



Master Gardener Thymes

www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

September 2008



ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, unless otherwise noted. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!!!!!!

Hours and miles are due!!! Send them to Linda Halsey at halseyfarm@gogenesis.com.

September 11th meeting: Chris Sermons from Clemson will speak on organic gardening.

THANK YOU

Submitted by Sandy Stachurski

Thanks to Carol Scales, Peggy Ticehurst, April Prater and Jean Anderson. Because of you, we were able to add new members to our gardens that we purchased at the Park Seed plant sale recently. Thanks for forwarding this information to each of us.

DUES ARE DUE

Submitted by Sandy Stachurski

Yes, we know it is early. Yes, this is a change. But, **all dues for 2009 will need to be paid in full before December 31, 2008.** The change has come so we will be able to have the directory completed and distributed by January 31, 2009. In the past, we haven't been able to have all dues paid and complete the directory until the first quarter is over which gives us limited time to actually use the information. **Dues**

can be paid to Louise Powell at the general meeting or mail your dues to her at: 107 Crestview Drive, Greenwood, SC 29649.

If you are in the new class, your tuition covers dues for 2008, but you will be responsible to pay the 2009 dues.

Please keep in mind, if your dues are not paid by the **December 31, 2008 deadline** your name will not appear in the directory, nor will you receive any newsletters. We thank you in advance for adapting to this change.

59 years old and under	\$15.00
60+ years old	\$10.00
married couples 59 and under	\$20.00
married couples 60+	\$15.00
Lifetime Membership	\$125.00

Community Projects Committee

How do the Lakelands Master Gardeners choose projects to work on?

Submitted by Sandy Stachurski

Our mission under Clemson Extension is to teach and train members of the community to plant and tend their gardens, parks or community areas. When we adopt a project we try to make sure that we will be working with individuals who reside or will volunteer in that specific area. The goal is to ensure that the project can be turned over to those who have been trained so they will maintain the "Community Project" in the future. Our training involves how to check and amend the soil, designing an area or park, selection and planting the initial plants and pruning. We will also work with outside sources hired by the sponsor, to oversee those areas we cannot physically handle such as, planting of large trees, installing

irrigation, grading work and laying sod.

A request form is completed by an organization in the community. This form can be found on the Lakelands Master Gardener web site at:

www.lakelandsmastergardener.org. Sponsors are asked to describe the organization and purpose of the organization. They are asked to describe the purpose of the project and what assistance they are requesting from our association (including start time, finish date and number of possible hours involved).

There are certain areas where we do not become involved. For instance, we do not provide maintenance tasks, such as weeding, raking leaves, laying mulch, or planting annuals on an on going basis. We simply do not do stone paths, any concrete walkways or installation of large containers, benches or garden art. These areas are not part of our expertise.

After completion of the form it is sent to **Chris Snipes, our chair, at 210 Heathwood Drive, Greenwood, SC 29649**. The “Community Projects” committee will review the request and then send it to our board for further review.

Our primary goal is to help green and beautify our region. If you know of an organization that would like to complete a request form, please have them do so.

New Year for Master Gardeners

Submitted by Jane Price

Can you believe that we are getting very close to ending another year? We have only three more meetings and then our Christmas party. So the board is getting very busy trying to get ready for next year, and we need your help!

Please take a few moments to think about the committee you served on this year. Did you enjoy what you were doing? If so, would you like to remain on the committee or try something new?

Here is a **quick overview** of all the committees and what they do:

1. Community Projects—helping to find projects that the organization can do and organizing workdays.

2. Education—lining up class assistants for the new class, keeping up with hours, and generally overseeing new class activities

3. Fundraising—organizing the April plant sale and deciding and overseeing the other fundraising project for the year. Other master gardeners help sell tickets and man the plant sale.

4. Mall Office—assist James and Steve on Thursdays and Fridays with manning the mall office (answering gardening questions, keeping plaques up-to-date, and making displays for windows)

5. Membership—primary responsibility is to produce the master gardener directory. They are also responsible for making name tags.

