



# Master Gardener Thymes

WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

## Dates to Remember:

- SEPTEMBER 11TH SPEAKER MEETING  
JOHN WHAM
- SEPTEMBER 19 & 20- SC BOTANICAL GARDEN PLANT SALE SEE INFO P.2
- OCTOBER 9TH BOARD MEETING
- OCTOBER 23RD SCMMGA SYMPOSIUM
- NOVEMBER 13TH SPEAKER MEETING
- DECEMBER 11TH HOLIDAY SOCIAL  
GMD

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

September 2014

## President's Message

By Sandy Orr



Mark your calendars for our September membership/speaker's meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00/6:30 at the Library. One of our own members, John Wham, will reveal his mysterious yearly process that yields nine foot Mexican sunflowers on the electrical utility right of way that runs along East Cambridge. Drive by and see it before the meeting, because pictures can't convey the scale of his effort. Bill Aaron has booked an impressive array of speakers for the next three speaker meetings. If you have any further topic suggestions, get in touch with him.

Ann Barklow and Sue Monaghan have had a few early Thursday work sessions for the City. There was one early Saturday spruce up of the City Garden also. (See the picture below of Olivia Reynolds and Jimmy McInville). Thanks to all who participate. There will probably be a September 20<sup>th</sup> cleanup of the City Garden in preparation for the big party to which we are all invited on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>. Stop by and see it before we rip everything out. It's still impressive. Sue will also be telling us when she wants a Rain Garden work day at the Extension Office.

Linda Halsey is still looking to fill a few spots to assist with the weekly 2014 Master Gardener class that started mid-month. It runs into November, so there are plenty of opportunities to support James.

It's prime seed-collecting time. I've scored buckets of cardoon seed heads, cosmos (some of John Wham's dwarf orange/red), red okra (from the City Garden), various *Rudbeckia*, Mongolian aster, *Veronicastrum virginicum*, cleome (which repels deer!), and *Echinops*. My experimental British seed purchases will be fall sown and include *Peucedanum* (hog fennel, not hogweed), and *Angelica pachycarpa*, which was growing in Moore Farms Botanical Gardens on the SC coast. It is the only angelica that can take our heat and develop blooms. Even if I get one out of ten of these strange creatures to grow it will be worth it. The one *Crambe cordifolia* that survived last year's planting is my prize and makes it all worth the trouble.



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.

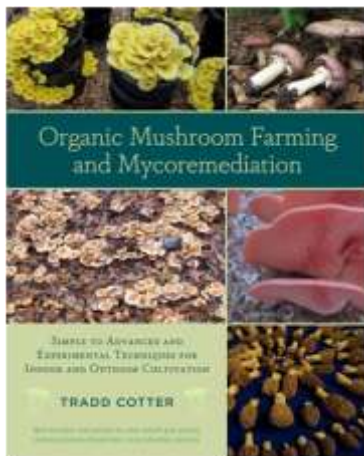
**Odds and Ends-**  
Contributions from our members

# PLANT SALES



**In this issue, learn about the history and cultivation of carrots!**  
Learn about growing carrots - [Watch our video!](#)  
Learn about carrot history and cultivation - [Check out our blog!](#)

Susi Bender wanted to share GrowOrganic.com—this month has information on growing carrots and has donated a copy of Tradd's book (pictured) to the Greenwood County Library as a reference book. A great addition to any library!



## South Carolina Botanical Garden Fall Plant Sale

Friends of the Garden - Friday, September 19, 2 PM - 6 PM  
(Friends can join at the gate.) Public Sale - Saturday, September 20, 9 AM - 1 PM

Dr. Jeanne Briggs - [jeanneb@clemson.edu](mailto:jeanneb@clemson.edu)

## Lexington County Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale

September 26 - 28 2014

Friday & Saturday: 8 AM - 6 PM

Sunday: 12 PM - 5 PM

Location: Midlands Fall Plant & Flower Festival

SC State Farmers Market

3483 Charleston Highway

West Columbia, SC

Barbara Murphy - [Qmurphy@sc.rr.com](mailto:Qmurphy@sc.rr.com)

## <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!

### Aug. 1– 31, 2014

- SC-GW-15 2.85 inches
- SC-AB-4 3.27 inches
- SC-GW-13 2.97 inches
- SC-GW-14 2.03 inches
- SC-GW-20 1.33 inches

Think about joining!!





