

# Master Gardener Thymes



#### WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

December 2012

# **President's Message**

By Ann Barklow
Well I have just nestled into my writing chair with a sweet
Labrador on my foot chewing on a bone while I sip on my hot apple cinnamon tea sweetened with
Manzanita honey from the California
Bee Company. I can occasionally hear a sigh from the sun



room while my husband works on his Trigonometry homework as he pursues the amazing task of an AA degree majoring in heating and air conditioning at Piedmont Tech. I think we both still have that seemingly inexhaustible energy that we brought with us from California. I had hopes the southern lifestyle could slow us down, but apparently it will take some time.

I spent the brisk afternoon cleaning up my garden after last night's 28 degree temperature finally killed my bell peppers, eggplant, green beans, and squash in one fell swoop. Harvesting summer vegetables until Thanksgiving weekend was a big deal to me. I love southern vegetable gardening. It can be challenging at times but it has won my heart. So much so, that my hard studying husband announced that he is increasing my raised bed gardens for a Christmas present! That is a better than a diamond necklace for this gal. When we met, I told him I was low maintenance but I now think a trip to the jewelry store would probably be easier than the labor of love he is about to undertake.

I have had a little reprieve from many master gardener duties as it cools down and we are busy with the holidays. I had the distinct honor of handing out the intern badges to our new set of students on November 13 after they passed their final exam, effortlessly. I am pleased to announce we had 14 graduates! They are an amazingly energetic group of students and I suspect we will be seeing a lot of them in the upcoming months so please join me in welcoming them.

James Hodges and I demonstrated pruning together after the exam. There were a lot of laughs and that is what makes James so successful as an instructor...his sense of humor along with his unprecedented years of experience and knowledge.

We are still finishing up the bylaws. Only three master gardeners had comments, the rest are probably still Continued p. 2 MESSAGE

### Dates to Remember:

- DECEMBER 7th 11 AM ARBOR
   DAY SPEAKER USC UPSTATE
- DECEMBER 13TH, CHRISTMAS PARTY GREENWOOD METRO DIS-TRICT 6:30 PM
- Feb. 2nd Greenville Master Gardener symposium 8 am

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

# LMG General Membership Meeting Minutes

Ann Barklow called the meeting to order at 6 PM. There were 29 members present. She shared the information that was available on the table in the back of the room

- Copper barriers to use for slug control
- Information about winter sowing. They have a Facebook page and a website- <u>Wintersown.org</u>
- Information on the motion sensor sprinklers for deer deterrence.
- Territorial seed catalog available
- Name tags for plants using mini-blinds

Steve Tabor was asked to discuss the By-law revisions dealing with the organization becoming incorporated. The revisions are reviewable now and will be going before the board to be voted upon soon. We will become a 501c3 incorporated organization. Currently we are unincorporated and liability issues are a concern. Incorporation protects the members. There is tax-exempt status with this incorporation. Many MG units across the state are already incorporated.

Janet talked about the newsletter and many members brought up how great it was and what a good job she is doing. Janet passed around a signup sheet for suggestions on topics.

Each Master Gardener stood and introduced her/himself.

#### con't p. 1 MESSAGE

sleeping after trying to get though all the "legalese" and length of this document. I appreciate the feedback and we will discuss as we get ready to gain the approval from the board to proceed with it along with any adjustments we might make.

The Veterans Garden was completed on Veterans Day thanks to the many LMG's that came and helped. Thank you to Patti Larson and Paddy Huff for organizing and supervising this great project.

I'm looking forward to our Christmas Party on the 13th of this month. Due to budget cuts we are not providing a main course but instead will encourage our members to bring their favorite dishes and any finger foods and desserts they would like. We will provide beverages and this will be held at our usual location, the Greenwood Metropolitan District office. See you there!

#### Con't. p 1 MINUTES

Linda Halsey talked about the hours we volunteer and how important it is to report those hours. Equally important is to include your mileage when you go to a volunteer event.

Plant Sale chairs Sarah Carroll and Ginny Wilson were introduced. They are asking for each LMG to donate 12 plants (with labels) for the plant sale as it is our fund raiser.

Membership- Patti Larson and Chuck Bender reported we are at about 80% of renewed memberships. Hoping more folks renew their Master Gardener status.

