



Master Gardener Thymes



WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

August 2013

President's Message

By Ann Barklow



I LOVE my drip system! I really haven't had it on much because of all of the rain, but now that it is a bit drier I haven't had to hand water my vegetable garden all summer. Drip systems can be a bit expensive but it is worth it for me. I work outside all day and when I get home I only want to spend time harvesting, swimming, or relaxing in my air conditioning. I also leave for work at 6:00 am so that prevents me from hand watering in the morning hours. If you are interested in a good internet source for Drip Systems check out [Drip Works](#). They often offer free shipping and since it comes from California this is a good deal. If you want to check out my system just let me know.

I had a bit of an adventure in my cut flower garden yesterday evening with a very large black Rat Snake [Elaphe obsoleta](#) getting caught in my bird netting. The next time I use bird netting for a trellis for my sweet peas I promised the poor guy I would keep it off the ground. How he got so stuck in it I will never know. I had done my research previously, so I knew he wasn't poisonous. I promptly put on my gloves and grabbed some scissors to try and free him. Even though he wasn't poisonous, I knew he could bite me and since I had to hold on to him tightly at times because the netting needed to be cut right up against his skin, I needed to protect myself. I was also, afraid he would jerk and I would stab him by accident. At one point I got a feeling he knew I was trying to help him and he became very calm. I suppose after about 10 minutes of this delicate operation he must have known if I was out to hurt him, I would have already. The sun was almost set so I was a bit pressed for time, even though I knew my husband would have held the flashlight for me. I am blessed to be married to a man that doesn't grab the nearest shovel to kill snakes. Of course, I have extended my snake knowledge to him over the years. After Mr. Rat Snake was totally free from the netting he stayed a bit and stared up at me. I told him he was welcome. I often think education over the years about snakes, helped me to be calm and fearless in

my rescue. I often say, education is power. Once we learn how beneficial these snakes are, in particular to farmers, we can respond in a way to preserve them.

Speaking of education, this is my favorite part of being a LMG! The class will be starting up on Tuesday, August 20. Please consider one or more of these two volunteer and hour opportunities. All the **Tuesday Night Classes** need two LMG's to help James. Checking people off, handing them their graded tests, giving them any handouts and other activities helps James focus on his teaching and also lets the new class get to know us. This is a great way to get your hours and dinner too!

Mentoring is another opportunity that will be coming up. You don't need to know a lot about gardening to mentor. Your job is to make the student you mentor feel welcome and to help them get their hours. Invite them to work days, programs, meetings, and socials. Meet them at these events or pick them up and introduce them to others. We might want to call it plain old "Hospitality". They will need to know about getting their hours and if you don't know you can send them to Linda Halsey for the answer. I often don't know what constitutes for hours but Linda and James always do. This in particular is a good job for the latest graduating class even though they are not full fledge MG's they are more in tune with what the new students need to know. Remember, our stories and experiences are of the utmost help to them. To sign up for the **Classes**, or to be a **Mentor** please contact [Linda Halsey](#) right away. I will hold a mentor/intern orientation meeting to help you also and to introduce you to our intern at one of the September classes. There is an article about mentoring in the newsletter, along with other great informative articles and if you didn't make the Membership Meeting you can

Dates to Remember:

- AUG. 8TH BOARD MEETING 4:30 PM LIBRARY
- AUG. 15TH PERMACULTURE PRESENTATION (SEE PAGE 5)
- SEPT. 12TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:00 PM SPEAKER, PANEL DISCUSSION 6:30 PM LIBRARY
- OCT. 10TH BOARD MEETING 4:30 PM CLEMSON OFFICE
- NOV. 14TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:00 PM SPEAKER, PANEL DISCUSSION 6:30 PM LIBRARY
- DEC. 12TH MEMBER SOCIAL 6:30 PM GMD
- 2014 PLANT SALE APRIL 11 & 12TH

read the minutes to stay up to date with what is going on with our great organization. Special thanks to our secretary, Steve Tabor for keeping all our minutes.

I want to also give thanks to the members that drop by plants, cuttings, and seeds to the City of Greenwood Greenhouse. We cherish every plant and I label them with your names on them. We always find homes for them in our many landscape areas. If you would like to drop any plant off, the Greenhouse is on Phoenix near Fair Ave. The gates are open from 7 am to 3 pm Monday thru Friday and if we are not there you can leave them with a note. If you want to hand any plant material off to us personally just give me a call or bring it to a meeting. 344-0120.