**2014 Start August 19 through November 18 (13 classes plus fieldtrip)**

<u>Class Date</u>	<u>Class Subject</u>	<u>Instructor(s)</u>	<u>Reading Material</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
August 19	Botany & Physiology	Hodges	Ch 3 & 4	MG Association
August 26	Insects & ID, Beneficial Insects	J Hodges A. Barklow	Chapter 6	
September 2	Pathology & Diseases	Vince P.	Chapter 7	
September 9 Short session--	Annuals & Perennials, soil mixes, growing	Gil Sampson & Hodges	Chapter 14	Field trip Light snack Provided
Sept 16	Irrigation & Water Management	Bryan Smith	Chapter 11	
Sept 23	Composting & Soils	D. Boozer Hodges	Chapter 1&2	
Sept 30	Urban Forestry, Tree Selection & Pruning	Jimmy Walters	Chapter 12 Chapter 13	
October 7	Vegetables	Odom Hodges	Chapter 16	
October 14	Landscape Design	Kathryn White	Chapter 10	
October 21	Plant Propagation Methods	Hodges or	Chapter 5	
October 28	Fruit gardening & Pruning	Hodges Odom ?	Chapter 17	
November 4 May switch	Lawn Grass & Weeds	Paula Lemond Vince P.	Chapter 8 Chapter 15	
November 11	Chemical Pest Mgmt. Organic Methods IPM	Hodges Barklow Vince	Chapter 9 Chapter 19	*May be moved
November 18	Final Exam, committee signups, short program pruning	MG Assoc. Hodges	Some pruning examples	
*Outside Trip	Doris' Greenhouse	Highway34 toward 96	Carpool Shorter session	Light refreshments
** 2 class members sign up for refresh.s				

## Master Gardener Class of 2014 Underway

After a slow start and with the moral and financial support of the Lakelands Master Gardeners our new class is off and running this fall with 11 people enrolled. From Clemson Extension and James Hodges, I wanted to thank the Lakeland Master Gardeners for their continued support for our program of educating new gardeners and supporting extension horticulture education with many fine additional programs for the public and continuing ed. for master gardeners. Here is the schedule for those wishing to help when their favorite speakers are presenting. Let Linda Halsey know if you are coming or would like to volunteer. Thanks for all the support.  
James Hodges

# City of Greenwood and the Lakelands Master Gardeners

by Ann Barklow

It was another great month with the City of Greenwood. It started out with Vince Plotczyk diagnosing a plant disease that was spreading to all the topiaries that had *Alternanthera* on them. This was a great help. It saved us time doing the research ourselves and Vince got hours towards his Master Gardener Certificate. When he finishes the report we will have the preventative measures needed to keep it at bay. Thanks Vince!

Chuck Bender and Rusty Wilson had a very productive day. First we worked in the Courtyard of the Federal Building, correctly trimming Crepe Myrtles, and cutting back some of the annuals and perennials in hopes of getting another bloom cycle. One of the *Echinaceas* had strange looking flower heads so Chuck took a sample with him and researched it at the extension office and gave me the diagnosis of Aster Yellows. This was very helpful because now we know to remove the plant and Chuck sterilized his pruners when he got home.

