



# Master Gardener Thymes



WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

November 2013

## President's Message

By Ann Barklow

Well winter is just around the corner. I covered my lettuce and Swiss chard last night when temperatures got down to 32 degrees. Now the nights are a little warmer. I love fall and winter vegetable gardening. Not having to water as often, slower growth and fewer pests make my day. Plus I have kale in my "smoothy" every morning and enjoy kale chips regularly. Kale is so good for us. I also have grown fond of Tuscan kale and it has become my favorite for smoothies since its flavor tends to be milder. I wonder if my husband will ever tire of making fun of my green smoothies.

At the City we experimented with kale, giant red mustard and Swiss chard mixed with our mums and pansies. Expect to see more of the edible garden ideas next year in the Uptown. If you sneak behind the Farmers Market on Maxwell you will see a miniature version of an edible landscape.

Be sure not to miss this month's panel discussion on cool season vegetable garden. Susi has arranged two of our local farmers to speak to us about it. Check for the flyer for this wonderful event with this newsletter. Speaking of Susi, let's collectively give her a huge thank you since this will be her last term as our Speaker Presentations Chair. She has done an amazing job and I know we have all benefited from all the work she put into this position. Thank you Susi!!

I missed seeing any LMG members at the Midlands Master Gardener Symposium in Columbia a few weeks ago. I was reluctant to make the drive but WOW! Was it great! I could listen to Doug Tallamy and Dr. Alan Armitage all day.

Of course Sharon Thompson's talk on Fall flowers, like [Salvia madrensis](#) 'Red Neck Girl' and many others gave me so many ideas to extend my blooms next

year. I am hoping in future issues of the newsletter to share the wealth of knowledge I achieved that day. In the meantime I will share them with my boss, Dwight Long in hopes that we can grow some of these great plants and extend our blooms all the way into November with our perennial and annual selections.

The most profound statement Doug Tallamy made was plant less for decoration and more for food for our nesting birds so they can feed their young. He wasn't asking us to change our whole gardening practices, but just to be aware that we are slowly losing our native birds by planting an imbalance of exotics and not enough natives. We need to tolerate some holes in our leaves for caterpillars. Seeds won't help our birds feed their young. If you want the best book to help you achieve that goal check out [Bringing Nature Home](#). He had a profound effect on the audience and since he was the first speaker, the following speakers were adjusting their talk to promote what he had to say. This book should adorn everyone's library. *Con't p. 2*



## Dates to Remember:

- NOV. 14TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:00 PM SPEAKER, PANEL DISCUSSION 6:30 PM LIBRARY
- DEC. 12TH MEMBER SOCIAL 6:30 PM GMD
- 2014 PLANT SALE APRIL 11 & 12TH

## Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale April 11, 12, 2014

Wow what a different weather year! After all the rain, cool air temperatures, and overcast days, the sun came out HOT and then the land was dry. I have seen flowers bloom that I have not seen bloom before, drought tolerant flowers have drowned, bulletproof flowers have surrendered. As gardeners we never give up we plan for the spring. Now is the time to start dividing plants, placing them in pots, labeling the pots spring here we come. One of Ann's neighbors has a bed of bearded irises she is donating to our sale all we have to do is dig them up and put them in pots. We need volunteers to help with this project, if you are interested please call me. Thank You Sarah 803-348-0256.

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.

*Continued from page one President's Message*

Of course at the symposium were some amazing plant vendors. I bought a [\*Tacca chantrieri\*](#) for work. We are keeping this Asian tropical beauty in the greenhouse to make sure it stays safe and sound until we place it out in the Uptown next spring. I also bought some red clover to grow as a cover crop in my vegetable garden this winter.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the membership meeting at 6:00 pm prior to the Panel Discussion on November 14 and remember to wear your badge because you need to put .50 in the donation jar if you forget! Be sure to sneak up to Susi and let her know how much you appreciated her hard work and excellent topics.

## **Serving on The Board of the LMG**

by Ann Barklow

Elections will be coming up in February and I asked some of our board members to let me know what serving on the board has meant to them.

