



Master Gardener Thymes



WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

August 2012

President's Message



by Ann Barklow
I have gotten quite a number of congratulations from our members since word was announced that I would be taking over the Presidency in August of 2012. It feels like I won something, which indeed I guess I have, the privilege of being a

part of such a dynamic and active group of gardeners.

But the gift does not come without a loss and that is the resignation of our past president, Patti Larson. I admit I am happy she has stepped down to pursue better health, but sad that such an active member with an amazing love for this organization cannot continue as our leader. I have been blessed to spend hours and hours talking and learning from Patti, so I feel well acquainted with our committees and projects and hope to spearhead more projects that will continue to make our organization shine and our community reaps the rewards. Patti will continue serving on the board as our Past President along with Jimmy McInville. So, I will be flanked by two past presidents!

I have learned in the past that "Cliques" in organizations can be detrimental to its success. These informal groups can drain the trust from a thriving organization by having an air of exclusivity to them. In my term, I hope to remain aware of this barrier to productive teamwork and take action if it rears its ugly head in our organization. I want to encourage everyone's input because our diversity of opinions is what makes us so great. Injecting new blood into positions on our committees and boards will go a long way in preventing

cliques. Don't think you can hide behind any shrubs! Our nominating committee and board will be looking for you to help out and keep us growing. If you want to volunteer for a committee, please contact me. I will be starting a list for volunteers wanting to be more involved.

As part of 'Clique Prevention,' I have started a wish list. I'm sure many of you wish we could be doing a particular project or wish we had something that we don't have. I want to hear from you. Please send me an e-mail at annbarklow@embargmail.com or call me at 864-344-0120 and give me your ideas and suggestions. Some ideas that I have already are:

- Assist the South Carolina Native Plant society with educational brochure and poster to identify invasive plants and native alternatives.
- Partner with the City or County of Greenwood to give quarterly education classes on Composting, Worm Bins, and Worm Towers to the Greenwood Community.
- Resurrect the By Law committee to be sure we are following them and help in making any changes such as increasing board size and adding an advisory board if needed.
- Send the newsletter to individuals and organizations that are not master gardeners such as Lander Arboretum, Erskine, Piedmont Tech Horticulture Dept., and Garden Clubs.
- Have more new members involved in committees and board positions
- Learn more about the online version of the Master Gardener Classes to help encourage and support
- Have an active Nominating Committee
- Look into more Fundraising opportunities

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Dates to Remember:

- AUGUST 9TH, SPEAKER MEETING TRADD COTTER "MUSHROOM GROWING" LIBRARY 6:30PM
- AUGUST 9TH, NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING PRIOR TO SPEAKER MEETING
- SEPTEMBER 13TH, SPEAKER MEETING JACK AND PATRICIA DEVROOMEN "HOSTA" LIBRARY 6:30 PM
- OCTOBER 11TH, BOARD MEETING BUDGET MEETING LIBRARY 6:30 PM
- NOVEMBER 8TH, SPEAKER MEETING DR. JOE JAMES "THE MIGHTY GIANT, THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT" LIBRARY 6:30 PM
- DECEMBER 13TH, CHRISTMAS PARTY GREENWOOD METRO DISTRICT 6:30 PM

The Lakelands Master Gardeners Association is a volunteer organization made up of Master Gardeners from Abbeville and Greenwood Counties in SC.



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These are just a few of the Wish List items that have been given to me. I have worked with a Wish List in other organizations and I like how everyone's ideas are put on paper instead of a nod and "good idea" and then they are long forgotten. I look forward to hearing from you and receiving your Wish List Ideas.

I have asked our Newsletter Editor, Janet Ledebuhr to include a "**Masters in the Garden**, *LMG Members in the Spotlight*" section in our monthly newsletter. This will highlight one of our members every month and this month I am glad to introduce you to our "Money Man" Chuck Bender who is on the LMGA Board as our Treasurer. If you have a

particular member you would like "Spotlighted" please let me know.

I hope you enjoy this issue chocked full of great topics such as: Black Widow Spiders, Strawberry Rootworms, the Great Tomato Debacle, and an app for Hour Tracking your Master Gardener Hours. If you want a great gift idea for any senior gardeners in your life check out Cathie Swindell's article on installing raised beds.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to an organization that has a "Strong Presence in Our Community."

