

2016 Dates

5/14 Annual LMG Picnic and Plant Swap at Connie Maxwell Picnic Area, 5:00 PM

5/19, 21 9-5 Lexington MG Annual Garden Tour-6 area gardens for \$25 lcmgv.org

6/9 Uptown Topiary Walk with Jimmy McInville

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

11/10 Speaker and Membership Meeting. TBD

12/8 LMG Board Meeting



May 2016 President's Letter-Barbara Wells

We interrupt your regularly scheduled President's Letter to bring you the following unsolicited announcement:

I woke up Wednesday morning at 2:30 and heard the faint sound. Did you hear that? Was it just the air conditioner kicking in or was it perhaps that elusive natural phenomenon called rain? Could it really be rain? The forecast called for rain showers overnight, but there had been the same promise of rain several times in the last few weeks. Yet the rain had continually been a no show, or at best a fleeting visitor, gone before even registered as present. In my sleep fogged brain I debated getting up to confirm or deny and then decided I didn't want to know because I didn't want to risk a repeated disappointment. It could wait until morning.

When morning came, the dry pavement of my driveway told it all. The rain was once again a no show. No. Rain. Again.

I know it's early in the season to be whining about lack of rain, but where are the April showers that are said to bring May flowers? Just a little over two weeks ago we were readying for a late freeze, rushing about to cover tender foliage and sensitive flower buds with sheets, cardboard boxes or whatever we could find. And today it is another dry unseasonably warm day in a long line of dry unseasonably warm days. If you've been the rare recipient of those promised showers I am truly happy for you. My soil, however, is sporting visible cracks that usually first appear in late summer. I'm sure you're familiar with the penny test to determine if it's time to replace your worn tires. If I did the same penny test on my cracked soil, President Lincoln would not only lose his head but completely disappear into the crack, never to be seen again.

Like many of you, my irrigation system is a water faucet, a hose, and me. I depend on Mother Nature to do her fair share. Right now, she's not living up to her part of the bargain.

I'm a tough love gardener. I give my plants a good start by planting them in the right spot and tucking them lovingly into what was originally a rock hard clay soil that has been well amended with organic matter. I water as needed until they are well established. Once established, to ensure a deep root system, I water my annuals and perennials deeply and only when truly necessary. I'm sure my trees and shrubs gaze longingly at the hose as it passes by.

Do I need different soil or a proper irrigation system or to continually water, water, water? No, I just need rain. A good soaking rain. Not storms, or tornadoes, or hail, or high winds. Just rain. We all just need rain.

To help those of us that yearn for rain, I am thoughtfully considering proposing a group rain dance at our upcoming Annual Picnic. Although I have no actual experience in rain dancing, I'm sure we could figure it out. Or we could do a singalong of the old hymn Showers of Blessing, written in 1883 by Daniel Whittle. Look it up if you haven't heard this one. Perhaps Mr. Whittle was a gardener, pleading for both spiritual and literal showers. I'm sure he didn't have the luxury of irrigation either.

If we don't get a good soaking rain in the next few weeks would we, could we, really do either of the above at the picnic? Who knows? I guess you'll just have to come to the picnic to find out.

We now return to your regularly scheduled President's Letter.

As usual, a lot has happened in April and a lot will be happening in May. We're a busy bunch! The Cokesbury College Planting Day earlier in April was a great success. A big thanks to Jimmy McInville and crew. I'm certain you all expanded our fan base with a job well done. Coming soon in Community Projects, are undertakings at the Chamber of Commerce, The Burton Center, and Meg's House. Planting at the Chamber of Commerce will begin this coming Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3 and 4. Keep a lookout for an email with details on how you can participate. The Burton Center Project is a renewal of beds originally planted about 6 years ago and preparation and installation of a new bed at the entrance. The Meg's House project is a bit more involved because it includes both designing and installing a backyard garden. Anyone interested in helping with the design aspect, please contact Jimmy McInville at truerainwater@yahoo.com. I know when Jimmy asks for help, you will rise to the occasion.

The Annual Plant Sale, held April 8 and 9 was a big hit, not only financially, but also with customers and those of us that manned our stations. This year we exceeded our goal, netting over \$1400. We sold hundreds of plants and had a wonderful time working together. So many of us contributed in so many ways to make this a success, and a very large special thank you goes to Sandy Orr and John Wham for coordinating this massive undertaking.

The Flower Festival will soon be upon us and work continues on the the topiaries as they slowly leave their comfy quarters in the greenhouse. As usual, volunteers are welcome at both the upper and lower greenhouses on Thursday mornings. More information will soon be available about an Uptown Topiary Walk in June by Jimmy McInville, our Master Gardener of the Year. Jimmy's everywhere!

Our Annual Picnic (and Plant Swap) is Saturday, May 14 at the Connie Maxwell Farm Picnic Shelter. We're bringing back the plant swap which has been a feature of the picnic in the past. Participation in the plant swap is optional. Please don't forget to RSVP, but if you do forget it's OK. The most important thing is to come!

