



Master Gardener Thymes

WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

October 2014

President's Message

By Sandy Orr



Now that it's finally cooled off, it was great fun to replant my fall garden. Spinach, corn mache, beets, and lettuce seeds that I planted two weeks ago hadn't germinated, since nights were not yet in the 60's. I persistently replanted and added starts of lettuce and Brussels sprouts in the midst to taunt the seeds to emerge. Every year I plant Brussel sprouts, and it's a race to see if they do their sprouting thing before the heat of spring makes them bolt. Corn mache is a weird little mouse eared green that supposedly tastes like corn (NOT REALLY). Once you plant it, the claim is that you will have it forever, even though it's not perennial. This also has not been my experience. I use it to enhance the gassy bagged salads that I'm reduced to buying in the winter. I've also been impressed with the perennial salad burnet that is still thriving, with no bolting. Another cool plant that has just bolted is stevia. I pick a few leaves off, muddle it with mint and lemon balm using my mortar and pestle and put it in a cup of boiling water for afternoon tea. It is marginally hardy here if you have

good drainage. We'll see. Ann Barklow has been arranging workdays at the City Greenhouse. This week there is a propagating lesson, which the city does on a grand scale. I encourage you all to attend one of these sessions, of which I'm sure there will be many. What's better than learning how to make your own free plants? The City Garden had a work day last week. Thanks to those who turned out. Many daylilies were dug up and removed or thinned. Asters and pansies were planted. Some of the highlights of our fall display were dahlias, Disco Belle hibiscus, red okra, elephant head amaranth, and scarlet cockscomb celosia. We always need new ideas for plantings in this 50 foot long bed. Save the date of Nov.13th 6:30, for our featured speaker meeting at the library. Eliza and Nathan Lord, from Greenville, will be talking about Permaculture and their experiences on their urban farm. Their website, appalachianfeet.com is fascinating if you want to read up on them in preparation for the talk.

Dates to Remember:

- OCTOBER 9TH BOARD MEETING
- OCTOBER 23RD SCMMGA SYMPOSIUM
- NOVEMBER 13TH SPEAKER MEETING ELIZA AND NATHAN LORD 6:30PM MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:00 PM
- DECEMBER 11TH HOLIDAY SOCIAL GMD

TIMES AND LOCATIONS WILL BE POSTED WHEN EVENTS ARE CLOSER. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.



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.

Weeds or Wildflowers?

By Janet Ledebuhr

Are these weeds or wildflowers in your garden? All of the photos were taken in my yard, none of these were planted by me.



Marshpink- *Sabatia stellaris*



Pink Purslane -*Portulaca amilis*



Goldenrod– *Solidago* ssp.

<http://scmmga.org/> Garden Symposium

Gateway to Gardening
...Tomorrow and Beyond
Thursday, October 23, 2014
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Columbia Conference Center
169 Laurelhurst Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Pre-registration is required.
Early Bird Registration until August 25, 2014
\$60 for SCMMGA members and
\$70 for non-SCMMGA members
After August 25, 2014
\$65 for SCMMGA members and
\$75 for non-SCMMGA members
Registration Deadline October 13, 2014



Many of the Master Gardeners are participating in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow reporting. This is a citizen volunteer program to report your precipitation amounts. The reporting area is not just the United States but Canada and just recently Puerto Rico is also joining the ranks. To participate you just order their rain gauge (they like uniform measuring instruments) and then report your precipitation between the hours of 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM. On your way out the door and can't get to your computer before 9:00? They have apps for Android and Apple smart phones.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/>

Each month I will share some of our local stations' rain fall amounts– like they say– rain doesn't fall the same in every location!

Sept. 1-30, 2014

SC-GW-15	3.66 inches
SC-AB-4	4.49 inches
SC-GW-13	7.34 inches
SC-GW-14	5.33 inches
SC-GW-20	5.76 inches

Think about joining!!



Jimson Weed

Janice H. Haldeman, PhD

Come on over to Erskine's Botanical Garden to see a huge Jimson Weed plant (botanical name *Datura stramonium*), growing and blooming in one of our herb garden raised beds. The plant is at least 6 feet tall and is covered with small trumpet-shaped pale violet blossoms. Its leaves are coarsely toothed, and a spiny seed pod called a "thorn apple" develops from the flowers. This plant's leaves are unusually large, one leaf blade measured 36.5 centimeters long and 29.5 centimeters wide. That's considerably larger than 15 centimeters long by 12 centimeters wide reported as maximum for Jimson Weed leaves. And the plant's stem circumference measures 12.5 centimeters. This plant is a "volunteer" which grew out from a seed most likely in top-soil or horse manure mulch of the planters.

Jimson Weed is native to the Americas, is common in the Carolinas, and can be found growing and blooming along roadsides and fields now. Erskine's Ann and Beth Hawthorne recently found plants in one of their fields near Due West and brought in a sample for our herbarium.

Jimson Weed is a member of the Nightshade family (Solanaceae), which includes important food crops such as potato, tomato, eggplant, and green and hot peppers. But a number of species in the Nightshade family are quite toxic, including the Jimson Weed. The genus name *Datura* comes from a Hindu word for the plant, Dhatura. "*Stramonium*" is derived from Greek words meaning "nightshade" and "madness."

Some folks probably remember a song co-authored and sung by cowboy actor Gene Autry that goes like this:

"I'm back in the saddle again, back where a friend is a friend
Where the long-horn cattle feed on the lowly Jimson Weed.
I'm back in the saddle again."

Gene did come from Texas, but I wonder how much riding the range he did and how much cattle nibbling of "Jimson Weed," he actually observed. One summer several years ago Jimson Weed grew in the Botanical Garden, and plants appeared to have been grazed by deer even though it is quite toxic. Our garden deer regularly graze on other poisonous plants including Yellow Jessamine and Poke. Plants like these developed toxic chemicals over time as protection from predators.

And as it turns out toxic chemicals of Jimson Weed, include alkaloids atropine and scopolamine, which have medicinal applications. After it was transplanted to India Jimson Weed became a longstanding and effective Ayurvedic treatment there for asthma. Leaves were dried and smoked, and their atropine content relieved respiratory spasms. Atropine also has a history of use to dilate pupils for eye exams. And scopolamine is an effective treatment for air and sea sickness, available today as transdermal patches.

Preparations of Jimson Weed are traditionally used by some Native American tribes for religious ceremonies and puberty rites. Accidental poisonings have occurred even among those using Jimson Weed for centuries. Effects of Jimson Weed include hallucinations reportedly like an LSD "trip"; thus another common name for the plant is "Loco Weed." In recent years accidental poisonings and even deaths have occurred with individuals seeking this effect, including teenage drug users. Reports of these experiences are readily available on their blogs!

So, what about the name "Jimson Weed"? It most likely originated with European colonists. One report says that its "recreational" use by colonial soldiers near Jamestown, VA led to the name "Jamestown Weed", which over time became corrupted to "Jimson Weed." Here is the story as told by Robert Beverly in *The History and Present State of Virginia* (1705):

"In 1676, British soldiers were sent to stop the Rebellion of Bacon. Jamestown weed (jimson weed) was boiled for inclusion in a salad, which the soldiers readily ate. The hallucinogenic properties of jimson weed took effect. The soldiers presented "a very pleasant comedy, for they turned natural fools upon it for several days: one would blow up a feather in the air; another would dart straws at it with much fury; and another, stark naked, was sitting up in a corner like a monkey, grinning and making mows at them; a fourth would fondly kiss and paw his companions, and sneer in their faces with a countenance more antic than any in a Dutch droll.

"In this frantic condition they were confined, lest they should, in their folly, destroy themselves - though it was observed that all their actions were full of innocence and good nature. Indeed they were not very cleanly; for they would have wallowed in their own excrements, if they had not been prevented. A thousand such simple tricks they played, and after 11 days returned themselves again, not remembering anything that had passed (Cornell University)."





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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 Chuck. 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:
Melody McInville
345 Klugh Rd
Abbeville, SC 29620



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THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2012

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