6. Newsletter—producing the monthly newsletter. All master gardeners are asked to submit articles.

7. Programs and speakers—procure speakers or have programs for the monthly meetings.

8. Public Relations—making sure the public is aware of what the Lakelands Master Gardeners are doing via newspaper, public announcements. Keeping the scrapbook up-to-date.

9. Social Activities—planning the Christmas party and graduation.

10. Website—keeping our website up-to-date

I, in no way, have put down **everything** that the committees do. Each committee has objectives, and that is something that the chairmen need to be looking at right now to make sure they have met all of their objectives. If they have a question or concern, they need to contact their board liaison **ASAP**.

Finally, we have a simple request. Please, please, please choose a committee that you are willing to work on. We have people sign up for committees and then not show up whenever that committee is responsible for something. It really puts the other people in a bind. We understand that emergencies come up. We know that this is a volunteer organization, but there are **many** volunteer organizations that ask for commitments.

Lakelands Master Gardener Association has enjoyed many years of success and we want to continue and make the organization even better!

The Olden Days of Vegetable Growing with a special potato recipe

Submitted by James Hodges

When I was a pre-teen gas was 10 cents a gallon, but our mountain roads were such a mess that if you lived 8 miles from the town of Boone, NC you were way back in the sticks. Farming and gardening methods were privative to say the least. My parents and grandparents used heathens as sources of free labor when they could coerce or trick us into working on the farm or garden spot.

My grandmother used to call us heathens, “couldn’t get these young boys to work, all they wanted to do in the summer was sneak off to the creek and fish”. Our hooky wouldn’t have been so bad “if they could fish and bring something home to eat other than chub minnows for cat food” was Grandma’s retort.

No tractors and few mules could traverse the steep hillside terrain of my mountain valley home. You had to have special mules with legs longer on the downhill side to stand up on the hillside to plow. It seemed like the rows in our field corn were ½ mile long as I hoed weeds along side my dad and grand parents when I couldn’t worm my way out of it. I thought I was doing pretty good one morning until my dad caught up to me on his second round of rows and reminded me that the tall skinny grass was corn so I should leave some of them.

He had confused me earlier when he told me to thin some of the corn where they had come up too thick. Why can’t you plant them at the right spacing to begin with I asked. His answer was “I do, this is one of the few rows you helped to seed.”

It wasn’t too humiliating when dad hoed circles around me that morning, but it was downright humiliating when grandma passed me for a second time that morning. It was the rocks that were giving me trouble and they gave me the worst hoe to use, but I did the best I could. It was pure luck I survived the summer as a slave laborer.

Thus with the love of farming I had developed, I was a bit leery when my Aunt asked several of us young boys to help clean up the garden spot near her house in October. We would pile the

leftover garden debris in piles and have a camp fire at dark. The love of fire was too enticing, especially when she mentioned that we could bake our own potatoes in the piles.

Actually, the method of removing all the crop debris was probably a good management tool for the small kitchen garden spot she always planted near her house. A few potatoes were a cheap price to pay for free labor. The cleanup went well and the fires were well supervised by my aunt. However, the potatoes were not a great reward. We learned the hard way that first you must have patience with wild baked potatoes and second that they need to be well wrapped with aluminum foil and left alone in the fire until it burns down after 30-45 minutes. Half-cooked potatoes flavored with ashes were not a tasty treat that evening.

I wouldn’t be the horticulturists I am today without all my expert training back on Elk Creek. Fortunately, that day my mother stocked lots of bread and peanut butter in the pantry.

Haphazard Gardener II

Or

How Not to Treat Your Gardening Tools

By Jane Price

The other day (and many other days before) I went outside to begin some gardening chores. You know that I talk to myself in the garden, and I said to myself, “Now where are my shovel and that yellow bucket?” Well, needless to say, I spent 15 minutes looking for them, getting madder by the minute. This seems to have become a theme in my life lately—looking for things. Many days when I finish up my work for the day in the garden, I just say to myself, “Well, I’ll just leave this rake right here because I will be using it tomorrow.” Well, the next day comes, and I may want to use the rake in another place and can’t find it. Not only should I not leave my tools lying around because I can’t find them, but also because leaving them in the elements is not good for them and it is dangerous, too. Have you ever stepped on a rake tine or been bopped in the head by a shovel handle? Well, I have and it ain’t no fun!

