



Master Gardener Thymes

www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

February 2008

IMPORTANT NOTE!!!



The February meeting date has been changed to **February 21** instead of February 14. See below for more information about the meeting.

Upcoming Events

The Upstate SC Native Plant Society is having a Native Plant Sale on **Saturday, April 12** from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Location is the parking lot of Jeff Lynch Appliances in Greenville. If there are questions, please contact me. Thanks – Sandy Stachurski
Drglenn7@embarqmail.com



April plant sale--**get those plants ready to donate!!!**

Possible future fundraisers include raffles of a handcrafted quilt to be donated by Chris Moffitt and an original painting or drawing created and donated by Kathleen Kapsalis. **Watch this space for future information!!**

February 21st meeting: Dianne Nodine will be speaking on perennial gardens and their designs. Dianne has been gardening all her life. She has lived and gardened in the Caribbean, Florida, and South America.

She currently works for Dabney Peeples, a noted landscape designer in the southeast. She also has her own design business, **Dianne Nodine Design**. Her specialties are perennial garden design, woodland gardens, and container gardens.

Her gardens have been featured in South Carolina Homes and Gardens magazine, South Carolina magazine, and many newspaper articles.

March 13th meeting: A Park Seed horticulturist will speak on garden roses. The focus is on planting, nurturing, and pruning. We will also gain information on the addition of

Jackson and Perkins now located in Greenwood. E-mail your questions related to roses to John Babb at babb.john@yahoo.com so that our guest can better streamline the presentation by addressing our specific concerns.

We urge members to attend all meetings in order to continue to "grow" in our knowledge of gardening and to build cordiality with fellow members.

OPPORTUNITIES

Instructors Needed

I am looking for instructors for seminars at the Greenwood Library (Saturday's – 10-11:30) on gardening topics.

I plan an Introduction to Organic Gardening (February 16th)

Lauren Boylston will do Lasagna Gardening when we set a date

Other topics may be attracting Butterflies and Birds or various garden plants or gardens presenter may chose.

Call me or email me if you are interested. We will do a program about every 2 weeks for several months.

James

Advanced Master Gardener Training Class Urban Trees

Last summer I attended a train the trainer session on Advanced Master Gardener training in Urban Trees. A 24 hours advanced course has been prepared for Master Gardeners. This course is part our effort to increase knowledge of trees while training Master Gardeners to answer calls, visit sites and make educational presentations to the public.

I see it as an opportunity to help the extension agent with many of the programs and tasks while adding expertise to our Master Gardeners. Many of you work on school projects, community projects, give advice and make presentations now, so this is geared to make us all better.

My task from the training was to train additional Master Gardeners with this curriculum. I will offer this program this spring if I get at least 6 people to sign up. Listed below are the tentative plans. They can be adjusted as needed.

Class Agenda: -- 6 (4) hours session in April/May on M,T or T mornings or afternoons. (9-1 or 1-5). Each class will be ½ class instruction and ½ lab- most outside.

Class 1: Tree Biology

Class 2: Tree Site Evaluation and Tree Installation & Management

Class 3: Tree Identification

Class 4: Problem Diagnosis (Diseases & Insects)

Class 5: Tree Protection & Construction Sites

Class 6: Doing Site Visits & Investigation Tips

**Class Cost: If I get 6, Approx. \$50, If 10-12, \$35
Designed to be small class!!**

There will be a notebook included with course material.

Class Location: I am working on various locations for different segments, Lander, Piedmont Tech, Extension office, Greenwood State Park, School site to match outdoor lab exercise.

We will include a separate all day field trip to Clemson Botanical Garden to the agenda.

If you are interested please signup on a waiting list similar to our MG class signup sheet by calling the extension office at 942-8590 or 942-8664 at the mall on Th & Fr.

You can email me at jmhodge@clermson.edu too.

James

Community Projects 2008

Submitted by Dwight Long

The first meeting for the topiary project for the Festival of Flowers was held on January 19, 2008. We saw some of the wire frames and had brief instructions on how to irrigate, fill and plug them. Dwight and Marion shared pictures of some of the topiaries at Walt Disney World.

