring will identify areas with large active voles you can target with well-placed and protected traps or bait. Spreading large amounts of bait around or setting random traps or bait stations will be ineffective and expensive.



Notice the holes opened by pine voles that extend into the lawn near a new sidewalk where a tree was cut.



This camellia root system was completely removed by voles which had nested beneath the new shrub planted in a raised bed landscape surrounded by woods.

Poorly performing shrubs should be checked closely as you map your shrub beds. Gently pull the mulch back and look for tunnels at ground line or heading into the plant crowns that may show chewing damage as you go. Don't dramatically disturb the area if you plan to trap or bait.

Reducing mulch depth and pulling it away a few inches from plants will allow easier checking and reduce the cover for voles making it easier for predators to help with control. If you want more information on the apple sampling and vole management search the NCSU bulletins on Vole management (2010) or send me an email for the eight page bulletin. Many older wildlife bulletins list baits that are no longer available and all can be hazardous to pets and birds if not used properly.



facebook

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.

LAKELAND MASTER GARDENERS

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

Cost: \$10/badge Cash or Check accepted

Make Checks payable to: Lakelands Master Gardeners *Remit Payment and Order Form together to:*

Patti Larson
110 Hutira Lane
Greenwood, SC 29649

Questions, please e-mail Patti Larson: greenwood_patti@yahoo.com or call 554-1600



☹ **Missing a newsletter?** Looking for an earlier edition? All of our newsletters can be found at our website at— <http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/newslet2012.html>

THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2012

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| President- Ann Barklow | Finance and Fund Raising– open (plant sale) Sarah Carroll & Ginny Wilson | Media – PR– Trish Bridges & Linda Hamrick FB– Ann Barklow, Web– open |
| Vice President– vacant | Membership– Sandy Orr | Social– Donna Feldmaier and Chris Moon |
| Treasurer- Chuck Bender | Co chair- Linda Halsey (hours) | Office- Vince Plotczyk |
| Secretary– Steve Tabor | Newsletter– Janet Ledebuhr | |
| Past President- Patti Larson | Phone- Priscilla Ellis | |
| Clemson Advisor- James Hodges | Programs and Speakers– Susanne Bender | |
| Community Projects– Paddy Huff and Patti Larson | | |
| Education Chair- Linda Halsey | | |