Now relax with a glass of ice tea and enjoy our newsletter and keep up with the latest with the Lakelands Master Gardener.

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.

Meeting Highlights

By Steve Tabor, Secretary



The following are the highlights of the membership meeting held on July 18, 2013. Full minutes can be found on LMG's website. To gain entry to the membership area of LMG's website- see the body of the email to which the newsletter was attached.

The Treasurer report was presented and that is also available online in our members only section.

Sarah Carroll and Ginny Wilson will co-chair the 2014 plant sale, which is currently scheduled for April 11 and 12, 2014.

The South Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson University suffered substantial, uninsured losses as a result of the recent storms. The Garden is seeking volunteers to help in the cleanup.

Volunteer workdays are Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. until Noon, through the end of July.

LMG will replant pots and freshen up the water feature area for the Greenwood Metropolitan District. GMD will pay for the plants.

The Clemson Extension office needs volunteers. The new Master Gardener class begins on August 20, 2013. Linda Halsey will speak at the informational meeting on Tuesday, July 30, 2013 at 6:00 PM.

Information/Registration Meeting

By Ann Barklow

I can only say "What s blast" the master gardener information meeting was Tuesday night. Thirteen LMG's showed up to greet and encourage the 20 anxious prospective new students. If any of them were on the fence they weren't when they left. The stories the LMG's shared about their experience before and after taking the class were hilarious along with hopeful and encouraging to the new class. James commented when it was all over that the master gardeners sold the class.

James repeated the slide show from the annual meeting that showed a few historic projects and our full schedule of projects in the past year.

It truly demonstrated what a strong presence we have in the community along with the friendships and fun we have.

James explained that no one knows everything but we learn where to find the answers. He spoke highly of many of our projects and educational outreach such as the Ask The Master Gardener booths and the Landscape Diagnostic Clinics.

That is what we are all about. Helping James reach more people in our community with research based gardening information.

Do I need to say anything about the food we provided for this event? It's an amazing group. Thanks to all if you that helped make this meeting a HUGE success.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Our co-chairs for Community Projects, Paddy Huff and Sue Monaghan would like to invite you to join their committee if you are not already on there. This is important because only those signed up with the Projects Committee will get notified of our fun and rewarding community and topiary work. Please let either Sue suemona@nctv.com or Paddy paddyhuff30@gmail.com know if you would like to be on their contact list. Even if you can't make it to all of the opportunities you should still be on their list if that is an area you want to help with. Warning: If you do sign up, you will have to work with some of these lively members!



Mentors-The Gift of Giving

by Ann Barklow

Have you ever had a mentor? There is something very special about them. I had one when I became a horticulturist, one when I became an arborist, and one when I became an artist. Don't know how to mentor or feel unqualified? The only qualification you need is to be a Master Gardener or Master Gardener Intern. You don't need to be an expert in gardening and you don't need to have the answer to every question. You only need to be a supportive friend and help them get started. As soon as all our students have mentors I will have a "Meet your Mentor" night at one of the classes. Before you meet your student we will discuss how to mentor your eager new prospect. Don't miss out on this rewarding opportunity. Your generosity is so appreciated!

Lakelands Master Gardeners have had a mentoring system in place since it's beginning. Master Gardener, Kathryn White who started the LMG program in 1998 explained: "It is like a Big Sister or Big Brother program for

gardeners." Many remember Kathryn because she teaches the design portion of the Master Gardener Class and was the extension agent before James. She emphasized the Mentor Program as critical for the new interns to guide them into discovering the joy of being an active master gardener.

Everyone knows the feeling of being an intern, dizzy from long weeks of learning, only to be set out on your own to "Get Your Hours". A mentor takes the lead and gets in touch with their intern while they are at the beginning stages of their classes. They offer to pick them up for meetings, events and projects. "Figuring out what constitutes for hours can be baffling," said Kathryn, "a mentor takes the guess work out of it for them."