It's hard to believe now, but it won't be long before we will be welcoming a group of Master Gardeners as they begin their classes. This year the informational meeting will likely be moved to late June rather than July to allow a little more time to process applications for the class and scholarships. Classes will begin in August as usual. Please help spread the word about the classes to those you think may be interested. Sometimes all it takes is a gentle nudge to plant the seed of gardening.

So many of us have contributed in so many ways to make all our endeavors successful. A large part of that success is giving our community a chance to match a friendly and knowledgeable face with Lakelands Master Gardeners. Keep doing what you do so well.

Thanks to all,

Barbara

"Showers of blessing. Showers of blessing we need. Mercy drops round us are falling. But for the showers we plead." - Daniel Whittle

"To a gardener there is nothing more exasperating than a hose that just isn't long enough." - Cecil Roberts

*Lakeland's Master Gardener
Picnic and Plant Swap**

*Saturday, May 14, 2016
5:00 pm*

Connie Maxwell Farm Picnic Shelter

**Drinks, hot dogs and hamburgers provided.
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.**

Families Welcome

**Please RSVP your attendance and dish selection by
Monday, May 9th to:**

**Ella Wham
1whamo@centurylink.net
864-229-0416**

**Please bring a plant to participate in the plant swap. Be
kind to your fellow gardeners and label your plant.*



Ella Wham's Landmark Directions

From Uptown Greenwood, go down Maxwell Avenue toward the new Greenwood City Farmer's Market. Continue to go straight until you come to the intersection of 225 ByPass and Hwy 10. Turn left and go across the bridge and it will be the road to the left. You should see a horse pasture and stables on the left. Turn left. Go down the drive and bear left and continue to the shelter.

GROOMING THE TOPIARIES AS WE HEAD TO THE COUNTDOWN

The giraffes, Barbie the Sow, and the Teed Golf Ball have ridden to the Stoney Point Symetra Golf Tournament. The Golf Ball is the newest topiary and is covered in pink hypoestes. (It really is perfectly round, a difficult thing to achieve).



The Jeep gets an undercoating before leaving the showroom floor. Jimmy McInville supervises a mystery newbie.

Thanks to Master Gardeners, Cokesbury gets a facelift with annual vinca



Plant Sale Nets \$1,450 to use for LMG activities and scholarships



Vincent Plotczyk 2016



Vincent Plotczyk 2016



Vincent Plotczyk 2016



Vincent Plotczyk 2016



Vincent Plotczyk 2016



Vincent Plotczyk 2016

Jimmy McInville, Chris Moon, Sandy Orr, Melody McInville, John Wham, Sharon Alvarez, and Julee Marshall among many who led to success.

Amorpha, a mysterious plant from the plant sale



Amorpha is a native drought tolerant deciduous perennial shrub that is also called false indigo. It reaches 6 to 10 feet with pinnately compound leaves and small purple clustered spikey flowers.

Clemson Extension Retention Pond Garden Work Day



Jimmy McInville once again leads a highly productive work day.

Barbara Wells and Sandy Orr go nursery trawling- Sandy Orr

Barb, our intrepid President, knows the best nurseries and eateries. We attacked Columbia with vigor, seeing four nurseries in one day. Naturally, we visited her alma mater, Woodleys on Two Notch Rd, but she also introduced me to Hay Hill, Cooper's, and Mill Creek. Hay Hill was the best for garden ornaments and antiques, Cooper's was a landscape wholesaler source, and Mill Creek was paradise. At Mill Creek, the owner propagates her own favorites from seed and cuttings. The display pots were "yuge", lusciously overplanted, and highly original. I bought nicotiana and sweet woodruff among others. You can plan your own trip: Hay Hill, 1625 Bluff Rd, 803-834-6652

Mill Creek, 2324 Leesburg Rd., 893-776-0441

Woodley's was disappointing. The unusual annuals and perennials that they previously sold have been supplanted by standard annuals.

Sandy Orr roadtripped to Asheville for the Herb Festival last Friday. It was crowded with herbalists and perennial dealers. It's well worth the trip. I bought burdock and valerian among other herbs. Valerian is a soporific, so if the deer eat it, I can outrun them. Burdock inspired the invention of Velcro, by a Swiss inventor. He took his dog on a walk and observed how the burdock seeds attached to his dog's coat with a hook system. Burdock is a diuretic and blood purifier.

City Garden Work Day

Cindy Williams, Donna Feldmaier, Jimmy McInville, and Sandy Orr spent a Saturday morning fluffing, edging, weeding, and mulching the Master Gardener plot of the City Garden between the American Legion and Greenwood Country Club. The next Thursday, a group of 33 Master Gardeners from Gaston County lunched in the City Garden between stops at Nelson Smith's, John Elsley's, and Dale McClary's gardens. They deemed it one of the best tours they'd done. Kudos to Greenwood gardeners.

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: Open

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