 **Masters of the Garden**
LMG members in the Spotlight 



Chuck Bender
Treasurer,
Lakelands
Master Gardener
Association

Early Childhood

Chuck Bender is the youngest of 4 siblings and was raised in a Pennsylvania Suburb. As Chuck might describe his early childhood as uneventful, he did have his favorite sport of little league baseball and spent many hours at the community pool.

Work History

His parents instilled a strong work ethic in Chuck, because of their experience in the Depression years and Chuck started working while still in high school as a newspaper carrier and washing pots and pans at a local

bakery. The career he finally settled in on was banking at a large credit union for 30 years.

Marriage and Leisure

Chuck and his wife Carol have been married for 42 years and have two grown children. Most of us see Chuck riding on his motorcycle to gardening projects, but his other leisure time activities include boating, running and swimming. He spreads his volunteer activities out to the Lander Arboretum Committee, his Homeowners Association, and the AARP Tax Preparation program.

Being a Master Gardener

Chuck was in the Master Gardener Class of 2007, but before then, didn't have a lot of knowledge or experience in gardening. Since his retirement brought him some spare time he wanted to learn about his landscape plants, lawn, and trees on his newly developed property on the lake. Since then he has added over 75 plants mostly from dividing and transplanting volunteers, all topics he learned in his

MG class. He also enjoys growing his own food.

Helping the Community and working on projects and seeing the results are some of Chuck's favorite things about being a Master Gardener. "An attractive landscape makes a difference to a house, neighborhood, and town. It is a value, I think many take for granted, and the knowledge I have attained makes me appreciate it more," he explained. He is now toying with the idea of grafting plants to further his experience in propagation.

Life Lessons

When asked what Chuck has learned over his lifetime that he would share with the younger generation he replied with certainty: "Don't put work ahead of family."

Thank you Chuck, for letting us get to know you a little better and for your dedication to the Lakelands Master Gardeners.

Creamy Banana Pudding
Chuck and Carol Bender

- 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 ½ cup cold water
- 3 ½ oz. pkg. instant vanilla pudding
- 2 cups (1 pint) whipping cream, whipped.
- 1 box vanilla wafers
- 3 bananas- sliced, dipped in lemon juice



In bowl, combine condensed milk and water
Add pudding mix and beat till blended
Chill 5 minutes, then fold in whipped whipping cream

Spoon 1 cup of mixture into serving bowl, top with wafers, bananas, and more pudding...
Repeat and end with pudding

Chill at least 4 hours
Serves 8-10

Mushrooms - **“Man’s Biological Allies**

When: **August 9, 2012**

Where: **Greenwood County Library**

What: **Speaker Program**

Time: **6:30PM**



Learn everything from recycling and composting household items using fungi to bioremediation of oil spills and toxic waste with native mushrooms. *Tradd Cotter* from Mushroom Mountain will delve deeper into the fungal kingdom than ever before, describing new research with medicinal compounds and remarkable new applications for fungi in agriculture, medicine, and bioremediation. This is a must-see for the experienced naturalist, budding young scientist, or environmental decision makers in the area.

Tradd Cotter -Biography:

Tradd Cotter, founder of Mushroom Mountain in Liberty, South Carolina, has been studying the art of identifying and cultivating mushrooms for over 15 years in the Southeast. An increased understanding in mycology, the study of fungi, has created a wealth of opportunities for humans to explore many aspects of planetary healing. Tradd's foundation in cultivation has evolved into a wide spectrum of applications for bioremediation, perpetual food systems, natural pesticides, and recycling strategies to improve the local and global quality of life not just for humans, but for all the organisms with whom we share planet Earth.

Mushroom Mountain currently maintains over 50 species of fungi trained to create food, compost, degrade toxic chemicals, and to specifically target destructive insect pests like termites, carpenter ants, and fire ants.

Tradd also has ten years of landscape design experience, focusing on natural systems, hybridizing native plant and fungal systems to produce cooperative and self balancing ecosystems. His work with site restoration at Furman University while working with Earth Design in Pickens greatly has improved the scope of applications for using fungi in environmental landscape design, bioremediation, topsoil generation, and creating model circular systems for homeowners, businesses and schools.

Tradd lectures and consults all over the southeast on mushroom cultivation, recycling and composting with fungi, mycoremediation, and the benefits of understanding and expanding our positive relationships with the natural world around us!

Introduction to Medical Botany

By Susanne Bender FNP
Program Chair

Greetings and thank you to all who made the July 18th speaker program such a success!