This is going to be a fun project. It will involve Master Gardener training on the construction of the topiaries as well as Master Gardener instruction to the students from the various schools that will be making the topiaries. It will be a very good way to get project hours.

Master Gardener volunteers are need for instruction at the various schools that will be participating.

Sandra Johnson will be making a schedule for the Railroad museum garden. This will be announced later.

Web Site Committee Report

Submitted by Dwight Long

Chuck Bender and I have been reviewing the existing website. Chuck has made quite a few changes to the site; however, we are at a standstill and need the help of the rest of the committees. Most of the content on the site is dated, has duplicate content throughout many places on the site, and desperately needs updating. Who wants to visit a web site that doesn't have fresh content on a regular basis? Not me... That's where the rest of the members can help.

We are asking that all members visit the web site, www.lakelandsmastergardener.org, review all of it, and send any comments/suggestions to Chuck Bender and myself, ccben70@hotmail.com and Dwight.long@mindspring.com respectively. We would like to see this website become the place for gardeners in this area to visit to get information about the master gardener program and above all, a place for our members to get information they need to enhance their knowledge of the organization and gardening.

Following are some items that you can think about but it doesn't cover everything:

- * Duplicate content – a website should have the content in one location making it easier to maintain

- * New content – monthly updates on project status or new events

- * Improved organization of the site – this makes it easier to get to where the visitor wants to go

- * Pictures along with a short write up about it

- * References to other sites on the internet

Remember, a website is only as good as its content and we, Lakelands Master Gardeners, are the source of that content. It is everyone's responsibility to help us maintain the site and its content. Chuck and I are only two out of a more than 150 master gardeners. I don't think the rest of the members would only want to hear about our interests. We all have common interests in gardening, whatever type it may be, and have experiences and knowledge to share.

So, in closing, we are asking for everyone's help. I know you want it to be a success.

MG Scrapbook

Submitted by Debra Ashley

I am beginning the process of updating the Master Gardener scrapbook. If anyone has any pictures from 2005, 2006, and 2007 Project Work Days, I need them. Those years are missing from the book. Any info. from those years for inclusion into the book will be helpful.

Master Gardener Banquet, Awards, Accolades and Thank You

Submitted by James Hodges

We had a large crowd at our banquet and awards night. The new class officially graduated from the book learning portion of Master Gardener Training. Twenty-five new Master Gardener interns and one Master Gardener transfer were added to our group of volunteers. The large and committed class persevered despite no textbook.

Hopefully, the all received their late Christmas present in the mail.

Everyone did very well in the class so I must congratulate everyone for their efforts. So well were the grades, that it was splitting hairs to find the person with the best average to receive the Golden Gloves Award. I finally decided to award a tie between Nancy Collin and Kathy Mims for the award. They did have to share the prize of a set of garden gloves though. I think Nancy got the right handed and Kathy the left handed glove.

We gave out full certification to 16 members of the 2006 who completed 40 hours of work during the year. Many completed much more than 40 and a few who came up short can still finish their 40 hours this year.

One of our 2007 class, Dwight Long completed more than 40 hours this fall before he completed the class, but I told him I couldn't award his full certification yet, so I could get 40 more in 2008 on the Topiary Project.

Many thanks from Extension and the Lakelands community go out to the Master Gardeners for their gifts of service during 2007 and past years. Linda Halsey continues to update our 2007 volunteer totals which have passed 4000 for the year. If (some of you) would turn in your hours there would be more. The logging of hours is not just for show or pats on the back, (even though you justly deserve it) but they are important for Extension when it is budget time each year. Numbers show that my efforts as an agent are more than worthwhile in teaching classes and using volunteers to help educate and develop better and more beautiful communities.

Here are a few numbers to ponder for the Lakelands group for the past 9 years---

For the hours that have been turned in we have more than 28,000 volunteer hours from 1999-2007 (the last 9 years). This total averages out at more than 3,000 hours per year for the MG's.

We spawned off the McCormick group a few years ago which is also contributing hours separately.

Over 200 people have gone through the program with close to 75% completing 40 hours of volunteer service.