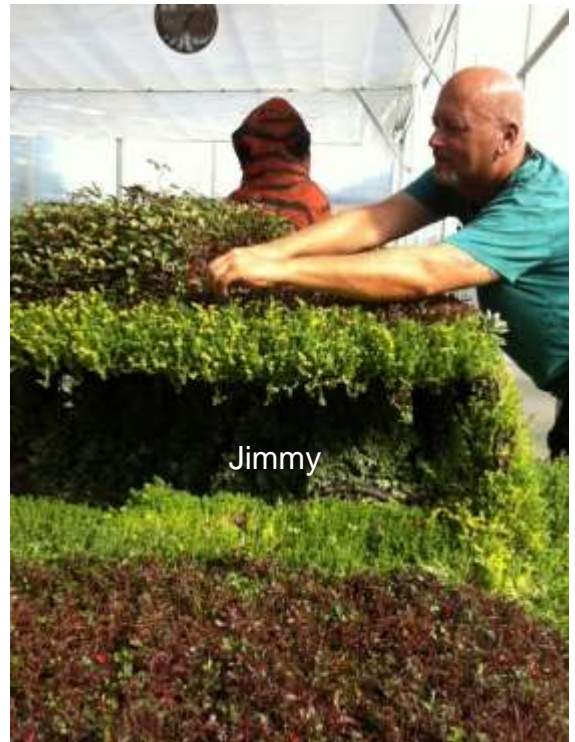
For more information on Echinacea and some of its common insect and disease problems visit <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/flowers/hgic1182.html>



After our morning in the courtyard we moved to the largest pond by Howard's and Chuck and Rusty had a great time taking off dead leaves and flowers off of the water lillies, lotus, and other water plants and then fertilized for the last time this season all the water plants. Our 5 goldfish had a great time nibbling at their legs. Rusty was kind enough to donate some more water plants to the City and gave me great planting instructions.



We also had several LMG's for the jeep's end of summer haircut. Thank you to Sue Monaghan, Sandy Orr and Jimmy McInville. We took a tour of the hoop growing greenhouse to see the upcoming kale seedlings. Sandy left with an extra flat of white dianthus. Our partnership has really blossomed and the exchanging of plants between us makes it all the more special.





## CONEFLOWER DISEASE---Yellow Asters

By Chuck Bender

We're all accustomed to seeing coneflowers (Echinacea) in our area with their beautiful foliage and flowers. Did you know that their botanical name derives from the Greek word for hedgehog, reflecting their prickly center flower? They grow/spread quite easily in full sun, blooming from mid-summer up until frost.



In recent travels, to include working at the Federal Museum garden and also a neighbor's mail box planting, I encountered a strange looking green growth on some coneflowers. This occurred both along the stem and also as secondary growth on the actual flower head.



This is a disease known as "Aster Yellows," which results in a "witches" broom in the flower head,

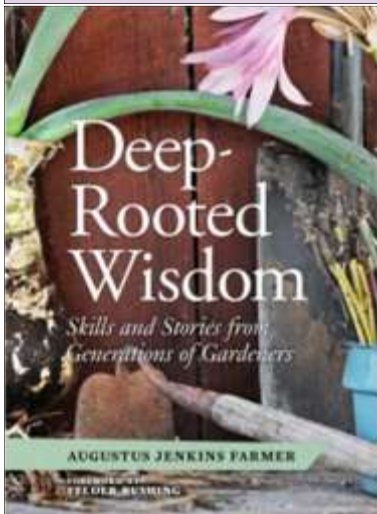
occasional greening of the flower petals and stunting with possible death of the plant in severe cases. Symptoms are more prevalent in hotter weather, while in cool weather a plant can be infected without showing any symptoms. A tiny insect known as a leafhopper most commonly spreads it. This disease can affect over 300 species of plants including ornamentals, vegetables and even weeds. There is no treatment for Yellow Asters, only sanitation with removing and destroying infected plants to reduce the further spread of the disease.



