



Master Gardener Thymes

www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

NOVEMBER 2007

MEETING CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at NW Volunteer Fire Department @ 6:30pm, unless otherwise noted. The Fire Department is located behind Harris Baptist Church off of Center Street.

NOVEMBER 8th---Speaker John Barnes, a Clemson Master Gardener, will speak on Native Azaleas. John has been growing and learning about Azaleas for over 60 years. John will do a slide presentation on a pilgrimage he and his wife made to New Zealand, with an emphasis on the Azaleas grown there. Expect a history of both evergreen and deciduous azaleas. *Continuing Education Credit for Master Gardeners.* Feel free to bring a guest to this meeting.

DECEMBER 13th---The Annual Lakelands Master Gardeners Christmas party and Gift Exchange. Please look in this newsletter for more information on this wonderful event.

PRESIDENTS CORNER—*Julee Marshall*

Go Native, Go Green....

Once again, an article in the Charleston Post and Courier has given me fodder for this month's newsletter. On September 30, Tony Bertauski, horticulture teacher at Trident Technical College wrote "What does it mean to be native?" I must admit that I didn't really know. He had referred to nandina as a native plant and was corrected by a reader. Thus, his research into the subject. According to Bill Stringer, President of the S. C. Native Plant Society, a native plant is one that was growing in the region prior to European settlement. That means plants that have been here for about 500 years.

In checking out his recommended websites, I found an article from January 2003 by Lydia Dishman entitled "Green Landscaping: Bringing Natural Beauty Back to the Upstate." She notes that much of Greenville and surrounding areas were grassy prairies before European settlement. Native Americans created fields on which to hunt buffalo by burning virgin forests. Those open areas grew native grasses like bluestem, purpletop, and lovegrass.

The drought condition that we are experiencing is making us all very aware of our water resources. Today's lawns and landscaping are commonly filled with non-native plants that require more resources to maintain. The EPA has "found that the upkeep of an average 1-acre lawn costs \$700 and requires 40 hours of labor each. Year. For residents of the drought plagued Upstate, the cost of water and fertilizer in stress conditions can be even higher."

Ms. Dishman consulted Rich Huffman who was the President of the S. C. Native Plant Society at the time. When asked what the simplest and most important change any landscaper could incorporate, he put a strong emphasis on native and indigenous plants." He said that "selecting plant materials that can hold up to drought and thrive in our clay soils lowers maintenance. These plants may even be more resistant to pests." He suggested reducing the size of lawns to conserve water, using smaller grassy areas as a "ribbon" to connect things like larger plant beds." He notes that many S. C. native species are available to local nurseries and home improvement stores. But, you need to know what to look for since many garden center employees don't know they are stocking native plants. Ms. Dishman adds that "by using some imagination, a healthy dose of native plants and sustainable methods of maintenance, we can regain some of the original beauty that is unique to our area."

Ms. Dishman's article ends with a short list of native plants including: American Dogwood, Red Maple, all Oaks, deciduous Azaleas, Oak Leaf Hydrangea, Beautyberry, Purple Coneflower, Black-eyed Susan, Coreopsis, Phlox, Stokes Aster, Joe Pye Weed, Wild Ginger, Trillium, Spiderwort, Wild Geranium, and ferns such as Southern Shield, Christmas Fern, Cinnamon Fern and Lady Fern. For more extensive listings check out the following websites. The last one features a list of about 3000 plant species in the Atlas, with a county dot map for each. www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rdsduse/sc.htm

www.scnps.org

<http://cricket.biol.sc.edu/herb/>

Another “ASPECT” of plant growing

No, this is not one of my North Carolina hillbilly slang words for “I expect” or “inspect.” Actually, it is a forestry and topographic term that might not seem important in the flat terrain of the Lakelands or in the landscape or garden setting. The official definition of aspect relevant to plant growing is:

Definition: Position or situation with regard to seeing; that position which enables one to look in a particular direction; position in relation to the points of the compass; as, a house has a southern aspect, that is, a position which faces the south.

When you add slope of the terrain to aspect some vastly different natural growing conditions or habitats emerge across the different combinations of aspect and degree of slope.