*For me*, I have enjoyed serving on the board and will continue. I have worked on non profit boards for over 20 years and I love and respect group decisions. I never feel insulted if my idea doesn't get approved and sometimes it gets shot down in a micro second and I smile and move on. That wasn't always the case but I have learned much from working with groups. I also believe in learning from making mistakes or from decisions that didn't work. It really takes a team player to serve on a board and to work together for the common good of the group. I have learned that thinking I know what's best in regards to a decision is a good way to not enjoy my participation. I also love the people currently serving on this board and just want to hang out with them. They all have really big hearts and are a joy to be around.

*From Chuck Bender, treasurer*

Originally I was asked to serve as Treasurer on BOD. I had never thought about doing this (was already Website Chair), but when asked, realized that there was really no reason I shouldn't do this. As a retiree, I did have some extra time available, had been Treasurer for our HOA previously, and felt that I would be comfortable in this role. I knew that there were others already serving on BOD and contributing greatly to the success of LMG---and that without such volunteers, we could not have our organization. So I decided that I should do my part and could do was be on BOD for 2 years in Treasurer role.

I have definitely gotten personal satisfaction from being on the BOD and feeling that I have contributed to continuation of the LMG. I have much better knowledge and appreciation for the role of our organization, how it functions and the challenges it faces. It has caused me to be more involved in and exposed to the various LMG activities. As a result, I have learned much more about gardening and became acquainted with many more LMG members than I ever would have otherwise.

I highly recommend that all members consider committee and BOD participation as their time permits, as a way of

furthering their gardening knowledge and getting to know other LMG members better.

*From Sandy Orr, Membership Chair:*

I love being on the Board of the Master Gardeners because it keeps me closely in touch with fun and savvy gardeners who are up on the latest plants, tricks and gardening techniques. I meet great gardening speakers and see the yards of the most active gardeners in Greenwood. I was inactive after being a Master Gardener officer for many years in Manning, SC. After three years of hiding following a move to Greenwood, I realized that I really missed the unique relationships that Master Gardener Board work develops. I decided to dive in again, and enjoyed my new friends immensely.

*From Linda Halsey, Education and Hours Chair:*

I like being on the board because I am a part of great people who share the love of horticulture - always learning from my peers- would not have know about Monty Don if it were not for Sandy Orr etc.. I have watched or have been a part of fantastic ideas that have been introduced - discussed - developed - implemented - such as the diagnostic clinics. it is enjoyable to help with the process of making our organization run successfully and smoothly.

*From Janet Ledebuhr, Newsletter Chair:*

I like being on the board because that is where decisions are made. Being on the board puts you where the information is, I in turn, share through the emails and the newsletter. Knowledge is power and I want to disperse that through the membership.

I hope you all enjoyed reading about how gratifying it is to serve on the board of the LMG. Please contact me soon to talk about your involvement with our Board



**Lakelands Master Gardener Inc.**

**2014 Membership Renewal Form**

Check one:  Renewal  New Member/Transfer  
 Lifetime Membership (Previous Grandfather\_Change of Information Only)

We want you to know that your membership dues are important to us, even if you are not able to be active or have not attained enough volunteer hours. The money we receive from our active and inactive members supports many worthwhile projects such as the Connie Maxwell vegetable gardens, the Burton Center sensory gardens and our most recent tribute to our veterans, the Veterans Healing Garden. Membership dues also contribute to our scholarship funds, and this year we provided scholarships to 4 students.

Please renew your MG membership now by completing this form and paying your dues for the coming year. Members who pay dues by October 31st will be included in the Lakelands Master Gardener Membership Directory and will receive uninterrupted membership benefits. These include: monthly email newsletter; information about upcoming educational speakers; notification of social activities such as the annual picnic and Christmas Party; and membership voting rights (for active members with required volunteer hours).