We delivered a great increase of total Master Gardening hours, miles, and contacts in the recent June quarterly report to James. The hours totaled nearly 3,000! This report was also viewed by Clemson and our state officials. If you go to <http://www.clemson.edu/cemg/State.php> you will see that we rank within the top three counties in South Carolina. Thank you to all who turned in hours, you make this organization a great community of volunteers! Another report is due soon and I will need hours, miles, and contacts, etc... by **September 15th**.  
Linda Halsey [halseyfarm@embarqmail.com](mailto:halseyfarm@embarqmail.com)

## Book Review

By Sandy Orr



"Deep-Rooted Wisdom" by Jenks Farmer, (publisher Timber Press) is a joy to read. It is available at our Greenwood County Library, which has a great gardening section. Jenks Farmer is a popular blogger, speaker, garden designer, and nurseryman. He started the Riverbanks Gardens, and Moore Botanical Gardens, and is now the head of Historic Columbia Foundation. His website, [jenksfarmer.com](http://jenksfarmer.com), features his blog, mail order nursery stock, books for sale, and his portfolio of naturalistic garden designs.

He is uniquely South Carolinian. His grandmother and mother were his gardening muses. He learned the old country way of gardening and then with his horticultural degree, appreciated the science behind it.

Each chapter introduces two gardening personalities who influenced him, and then he shares their techniques. He describes adaptations he's made and how we can all use them.

Some chapters include "Scavenging Plants", "Finding the Spirit of the Place", "Grow From Seed", "Protect and Care for Soil Creatures", "Root Your Own Plants", and "Mixing In Plants that Feed Us". I couldn't put it down. The illustrations are homespun and befitting the book.

Inspired by the book, I ordered Crinum 'Sangria', a burgundy-foilage variety, the only burgundy that is hardy in SC. I ordered two and he sent 8 bulbs. Crinums are "cemetery lilies" because they are so tough. Accordingly, I planted them mid-August, and they're still fine despite drought. They are wonderfully deer resistant. Many of you know C. 'Powellii', the very pale pink/white green-foiled crinum that your grandmother gave you. Its bulbs can get to be 40 pounds. My mother-in-law had one the size of a Volkswagen. I'm hoping the more interesting 'Sangria' does as well.

# Pest Management and Sanitation

by Ann Barklow

Sanitation is the cornerstone of pest management. Probably every one of us tries to recycle our pots. Many of us have piles of them stacked in dark corners of our landscape. Still others call around to see where they can recycle them to groups or friends. But how many of us sterilize these before we use them again? Are we sending pests, weed seeds, and disease to unsuspecting buyers at our plant sale? *Phytophthora*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Thielaviopsis*, and *Pythium* are some of the more common diseases living in unsterilized containers

Do some of your pots have a white film inside? This is a mineral/salt buildup and if it isn't removed the roots will be desiccated when they get to the outside of the root ball and come in contact with this high sodium buildup. Mealybugs and other pests can nestle up under the rims of some pots and disease and weed seeds can linger in them without you even knowing it.

As busy as we are at the City, we take the time to do this important task. We buy new smaller plug trays and liners but the larger pots, because of their cost, we sterilize. We are fortunate to have hot water in the greenhouse and with some large containers we can do this pretty quickly.

Here is the recipe:

## Ingredients

Unscented Chlorine Bleach  
Measuring Device  
Rubber Gloves  
Scouring pads and brushes  
Dish Detergent  
3 large tubs

The strength of the bleach solution is important. Too strong and you may not be able to rinse it all off and the residue will harm your plants. Too weak and you won't sterilize.

The rule of thumb is 1:9 or 1/10 solution of unscented bleach to 9/10 water. A conversion of 1 1/2 cups bleach to 14 1/2 cups water will equal 16 cups or 1 gallon.

The large white tub we use has a mark on it for how much water to put in and then we add a one gallon bottle of bleach and mix it

thoroughly. The bleach weakens over time so we do as many as we can and then store the clean pots inside or in a protected area so they are ready to go. We then discard the bleach solution and mix up fresh for the next time .