Education- Patti Larson reported there are 14 students who will graduate from this current class after this upcoming exam. Many are already volunteering in projects. Community Projects- Paddy Huff and Patti Larson reported -

- They went to Westside Community Garden. This group wants a design and Sandy Orr will be drawing one up for them.
- 11 November 12:30 PM Veteran's Center garden planting will occur. There is a dedication at 1 PM and a parade at 2 PM. The drip irrigation will be installed after the planting.

Social committee chair Ann Stoddard reported the Christmas Social will be hors d'oeuvres, finger food at Greenwood Metro District, beginning at 6:30 PM.

Nominating committee – Patti Larson reported the nominating committee is hoping to have voting occur in February for the two positions available- Secretary and Vice-President.

Public Relations- Cathie Swindell has nothing to report. Web page- Chuck Bender is working on the webpage. Paddy Huff wanted everyone to remember that the turn in date for the Abbeville Clemson Extension tree order is Monday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM.

Meeting adjourned and speaker program began at 6:30 PM.

# You know you are a Master Gardener if:

- You deadhead plants at parties.
- You look at milk jugs as mini greenhouses
- Old mini blinds double as plant tags
- You take more pictures of bugs than family members
- You identify plants on your favorite TV show
- Your idea of going out is visiting the garden section of Lowes.
- You tell your doctor's office that you don't trust them because their plants are dying.

This is a fun new column we will run each month— how do YOU know you are a gardener?? Send in your contributions by the 25th of each month.

At the last general membership meeting I asked for some ideas of what people would like to see in the newsletter. The column above and below are two new ongoing columns. Please email me your contributions to either column OR ideas of new topics for our Lakelands Master Gardener newsletter. gueenofseaford@yahoo.com

# <u>Fragrant Plants in the</u> <u>Landscape</u>

Each month we will list those plants blooming, offering their lovely fragrance on the breezes. You can have something blooming and fragrant year round in your garden.

#### November—

- Osmanthus fragrans, Tea Olive
- Viola x wittrockiana 'Cool Wave' Trailing pansies
- Rosmarinus officinalis , Rosemary

Do you have something fragrantly blooming now? Share your information to add to the newsletter.

### Masters of the Garden

LMG members in the Spotlight



By Sandy Orr

#### **ANN STODDARD**

Ann has graciously served as the Social Committee Chair for the past year, and inspires us all with her ability to arrange large LMG parties seemingly effortlessly. It's not surprising that she loves to cook and has a variety of herbs, tomatoes, and peppers, growing in pots on her deck in Belle Meade subdivision. She was led to the Master Gar-

dener program by her mother-in-law and sister-in-law, both Master Gardeners.

An Anderson, SC native, Ann graduated from Clemson, where she met her husband Brian, who is now the District Conservationist for the USDA. Ann studied French and marketing. While useful when shopping the farmer's market for 'Merveille des Quatre Saisons' lettuce, her dream of traveling to France might have to wait until her daughters get a bit older. In the meantime, she enjoys the mountains



around Asheville and Brevard.

Ann is a working mother of two girls, Anna Kathryn, 14 and Madison, who is 11 years old. She works for Greenwood School District 50 where she shadows an autistic student.

Ann likes bulbs, and has a collection of daffodils and iris from various neighbors, friends and family. Her horticulturally savvy husband helps add to her drifts of naturalized bulbs. Hydrangeas, camellias, and azaleas, the Southern Three Amigos, permeate her landscape. She recently added a native hon-

eysuckle and yellow jessamine. One of her favorite LMG classes was a landscape design segment taught by the first President of the LMG, Kathryn White.

Ann not only rescues abandoned bulbs, but also took in her dog Athena, from the Humane Society. She is a 3 ½ year old Labrador/beagle mix. When she has a minute to spare, Ann is an avid reader of mysteries and legal thrillers.

## Volunteer Hours

By Linda Halsey

December 13th, 2012 is the date to remember. Not only are we going to have a great Christmas party, your quarterly hours and miles are due. Once you send them to me, I will send you a completed excel file of what I have listed for you this year. I have found that it is best to keep important documents on more than one computer! Any hours accrued after the 13th will be added to the next quarterly report. Many thanks to all. Linda Halsey <a href="mailto:halseyfarm@embarqmail.com">halseyfarm@embarqmail.com</a>

\*\* 4th quarter volunteer hours spreadsheet is attached to the email with the newsletter.

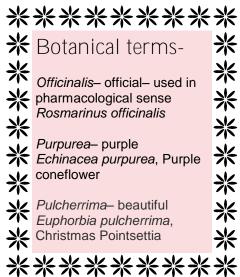
### Hortitopia Symposium 2013

http://www.greatergreenvillemastergardener.org/html/Symposium.htm-February 2 8:00AM—3:45 PM

TD Convention Center, Greenville. Brochure online with more information. Tickets \$60 / \$65 after Dec. 31



Philadelphia Flower Show — opens March 3, 2013— information to follow



# Healthy Greenwood Neighbors Community Gardens

By Lynsey Bock, Seaboard Jardin Maravilloso Community Garden

Did you know that through the support of Healthy Greenwood Neighborhoods that Greenwood County now boasts *eighteen* community gardens? Perhaps you've heard of one- Seaboard Jardin Maravilloso, near uptown and the New Haven area. Or perhaps you've even been there –I've seen several of you, whether lending a hand at a garden work day or showing your support by stopping in for a tour during this year's Festival of Flowers.

This past season, Jardin Maravilloso community garden was awarded a grant from Palmetto Pride, a non-profit that was established to help fight litter in our state and to create a more beautiful South Carolina. The grant has helped us to make a lot of updates to the garden as well as contribute to its sustainability and beautification of the area. Even if you aren't familiar with Palmetto Pride, chances are their vision resonates with you. As master gardeners, you all are certainly accustomed to beautification efforts, whether it's landscaping, growing flowers and herbs, or vegetable gardening. In overgrown flower beds, weed-infested walkways, or a shining sun-filled spot vacant in your backyard, you see potential. You see a challenge.

The ties between gardening and beautification are obvious, but what does gardening have to do with trash? After doing a little research, I've learned that the answer can be a lot. The garden can be a great place to reduce your trash output, expand your recycling efforts, and even save a little money. Here are some tips I've gleaned from friends, blogs, books, and even a little experience:

#### In the garden:

- Old plastic mini blinds: cut these up and use a permanent black marker to make great plant tags.
- 2L bottles: protect your seedlings from squirrels and birds by covering them with cut 2L pop bottles. Then, as the weather gets warmer, cut the top off to create a collar to protect your tomatoes, peppers, etc. as they continue to grow.
- Bookcases: reuse an old bookcase by laying it on its side and removing the backing to create a sectioned raised bed. (You may want to check out the material to make sure it's not damaging to your plants.)
- Election signs: after the election is over, use the wire-framing on the inside as a stand to fasten to or contain plants to as they grow. This works well for edamame, for containing bush beans, etc.
- Old blankets: use your old blankets to wrap around tender plants during cold snaps. Old shower curtain liners will do the trick too and provide good insulation.
- Old pantyhose: cut up those retired pantyhose into strips; they work well as ties because they are gentle on plants. Old shoelaces work for this too!

#### Container gardening:

- Broken clay pots: if one of your pots breaks, don't just toss it in frustration. Chip it up and use it in the bottom of other pots to help with drainage.
- Old tires: by stacking your old tires up, you can create a great place to grow potatoes. Start by seeding potatoes in the bottom tire. As leaves come through they simply filled the next tire up with straw and dirt. In the late summer or fall as you remove the tires, you'll find a column of potatoes at different depths. You can step-by-step directions easily online, but here's a link to get you started: <a href="http://bonzaiaphrodite.com/2009/04/how-to-grow-potatoes-in-tire-towers/">http://bonzaiaphrodite.com/2009/04/how-to-grow-potatoes-in-tire-towers/</a>
- Old rain gutters: attach old rain gutters to the side of a shed to plant things like radishes, lettuces or other plants with shallow root systems.

#### Seed starting, composting, etc.

- CD towers: use old CD towers to store or organize your seeds.
- kitchen blender: use an old blender to blend up your compost before adding it to your pile to decrease total composting time.
- chopsticks: even if you don't know how to use the chopsticks with your take out, it doesn't mean you should toss them. They work well for staking small growing plants, aerating soil in containers and creating holes for planting seeds.

Hopefully these suggestions have either given you some new ideas or have gotten your creative juices flowing in others ways to reduce your trash (or your neighbors when you grab their old bookshelf off the curb!) and grow your garden in new ways. Better yet, if the holiday season has you in a giving spirit, keep those eighteen community gardens in mind, and consider how some of your trash might become their treasure. If you are interested in becoming involved in any of the area community gardens or connecting with one to donate items, you can contact Toni Able of Healthy Greenwood Neighborhoods at healthygreenwoodneighborhoods@gmail.com or by calling (864) 941-3370.

Happy Gardening and Happy Holidays!





# IT'S PARTY TIME!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the LMG Christmas Social. This year's party will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2012 at the Greenwood Metropolitan District at 6:30 pm. This year's format will be somewhat different. We are asking everyone to bring their favorite finger food or dessert. The social committee will be providing drinks only, so there will be no main entree. So bring your favorite dish – finger food, dessert, casserole – your favorite anything- and enjoy an evening with your fellow master gardeners and some delicious food!

#### 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 AdvisorJames Hodges
Community ProjectsPaddy Huff and Patti Larson
Education Co-Chair-

Education Co-Chair-Linda Halsey and Helen Spiller Finance and Fund Rais-

Finance and Fund Raising- Julee Marshall
(plant sale) Sarah Carroll
& Ginny Wilson
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

## **Celebrate Arbor Day**

- USC Upstate will hold its Arbor Day Celebration on Friday December 7<sup>th</sup>. Guest speaker will be Tracy DiSabato-Aust. <a href="http://www.uscupstate.edu/arboretum/Default.aspx?">http://www.uscupstate.edu/arboretum/Default.aspx?</a> id=8362 Tickets \$25
- Additional information on American Chestnut trees are available online at The American Chestnut Foundation- <a href="http://www.acf.org/index.php">http://www.acf.org/index.php</a>
- Read about a recent find in Maine, possibly the tallest American Chestnut in the East Coast.
   The tallest American Chestnut in Maine is a rare discovery, see the link for more information. <a href="http://www.acf.org/">http://www.acf.org/</a> newsletter11.21.12mainetree.php
- Prepare your sight for the trees you ordered from Abbeville Extension Office. I added worm castings and a few worms to the hole in anticipation of my soon to be delivered crabapple trees.

# How to Get Your Backyard Certified as a Wildlife Habitat **How to Get Your Backyard Certified**

Reprinted with permission from Garden Supply http://www.gardeners.com/

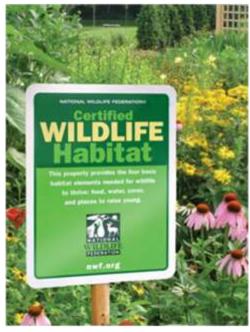
Something wonderful is happening in America's backyards. Homeowners from coast to coast are adding wildlifefriendly features to their yards and gardens. At the forefront For a full explanaof this movement is the National Wildlife Federation and their Backyard Habitat Certification Program. To date, more than 90,000 homeowners have certified their backyards as wildlife-friendly habitats.

These backyard oases play a critical role in helping wildlife survive the pressures of development. The people who create them also get engaged with wildlife in new ways and forge a deeper connection with the natural world.

Getting your backyard certified is relatively easy. You simply need to demonstrate that your yard or garden provides food, water, cover and places to raise young, and that you also employ some sustainable gardening practices. Many people find that their yards and gardens already satisfy most of the requirements, and they simply need to add a few additional elements such as native plants, bird feeders, a small water feature and nesting boxes.

#### Here's How It Works

tion of NWF's **Backvard Habitat** Certification Program, visit the NWF websitewhere you'll also find tips, projects, plant lists and a planner. While you're on the site, you can



The Gardener's Supply display garden was certified as an NWF Wildlife Habitat in 2006.

request an information packet. When you're ready, you can complete the online application form. Once your backyard has been certified, you'll receive a certificate and can also request a sign for your yard, like the one shown in the photo.

#### **Learn More**

If you'd like to learn more about getting your own backyard certified, visit the National Wildlife Federation. Read our how-to article titled Backyard Biodiversity

## Who is in your family bed?

By Janet Ledebuhr

By your family bed I mean your garden bed. Some gardeners have themed gardens, organized by color or fragrance, or plant variety. I have a garden bed that has botanical names that correspond to the members of my family. So far I have Rosa 'Janet' for myself, Clematis 'Princes Charles' for

Charlie (also have a Paeonia 'Charlie's White' but it is struggling so far), Clematis 'Rebecca' for daughter Re-

lematis 'Prince Charles

becca and Paeonia 'Rachel' for daughter Rachel. Rachel was recently married and now I need to get an Alexander for our new member of the family. I have searched the internet for plants that have an 'Alexander' in their name. The final two choices were Golden Alexanders, Zizia

aurea and Hemerocallis 'Alexander the Great'. Yes there is a Paeonia 'Alexander Fleming', however I think the daylily will be a nice addition to the bed. I will have to get one in the spring.

Themed gardens are fun; they give you a parameter

to work within for a special bed. I think the family garden



idea started with finding a small Scilla, a small perennial bulb, with a botanical name of Ledebouria cooperi. That is about as close as one could get to Ledebuhr!! The garden was started! Finding other family names wasn't too hard with the internet at my fingertips. Let your imagination run away with you and plan a garden that is unique to you!

Clematis 'Rebecca

# The Great American Chestnut, Castanea dentata

By Janet Ledebuhr



On November 8th, Dr. Joe James, adjunct professor of Forestry, Clemson University, spoke to us about his research with American Chestnuts. It was called the cradle to coffin tree. From fine furniture to railroad ties, fuel to posts, this tree constituted more than 50% of the timber produced before the blight. The timber is decay resistant, making it a useful wood for many applications. Wildlife benefited from its nut production. Bears to raccoon to deer to humans, everyone found the nut a good food source. Trees will fruit 5-7 years of age. It needs another Chestnut to cross pollinate even though it is monoecious. Much of the economy was based on the American Chestnut. The bark and the wood were a great source of tannic acid, used for tanning leather.

Chestnut blight was first discovered in the USA in 1904 on some trees newly planted in the New York Zoological Garden. By the 1940's there were more than 3 1/2 BILLION Chestnuts lost to Blight.

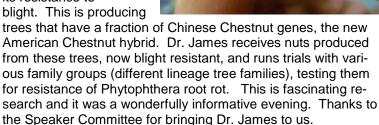
After a brief history of this grand tree he shared his story with the American Chestnut, *Castanea dentata*. Dr. James used to have a number of Chestnuts on his farm in Upstate South Carolina. As they died he started doing some detective work. Calling on the Forestry Department of Clemson, it was discovered that the roots were dying from Phytophthera root

rot. Phytophthera cinnamomi is a soil borne organism.

Dr. James is now part of a research program with cross breeding the American Chestnut with the Chinese Chestnut, which is resistant to Blight. This breeding has been going on for a number of years, breeding into the American Chestnut the resistance to Blight. Each generation of this hybrid is tested by inoculating



these new trees with blight Successfully resistant trees are then crossed again with another American Chestnut, breeding out the Chinese characteristics except for its resistance to



For more information on this evening's program you can read my posting online— The Queen of Seaford. <a href="http://thequeenofseaford.blogspot.com/2012/11/tuesdays-trees-american-chestnut.html">http://thequeenofseaford.blogspot.com/2012/11/tuesdays-trees-american-chestnut.html</a>

There is also great information at the American Chestnut Foundation's webpage. <a href="http://www.acf.org/index.php">http://www.acf.org/index.php</a>

# Lakeland Master Gardener Name Badge Order Form

Master Gardener Information							
Last Name		First Name					
Mailing Address							
City		Zip Code					
Home ( )	ome ( ) 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 Gradu	ated From Master		
		Gardener Ti	raining Course		

Cost: \$10/badge Cash or Check accepted

Make Checks payable to: Lakelands Master Gardeners Remit Payment and Order Form together to:

Patti Larson 110 Hutira Lane Greenwood, SC 29649

Questions, please e-mail Patti Larson: <a href="mailto:greenwood\_patti@yahoo.com">greenwood\_patti@yahoo.com</a> 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:

- 1. Sharing horticultural information and guidance with South Carolina residents based on research specific to the local climate, soils, and plants;
- Volunteering time to assist the Extension Service in meeting the demand for reliable gardening information:
- 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;
- 5. Encouraging interest in gardening by all citizens;
- 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
- Helping those less fortunate prosper from the benefits of horticulture.



### www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

# facebook

## Shutterfly - <a href="http://lakelandsmastergardeners.shutterfly.com">http://lakelandsmastergardeners.shutterfly.com</a>



Clemson Cooperative Extension Office—Greenwood—864-223-3264

#### AKELAND MASTER GARDENERS

Lakelands Master Gardener Association			
Lifetime Member Update	☐ New Member/Transfer		
rship by completing this form and prober 15th will be included in the Lactory and will receive uninterrupted ontact info and indicate your interestip Dues: (Select your Membership and under \$ 15 \$ 10 \$ 10 \$ 20 \$ 15 \$ 15 \$ 10 \$ 125 \$ 1	membership benefits. Lifetime sts for the coming year. Category by checking)		
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(Rev: 6-1-2012)