I grew up in a deep valley of the North Carolina Mountains. The contrasts within this area illustrate how aspect and slope affect temperature, moisture, sunlight and soil. The valley oriented close to North and South with a slight Northwestern to Southeastern slant at my home. We lived on the side of the valley with a Northeast aspect while my boyhood friend lived on the opposite side of the valley. There were huge differences in summer and winter temperature extremes between my friend’s home and mine. Winter snow or ice stayed much longer in my front yard in winter because the valley walls behind my house blocked the afternoon sun much quicker. During summer it was typically hotter at my friend’s house as the late afternoon sun lingered several more hours. Cool temperature adapted Fraser Fir Christmas trees survived to maturity in a field on my side of the valley while most did not when planted near my friend’s house.

The hillsides or walls around the valley showed stark contrasts in native tree vegetation related to aspect, slope position and steepness. Areas along the bottom of the slope would receive more rainfall runoff from above and more organic material accumulation so they had deeper and richer soils than higher areas on the slope. This was true regardless of aspect, but the richest areas were north or east facing lower slopes or bottoms because decomposition of organic matter and loss of water was slower. You could observe this from a distance in the fall when tree leaves changed colors. Lower slopes and east and north aspects contained many more yellow poplar trees (with yellow foliage) which are fast growing and prefer rich, moist soils. Upper slopes contained more oaks and pines that were tolerant of hotter, drier conditions and with red and green foliage during fall.

Translating this to our Piedmont landscape is easy. We don’t have the huge effects from elevation and slope, but aspect and slope have certainly been important during our droughts of recent summers. Structures, such as buildings and large trees act similarly to the walls of the valley in blocking morning or afternoon sun in our area. Our terrain can often be quite steep along the lake and our eroded soils do not allow rainfall to infiltrate quickly so much of it moves down slope and is not retained for plant use. South and western “aspect” facing areas of our home bake in hot afternoon sun much longer than the opposite side of our building that face north or east. Both sides may get the same amount of sun, but temperatures are much higher during the afternoon. The same plant may cook on one side of the building, while it thrives on the other.

I have visited homes with large oak trees with hosta planting beneath them. Hosta planted on the west and south facing side of the tree suffered during summer as late afternoon sun burned the leaves. Their counterparts on the other side of the tree enjoyed a morning sun, but were helped by afternoon shade in staying cool.

Use aspect, slope and soil conditions as major factors when you plan new plantings or analyze why some plants are having difficulties. You may have to alter your design or desires so that you don’t fight Mother Nature and the natural sun and terrain patterns. You can modify some areas affected by aspect to accommodate plants with additions of organic matter and additional moisture and terracing to hold them on sloping areas. You may create shade on appropriate sides of plants to block sun so that shade loving shrubs or perennial plants can be grown. You might need to remove shade in certain areas for other plants.

Each landscape site is different and there will be many micro-sites (small areas with unique growing conditions) that you will need to adapt your planting too. These micro-sites create a lot of mental anguish for symmetrically challenged designers (those who must have balanced plants across the landscape regardless of site differences). They often replant the same plant many times, determined to fit it into their design regardless of its adaptability to that spot.

Aspect and slope differences create many of these micro-sites along with other factors such as wind and soil fertility. Recognizing these factors can make plant establishment, problem analysis and maintenance much easier for us and reduce our stress level.

If you get the opportunity to visit the mountains this fall before the leaves fall, check out the patterns of leaf color associated with different species in the many different aspect and elevations in the terrain.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Garden Club of South Carolina is offering a Landscape Design School to be held at the SC Botanical Garden November 12-14 in the Hayden Conference Center. Instruction will be November 12-13 with a final exam on the 14th. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 5th!!!!** If you are interested in this event, please contact Doris Taylor with the Garden Club of South Carolina at (864) 682-5225 or go to the website www.clemson.edu/scbg/calendar.htm to download registration information.