I have 4 MG's that have 1000+ hours
I have 5 more MG's with 750+ hours
I have 11 more MG's with 500+ hours
I have 16 more MG's with 250 + hours
I have 4 Mg's with more than 200 hours
I have 29 more MG's that have 100-200 hours

We have nearly 150 people who have contributed 40 hours after taking the class or transferring to South Carolina.

The Lakelands Master Gardeners have done quite well thank you!!!

The 2008 directory will list the name of volunteers with 250+ hours.

Thanks James



WINTER RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PERFECT ROSE

Submitted by April Prater

Well winter has set in finally with a hard freeze this first week of January and my mailbox continues to be filled with catalogs of spring and summer plants to fill my garden. I was recollecting as I looked through these books about the harsh summer drought and what plants struggled or failed to survive.

Two plants quickly came to mind as survivors of this summer's drought - my Blushing and Rosa Radrazz Knock Out Roses. Blushing is a light pink knock out rose shrub that is approximately three feet wide by four feet tall with leaves that are mossy green. Rosa is a more compact shrub rose that is approximately three feet wide by three feet tall with blooms that are cherry red in color and dark green leaves which turn burgundy in the fall.

Knock out roses are advertised as drought tolerant, black spot resistant, mildew tolerant, self cleaning and trouble free roses. This summer proved all the above to me as my roses bloomed weekly through the heat and drought with only occasional watering from the hose.

Both varieties of knock out roses I have receive five or six hours of sunlight daily and have proven to be great foundation plantings for my hectic schedule. They don't require the enormous attention that traditional roses require with all the spraying and pruning which I neglected to do for prior rose bushes which are no longer with me.

So during these winter months of planning our spring and summer gardens consider adding a knock out rose to your plantings. You'll enjoy this addition from spring until frost with plenty of time to tend to your other plants. Happy gardening.

Winter Garden

Submitted by Lauren Boylston

Winter has arrived late this year. It has confused both my garden and me. I was still pulling some weeds until a few weeks ago. I had Angel Trumpets putting out new growth. They weren't alone. And it seemed the birds were a bit confused. Now winter has arrived, but only in fits and starts. Freezing cold some mornings and then warming to the mid 60's a few days later. Weird.

I have plenty of chores in the garden in the cold of winter. I cut back many perennials, trim back unruly shrubs, clean up daylily beds, remove the flower heads from hydrangeas, cut the worst dead wood out of very old azaleas that have suffered from the drought. I begin planning what is to go in Lasagna Beds that were started in the summer. I keep piling on layers to Lasagna Beds not quite ready to be planted. I try indoor rooting of several different plants in the winter. Some succeed, others fail. I don't have my usual enthusiasm this year due to the strange weather patterns.

I can't seem to decide what needs to be done when. Warm one day, bone-chilling the next. But I will wade through it.

I love watching the changing behavior of birds as the weather gets cold in winter. We have many feeders and birdhouses on our property, plus birdbaths and such. We bring in the hummingbird feeders at the first cold front but continue to stock the regular feeders all winter, adding Niger seeds in "seed socks" for the finches. It is fun to watch the "regulars" keep showing up for regular safflower (which squirrels will not eat) and sunflower mixes. It is a delight to have the yellow and purple finches arrive to spend the winter on the "seed socks". The birds, like the garden, shift with the seasons.

Another neat thing I notice with the birds in winter happens early in the morning. I take Enzo, the giant Labradoodle, out for his early morning ball chasing session a little after sunrise. As we make our way down the long driveway, throwing and retrieving, we pass by large dense clusters of mature azaleas. As we pass, the sounds coming from in the azaleas are a cacophony of tweets, scratching sounds, wings fluttering and such. The birds take refuge at night in these large shrubs in winter and then wake in the morning and begin scratching for seed and insects. They seem to remain in this hidden "city" until the temperature rises, flitting from branch to branch, singing an early song and stretching their wings. The activity is incredible! I love this winter dance that they perform for me in the cold months and I am thrilled to provide them with a habitat that provides protection and warmth. It seems very crowded in there!