My deepest appreciation goes to **Dr. Janice Haldeman**. Her presentation "**Introduction to Medical Botany**" brought us through history describing how **plants are our most valuable assets on Earth**.

Plants have provided food, medicine and shelter for centuries.

A few examples Dr. Haldeman presented were:

A sliced carrot  looks like the human eye and yes science now shows carrots greatly enhance blood flow to and the function of eyes;

A tomato  has four chambers and is red- just like the heart...all research shows tomatoes are loaded with lycopine and are indeed pure heart and blood food

Kidney beans  actually heal and help maintain kidney functions and yes, they look exactly like the human kidney.

Her approach was to tantalize us with ancient history moving to the present day, making us believers that plants we often designate as "weeds" are continuing to be the basis for the current day prescription drugs. She continued with old wife's tales stating "that God provided a healing plant for every disease that strikes mankind."

Thank you Dona Boozer for her delicious "herb" cookies, Patti Larson who contributed the beautiful flowers for door prizes and Donna and Bill Laster who (at last minute notice) greeted and signed in 30 members and 25 guests!

We are looking forward to our next program **August 9th ... Tradd Cotter founder of Mushroom Mountain- "Mushrooms - Man's Biological Allies"**



One of the items that Dr. Haldeman talked about was the ability to make a salve from what we might call weeds in our yards. The salve is made up of Chickweed *Stellaria media*, Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, olive oil, Shea Butter, Vitamin E, lavender essential oils, and beeswax.

This salve's healing properties include - antiseptic, an anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial, anti-oxidant, a moisturizer, and is said to promote healing. The recipe for making this salve was shared at the program. If you are interested in having a copy, send an email to queenofseaford@yahoo.com and I will scan my copy and send it to you.

Steel Flower Artist

By Patti Larson

Have you visited the STEEL flowers and figures in the Uptown area across the street from Kicker's and catty corner from the Farmer's Market stands?

Here is one story of one of these awesome sculptures.....

Jacquelyn Adrina Diaz was born in Richmond, Kentucky but raised in Waterloo, South Carolina. Recently, she graduated from Lander University earning her Bachelors in Fine Arts and currently continuing her education there to earn a Master's in teaching art.

Her art has become a vehicle for communicating and expressing her feelings, thoughts, and ideas to her audience!

"Through the many years of creating work I find that I am very concerned with nature and how it relates to me and my life. I use natural elements including flowers to build upon the associations I have already have with nature. Most of my work started with exploring areas of 2 dimensional designs, but recently has progress into 3 dimensional designs.



Currently, I made the decision to mark a special occasion by designing a steel sculpture continuing to be inspired by nature. I will be a new Aunt and looking forward to the newest edition in my family upcoming in the month of October. The season was springtime (when I decided to proceed with three dimensional designs) the birth/blooming of flowers. Due to this exciting time I wanted to express my excitement through creating a steel form that would represent the emotion of a mother's love. The form expresses my sister-in-law as the mother flower (peony) connected and cradling her peapod (baby-calendula). The flower is painted orange and pink to show the relationship with the month the baby is due and its mother."

Jacquelyn Adriana Diaz--Artist and girlfriend of Jason Jordan

***Look for more of the steel flowers throughout the newsletter.*

Pear Relish

By Paddy Huff (recipe is my grandmother Emmie Huff's)



- 1 peck pears (old term---means a ¼ bushel or about 8 pears)
- 4 red bell peppers (de-seeded)
- 4 orange bell peppers (de-seeded)
- 4 yellow bell peppers (de-seeded)
- 2 hot peppers with seeds
- 5 large valdaila onions

Grate or grind but do not pulverize!

Mix with:

- 4 cups sugar
- 4 cups vinegar
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon allspice
- 1 tablespoon turmeric
- 1 tablespoon celery seed
- ¼ tablespoon dry mustard

Boil 25- 30 minutes and can into sterilized jars

Makes approx. 8 quart jars

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Anyone interested in **speaking** to groups and clubs please email Jason your telephone numbers and the different topics you talk about. The education committee is trying to get a list together because we have clubs and organizations looking for people to come speak to their groups. Thank you my email is jdjordan78@gmail.com
- Our public relations committee is looking for a couple of volunteers to be **photographers** and divide their time between our numerous activities. These photos will document our events, work days, clinics, and speaker meetings and will be used in our newsletter, index journal articles, and scrap book. Call Cathie Swindell, our public relations chair to volunteer for this fun and worthwhile opportunity. 223-8552 or garden-cat46@gmail.com
- Someone to **create flyers** needed. Do you need more hours for your certification but don't seem to make it to the projects, clinics, meetings, and events? Many of our committees need flyers to advertise their events so they can be sent through e-mail. If you like to be creative on your computer, this job is for you! Training will be provided. Please call Ann Barklow at 344-0120 or annbarklow@embarqmail.com to volunteer for this fun position!