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to mentor one of our new students. This counts for hours too. Call Linda Halsey at 864-378-8496 or halseyfarm@embarqmail.com

In the beginning of September, she will match you with a student. Sometimes you are the only familiar face they will see at workdays and meetings. Thank you in advance for welcoming our new students and getting them off to a positive start.



Nancy Collin on the left mentor to Sue Monaghan who in turn mentored Beth Osteen

NOTICE :

Do you can your bounty from the garden? Do you have extra goodies from your canning this summer? Or are you looking for some home-made jams, jellies or preserves? As the newsletter editor I have been approached by one of our Master Gardeners who has extra and is offering it to sell to the LMG. If you are interested in also offering some of your wares, let me know at thequeenofseaford@gmail.com and I will maintain a list.

If you are interested in seeing what is offered, email me and I will let you know who is selling and what they are selling.



CICADA KILLERS!

by Ann Barklow

I have no idea why nature intrigues me the way it does. This big fellow can't help but get your attention.

Since I spend a lot of time in the Uptown tending plants and in June/July the Topiaries I couldn't help notice a large wasp (1-1/2 inch long) hovering in the squares, in particular the Seahorse square. These harmless wasps are known as Cicada Killer Wasps. The frequent patrons of the Uptown Businesses and the Business owners themselves are a bit intimidated by them. We educate everyone we can when we are out there that they, like many wasps are beneficial and great predators. The University of Kentucky has a great [article and pictures](#) of this large wasp.

I was amazed at how much soil they can displace (as much as 2 pounds!) as they build their tunnel-like chambers. They love sandy soil which is what we have in the squares and nearby concrete areas. They also will only nest where there are cicadas in nearby trees. The Uptown Greenwood has the perfect habitat for them. The female paralyzes the cicada and brings it into the nest, inserting a cicada in each of the approximately 16 chambers. She then lays her egg in the cicada and when it hatches it will feed on the live cicada.

The female has a stinger but would only use it if her life seemed threatened. The male often hovers near me when I'm in the nest area trying to intimidate me but since I know he doesn't have a stinger it doesn't work. Next time you are Uptown, check out the planted squares in front of the businesses and see if you can't find these amazing Cicada Killers. Hopefully, I will have swept up the soil by the time you come by.



Organic Fire Ant Control

by Ann Barklow

With all these rains the fire ants mounds are much more obvious. As the soil gets damp they bring their nests up above the surface for oxygen. I have enjoyed reading about fire ant control, from predators that make their heads fall off, to grits that will make them explode. I would love it if grits really worked because exploding fire ants is a vision that makes me smile but it is ineffective because ants can't eat solid food. They instead take it to the larva and have them convert it to liquid to spread through the colony. That is why any ant bait is slow to work. Ideally that is what you want, so the workers don't die before taking the substance back to the nest.

It is somewhat comforting to me to know that you will never totally eliminate fire ants but you can keep them under control. That way I don't get frustrated when I see another mound. The [University of Mississippi](#) recommends treating your environment three times a year and using the holidays of Easter, Independence Day, and Labor Day to remind you to treat. The fall treatment is an important one for keeping the populations down for the following spring. I know myself and the likelihood of treating my entire lawn is probably not going to happen. I'm content to just treat the mounds as they appear and always early morning or late afternoon when they are foraging.

I've been using [Come and Get It](#) with Spinosad, which is a

soil microorganism that affects their nervous system but have recently learned that the inert ingredients are non organic. The next bait I will buy will be a certified organic product from Green Light called [Fire Ant Control with Conserve](#). There is also a product with d-Limonene (an orange peel product) and Spinosad by Safer but has been out of stock when I searched for it. I know pouring boiling water on the mound works but that takes boiling the water, caution to not scald myself or my dogs, damage to roots and plants and the thought of burning alive has never appealed to me so I will stick with my granular baits.

Clemson [HGIC Bulletin 1263](#) has a good list of fire ant baits and drenches that you can use in vegetable gardens. This doesn't mean they are all organic just that they are labeled for use around vegetables.

I know some of you are interested in the history of fire ant control and believe it or not, NC Cooperative Extension has compiled that information entitled [Museum of Novel Fire Ant Control Products](#). Everyone should know about the Ant Stomper, Queen Smasher and the Anster. If that isn't interesting there is always the Solar Ant Charmer or Ant Boots. I now feel I know more about Fire Ant Control than one should ever know.