This bird activity is a reminder of another task that needs to be done in winter. Clean out those birdhouses! Each year all of our houses are occupied, along with nests being built in hanging planters. I always have to remind myself to clean the houses in the winter so next springs "house hunters" will find a suitable unoccupied home available.

I work less in the garden in the winter but am always amazed at how many chores really do need to be done in order to be prepared to start fresh in spring. If you wait and begin your cleaning in spring, it seems too overwhelming. So, begin now! Clean, cut, clear and layer. Clean out your planters, remove debris, cut shrubs and perennials. Go, go, go! Spring will be here before you know it.

And don't forget to feed the birds.



Garden Poetry *Submitted by Jane Price*

As some of you know, I love poetry. Some of you have even been on the receiving end of some of my original works. Year before last when I was president, I wrote an article about walking in the garden in winter with my cat, Bentley. It spoke of how anxious I get for spring to get here and how I look for new growth peeking through the ground. Well, I found just the poem that describes me, and I am sure many of you:

He Knows No Winter *Sudie Stuart Hagar*

He knows no winter, he who loves the soil.
For stormy days, when he is free from toil;
He plans his summer crops; selects his seeds
From bright-paged catalogues for garden needs.
When looking out upon frost-silvered fields,
He visualizes autumn's gold yields.
He sees in snow and sleet and icy rain
Precious moisture for his early grain.
He hears spring heralds in the storm's turmoil;
He knows no winter, he who loves the soil.

The Side Yard *Submitted by Betty Reece*

Sassy and I go into the yard for our morning walk
But something is different, too cold to talk

She wants to run, but stops because
The noises from her footsteps give her pause

What is that? She turns and sees
The ground is white from cold and sleet

Why? What has happened? It is the same ground
Mother Nature has come to bring winter round

We hear some birds, but very few
Others have gone to look for something new

The pond is solid, the fish asleep
No one to visit in the water deep

But this too will change
We won't be cold long

Soon, spring will arrive
And the flowers will thrive.



New Zealand Gardens
Submitted by Nancy Collin

The home gardens of New Zealand are a welcoming sight and provide a tranquil place to visit. These gardens are such a personal pursuit that each shows the owner's personality and dedication. In our three weeks of travel we found many plants that were similar to the species we grow here in South Carolina, but there were many more that we didn't recognize. As I was photographing flowers one day, a local gardener came up to me and asked me why I was taking pictures of weeds. I didn't know the difference; they were all beautiful to me. She gave me the names of the plants and where they originated. It didn't take long to become good friends.

As we drove through the two islands, we saw small signs that indicated that private home gardens were open for people to stop and enjoy a quiet walk. Each garden was intriguing, and people were eager to talk. We found a large range of hostas and ferns growing under enormous trees that provided contrast in color and shape to the masses of sun loving flowers. Roses were climbing over fences and provided a beautiful background for colorful perennials and annuals. The use of hills, valleys, steep banks and natural water features made each garden unique and memorable even after the details of the plantings were forgotten. With my poor luck growing hydrangeas, wouldn't you know, they were in full bloom everywhere. Not just in gardens, but wild along the roads, they were completely covered with enormous blossoms in every color.

One of our stays was at an out of the way dairy farm near Dannvirke on the North Island. The couple that owned it had been farming at this location for the last twenty five years and had a beautiful cottage that they rented out occasionally. Over the years the woman had transformed about eighteen acres of rugged terrain around the home into a wonderland with a special character that we will never forget. The land had such deep ravines, two rivers and a roughness that made it unusable for farming. She had used old handmade brick for walkways and moss covered rocks for walls and stairs. Ancient worn boards were used for gates, trellises and arches. The woodland walkways that wound their way through massive trees and into the ravine were underplanted with shade-loving plants such as hellebores, ferns and vines. Tucked into tree roots and banks were sculptures of St. Francis, small animals, and gnomes. We imagined that children must adore this place.

