

2015 CALENDAR

**5/2 Greenville MG Sale,
17 Roper Mt. Rd and
Woodruff 8-1**

**5/14 Board Meeting,
Donna Feldmaier's
house. Gourmet food
6:30**

**5/16 Picnic at Susanne
Blumer's Farm,
Gourmet Food. see
invite**

**6/6 Senior Voucher
distribution at Gwd
Farmer's Market, see
article for training**

**6/11 Festival Topiary
walk –Ann Barklow**

**6/25-27 Activities
related to Festival of
Flowers**

**8/13 LMG Board
Meeting, Gwd Library
4:30**

**9/10 Rusty Wilson on
Snakes, American
Legion 806 Calhoun
6:00 Membership
Meeting
6:30 Speaker**

**10/08 LMG Board
Meeting, Gwd Library
4:30**

**11/12 Speaker and
membership meeting,
To be determined, Gwd
Public Library 6:00**



President's Letter-Donna Feldmaier

What a busy month we have had. I am going to spend all of this newsletter thanking all the wonderful people who have done so much this month.

Thank you to Stuart Menaker and Sandy Orr for representing LMG at the Home and Garden Show this year. We were lucky enough to join the Chamber of Commerce table, saving us the \$149.00 fee. Three people signed up for the new class, and we had quite a few gardening questions and interest in the soil sample bags.

The plant sale, was of course, a success. Sandy Orr did an outstanding job organizing us. We had a lot of plants, but at the end of the sale we were totally sold out. Also, many thanks to John Wham for his wide selection of plants this year. His knowledge is amazing. We made \$1,266 and had fun doing it.

When Ann Barklow called me in a panic asking for additional help for the topiaries, she was relieved at the response to my "It's crunch time" email. So thank you Stuart Menaker, Beth Osteen, Ginny Wilson, Sandy Orr (who is everywhere), Jimmy McInville, Sue Monaghan, Rusty Wilson, Fred Botts, Betsy Russ and friend. The topiaries are looking mighty good.

Thanks to Chuck Bender, Julee Marshall, Fred Botts and Ginny Wilson. Not only did they plant the courtyard, but also planted the front of the federal building, around the fountain and the pots in front of the community theater. I am sure they all slept well that evening.

Nancy Collins has been working tirelessly every week on the Butterfly, eyes for the topiaries and anything asked of her.

Thanks to Jimmy McInville, the Chamber of Commerce project is taking shape. In the very near future, there will be an email looking for volunteers for planting. This is a huge job! The plan is to make the workdays on Saturday or possibly evenings. The committee is Jimmy, myself, Sandy Orr, Sue Monaghan, Cathy Swindell and Sandra Johnson.

It has been wonderful meeting past leadership members like Cathy Swindell, Sandra Johnson and Charlotte Cabri. We newbies crave your expertise.

Now after all of our hard work, we have our picnic to look forward to on May 16. It will be at Susanne Blumer's farm. Susanne has many farm animals and heirloom chickens for kids and adults alike! She and Charlotte Cabri have been working hard, so be sure to respond to the invite or call Susanne at 554-3651 and let her know you are coming.

**Membership Meeting
6:30 Speaker**

**12/10 Board Meeting,
Library, 4:30**

Again, thank you for everything you do for this wonderful organization. We have volunteered over 700 hours to the city of Greenwood in 2015. Don't forget to send your hours to Linda Halsey.

Enjoy the sunshine,

Donna



Potluck sides, burgers, hot dogs, and drinks provided! Please reserve now through evite or email, susanne@huckfarm.com.

Arts Center Courtyard gets a spring sprucing up by LMG volunteers



Rusty Wilson does double duty as Pest Patrol and trimmer on topiaries.



Thursdays Rusty Wilson has a dual role as pest patrolman and Jeep shearer.

An embarrassment of riches from Jan Haldeman- TWO articles!
Roadside "Rags"- Jan Haldeman

*Have you noticed an abundance of gold and blue flowers along roadsides and in fields lately? Blooming now are Small's Ragwort, *Senecio smallii*, the gold, and Raggedy Sailors, *Centaurea cyanus*, the blue. If you have access to these spring wildflowers, together they make a very attractive bouquet. Ragwort is a native that grows throughout the southeast and as far north as Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois. It is a member of the aster or sunflower family and its blossoms illustrate the typical composite of blossoms appearing as a single flower. For this group, the outer petal or ray flowers surround a tight round cluster of disc flowers. Stem leaves are feathery lobed and basal ones are toothed*



*Botanists who specialize in classification of plants, "plant taxonomists," are usually also responsible for naming plants. This process is always evolving, in order to have plants placed in groups that best reflect their natural relationships. Taxonomy is now assisted by DNA technology. Often evidence from various sources results in reclassification and renaming of a species. I imagine there is an interesting story about the naming of this ragwort. Its common name honors American botanist John Kunkel Small (1869-1938). The scientific name originally assigned was *Senecio smallii*(Genus name *Senecio* from *senex*, "old man," referring to the gray hairs on the seeds). Now the South Carolina Plant Atlas, as well as a number of other sources, lists it as *Senecio anonymous* Wood. "Wood" after the name credits the botanist who worked on this renaming. Most recently Small's ragwort has been classified to another genus *Packera* so it has a third name (synonym) *Packera anonyma*! This ragwort, to give credit to all who worked on its classification, is now listed as "Small's Ragwort AKA Southern Ragwort (*Packera anonyma* / *Senecio anonymus* / *Senecio smallii*"). So, what's in a name?*