Watch Where You Put Your Hands!

By Janet Ledebuhr

Last month while attending to my compost bins I received a big surprise. On the blind side of the handle where you put your hands to give it a spin, there was a BIG, BLACK, SPIDER. This spider had a couple red spots on the top side of its body. Using a stick I poked it to see the underside. Was this the infamous Black Widow Spider? There was the hourglass I was looking for!



OK, now that I know that it is a Black Widow, I needed to read some factual literature about this lady.

The female Black Widow Spider is considered the most venomous spider in North America. The male Black Widow looks nothing like the female and is harmless. All websites said to seek medical assistance immediately if you get a bite. Some symptoms include muscle aches, nausea, and profuse sweating. The bite may go unnoticed or it may be painful. There is usually localized swelling and you may be able to see one or two bite marks. To treat the bite area, first wash with soap and water, then apply ice to slow the spread of the venom, elevate the extremity, and seek medical attention.



Given this one had taken up building a nest and made herself at home on my compost bin, she needed to go. These spiders are very common in our area. They hide in dark areas, woodpiles, rubble, under stones, hollow stumps and inside sheds or garages. If you are working outside in an area where these spiders may be, be sure to protect yourself. The recommendation is to wear long sleeves and long pants, hat, and gloves. One should also check shoes before putting them on and shake out clothing before dressing. Use insect repellants such as DEET or Picaridin on your clothes and shoes.

I will always check before putting my hands on the bin to give it a spin. While this Black Widow won't be there to bite me, one of her friends might be!

Hour Tracker App



Want to enjoy tracking your Master Gardening Hours? If you have a iPhone or iPod Touch, there is an app for that. It is called Hour Tracker. Not only can you clock in and clock out when working on projects but you can export the data into the spreadsheet. You can enter hours worked in the past easily if

you forgot to clock in. This is definitely Time Tracking Made Easy. To read more about it, go to: <http://hourtrackerapp.com/>

Volunteer hours are reported quarterly to Linda Halsey at halseyfarm@embarq.com. March, June, September and December I will attach an Excel form for the quarter. If you do not have Excel and need a word document, please let me know—queenofseaford@yahoo.com



Strawberry Fields, Forever.....

By Ann Barklow

Okay, I must admit I was not expecting to find small beetles destroying my strawberry plants this summer. In particular beetles with a common name of "Rootworm!" With the amount of diseases and fungus I read about when I planted my bare root strawberries a year ago, I was caught off guard by these 1/8-inch size shiny bugs (Photo 1).



Photo 1 Beetle and Holes

Don't let the first name of strawberry fool you either. These beetles like blueberries and have become a major pest of container azalea production in much of the southeast, according to Alabama Cooperative Extension. If that isn't enough, these little fellas have also been reported on the southern native *Itea virginica*, Virginia sweetspire, and the ornamental exotic shrub, *Rhaphiolepis indica*, Indian hawthorne.

Before my favorite research guru, Vince Plotczyk, got back to me with the identification of this chewing bug, *Paria fragariae* I had already figured out they were nocturnal during one of my flashlight garden spying episodes.

At first I thought they were large flea beetles but they didn't have the characteristic hopping away when disturbed. They did like hiding from me when I tried to pick them up and loved to drop to the ground and "play possum" which annoyed me, because without moving I couldn't see them in my mulch.

From my experience with most beetles, I decided the only organic solution was hand picking. I got my little cup of soapy water and dressed in long pants, sleeves and even donned a pair of gloves with the fingers cut out, and grabbed my trusty flashlight and off I went into the darkness. I found that later in the evening, more beetles were out, so my bedtime was extended a bit on the hunting evenings. I can still hear my husband's voice from the bedroom when I reentered the house: "Did you wash your hands?"