I thought I would give you some ideas for avoiding these gardening “hazards”, or in other words, not becoming a haphazard gardener like me:

- “A place for everything and everything in its place”—need I say more.

- When changing from one tool to another, the best idea is probably to lean the unused tool up against a tree. If a tree is not available, make sure that the sharp part of the tool is turned down. And watch where you are putting your feet, dummy!
- Tools with sharp, forged blades take out weeds painlessly, cultivate effortlessly, and are a pleasure to hold. Buy quality tools and you will spend less time sharpening and maintaining them.
- Wood handles need to be sanded and oiled about once a year. Linseed oil is good for this. Let it soak in for half an hour and then dry off.
- Wash fiberglass parts with soap and water.
- Store metal tools like shovels in a 5-gallon bucket to which coarse sand and motor or vegetable oil have been added.
- Each time you use your tools, clean as much dirt off as you can, and then dig the tool up and down in the sand a few times to clean off remaining dirt. Coat the head with oil.
- Once a year, clean metal surfaces with a wire brush to remove dirt and rust.
- Clean pruning tools and their blades each time you use them. Use WD-40 to keep hinges working freely.
- You can condition and sharpen tools yourself or find a professional to do them.

Remember: Well-placed tools make for easy access, saving time, and a relaxed and accident-free gardener. Sharp tools make for easy gardening.

with a piece of paper. On the paper were instructions for planting a straw bale garden. It caught my interest and I began researching this type of garden. I was surprised to find some websites and articles on the Web, so I read as much as I could about this odd way to grow vegetables.

Ken and I don't do much vegetable gardening so I thought this might be a way to garden in a small space. I must tell you that Ken's way to vegetable garden is to go to Ingles and buy whatever he wants. Ken did become involved since he had to find the wheat straw bales for me. And he did. We got three bales. The procedure to prepare the bales took 10 days and then we planted 4 tomato plants, 2 bell pepper plants and 1 eggplant. We actually thought that we were raising mushrooms in the first weeks. I have watered every night and Ken even watered while I was gone for 2 weeks in June. We have harvested 57 tomatoes, 0 bell peppers and 3 eggplants. I am not going to say that the tomatoes are wonderful, but considering the heat, they were good, small but with a good flavor. The eggplants were great, black and round but I think that was the way they were supposed to be. If you are adventurous you might want to try this unusual way of vegetable gardening. Just Google Straw Bale Garden and you will find several websites with instructions.



MY STRAW BALE GARDEN

*Submitted by Betty Reece
Abbeville, SC*



My straw bale garden experiment began one Thursday morning when Don Tyler walked into the Mall Office

Some Members Enjoying the Tour of Nelson Smith's Garden

Submitted by Stuart Menaker



The following is a submission by Mark Hajost

This is a great article that I found in one of my trade publications, *American Nurseryman*. Unlike many lists of plants that are supposedly “deer proof” the author, a horticultural professor has actually grown all the plants on this list in his 1/2 acre garden in New York and Connecticut. I am no expert on deer resistant plants but my own experience, especially in this drought is that deer are getting bolder and more aggressive. I doubt that there will be much difference in the tastes of Southern White tail deer and their northern cousins mentioned in the article. I, for one have finally surrendered to the deer, and moved my Hostas into pots in my fenced in yard.

Good Luck

87 Plants That Deer Won't Devour (Part 1)

Text by Dr. Mark Bridgen

Reprinted with permission from American Nurseryman, August 15, 2008

A horticulture professor has developed a list of time-tested plants he “guarantees” deer will avoid.

The bad news is there are no true “deer-proof” or “deer-resistant” plants. When a deer chews on the leaves or flowers of a plant, the plant does not resist attack. That part of the plant will be damaged or destroyed. However, the good news is there are plants that are less likely to be eaten by deer and are rarely damaged in the landscape, even under intense deer pressure.

