

MASTER GARDENER SCHOLARSHIP FAQs

The \$300 fee for taking the Master Gardener Class is quite a bit of money. Who determines the cost of the class and where does the \$300 go?

Neither the Greenwood County Cooperative Extension Office nor the Lakelands Master Gardeners has input in determining the cost of the Master Gardener Course. This decision is made solely by Clemson University, located in Clemson, SC. Lakelands Master Gardeners receive none of the \$300 fee.

I see that partial scholarships are available. How much are the scholarships?

The Lakelands Master Gardeners would love to be able to offer full scholarships to everyone taking the class, but our funds are limited. Scholarships are awarded based on the selection criteria listed on the scholarships application. The amount of scholarships is dependent on the applicant pool each year. Last year we awarded six \$200 scholarships, but each year is unique.

Who funds the scholarships for the Master Gardener Class?

All of the money used to fund scholarships comes directly from the Lakelands Master Gardeners Treasury. None of the scholarship funds come from Clemson Cooperative Extension. We fund scholarships with money earned from our Annual Plant Sale held in April each year. We work hard for this money and we are glad to be able to share it with our scholarship recipients.

If I have been selected to receive a scholarship, when and how will I be notified? What if I haven't been selected?

You will be notified either way prior to final sign up date for the course. You will be notified by email or phone call. If you have been selected to receive a scholarship you will be responsible for payment of only the non-scholarship portion, payable to the Lakelands Master Gardeners. Lakelands Master Gardeners will pay Clemson directly the \$300 fee.

What responsibilities come with being a scholarship recipient?

Because we award a limited number of scholarships, we do want you to understand there are certain expectations that come with being a scholarship recipient. We expect you to complete the classroom course and also complete 40 hours of volunteer service, moving from student to intern to Certified Master Gardener, as the Master Gardener Program is intended. We will do everything within our power to help you in any way we can, and we sincerely believe you will find the class experience and working with Master Gardeners to be a truly enjoyable and rewarding experience. If you are taking the Master Gardener class solely for your personal enjoyment or to fulfill educational requirements, and you do not plan on participating past the classroom experience, we are very happy to have you take the class, but we ask that you do not apply for a scholarship.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions concerning scholarships?

You can contact Linda Halsey, Education Chair, at halseyfarm@embarqmail.com or 864-374-7253