A large labyrinth was created in an open area, inviting the visitor to wander and enjoy the calming effect from the bird songs and the trickling stream nearby. She had added seats and tables under the canopy to provide quiet places to stop, listen and enjoy the beauty. The gardens around the house were spectacular. Each area was divided by gates, arches and hedges. Paths and steps meandered from one area to the next with colorful plantings of shrubs such as camellias, rhododendrons and roses. On entering these gardens we were immediately aware of her love of color. The massive planting of annuals in the borders were brilliant with intense color. Pots were everywhere, filled with herbs and flowers. They created a lush jumble of textures and scents.

Along with all this she also had an extensive vegetable garden laid out like the spokes of a wheel. The spokes and the rim were raised for the plantings and the entire area fenced, with pillars at the corners. Climbing roses in full

and well cared for. Gardens feed the soul, and this one did a great job of feeding the body as well.

There was an intimate garden attached to our cottage, completely fenced, with an outside tub for bathing in the moonlight. Apparently this is a Scandinavian tradition from the early settlers. We saw these private gardens in other yards along the way.

The loving care and years of dedication that this farm wife had given imparted such peace and beauty that we were overwhelmed. We spent hours talking to her and taking in the magical charm of her life long work.

The climate ranges from tropical to temperate in New Zealand, but the rich, loamy soil, long hours of daylight (5am to 10pm), frequent rain and very few garden pests (no deer) make gardening a bit less challenging. One big problem that they have is continuous wind. They use tall hedges all over New Zealand to protect homes, gardens, crops and animals. The hedges create a micro-climate that keeps the areas they surround warmer and free from wind damage..

Last summer I was very disappointed with my attempts to create a lush, exotic garden. It's a good thing gardeners are a tenacious bunch. After seeing the gardens of New Zealand, I came home with new determination, inspiration and enthusiasm for 2008.

Tonics from Your Kitchen
Submitted by Miriam Smith

Mildew Relief Tonic

- 1 tablespoon baby shampoo
- 1 tablespoon hydrogen peroxide
- 1 tablespoon instant tea granules
- 2 cups water

Mix all ingredients. Place them in a handheld mist sprayer and apply to rose leaves. Midafternoon on a cloudy day is the best time to apply it.

Seed Starter Tonic

- 1 cup white vinegar
- 1 tablespoon baby shampoo or liquid dish soap
- 2 cups warm water

Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. Let your seeds soak in the mixture overnight before planting them in well-prepared soil.



Lavender Tea Bread

*Originated from Judy Kelley
Submitted by Sandy Stachurski*

I made this bread for our January meeting and some of the ladies wanted the recipe. This recipe originated from Judy Kelley, another Master Gardener. As with all recipes made with fresh herbs, do not ingest if they have been treated with pesticides or herbicides.

¾ cup milk
3 Tablespoons finely chopped, fresh lavender
6 Tablespoons butter, softened
1 cup white sugar
2 eggs
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Grease and flour a 9x5 loaf pan.
3. Combine the milk and lavender in a small saucepan over medium heat. Heat to a simmer, then remove from heat and allow to cool slightly.
4. In a medium bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in the eggs until the mixture is light and fluffy. Combine the flour, baking powder, and salt; stir into the creamed mixture alternately with the milk until just blended. Pour into the prepared pan.
5. Bake for 50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the crown of the loaf comes out clean. Cool in the pan on a wire rack.
6. Enjoy

Notes from the Editor

Submitted by Jean Anderson

As I start this new adventure as newsletter editor, I want to ask some favors. First, I ask for patience, which all gardeners need to have in abundance, for mistakes I know I'll make. Second, I ask for feedback when I try new formats, fonts, etc., if you have a preference for or against something I try. Third, send me suggestions for articles you'd like to see. Fourth, and most important, I ask for contributions. If you've visited a special garden, have a garden tip, have a special plant you've "discovered" or a recipe to share, send them to me. Even if you've contributed before, there are new members who haven't read what you've written. I'd love to have a backlog of articles ready to go!!! Thanks to all who have already contributed!!!

Send them to jebiand@yahoo.com or to me at **4840 McCormick Hwy, Bradley, SC 29819**. Thanks in advance, and remember to count all your preparation time for those needed hours.

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