Collecting beetles is fun if you can ignore the mosquitoes buzzing around your ears and the chill up your spine with the red fox making it's strange noises in the dark forest behind you. I liked counting them as I picked them off the leaves. They often perched boldly on the ends of the leaves, unaware of danger, making it much easier for me.

Here is my collection tally:

June 26, 2012	63 Beetles
June 27, 2012	61 Beetles
June 28, 2012	75 Beetles
June 29, 2012	62 Beetles

Took Two Days Off!

July 2, 2012	33 Beetles
July 6, 2012	32 Beetles
July 11, 2012	30 Beetles

In case you didn't add those numbers up, that is 356 beetles in 32 square feet in 8 days of hunting! As you can see, physical pest control such as removing and drowning, is best done every day for awhile to knock down the population and then you can taper off.

After only a week, the strawberry plants started to recover and I even got a strawberry! There may still be some beetles but at this time it is a low enough population that it won't harm the plants. Now my job is to monitor any future damage in case another generation is born. They can be at their peek in July, August, and September so I may not be out of the woods yet.

There is about 13 pesticides recommended for the use on Strawberry Rootworms, but many of us with our new awareness of harm to our bees and other beneficial insects, I'm sure would rather join me in evening hunting excursions and enjoy pesticide free strawberries.

Ann Barklow is a Certified Horticulturist that specializes in Alternatives to Pesticides

God and Grass

Submitted by Charlotte Cabri

Thought you gardeners would enjoy this conversation between God and St. Francis. It is hilarious because it is so true.

GOD:

Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

St. FRANCIS:

It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD:

Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

St. FRANCIS:

Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD:

The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

St. FRANCIS:

Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it - sometimes twice a week.

GOD:

They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

St. FRANCIS:

Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD:

They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. FRANCIS:

No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD:

Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. FRANCIS:

Yes, Sir.

GOD:

These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. FRANCIS:

You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay

to get rid of it.

GOD:

What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

St. FRANCIS:

You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD:

No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

St. FRANCIS:

After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD:

And where do they get this mulch?

St. FRANCIS:

They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD:

Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

St. CATHERINE:

'Dumb and Dumber,' Lord. It's a story about....

GOD:

Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



Don't forget to check the Shutterfly website for photos. See address at the top of the page. Chuck keeps updating the page with more photos of our activities. The password is available.

The Great Tomato Debacle of 2012

By Steve Maxwell

It's been an interesting growing season, to say the least. The lack of real winter weather has certainly had its effect – too many critters out there and we've had weeds I've never seen before. Yet, by utilizing the proven methods we were taught by James and others in our Master Gardener course, we have still had a good year.



year is that first tomato sandwich. That's one of the few things in our lives that never seem to change.

Alas, this year turned out to be a year of change for us....gardeners should always expect the unexpected. Our plan seemed foolproof – my wife started most of our tomato plants from seed, first in the dining room, then, as the weather warmed, our little greenhouse. Time passed, we hardened them off, and as a backup bought 6 Better Boys from a local home im-

many away. We gave away tomatoes to everyone we knew, to some we didn't know, and still had tomatoes coming out of our ears.

For 2012, we had a plan. The Better Boys previously mentioned, a couple of cherry or grape plants, and a dozen or so Rutgers, the family favorite. Everything looked great. I could taste that first sandwich, could feel the mayo dripping down my chin.

Then we noticed something. Those 12 Rutgers plants, started from seed purchased from a national company, turned out to be cherry tomatoes. A mislabeling error, we presumed.

Do you realize how many cherry tomatoes 12 plants produce?

Oh, well, we've made lemonade from our lemons. My wife has diligently made soup, canned cherry tomatoes, salads, salsa, and has dehydrated the cherries. And I'll let you in on a secret – if you slice 6 or so cherry tomatoes in half, they make a pretty darned good sandwich.

We have totally avoided pesticides this year, since we are now beekeepers (29 quarts of honey, our first harvesting.) Amazingly, the garden has survived without Sevin. Our squash harvest was actually the best in years! We've watered as needed, and everything has done well, except for the corn, which I really should have fertilized. 34-0-0??