## Instructions:

- Soak pots in warm soapy water and use brushes or scouring pads to loosen any dirt. Use a toothbrush to get under the rim if it has one. Don't skip this important step because debris traps weed seeds and ties up the disinfectant used.
- Pile as many of them as you can in the bleach solution. You can slip them inside each other but try to keep them loose so the bleach can get to all areas of the pots. Let them soak for 15 to 30 minutes. While it's soaking you can wash more pots.
- Rinse in clean warm water and dry for 24 hours in the sun
- Store in a protected area such as a garage or shed or under an overhang on concrete or any surface so they don't sit on soil that can contain *Phytophthora*.

Don't recycle pots that you can't get clean. Sometimes terra cotta is harder to get all the mineral deposits out.

It's best to take a morning or afternoon and do as many pots as you can so they are ready to go when the gardening bug hits you. If you want to pot something up but have to clean a container first you will likely skip this important step. It would be similar to having to wash pots and pans and dishes before you eat. So get those pots disinfected and stored so you will be ready to go.





# Cultivating Hope

By Mary Woodiwiss

This month marks the passage of one year since my daughter's bike accident. In mid-September of 2013, Catherine was struck by a car while biking to work in Washington, D.C. Her injuries, while limited to her face and mouth, were extensive. Her healing has required two intensive reconstructive surgeries, with other procedures needed to help her function in the meantime, and at least as many procedures yet to come. I drove up to be with her the day of her accident. Not knowing the extent of her injuries, I assumed I would stay for a long weekend. I did not return to Greenwood for three months.

Early in her recovery, an idea began to form in my mind and the minds of several of her D.C. friends. Improving the outdoor area around her rented row house (fondly dubbed Quincyhaus after its location, and shared with an assemblage of other young professionals) was an occasional table topic, never acted upon. Now this seemed like not only a worthy, but also a pressing enterprise - one that could be linked to Catherine's mending.



Fig tree

After her release from the hospital in October, we had to seek out temporary accommodations for the two of us in other places - spots that would allow plenty of quiet, rest, and visits on her own terms. On one of our first outings to anywhere other than the hospital clinics, we made our way around the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land gardens. Because of her tracheotomy, Catherine was still not speaking, so we relied on gestures, eye contact, and a notebook for her side of the conversation. While strolling the verdant paths through planted beds and wooded areas, she noticed a fig tree looking perfectly satisfied with its situation. And she let me know that she considered that figs must certainly be heavenly fare. At that moment, I purposed to be sure that a fig would be among the purchases for the Quincyhaus garden.

Meanwhile, her friends had organized an initial workday to clear out portions of the front and back yards, spreading out cardboard and pine mulch to secure ground. In late October, I sent out the following in one of my email updates to faraway family and friends:

*"On Sunday we will begin to put in the ornamental*



Hellebore

*perennials and shrubs I bought last weekend at a city nursery ~ a surprising gem. The planting will be a group effort and none too soon! Every time I've visited this group rental house in the past 3 years, I've said something like, "well, you can tell where the renters [competent young professionals, ne-er do wells, fill-in-the-blanks] live. This front yard is a mess!" and then we stay too busy to tend to it. But I had already decided I would make a fall trip up this year, with shrubs and tools in the back of the car to remedy the situation. Instead, I came unexpectedly, arriving in the middle of the night with no idea of the severity of her injuries and thinking I may be here for 4 or 5 days.*

*A group of her friends spent hours some Sundays ago (while I was camped in her hospital room for days) obliterating the weeds in front and uncovering some hidden delights in the back garden, so it will be wonderful to set this new array of lovelies in place and watch them develop in the coming seasons. How fitting that it will be an all saints' Sunday garden, made possible in large part by donations of funds and labor by family & friends."*

Planting day arrived! Catherine and I were staying in another rental apartment nearby, one that afforded her some quiet and remove from the usual happy chaos on Quincy Street. She felt well enough to go along for the garden installation and social interactions, and fatigued enough to retreat to her room there when she needed a few minutes out of the fray.