**Master Gardener Membership Dues:** (Select your Membership Category by checking)

- Individual \$ 20
- Individual paid after October 31<sup>st</sup> \$ 25 (includes \$ 5 late fee)

**Make your check payable to Lakelands Master Gardener Organization (LMG Inc) and drop off at the September member meeting or mail to:**

Chuck Bender                      108 Inlet Pt.                      Cross Hill, SC 29332-4034

**Membership dues are due by October 31st of each year.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# - Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Graduated MG Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Transfer? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

- Check here if you do **not** wish to be listed in the directory.
  - Special Instructions for publishing personal data in directory:
- 

**Please indicate the committee(s) you are interested in working with: (Number from most important to least important)**

- |                        |                         |                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| ___ Community Projects | ___ Membership          | ___ Public Relations  |
| ___ Education          | ___ Clemson Ext office  | ___ Web Site          |
| ___ Face Book Page     | ___ Newsletter          | ___ Social Activities |
| ___ Fund Raising       | ___ Programs & Speakers | ___ Phone             |

Suggested topics/activities for the meetings or continuing education: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Muhlenbergia Lindheimeri

By Sandy Orr

One of the great joys of my autumn garden is **Muhlenbergia Lindheimeri**, or “Big Muhly”, or White Muhly, a cousin to the more familiar purple muhly.

The white version is 1 ½ feet taller than the purple and blooms later. (That makes it about 4'X4' and a late October bloomer). It's hard to be patient when the purple is already at its peak. But the wait is worth it. In the morning sun, with dew on the inflorescences, there's nothing better. Moreover, the bloom is very long lasting.

It's native to Mexico and Texas, and was named after a German plant explorer who settled in New Braunfels, Texas. The most familiar named cultivar is 'White Cloud', which is readily available online.

Like most ornamental grasses, it is deer resistant, and I mean totally resistant. For best effect, mass plant it against a dark evergreen background, where sunlight can filter through the blooms. It can stand light shade (where mine is), but like most grasses, it would prefer full sun. It is highly drought tolerant, but needs supplemental watering at planting or in deep drought. Some people recommend an application of 12-6-6 fertilizer in the spring.

When the clump is mature, it can be divided, but the divisions will look a bit lopsided where the vertical slice is taken. There is no solution to this. A British garden expert said that you should only propagate by seed, because divisions will always look one-sided. The British are pickier than I am. You must only divide your clump in early spring. I have tried dividing it in the fall and the roots freeze before they are able to establish.

The big controversy over muhly is whether or not it should be cut down to 1 ½ feet in January. I've heard grown men fight about it. I'm running a test with the purple muhly, trying it both ways. We'll see next spring.



- *We are trying something new with the volunteer hour reporting, each month a form will be sent with the newsletter. Each month fill out your hours and send it in to Linda Halsey at [mrs.lindahalsey@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.lindahalsey@gmail.com)*
- *Don't forget about our speaker meeting on November 14th. See the attached flyer for details. Bring a friend, bring a neighbor, bring a neighbor's friend. Remember the meeting room is at the side entrance of the library, by the flag pole.*



The  
Lakelands Master Gardeners  
proudly present  
*a panel discussion with  
Penny Parisi of Parisi Farms  
and*

*Chris Sermons of Bio-Way Farms*

**When: Thursday November 14, 2013**

**Time: 6:30PM**

**Where: Greenwood County Library**

Parisi Farms offers fresh, pesticide free produce from their farm in Abbeville, SC.

Bio-Way Farm is an established Certified Organic Farm since 2006 and is located in Ware Shoals, SC.

Both of these farms sell their produce at the current Uptown Greenwood FarmersMarket on Maxwell Street every Wednesday 10AM-2PM.

The panel will present Fall and Winter gardening tips, how you can keep gardening during this time and will have a follow up question & answer period.

*Please note: there will be a short LMG membership meeting at 6PM.*

**Free and open to the public**

For information please call MG Susanne Bender at: 864-379-2434







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[www.lakelandsmastergardener.org](http://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.

LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENERS

### Lakelands 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:  
Chuck Bender  
998-3123  
108 Inlet Point  
Cross Hill, SC 29332



☹ **Missing a newsletter?** Looking for an earlier edition? All of our newsletters can be found at our website at— <http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/newslet2013.html>

#### THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2012

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