JUDY KELLEY'S CORNER—*A Gardener's Journal*

Gardens and yards are full of memories. Flowers are there to remind us of so many times in our lives. Gardens can be filled with fond memories influenced by the living creatures that also make their homes among our flowers, trees, and ponds. I always enjoy the time of year when the butterflies appear in their majesty. Watching them flutter through the air so gracefully is one of my favorite relaxing times. I can remember the days when, as a child, my sister and I would go with our great, great aunt to spend a week in Winnsboro with her sister. Aunt Sue always had a flower garden that was full of zinnias and other colorful flowers beside her little mill house, and this garden was pleasantly visited by scores of butterflies. My sister and I would catch one close by just to see the butterfly's color on our fingertips. If we ever saw a butterfly that had died, we would find a small box, carefully place the deceased inside; proceed to dig an appropriate hole in the flower garden, and after having a touching funeral service place the coffin in its final resting place. Even the lives of God's creatures were important to two young girls way back then.

And, oh my, what about frogs in the garden? Now, I must admit, the constant croaking of a multitude of frogs could be nerve wrecking, but I don't ever seem to have that problem. I was delighted this spring when a friend gave me some tadpoles from her pond to bring them to a new home in my pond – which, by the way, I think would make a great frog home. Well, I watched and watched for a frog and finally, one evening I was pleasantly surprised to see one jump from a ledge rock at my pond and swim over to the waterfall. I only saw and heard him a couple times – he must have decided it was better to live somewhere else. And to think, I even put a Toad House out for him. Now, if I just had that aquarium full of tadpoles that my third grade class brought in when I taught in Valdosta, I might be blessed by more than one survivor. I never will forget the day we let all those little tadpoles turned into frogs loose outside before they overtook the classroom.

Well, I could also mention the Red Wiggler worms that my husband stopped at several places from Conyers back to Greenwood to find for me so I could have just the right ones in my Lasagna Bed. Every time I turn one of them up when digging, I'm reminded of his patience with me and my projects. And, this year there are the two large goldfish that have moved into my pond after my Dad raised them from little things in his tank. Every evening they looked forward to the feast he would give them. I do hope they're content with food straight from the pond.

You know, these are all little things that we can get pleasure from as we are outside. I'm reminded of how important they all are in keeping a balance of nature and in providing more flowers for the next seasons. Take time to enjoy the little things of life.

RECIPE CORNER---*Submitted by Chuck Bender*

TEXAS CAVIAR RECIPE

Carol Bender

2 cans shoe peg corn
2 cans black-eyed peas—drain and rinse
1 cup red pepper chopped
1 cup green pepper chopped
2 stalks celery chopped
¼ cup onion chopped
1 cup cherry tomatoes chopped
Cilantro, fresh ---- 2 tbsp (or more)
Red wine vinegar --- 4 tbsp
Olive oil --- 4 tbsp
Canned green chili's ---2 tbsp (optional)
Salt & pepper

Toss & marinate overnight

Serve with tortilla scoops or with chips.

Mark Your Calendars Now for the Lakelands Master Gardeners Christmas Party and Gift Exchange

- Make, grow or buy (\$10-\$15 limit) a gift to exchange at the party----Please wrap your gift!!!!!!
- Bring an appetizer (sweet or salty!!) to share with the group (drinks are provided)
- Call Rebecca McClain at work (229-2440) and let her know what appetizer you will be bringing
- To be held at Tranquil United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 1720 McCormick Highway. (Also known as Hwy 10)
- We will draw numbers for the order of selecting a gift
- Come share the fun and bring in the Holidays with fellow Master Gardeners
- Plan now!!!! You won't want to miss our Holiday Party on December 13th
- THIS INCLUDES NEW GRADUATES!!!!!!
- Let's make this our biggest Holiday Party yet!

INTRODUCING THE NEW MASTER GARDENER CLASS.....IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Continued from last month (and the month before!)

LISA DUNN-- I am married to Billy Dunn and have 2 children Spence and Kelsey, ages 11 and 14. I work at Self Regional Healthcare as a nurse. I grew up on the west side of Greenwood in the country. My father was an avid vegetable gardener. I always helped plant, weed and harvest the vegetables. I didn't really appreciate gardening until I had my own yard to care for. I was interested in the Master Gardener class to further my knowledge of plants and vegetables and help me figure out how to handle a large yard.

KATHLEEN KAPSALIS-- I am a self-employed consultant with a lengthy career in rehabilitation management for persons with both physical and cognitive impairments across the United States. I am a graduate of the Heller School for Social Policy and Research at Brandeis University with a Masters in Management of Human Services. I am also an amateur watercolor artist. I was born in NYC* and have lived most of my life in New England.