What an array of containers of eager plants, shovels, trowels, pruners, hoses, rakes, and bags and bags of mulch! The crew assumed their posts: Lucy, Tim, Brent, Hayley, Ben, Esther, Tom, Heather, Catherine, and Mom. The clearing, weeding, digging, situating, backfilling, watering, and mulching commenced. One bright spot in this tangle, an overgrown rose, had been keeping company with a derelict satellite dish. Thanks to quick, decisive action from Tom, the dish was toted to the curb, no longer to masquerade as a garden ornament.



Japanese Maple

Continued next page



Carolina Jessamine

Someone unearthed a heart-shaped stone in the front yard that became a marker in the back bed. A trio of *Osmanthus* shrubs was set in a neat row in front of the porch, ready to supply variegated green through the D.C. winters and fragrance in warmer seasons ahead. A petite Japanese maple was placed to add color and graceful interest to a tiny corner of the tiny front plot. *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* plants would rest in the opposite corner in all their subtlety until re-emerging in the spring. Late summer would bring out their electric blue blooms, the next autumn their burgundy foliage. A fig was situated where there would be growing room. All these, and a *Carolina jessamine* vine, holly ferns and autumn ferns, further linked this garden to the one at our family home in Greenwood.

We sought to create small scenes of beauty in a heretofore barren place. We worked to make this both an exercise in healing and a purchase toward continued restora-

tion of both this small plot of ground and this beloved daughter and friend. There is a message of hope tucked into the garden: perhaps to be discovered when Catherine moves elsewhere and takes some components of this garden with her to be transplanted in another garden, perhaps never to be uncovered.



Rose Rebounding

In a few weeks, Catherine Hope will pass the one year mark. I'll join her in the days around that date for companionship as she faces the calendar, the memories, and the next procedure toward restoration. We will take time for porch-sitting, unbridled conversation, and slow cups of coffee. And undoubtedly, we will tend the garden.





LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT

MIRACLE on E. CAMBRIDGE St.  
Thursday, September 11, 2014  
6:30 p.m. @ Greenwood County Library

**GROWING AN ENGLISH  
BORDER FROM SEED**

For Information Contact: Bill Aaron  
Phone: 678-464-5996  
E-mail: bill.aaron13@gmail.com



*John Wham's Garden. Featured in the Festival of Flowers Garden Tour*

Join us at the Greenwood County Library on September 11, 2014 as John Wham teaches us how to propagate from seed. John, a native of Abbeville, is a master gardener who now lives in Greenwood. John has a beautiful garden that has been featured on the Festival of Flowers Garden Tour. Drive by John's garden and you'll see why we've asked him to come and share his secrets for successful gardening. John will be sharing tips on growing both vegetables and flowers from seed.



**ADMISSION IS FREE!  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Enter in back of Library  
LMG Board Meeting at 6:00 pm





facebook

[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 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



☹ **Missing a newsletter?** Looking for an earlier edition? All of our newsletters can be found at our website at— <http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/newslet2014.html>

THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2012

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>President</b> – Sandy Orr                                 | and Ann Barklow   | <b>Programs and Speakers</b> – Bill Aaron            |
| <b>Vice President</b> – Donna Feldmaier                      | <b>Finance and Fund Raising</b> – Cyndy Aaron (plant sale) Sarah Carroll & Ginny Wilson | <b>Media</b> – PR– Trish Bridges and Olivia Reynolds |
| <b>Treasurer</b> – Melody McInville                          | <b>Membership</b> – Betsy Russ  | <b>FB</b> – Ann Barklow, <b>Web</b> – Chuck Bender   |
| <b>Secretary</b> – Steve Tabor                               | <b>Co chair</b> –Linda Halsey (hours)   | <b>Social</b> – Susanne Blumer                       |
| <b>Past President</b> – Ann Barklow                          | <b>Newsletter</b> – Janet Ledebuhr  | <b>Office</b> – Vince Plotczyk                       |
| <b>Clemson Advisor</b> – James Hodges                        | <b>Phone</b> –Priscilla Ellis   |  |
| <b>Community Projects</b> – Jimmy McInville and Sue Monaghan |   |  |
| <b>Education Chair</b> – Linda Halsey                        |   |  |