At any rate, the only crop that really matters to us (and to the makers of Duke's mayo) is the tomatoes. And, yes, the greatest taste sensation of the

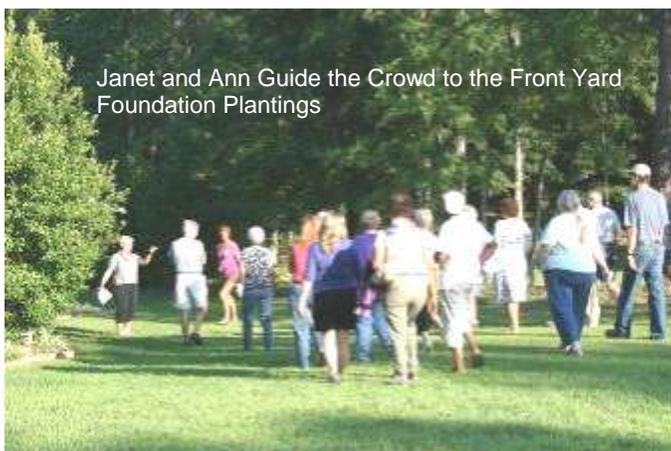
“Do you realize how many cherry tomatoes 12 plants produce?”

provement warehouse. The little plants did great, grew well, and were transplanted in due course. So far, so good.

We were determined not to repeat the fiasco of 2011. I got a wild hair and ordered some unique seed from a mail order company, and of course failed to tell my wife, who had also purchased lots of tomato seeds. We ended up with 72 plants, AFTER we had given

Third Landscape Diagnostic Clinic Brings Record Crowd!

By Ann Barklow



Janet and Ann Guide the Crowd to the Front Yard Foundation Plantings

Master Gardener Classmates, Ann Barklow and Janet Le-debuhr presented another clinic, this time in the Pucketts Ferry Subdivision near Lake Greenwood. The weather in the week leading up to the event had been stormy but Thursday, July 19, 2012 found its way to a sunny but balmy evening for the clinic.

“Offering your yard to be critiqued can be embarrassing,” Ann commented, “but since we moved here **after** it was installed, I could say it wasn't *my* fault.”

The predominant lesson at this class was “Right Plant, Right Place” which was *wrong* in much of the Barklow's landscape. Shrubs with the capacity to reach 12-feet were placed in front of windows along with the width of the plants reaching 8-feet where planted 4-feet apart. Japanese Maples that require morning sun were showing severe sun burn from baking in the afternoon heat.

Once the front was critiqued there was only one plant that was in the right place. What makes this even sadder is the design was originally done by a professional landscape company. This type of landscape requires a lot of pruning maintenance and the stressed growing environment encourages pests. Scale on the Pittosporum was examined closely by the students. Ann is looking forward to using her knowledge gained as a Master Gardener to redesign the front landscape correctly over time.

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The lawn was gently described by Janet as “A variety of plant material,” as we stood amongst the clover, and various other weed collections. Ann often calls it her “Mixed Media Lawn” which is green but much to her husband’s dismay, it is also green with weeds in the winter months. “We could be the only lawn in our community that actually needs mowing in the winter and we don’t over seed,” Ann enthused. Discussions on compaction from her two black labs and shading from their trees along with their desire to keep it herbicide free has accounted for the mixture of weeds. One student asked: “What kind of grass is it.” which James Hodges replied: “Depends on where you are standing.”

“What kind of grass is it?” which James Hodges replied: “Depends on where you are standing.”

I think fun was had by all as we learned and laughed about our landscape misfortunes. After enjoying the Barklow’s raised bed vegetable garden in the back yard and examining squash vine borer damage, strawberry rootworm on strawberries and watching Ann feed her worms as she de-



Backyard Vegetable Garden

scribed her worm towers we moved to the pool area for homemade chocolate chip cookies, fruit, and drinks.

If you would like to offer your landscape for a clinic this September or teach any upcoming clinics, please contact- Janet at 374-7781 or thequeenofseaford@gmail.com Ann 344-0120 or annbarklow@embarqmail.com

MY MOTHER’S 85TH BIRTHDAY GIFT

By Cathie Swindell

On my Mother’s 80th Birthday our gift to her was a surprise family trip to the mountains of North Carolina. We rented a beautiful cabin in Sevierville and our entire family spent a lovely four days with the spot light on her.

After realizing that five years had already rushed by and that this would be her 85th birthday, my daughters and I decided, rather than surprising her again, to ask her what she wanted to do this year for her birthday. My Mother has become quite a home-body and decided that she would like to have the family gather right here in Greenwood rather than having to do any traveling.