*Now for Raggedy Sailors, AKA Bachelor's Button and Cornflower, which bloom mostly in shades of blue, but can also be lavender, pink or almost white! These are also members of the aster family. Unlike Small's ragwort, flowers composing the blossom are disc type only. Also, whereas ragwort is a native species, Raggedy Sailors originated in Europe. Since spreading throughout the United States, it is considered a "naturalized" species. It is also cultivated and the Latin name, *Cyanus*, was given the Cornflower after a youthful devotee of the goddess Flora (*Cyanus*), whose favorite flower it was, and the name of the genus is derived from the Centaur, Chiron, who taught mankind the healing virtue of herbs." *Cyanus*, from Greek roots, also means "deep blue." It is also cultivated and widely available for planting in gardens.*

According to "A Modern Herbal" by Mrs. M. Grieve:

"In spite of toxic properties, ragwort has been used for various ailments medicinally by Native Americans. Raggedy Sailors have a long history of medicinal uses dating back to early European herbalists."

Wisteria attractive, but AGGRESSIVE! By Jan Haldeman

Yes, it's wisteria again at the peak of its blooming now in town and along roadsides. These beautiful cascading bunches of fragrant purple blooms burst from a vine that is a good example of an invasive plant species.

Most of the vines you are seeing now are either Wisteria sinensis from China or Wisteria floribunda from Japan. They were introduced to American gardens in the 19th century, and now have escaped to fields and natural areas where they grow quickly and aggressively. They will climb and cover whatever tree or other support that they can find.

Wisteria may not yet be a match for Kudzu, but it's running it a close second pretty much throughout the southeast. When the vine is controlled by pruning, it can make a nice yard plant, as one of the images shows. Several really attractive varieties have been developed, including "alba," a white version, and "rosea," a deep pink version. If you plant exotic wisteria, just be sure to prune and CONTROL it.

But guess what? There's a good alternative species of Wisteria which can be planted and won't run rampant. It's our American species, Wisteria frutescens, which grows in the southeast, and can be purchased at nurseries now. The South Carolina Plant Atlas reports collections from over two dozen counties of the state, mostly in the coastal plains. In Due West, it's been found growing at three sites, and one of these is Erskine's Botanical Garden on the split rail fence on Wightman Street. Some of this has been transplanted to the area behind the Science Center. It has climbed along the brick enclosure around the air conditioner on the greenhouse side, and is in bud now.

Native Wisteria is available at nurseries now and a lovely variety 'Amethyst Falls' was developed in South Carolina, and named for our State Gem. And a bonus of native wisteria is that it blooms twice each year, in spring as well as late summer.

You can tell the difference between native and exotic by several features including flower and fruit characteristics. Blossoms of the native are more dense and not hanging long and loosely as the exotic. Fruits (seed pods) of the native are smooth and hairless, whereas exotic pods are hairy with a velvety surface. Wisteria is a member of the economically important bean family Fabaceae, one of the largest families of flowering plants in numbers of different species. The bean family includes all forms of plants: trees, shrubs, vines and herbs.

So if your property is becoming overrun with wisteria, consider removal or pruning. If you want wisteria in your yard, plant our native species!



Roadside wisteria invasion



Wisteria sinensis



Wisteria frutescens 'Amethyst Falls'

2015 FARMERS MARKET SENIOR VOUCHER DISTRIBUTION VOLUNTEERS- James Hodges

For the past dozen or so years Greenwood County Farmers Market has participated in the Senior Voucher Program. Qualified low income seniors (at least 60 years old) can obtain \$25.00 (5- \$5 coupons) for purchasing fresh vegetables at the market.

We have plans to do this again this year. Vanessa Wideman with the Upper Savannah Council on Aging will work with volunteers (many Master Gardeners), James Hodges and Farmers Market Manager Newton O'Dell to set dates of trainings and distribution. This is a large undertaking, but very worthwhile way to stimulate the market and provide healthy food to seniors.

Volunteers are needed to help at several senior centers during the first week in June and on Saturday, June 6th to distribute these checks to be used at the Greenwood County Farmers Market. Over the past several years we have help 1000 people each year obtain these vouchers.

We will set up 3 dates at local senior centers during the first week of June prior to June 6th opening at the market for small groups of volunteers to distribute the vouchers.

Some rules and procedures have changed slightly so Vanessa Widman has a training set for volunteers on Tuesday, May 26th at 2:30PM at their new office near the Genetic Center. I will get that exact address and send it out to volunteers.

Additionally, I will have another training on Wednesday, May 27th at the Extension office 4PM and if necessary at 5:30Pm or later in the evening.

Topiary Thursdays are a fun get together.



Intrepid Nancy Collins with her butterfly creation.

More topiary faithfuls



Jimmy McInville grooms the cow.

Lakelands Master Gardener Board and Committee Chairs

President- Donna Feldmaier

Vice President- Barbara Wells

Treasurer- Melody McInville

Secretary- Chris Moon

Past President- Sandy Orr

Clemson Advisor- James Hodges

Membership-Betsy Russ

Education- Linda Halsey

Newsletter- Sandy Orr

Programs and Speakers- Bill Aaron

Media- Olivia Reynolds

Social- Charlotte Cabri

Facebook- Mary Jane Vivas and Marla Starling

Website- Chuck Bender

Community Projects- Sue Monaghan and Jimmy Mc Inville

Office- Vince Plotczyk