Why Greenwood after all the years in the northeast? My oldest son relocated here, working for several years at Goodrich in Hodges as an engineer. After several visits we decided it was time for a change-the -30' Boston winter four years ago helped make up our mind!

I am an avid gardener interested in annuals and perennials suitable for this gardening environment. I continue to be fascinated with historical gardening, as the examples of my favorite gardens will demonstrate. I have enjoyed classes on historical gardens and modern design at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston (Harvard University). I was awarded a certificate of merit in 2000 by the Mayor of Boston for my garden at our c. 1886 Victorian home.

I have waited a year to enter this course due to conflicts with my teaching schedule at Presbyterian College (Adjunct, Business Department). I trust that I will learn as much from the instructors as from my fellow attendees. My specific goal is to bring my enhanced knowledge to persons with disabilities by enhancing their access to the joy of gardening.

*Subsequently raised for my first year on my grandparent's chicken farm on Sand Mountain, Attalla, AL. Do I qualify as a genuine GRITS?

A REVIEW OF THE BONSAI EXPO @ THE NC ARBORETUM---Submitted by Nancy Collin

Saturday, October 13th was a beautiful day for my husband and me to visit the Bonsai Expo at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. The Expo is now in its 12th year and included the Arboretum's world-class Bonsai collection, as well as a juried show by experts from a six state region.

As we walked through the exhibits we were impressed with the age and beauty of these miniature plants (some over 100 years old). The decorative containers and unusual displays were a delight to see and photograph. I get frustrated if I don't see immediate results from my gardens. I can't imagine the patience it must take to spend an entire lifetime pruning, wiring, bending and shaping one tree.

Arthur Joura is the full time Bonsai Curator at the Arboretum and he has developed one of the best Bonsai collections in the country. This collection is housed in the Bonsai Garden at the Arboretum and is a permanent exhibit open to the public. He provided demonstrations and workshops for the Expo that were very interesting and informative. A miniature representation of a forest scene has been created using American Hornbeam, American Cranberrybush and Ozark Witch-hazel.

Guest Bonsai artist, Brussel Martin, proprietor of Brussel's Bonsai, the largest importer and grower of Bonsai in the US, gave a special presentation in the evening. Unfortunately it was completely booked and we were unable to attend. As this show is very well known, we've learned that you have to call ahead to register for the special lectures.

The second part of the show was the Ikebana (the art of Japanese flower arrangement) displays. These simple, graceful flower arrangements were so creative and a joy to see. They offered workshops and free demonstrations throughout the day for people interested in this art.

The cooler weather was perfect for walking the garden paths and enjoying the large collection of plants and beautiful fall colors. The 434 acre facility is surrounded by the Appalachian Mountains and if you haven't been there, it is well worth the drive to Asheville to see.

We couldn't leave without attending the Vendors market and wouldn't you know three little Bonsai plants followed us home. Oh, what trouble a new gardener can get into!



ABBEVILLE COUNTY EXTENSION TREE SALE

The 34th Annual Clemson University Extension Service Tree Sale is underway in Abbeville County. Orders are being taken now through November 9 at Noon. Tree orders will arrive at the Abbeville Extension Office on Industrial Park Road December 10 and can be picked up that day from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Payment for orders is due upon pickup.

The Abbeville Extension Office continues to provide this tree sale as a service to the local community. There is a wide selection of shade trees, fruit trees, nut trees, and flowering trees available. As well as several flowering shrubs and berry bushes. Several varieties and heights are offered and priced accordingly. One bit of bad news regarding the order: we will not be able to offer peach trees or plum trees due to the late spring freeze experienced this year.

All trees and shrubs are sold bare root. This means they are dug at the nursery 1-2 days prior to being delivered to Abbeville County. The roots are wrapped securely in plastic to prevent them from drying, but it is wise for the consumer to plant the tree or shrub as soon as they receive delivery. Planting instructions will be available free of charge at the Extension Office when orders are picked up. The vast majority of patrons of the tree sale have very good luck with their tree purchases when they follow proper and timely planting/watering instructions, however there is no guarantee on the trees. The Clemson Extension Service also requires that you check your tree order for shortages prior to leaving the Extension site. Any errors found in your order while on site we will be glad to make right, but we cannot be responsible for shortages reported after you have left the premises.