Enchanted Elderberry, or Have Respect for Your Elders!

Reprinted with permission from 'Pause for Plants' by Jan Haldeman

Elderberries have been bloom along roadsides. Their blossoms spread across the bushes like white lace doilies. Do you remember infamous poison-laced elderberry wine that was used to put lonely gentlemen out of their misery by little old ladies in the comedy, "Arsenic and Old Lace"? Did "old lace" refer to the ladies, the "laced" wine, or the appearance of elderberry blossoms? Who knows?



Many tiny white flowers form a large more or less flat-topped blossom known botanically as a cyme. Each flower is "complete" with five sepals, five petals, five stamens that produce pollen, and one pistil that produces eggs. And as complete flowers they are also "perfect" because both male and female parts are present. Incomplete flowers lacking sepals or petals, can still be perfect as long as both male and female structures are present!



Bushes in the low country are most likely already in fruit, and, botanically speaking each fruit is a drupe! Other familiar examples of drupes are cherries, peaches, and olives, fruits that have a single seed surrounded by the fleshy part that developed from the flower's ovary.

Elderberry is in the honeysuckle family, Caprifoliaceae, whose Greek root words mean "goat leaves." That makes sense for most honeysuckles, with undivided (simple) leaves in twos arranged opposite one another on the stem, and shaped sort of like goat's ears! Leaves of elderberry also have opposite arrangement, but they are compound leaves, with the green blade divided into smaller leaflets not resembling goat's ears! Their leaves actually resemble somewhat those of an ash tree.

All Master Gardeners in your county are invited to attend the Laurens County Master Gardener meeting on August 15th when we will be fortunate enough to have Eliza Anne Lord and Nathaniel Lord giving a presentation on Permaculture (the ultimate in sustainability). The meeting is at the Joe R Adair Outdoor Education Center, 110 Scout Creek Court, Laurens, SC at 6:30 p.m.

If you do not already know the Lords, below is some information about them.—

Eliza Anne:

Born in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains, Eliza A. H. Lord's roots in this area go back for generations. She's a SC Master Gardener (2001) and Upstate SC Master Naturalist (2007). For the last two years, her downtown Greenville, SC urban farm has been a highlight of the Greenville Urban Farm Tour with its lawn-free edible landscaping, chickens, mushrooms, and bees. In addition to consulting, teaching classes, and writing for various publications, Eliza and her husband also maintain a

The botanical name of our native "common elderberry" is *Sambucus canadensis*. *Sambucus* comes from the Greek word *sambuke*, an ancient stringed instrument made from elderwood! It ranges throughout North America. Our elderberry may also be classified as a subspecies of European black elder *Sambucus nigra* and is thus named *Sambucus nigra* subspecies *canadensis*. As for the common name, "elder" is said to be derived from an Anglo-Saxon word *aeld* meaning "fire." Mythology tells of the firey Elderberry Goddess who embodied the spirit or spark of life! Fairyland is also known as *Eld* in Celtic lore, which says that you may see a fairy procession if you sit under an elder tree when the berries are ripe! Guess this is the "enchanted" part!

In the video "Edible Wild Plants: Natural Health Video Series," botanist Jim Meuninck features fresh elderberry flowers fried into pancakes, and berries made into a sticky taffy-like candy.

Stems of elderberry have been fashioned into whistles, bean shooters and popguns! Here's an Oklahoma winery site where instructions for popguns are provided, and elderberry is extolled as "the medicine chest of the common man"!

<http://www.nuyakacreek.com/elderberry.htm> .

And recently, an antiviral extract of elderberry, Sambucol, has demonstrated in clinical trials to be an effective treatment for flu.

Elderberry grows well in low places, like roadsides ditches. It is a shrub that can be 30 feet high. The European elder grows taller. There are some really nice horticultural varieties available for landscaping, including one with blue berries and one with purple leaves. Elderberries are perennials hardy to Zone 3, whose stems die back in winter and sprout out again each spring. Apparently they will remain evergreen in South Florida. So, do have respect for your "Elders"!