Since we would not be spending money on a cabin or hotel rooms, we asked her what gift she would like. Her first reply was “a tiller”. Of course my daughter and I looked at each other in dismay and asked her, “What in the world would you do with a tiller?” Well, she replied, “I want to have a vegetable garden”. *(My Mother has, to my knowledge, never had a vegetable garden – a few potted tomatoes, yes – but not a real, honest to goodness garden)!*

We reminded her of how much work is entailed in maintaining a garden. We spoke to her about how hot it had already been this year, even in the winter! I cautiously mentioned to her that, even though her health issues are minimal for her age, she would never be able to get down on her hands and knees or even bend over to do the weeding.

Since I live all the way on the other side of Greenwood from her, I would only be able to give her a small amount of help. *(I do plant a bed of flowers for her for Mother’s Day every year, which she tends without fail. I also have done a lot of gardening for her and even created a Meditation Garden for her a few years back).* Having heard our entire spiel, though, she was totally unconvinced! She still longed for a garden and she insisted that was her birthday wish.

So, we thought and racked our brain for some practical garden ideas to fulfill her wish. My daughter, Julie, was the first to offer the suggestion of a raised bed. Of course, I thought! *(I should have been the first to think of that idea, especially since Vince had just completed his Raised Bed Garden presentation just a month or so prior to this birthday pow-wow)!!*

I am convinced that our investment has already paid off, in spades !

I quickly went online and searched “Garden Ideas for Senior Citizens”. Sure enough, one of the very first sites that I found was “Raised

Beds for Seniors”. There were photos of a great many designs, but to my disappointment, many of them were still not practical enough for her to maintain.

My next search was “Tall Raised Beds for Seniors” and low and behold, several sites with photos, directions for construction, what soil to use, what to use for drainage, what plants to use, the therapeutic health benefits that a raised bed garden offers to seniors, etc., etc., presented themselves. PERFECT!!

Continued p. 11



Construction Complete

Over the next couple of weeks I and my husband, George, went to the drawing board. We decided to construct two, 8' L x 4' W x 30" (table height) beds using treated wood. We used 2" x 8" x 10" boards stacked three high with 4" x 4" x 30" posts at the corners to screw the boards on to. We used one more post in the middle of the 8' lengths, on each side, for strength. We cut 8' x 10" boards in half to use for the ends. We used about 8 inches of drainage gravel on top of a double layer of weed block. George even drilled two drainage holes per bed (on the down-slope sides) and lined them with PVC pipes. We filled the rest of the beds with a combination of organic soil and canadian peat moss.

These raised beds were, by no means, inexpensive, but my entire family chipped in to spread the expense evenly amongst us. I am convinced that our investment has already paid off, in spades (excuse the pun)!



Mom Tending Her Garden



Planted and Growing

The day before her birthday, my daughter, Julie, her two girls and I helped her plant her garden. She has been enjoying them so much that I decided to share with you photos of my mother and her garden beds. We've been very grateful for all of the rain that we've been having. However, when she does have to water, she does so in the early morning. We plan to plant a winter garden as well and hope that many more gardens will give her joy and good health for years to come!



The Family Gathers for Mom's Birthday

Bylaw Committee

By Ann Barklow
LMGA President

Bylaws are the ruling documents of our organization. They are critical, because they tell the board how to conduct its business. Bylaws should set forth the basic structure and abilities of the board. They create a framework for the organization. An annual review of the bylaws is standard for many organizations to be sure they are being followed and they have not become outdated. Every 5 years it is often recommended that an organization set up a committee to review them closely as an organization evolves. It has been 11 years since ours have been reviewed.

We have set up an ad hoc Bylaw committee to review and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. If any changes are to be recommended it will need to have approval with a 2/3 vote of a meeting of our members which will be announced in advance.

Please Welcome Your Bylaw Committee

Kathryn White- 1998 class and founder of the LMGA
Chris Jayne 1998 class and President in 2001 when bylaws were amended
Steve Tabor- Class of 2009
Sue Monaghan- Class of 2009
Chuck Bender -Class of 2007 and Current Treasurer LMGA
Ann Barklow - Class 2010 and Current President of LMGA
Doug Crawford - Class of 2011 and Current Facebook Chair
Sandra Johnson - Class of 2005 and Current Chair for Projects LMGA

Please let me know if you have any concerns or bylaw topics you would like us to discuss. You can find our current bylaws easily on our website to review or I can send you a copy. Please give me your feedback. annbarklow@embarqmail.com or 864-344-0120.