This is a great chance to get trees at a good price. Most people find that these trees are priced well below the chain stores and large garden centers. If you have lost trees or shrubs due to the drought conditions over the past few months, this is a good opportunity to replace them at a substantial savings.

To receive an order form by mail or fax, phone the Abbeville County Extension Office at 864-446-2276 extension 114 to request your order. To pick up your order form in person, visit the Extension Office at 265 Industrial Park Rd (Hwy 28 Bypass, turn at Doolittle's, end of the road across from the old Rug Barn.) A limited number of forms are available at Hwy 28 Farm and Garden in Abbeville. Forms are also available at the McCormick County Extension Office (465-2112), and the Greenwood Extension Office (942-8590.)

MY FAVORITE GARDENS--Submitted by Kathleen Kapsalis

Brooklyn, NY-Birth to age 10 The cement jungle-almost. We had a small attached home with a fenced in front yard that had Rose of Sharon shrubs and a huge old yellow rosebush, probably c. 1928. Out back, in a small non-cement area, I learned about lilacs and their beautiful aroma and a little bit about trimming. My father was my teacher.

Orange, CT-ages 10-16 Wow! Almost two acres abutting a large former hunting preserve-paradise! Again, my father took the lead and we had a display of Jackson-Perkins roses, fertilized by the fish he caught out on the Sound; a small patch of tomatoes and mint and great bemoaning of maintaining the sizeable lawn. I was always his assistant, much to my delight.

Amherst, MA-ages 25-29 While completing college, I lived in one of the first condominium developments and enjoyed the huge green space, forests and pond. Personal gardening space was limited, but I developed my first flower garden with flowering vines as well. Best of all, many neighbors had the same interests and I benefited from their experience. My "best friend" one summer was a very large praying mantis who would sit on my arm and enjoy the garden with me.

Norway, ME-ages 29-35 Moving to a 65 acre c. 1798 farm was quite a thrill and a gardening challenge! I re-established some original colonial beds and added bulbs and other hardy plants to enhance the display. Lilacs were so large, only the chain saw would suffice, but they came back with remarkable blooms. The deer and raccoons thoroughly enjoyed my attempts at vegetables. And, for the first time, I used the Park Seed catalog to chase away winter gardening blues! Little did I know I'd later live right nearby!

Boston, MA, ages 43-52 To a more modern garden, this time c. 1886. This lovely old yard was very overrun by neglect and active children. I believe I planted several hundred bulbs, roses, vines, etc. along with major tree and shrub repair/replacement. After four years I received a commendation from the Mayor for my efforts. The best result of all? Many neighbors increased their efforts at community beautification and that was my greatest reward.

Greenwood, SC-age 52 to present Living in a planned SC community limits creativity, but only if you let it. Our new raised herb bed is phenomenal, my hostas are dying, and roses do not enjoy the back porch. Indoor plants are now outdoors-unheard of in the north.....Why am I taking this course? I have so much to learn!

UPCOMING EVENT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

Each year Jane Price and Linda Kellam make it a point to attend the Greater Greenville Master Gardener Symposium. They usually manage to get a few more from our group to go along. Linda sent me a message reminding me to mention the upcoming Symposium in our newsletter. I know Linda and Jane always really enjoy this all day event and it is important to plan early, as spaces for the Symposium go fast.

The date has been set: February 9, 2009.

The time has been set: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

The place has been set: Carolina First Center (the old Palmetto Expo)

The Theme has been selected: "Growing Crazy"

The principle speakers are:

- Tony Avent:: writer, lecturer, photographer, plant explorer and owner of Plant Delights Nursery
- Linda Askey: freelance garden writer, photographer and former garden editor for Southern Living Magazine
- Carol Reese: newspaper and magazine columnist, television host of earth Tones and horticulture specialist for University of Tennessee Extension.

For additional information or to request a brochure, contact the registrar, Lou Ellen Davis at 864-901-4527 or go to the website and click on the symposium. www.greatergreenvillemastergardener.org

GOOD FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

Editor: Lauren L. Boylston
lboylston@embarqmail.com

Lakelands Master Gardeners
PO Box 49632
Greenwood, SC 29648