Permaculture "how-to" blog called Appalachian Feet. <http://www.appalachianfeet.com/>

Nathaniel:

Originally from Vermont, Nathaniel has lived in the Carolinas for the last 5 years. He is a fungi enthusiast (and a fun guy) who both grows and forages edible mushrooms. Nathaniel resides at an urban farm in downtown Greenville, SC where he and his wife raise chickens and bees alongside an extensive perennial and annual edible garden. He loves to combine his mushroom growing hobby with the soil-amending Permaculture practice of hugelkultur. He's also talented at fermenting sauerkraut, kimchi, and home-brewed beer.

Eliza Anne and Nathaniel are both furthering their education in Permaculture design. They are the founders of the SC Upstate Permaculture Society.

Save the date



Save the date

May 2, 2014

State Master Gardener Jamboree

Saluda Shoals Park
5605 River Road, Columbia, SC 29212

<http://www.icrc.net/parks/saluda-shoals.aspx>

8:30a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**WELCOME ALL MASTER GARDENERS AND
THEIR GUESTS**

Cost \$50.00 each

On-line registration: www.scjamboree.org

Or mail registration form with check to:

LCMGV-PO Box 714

Lexington, SC 29072

Dr. James Blake, Welcome Speaker

•9 Interactive Workshops with take home projects

*Picnic Lunch

Hosted by Lexington County Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

More information to follow:

Questions: Contact Helen Rivers

Riversh1@aol.com

(803) 356-6695

Healthy Greenwood Neighborhoods and Eat Smart Move More Greenwood County is pleased to welcome five new community gardens to the Community Garden Program



"Deserts to Gardens"

Gray Street Garden -
Manage by Ms. Renea Little



The Salvation Army Community Garden - Man-
aged by Major Cedric William "Bill" McClure



Pearl Street Garden - Managed by Calvin
Simpkins and David Belcher



Louis' Garden (NHC Healthcare) - Managed
by Beth Weir and Louis



The Children's Garden (Bowers Rodgers Children's
Home) - Managed by Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges



Landscape Diagnostic Clinic A Big Success!

By Janet Ledebuhr

The most recent LDC was well attended by the residents in Harborside. Our homeowner went the extra mile and sent a brief summary of what we found during the walk through in her yard. The attendees came with questions and plant material to be identified. Topics included azalea lacebugs, scale on holly shrubs and proper pruning to correct deer damage. Many thanks to Chuck Bender and Beth Osteen for their assistance during the clinic. This group of homeowners is asking for a pruning clinic to be held in the winter, they are eager to learn!



We have one more clinic scheduled for September. If you are interested in helping, please let me know. thequeenofseaford@gmail.com

Getting to the Root of the Matter- ROOT CUTTINGS

- Sandy Orr



Being inordinately cheap, I love the art of propagating plants in all its manifestations. I sow seeds, take cuttings at all stages (soft, semi-hard, and hard), air layer, and layer plants. But I'd overlooked a wonderful opportunity to multiply my pet plants. Imagine my excitement to see a YouTube video of Carol Klein in her potting shed mid-summer, taking root cuttings, and having them quickly produce plants. (With the help of time lapse photography). Leaping into action, in mid-July, I grabbed my clippers and spade to attack my cardoons, angelica gigas (archangel), acanthus mollis (Bear's breeches), and persicaria polymorpha (giant fleecflower), all plants that have fat tuberous roots. It seemed that these fat fingery roots would have the best chance of giving me quick results. I cut the roots into 1 inch lengths, maintaining their polarity so that I knew which end needed to be up in the planting tray. The trays were placed in a shady spot that's hit by irrigation. Indeed, at the end of July, most of them have green shoots coming off the fat brown stubby root cuttings. Some are still sub-soil, but others are emerging. With this kind of success rate, my landscape plan will have to be revamped. It makes me want to test the limits of how far you can cut a plant's root system without knocking it back too much. The picture above is of a cardoon emerging from its basal stalk, after having flowered and been cut down. The boxwood cuttings surrounding it are simply stuck in the ground and rooted in place.



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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.

LAKELAND MASTER GARDENERS

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

Cost: \$10/badge
Cash or Check accepted
Make Checks payable to: Lakelands Master Gardeners
Remit Payment and Order Form together to:
Chuck Bender
998-3123
108 Inlet Point
Cross Hill, SC 29332



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THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2012

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