

2017  
Calendar

Oct.12: "Year Round Seed Starting", Uptown Farmers' Market on Maxwell. 6:00 Members and 6:15 Public Speaker Meeting



Recently I had the pleasure of meeting with a group of Master Gardeners who were asked to share their memories of being a MGer. We all came to this group through different streams, some trying to figure out how and what to grow in this red Carolina clay. Some were looking for new beginnings after a loss. There is no better therapy then gardening. Working in the dirt is actually called grounding, since it is physically coming in contact with the earth, allowing all the stress to flow into the ground. That explains why you get so antsy when you can't get in the garden for a couple of days. The streams that brought us together to form this river of experiences are powerful because of our diversity. The common theme that all these shared memories have is that you get what you put in to it. I heard it repeated again and again, along with I'm so glad I found my people. Now that it's officially Fall, a few exciting things are in the works for the coming year. Our Annual Plant Sale is teaming up with Festival of Flowers and Park Seed to make a location move to Uptown Market on Earth Day weekend. The LMGers have made themselves an important part of what's going on in Uptown Greenwood. We have gotten local and national attention for our work and this is just the start. Our work on the America in Bloom project will be garnering positive PR for Greenwood at their National Conference in October.

I also had to share these pictures with you. I've heard more than one MG saying they would love to have a turtle topiary at home, so I decided to make one. It will only improve when it's planted and the feet have moss growing on the pots. What do you think?

Jimmy McInville



**SEPTEMBER'S POCKET PLANTER WORKSHOP AT MAIN AND MAXWELL**





**TOPIARY VOLUNTEERS AND CITY GARDEN WORK DAY AND SEED/CUTTING COLLECTION DAY**





October 2017  
Lakelands Master Gardener  
Meeting

***Topic: Seed Starting  
Year-Round***

Speakers: Sandy Orr and Ann  
Barklow...the two seediest characters  
available!

They will show us how to winter sow  
seeds, best practices for spring sowing,  
growing throughout the summer and into  
the fall. Please bring a translucent plastic  
gallon milk or juice jug with you.



Thursday, October 12, 2017  
6 PM – Membership Meeting  
6:15 PM – Public Speaker Meeting  
Meet at the Uptown Farmer's Market  
Pavilion on Maxwell Avenue, Greenwood, SC

## Muhly Grass by Ann Barklow

*Muhlenbergia capillaris* (mew-len-BER-jee-uh kap-pill-LAIR-riss) is my kind of grass. It doesn't have those sharp blades that gives you three thousand paper cuts when you work in or around it. It doesn't get very large with a height of only of 3-4', nor does it look too messy in its dormant season. It does start blooming in late summer with just a few feathery plumes and by fall it gets better and better as the weeks pass. The lovely mauve pink flowers bring movement into the garden and certain times of the day it sparkles as the sun shines through its airy feathers.

The hardiness zone is 6-11 and it is native to many areas of the southeast including Florida.

Give it well drained soil since it doesn't like wet feet in particular during the winter. (Neither do I for that matter.) It is very drought tolerant so can take some neglect once it gets established. It is best if you can mass plant them and they make great additions to your cut flower arrangements. It's even deer resistant. I highly recommend full sun to get the best sparkle.

Another great thing about this grass is you can plant it year round in our zone and they are available at most nurseries. It seems to love the heat and humidity. While many ornamental grasses get wider and wider, this grass is very well behaved and is easily propagated by seeds or division. After a good two months of clouds of pink the tan seed plumes remain attractive in winter.

I'm going to harvest some seeds this winter as my contribution to the plant sale. They should be ready to plant out in the garden in the spring so that will be perfect timing. If I provide a nice picture like the one below from North Creek Nursery, it should sell like hotcakes! (Shades of Lisa on Green Acres).



## Fall/Winter Vegetable Garden by Ann Barklow

This is my favorite time of year. The cooler days (even though its 91 today as I write this), less pests, less watering, no sweating, no biting insects. What is there not to love about the Fall Winter Garden?

I have:

- Sprouting purple broccoli, (needs to be covered below 28 degrees)
- Aspacroc baby broccoli (tastes like asparagus and broccoli, needs to be covered below 28 degrees)
- Georgia collards,
- Bok choy,
- Chinese cabbage, (needs to be covered below 28 degrees)
- Baby Choy,
- Green Ice lettuce (needs covering if lower than 28 once established),
- Swiss chard, (needs to be covered below 28 degrees)
- Red Russian Kale,
- Tuscan Kale,
- Redbor Kale, (all kale in tiny small strips are great in salad),
- Cone head and small savory cabbages (Johnny Seeds),
- Arugula,
- Peas,
- Radishes,
- Beets,
- Carrots,
- Spinach,
- Brussels sprouts,
- Garlic (get a bulb at the Farmers Market that was locally grown and take home and plant individual cloves),
- Onions (I grow from little bulbs bought in bulk from Hobby Garden)
- Pea and Nasturtium sprouts (Quick crops! Once they get 3-4" tall trim for tops of salad)
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Cone Head  
Mini Cabbages  
from Johnny

You aren't too late to start. Even if you want to do seeds. If you feel like you are behind the ball we always grow extra for the greenhouse volunteers so get your garden ready and come to some of our volunteer workdays. If you can't do that, a lot of local garden centers have plants like Hobby Garden (my favorite and LMG's get a 10% discount). If you haven't tried fall winter vegetables, this is the time to start. They can also be grown in containers.

I plant all vegetables that need protection in one area for easy covering. I keep Reemay row covers for light frosts and flannel sheets for heavier frosts nearby. Kale and Collards can be out

in some pretty cold weather and actually taste better after frost nights. Use common sense when cold weather strikes. Is the plant acclimated?, Is it well watered before frost?, Have you researched your crop's hardiness? Are you nervous about frost damage? If so cover!

For more great information on Fall/ Winter vegetables and anything else gardening check out the Growing a Greener World website with Joe Lamp'I. He has a podcast too!!

<https://www.growingagreenerworld.com/fall-vegetable-garden/>

### Dear Master Gardeners:

Ann Barklow is looking for some Master Gardeners to try out an experiment on Fire Ants. It has been her experience that if you take a small rake and smooth out the mounds in your lawn or garden (stand back and be careful for the ants crawling up the handle, or put flour on the handle before beginning) they eventually, leave, sometime only after one smoothing out. The last one she did in her raised bed she raked out smooth once, thanked them for the beautiful fine soil, then they moved away. She did see a mound 20 feet away in the forest behind her garden but none in her raised beds.

Could the answer to fire ants be this simple? It makes sense that in Florida after a few hurricanes people move away. In California after a few demolishing earthquakes, people move farther away from the fault lines. Maybe if we provide a hurricane or earthquake to every mound by simply smoothing it out and causing them to regroup, they might actually move to less hostile environments. Ann has been treating with bait for 5 years and they just move around and she has never gotten rid of them and she is not willing to do the whole yard and kill any beneficial organisms that are in the most important part of her garden...the soil. She has decided to take a stand and actually accept Fire Ants as part of the natural way of things in the south, stop killing them (or trying to kill them with bait) and appreciate the wonderful mounds of soil they work up for her.

Please email Ann if you are interested in having a trial fire ant control of smoothing out the piles in your garden. You will need to take pictures and keep notes for three months. Keep track of hours too. We will post our trials in the January newsletter.

### Compost Extras

By Ann Barklow

Make friends with your produce person. Mine is a gentleman, named Jylle at the Bi Lo in Coronaca. Yes, his brother's name is Jack, but I digress. With the fall leaves around the corner, I will need more greens for my compost pile. What better source than all the outer leaves, old mushrooms, etc. that are thrown away at our local supermarket? We have a date after 2:00 pm any day to pick up a box. I suspect I will have lots of great compost next spring. Thanks Jylle and say hello to your brother Jack!



## TJ JENKS' THANK YOU LUNCH FOR LMG CITY VOLUNTEERS AT MONTAGUE'S



## ANNUALS AS A SEASON – Ann Barklow

Mark your calendar now for July 1, 2018 to tuck various 60 day annual flowers that are good for pollinators to your perennial, shrub border or vegetable garden. Why? because in September when your garden looks tired and spent it will have a brand new gorgeous look of FRESH annuals poking up between the perennials. Not the tired annuals that have been growing since June. Park Seed donated some Cosmos and Sunny Babe Sunflowers to the Bee City USA tour at the end of June. They said plant them now! Wow! What an amazing idea. Another great annual is marigold. In particular the heirloom open pollinated Crackerjacks that get 3' tall in yellow and gold. So if you didn't provide pollinator plants that would bloom in fall try this idea or try it even if you have fall bloomers. You will be pleasantly surprised. The pictures below were taken at the end of September. Warning: Bambi eats sunflowers!



### **GOLDEN RAIN TREE (*Koelreuteria bipinnata*) – Sandy Orr**

I grew a golden rain tree seedling from seeds collected in front of the VA center in Greenwood. I gave it to my brother in Texas. This 20 foot tree reflects five years of growth. It was planted in the stump of another tree. The tree has yellow blooms in summer and strawberry paper lantern seed pods in chandelier configurations in September. This is a tough and drought tolerant tree.



### **Lakelands Master Gardener Board/Committee Chairs**

#### *Executive Committee*

President: Jimmy McInville

Co Vice Presidents: Donna and Wally Sears

Treasurer: Melody McInville

Secretary: Chris Moon

Past President: Barbara Wells

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Membership: Donna Feldmaier  
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