It is very difficult to scientifically study the resistance of a plant to deer. Scientists like to replicate under controlled conditions. However, it is very expensive and almost physically impossible to conduct a replicated study with deer. As a professional horticulturist who is also an avid gardener, I have been able to test plants over time and in two different locations (Connecticut and New York). For more than 21 years, my wife and I have lived in rural and suburban locations that have strong deer pressure.

In an effort to have attractive gardens with a variety of plant species, we have been forced to grow plants that deer avoid. From my gardening experiences

during these past 22 years, I have developed a “guaranteed” list of 87 plants that deer will not devour (table, page xx). My wife, who is also a professional horticulturist, and I have grown all of the plants that are on the list and have found them to be successful year after year.

This list is by no means all-inclusive. There are more plants that could be added to the list. However, the only plants that are on my list are ones that I have personally grown and tested for multiple years. If I have not grown them in my Connecticut or New York gardens, I have not listed them.

There are many inaccurate Web sites, books and articles online that list deer-resistant plants that are just not resistant. Several of those articles and sites list plants that I have seen devoured by deer many times. This kind of inaccurate information is bad for the nursery and landscape industries. Consumers become very frustrated and disappointed when they purchase plants that are promoted as “deer-resistant,” but then discover that a lot of time and money was wasted. *(to be continued next month...)*

A Partial List of plants listed in the above article, also to be continued next month:

ANNUALS

Asparagus springerli	Asparagus Fern
Caladium x hortulanum	Caladium
Canna Indica	Canna
Cleome hassleriana	Spider flower
Colocasia esculenta	Taro, Elephants Ear
Datura sp.	Angel's Trumpet
Lobularia maritime	Sweet allysum
Nicotiana sylvestris	Tobacco
Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'	'Rubrum' purple fountain grass
Sinecio cineraria	Dusty miller

My New Toy

Submitted by Jean Anderson

My husband, David, recently decided to run power to our front porch so that he could plug in various outdoor tools. Little did he know what he was starting, because as a gardener, I immediately saw an opportunity!

Since I was a little girl, visiting the tiny park across from my grandparents' house, I have been fascinated

with outdoor goldfish ponds. Now that I had a place to plug in a pump, I jumped at the chance to have one of my own!!! At first it was going to be a very modest affair, built using a large Rubbermaid tote buried in a flower bed. But I soon discovered that wasn't going to be enough.

In doing research, I found out that for fish to be safe through the winter, it's best to have an area at least 24 inches deep for goldfish or 36 inches for koi. They can even survive their pond being frozen over (not common here, thank goodness!) as long as there is a hole in the ice for oxygen to get to the water surface. So I started digging. As usual with me, I chose one of the hottest spells of weather to begin! I worked an hour or two in the mornings before it got too bad. The digging would probably have gone a bit faster if my cat had not enjoyed "attacking vicious dirt clods" and knocking them back into the hole!! Several days later, I had the hole about the size I wanted it. By this time David, the engineer, was involved in the project.

That's good and bad. My pond didn't turn out quite as big as I planned because he kept asking, "Why do you need all that shallow area?" And I kept

explaining that that was for marginal plants. "But that would be the best place for a waterfall!!" So my pond shrank a bit. But he helped me get the retaining rocks level and set. The final size of the main part, without the waterfall, is about 3 by 7 feet and at a rough calculation, holds about 200-250 gallons of water.

Another bit of research led me to decide on a rubber lining as opposed to pvc or a premolded pond. In shopping around online, I found a wide range of prices for the same size and thickness of rubber liner. But even with shipping, the one I chose was about half the price of one I saw at Lowe's that was only half as thick and made of pvc. It pays to shop around!!!

By far, the most expensive part of my project was the decorative rocks I got to surround the pond. If I had large rocks on my property, I would have used what I already had, but I do like the way these look. David and I have already spent hours in the last few weeks, just sitting and listening to the waterfall. Now I have plants and goldfish to share with MY granddaughter!

**Lakelands Master Gardeners
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