To access the bylaws first go to our website <http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/>

On the left hand side click on **Members Only**

You will then be asked to provide a

User Name

Password

(Those LMG members receiving this newsletter by email, the user name and password are in the email.)

Then click on: Master Gardener Information Directory and Bylaws/Articles 2011

Scroll until you find the bylaws.

Here is a few topics for discussion:

- Increasing the size of the board of directors to include more than the officers
- Changing the amount of board meetings required a year so we don't so easily fall into non compliance (it is now monthly in the bylaws)
- Start having monthly membership meetings as is stipulated in current bylaws or change bylaws to reflect

THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2012

President- Ann Barklow

Vice President– vacant

Treasurer- Chuck Bender

Secretary- Sandy Orr

Past President- Jimmy McInville, Patti Larson

Clemson Advisor- James Hodges

Community Projects– Sandra Johnson & Charlotte Cabri

Education Co-Chair- Linda Halsey and Helen Spiller

Finance and Fund Raising– Julee Marshall

Membership– vacant **Co chair-**Linda Halsey (hours)

Newsletter– Janet Ledebuhr

Phone-Priscilla Ellis

Programs and Speakers– Susanne Bender

Media – (3 chairs)- Catherine Swindell (PR) Doug Crawford (Facebook) Web– vacant

Social– Ann Stoddard

Office- Vince Plotczyk

Topiary - Nancy Collins

Lakeland 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 Patti. Please *Print* Information the way you would like it to appear on your name badge

Master Gardener Name Badge Information			
Last Name		First Name	
County		Year Graduated From Master Gardener Training Course	

Cost: \$10/badge Cash or Check accepted
 Make Checks payable to: Lakelands Master Gardeners *Remit Payment and Order Form together to:*
Patti Larson
325 Nautical Way
Greenwood, SC 29649
 Questions, please e-mail Patti Larson: greenwood_patti@yahoo.com or call 554-1600



It's that time of year again that we begin our annual Membership Drive!!!!!!
 You will find the **Membership Renewal Form** in this copy of the Thymes.
 Please take a few moments and complete it and send to Chuck Bender...his address is on the form.
Once again THANKS so much for renewing your 2013 Membership

☹ **Missing a newsletter?** Looking for an earlier edition? All of our newsletters can be found at our website at— <http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/newslet2012.html>

This Association shall be operated for the growth and development of its members and for the following purposes:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharing horticultural information and guidance with South Carolina residents based on research specific to the local climate, soils, and plants; 2. Volunteering time to assist the Extension Service in meeting the demand for reliable gardening information; 3. Providing volunteer service to improve our communities through a wide variety of horticultural projects; 4. Promoting the training of Master Gardeners and keeping Master Gardeners active in service; | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Encouraging interest in gardening by all citizens; 6. Encouraging the utilization of all resources for better gardening, including the Department of Agriculture and Clemson University Extension Service; 7. Encouraging local environmental beautification and preservation; and 8. Helping those less fortunate prosper from the benefits of horticulture. |
|---|---|



Lakelands Master Gardener Association

2013 Membership Renewal

Check one: Renewal Lifetime Member Update New Member/Transfer

Please renew your MG membership by completing this form and paying your dues for the coming year. Members who pay dues by October 15th will be included in the Lakelands Master Gardener Association Membership Directory and will receive uninterrupted membership benefits. Lifetime Members please update your contact info and indicate your interests for the coming year.

Master Gardener Membership Dues: (Select your Membership Category by checking)

- Individual, 59 years old and under \$ 15
Individual, 60+ years old \$ 10
Married couple, 59 and under \$ 20
Married couple, 60+ \$ 15
Individual, Lifetime Membership \$ 125

Make your check payable to Lakelands Master Gardener Association and mail to:

Chuck Bender
108 Inlet Pt.
Cross Hill, SC 29332

Membership dues are due by October 15th of each year.

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Phone# - Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Year Graduated MG Program: _____ Transfer? (Y/N) _____ From: _____

- Check here if you do not wish to be listed in the directory.
Special Instructions for publishing personal data in directory:

Please indicate the committee(s) you are interested in working with: (Number from most important to least important)

- Community Projects, Education, Face Book Page, Fund Raising, Phone, Membership, Clemson Ext office, Newsletter, Programs & Speakers, Public Relations, Public Relations, Web Site, Social Activities, FOF Topiary Work

Suggested topics/activities for the meetings or continuing education: