

2015 DATES

**12/10 6:30 Potluck
 Board Xmas party
 at Donna
 Feldmaier's**

**1/14 4:30 Gwd
 Library, LMG Board
 Meeting**

**2/11 6:30 Gwd
 Metro District
 Bldng, LMG potluck
 Annual Awards
 Meeting**

**2/13 G'vl MG'ers
 Symposium
 8-3 TD Convention
 Center
www.gqmga.org**

**2/27 York Co.
 MG'ers
 Symposium
 8-3 Baxter Hood
 Cntr, Rock Hill,
symposium@yorkmg.org**

**3/10 6:00 Gwd
 Library, LMG
 Membership
 Meeting, 6:30
 Speaker Meeting
 TBA**

**4/7,8,9 GWD
 Farmer's Market
 Spring Plant
 Festival setup and
 sale days. LMG
 Plant Sale Friday
 and Saturday.**



President's Letter-Donna Jingle Bells Feldmaier

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the town,
 All the pansies were trimmed and lights twinkled around.

The tools were all hung in the greenhouse with care,
 A well- deserved rest for all the volunteers there.

The city workers were nestled all snug in their beds,
 While visions of springtime danced in their heads,
 I in my slippers, my husband with our dog
 Had just settled in for a late night eggnog.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
 I dropped my garden catalogs to see what was the matter.
 Away to the front door I dashed,
 Half expecting to find my yard had been trashed.

When I opened the door, what should appear,
 But a big old sleigh and eight loyal volunteers
 With a little old gardener so lively and quick
 I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick!

More quickly than dallisgrass his coursers they came
 And he whistled and shouted and called them by name.

"Now Vince! Now Chuck! Now Jimmy and Sue!
 On Barbara, On Betsy, Chris and Melody too!
 To the top of the trellis! To the top of the wall!
 Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"

As dry pinestraw that before the wild hurricane fly,
 When they meet an obstacle, mount to the sky,
 So up to the housetop the volunteers they flew, laughing and dancing and yelling yahoo.

As I closed the front door and was turning around
 Down the chimney St. Nick came, hitting the ground.
 He was dressed all in red, with wellies on his feet,
 And a cardoon in his cap which made him look rather sweet.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his sack.
 With a castor bean for Barbara, and for Rusty a lively Diamondback.

A garden design book for James, to share with us all.
 There was kale for Ann, and for sweet little Linda, 300 soccer balls.
 Next came a camera for Janet to help with her blog.
 And finally, for me, one more flower catalog.

Then laying a trowel aside of his nose
 And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
 He ran to his sleigh and gave a quick whistle

And away they all flew like the seeds of thistle.

But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all Master Gardeners and to all a good night."

(many apologies to Clement Clark Moore)

CONGRATS LMG CLASS OF 2015- You've passed the test and some of you have hours!



Please welcome the **newly minted 2015 LMG interns**. Not in order of picture, Roderic Brace, Anna Dominick, Anissa Lawrence, Theresa Martin, Beth Morelock, Clint Price, Ruby Romaine, Bonnie Rothwell, Donna Sears, Wallace Sears, Chandler White, Mike White, Cynthia Williams, Gene Yarochowicz, and Tammy Cunningham (to be completed online).

GIFTS FOR THE GARDENER – Jimmy McInville

It's that time of year again, searching high and low for that perfect gift for the gardener who has everything. Here are a few ideas to stimulate the creative juices. Not to play favorites but these first two are from Gardener's Supply Company, you may be able to find them on Amazon too.

- Push-Button Tap Adaptors, push button water control right at your fingertips. Available in single and double. Great idea for anyone who has trouble with their hands.
- Monarch Butterfly Seed Balls, Each ball contains a packets worth of several Milkweed seed varieties just toss them on prepared soil. Our winged friends need all the help we can give them.
- Hori Hori Knife - a great tool for planting, dividing bulbs, anything where you need a little edge. Anyone who's worked with Ann Barklow or me has seen us use ours.
- Sheep shears - a must for maintaining the topiaries, great for trimming Liriope and other grasses, dead heading.
- Heat mats - bottom heat a must for propagation.

- Grow Lights – A must for starting seeds indoors.
- Essential Oil Diffuser – Fill your home with the scent of your favorite essential oil. Also great for clearing those stuffy noses when you use eucalyptus oil.

Winter has just begun but I know we all are already working or planning for next season. Remember those leaves are little gifts. Mulch them in for riches next spring and summer. Our minds are a garden my friends keep planting.

WHAT'S IN BLOOM IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER?- Sandy Orr



Kniphofia rooperi is a reblooming torch lily or hot poker, that blooms in the spring and late fall/winter. Last year it bloomed in January. The spikes are 3 ½ feet tall and can be seen from 150 feet away. It is somewhat drought tolerant and takes full or part sun. I bought mine from Riverbanks Botanical Garden, but they are available online also.

CITY GREENHOUSE INVADED BY BROWN CUP FUNGI- Jimmy McInville



Our Thursdays in Uptown and the greenhouses are always a learning experience. Sometimes the lesson comes from well thought out minds on landscape design plans, new propagation techniques, and sometimes Mother Nature supplies the lesson. This was a bonus lesson *She* tossed in last week while we were pinching pansies and helping the students study for the final exam that was just days away.

We found several of these interesting mushrooms hidden near the pansies. Are they hot tubs for lady bugs? No time to hit the books and find the answer, but we all spent time examining them and feeling their soft, shiny exterior.

Turns out they were *Peziza repanda* or brown cup fungi. Repand – means folded backward or turned up, in reference to the bent backward or turned down margin observed in some specimens. Saprobic, which is a fancy word that means: the organism survives by decomposing dead or decaying organic material, is found single or clustered on decaying hardwood and adjacent soil. Since it prefers cool whether it is often noticed in spring and fall. Since the City of Greenwood applies mulch everywhere it isn't surprising to see this fungi popping up. They are cup to saucer shaped, 2 to 4" wide; stalkless but attached to wood by central knob of tissue. As they mature they will become flattened and irregular shaped. *It is not recommended for consumption.*

As a regular Thursday volunteer for the City I will remain ready for the next surprise.

BOXCUT YOUR PLANTING BALLS TO PREVENT CIRCLING ROOTS- Sandy Orr

After last months talk on blogging by Janet Ledebuhr, I visited my favorite research blog by The Garden Professors. It's written by five or more Phd's who teach at schools across the country about experiments they've actually performed. Jeff Gilman from Univ. of Minnesota trialed several planting techniques to reduce root girdling several years after planting. He tried vertically slitting the root ball (as I've always done), with little benefit. The maximum good achieved was by the plant grower using "air pruning" pots which are basically sieves allowing the plant roots to escape the pot and escape into the air. The second least girdling occurred when Jeff sliced the cylindrical root ball down the sides to form a square column rather than a cylinder. He put a vertical spade on top of the root ball, close to the perimeter and sliced down. He proceeded to repeat this three more times to form a square when looking down at the top of the root ball. This got superior results and is something I'll now do with all trees and shrubs.

DEER OR RABBIT PROBLEMS? (see picture below)

Gleefully watch your crops grow to maturity with ADT's new high security 'Alcatraz' containment system. (Klieg lights and alarms, not shown). Ann Barklow combines this system with two highly trained attack dogs to deter predators. Of course harvest time is a bit more difficult, but at least she has a harvest. Hmm, I wonder if this chicken wire could be electrified...



Gentle Reminders:

If you haven't sent your dues in for next year's membership, please do so ASAP.

Keep the April Master Gardener Plant Sale in mind when dividing plants and planting winter seeds. Plants potted now will have time to establish good root systems.

Check one: Renewal New Member/Transfer

Please renew your MG membership by completing this form and paying your dues for the coming calendar year. **Members who pay dues by October 31st 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 are \$20.00

Make your check payable to Lakelands Master Gardener Organization (LMGO) and mail to:
Melody McInville
345 Klugh Rd.
Abbeville, SC 29620

Membership dues are due by October 31st of each year.

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

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

E-Mail Address: _____

Year Graduated MG Program: _____ Transfer? (Y/N) _____ From: _____
(Year 40 hours were completed)

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

Please indicate at least one committee(s) you are interested in working with:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ Community Projects | _____ Membership | _____ Plant Sale |
| _____ Education | _____ Clemson Ext office | _____ Web Site |
| _____ Face Book Page | _____ Newsletter | _____ Social Activities |
| _____ Fund Raising | _____ Programs & Speakers | _____ Topiary/greenhou |
| _____ Home & Garden show | _____ Public Relations | _____ Mentoring |
| _____ Citizen Pruners | _____ Community Voucher Distr | _____ Community Gard |

Suggested topics/activities for the meetings or continuing education: _____

-----Please do not write below this line-----this is for office use-----

_____ Date Paid
_____ Date Membership list updated

Lakelands Master Gardener Board

Voting Members

Executive Committee

President: Donna Feldmaier
Vice President: Barbara Wells
Treasurer: Melody McInville
Secretary: Chris Moon
Past President: Sandy Orr

General Board Members

Community Projects: Jimmy McInville and Sue Monaghan
Education: Linda Halsey
Membership: Betsy Russ
Plant Sale/Fund Raising: Sandy Orr
Programs/Speakers: Bill Aaron
Public Relations: Olivia Reynolds and Chris Cornetto
Website/By-Laws: Chuck Bender

Non-voting Board Members

Clemson Advisor: James Hodges
Email Blasts: Janet Ledebuhr
Facebook: Mary Jane Vivas and Marla Starling
Newsletter: Sandy Orr
Office: Vince Plotczyk
Social: Charlotte Cabri