

**2017**

**Calendar**

**1/5** LMG Board Meeting Library 4:30

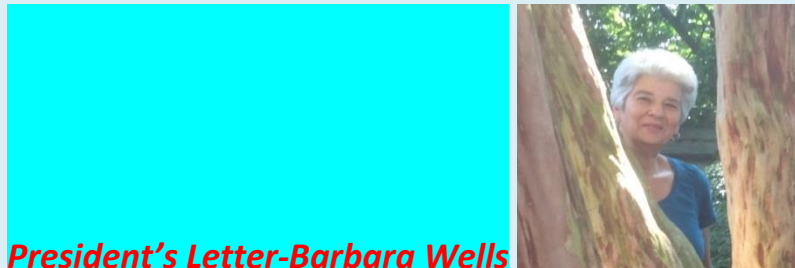
**1/12** LMG Membership Mtng, 6PM and Public Talk 6:30 by Annie Keith "Bokashi Composting" (compost indoors with no smell).

**1/26** Pearl Fryar at Gwd. Country Club 10:45 AM. Sold out.

**2/09** LMG Annual Mtng and Graduation Potluck Dinner 6:30 at Greenwood Metro

**2/11**, 8-3:45 Greenville Master Gardener's Seminar, TD Convention Ctr.

**3/09** LMG Membership Mtng 6PM, Speaker Mtng 6:30 "Backyard Birds" Rusty



***President's Letter-Barbara Wells***

They come every winter. Usually they come singly but occasionally they arrive in multiples. Some are of my own choosing and some just mysteriously appear. After all these years, I can almost sense their presence before it is confirmed. One cold afternoon I will trudge to my mailbox, open the door, and the corner of a colorful cover will beckon, almost as if it's winking at me. It's a plant catalogue! Or the plant catalogue's sibling, a seed catalogue! Or, even better, one or more of each! Be still, my heart!

Within those pages lie endless possibilities. There are few activities more restful and renewing for a gardener than quiet moments spent slowly turning page after page, deliberating the merits and possible drawbacks of "this one" versus "that one." There are old favorites are new prospects: annuals and perennials; fruits, vegetables and herbs; ground covers, shrubs, and trees. All at your fingertips. Add a drink and munchies, a comfy chair and a warm fire, and you're all set.

But don't get too comfortable in your chair because we've got plenty of Master Gardener opportunities to get you out and about this winter.

We will begin our 2017 Membership/Speaker Meetings on January 12 at the Greenwood County Library Meeting Room with a program on Bokashi Composting, led by Annie Keith. Many of us have had the wonderful opportunity to meet Annie, but for some of you she may be a "friend yet to be met." Annie is an experienced Master Gardener who, luckily for us, relocated here last year and quickly became an active member. Composting is a topic near and dear to our hearts and Annie will expand our composting repertoire with a method that can easily be accomplished in even the smallest of spaces. So come and learn with us. Maybe you'll be the person to go home with one of our door prizes, a copy of Bokashi Composting: Scraps to Soil in Weeks, by Adam Footer.

Our Annual Recognition and Awards Banquet will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 9, at the Greenwood Metro District Building, located at 110 Metro Drive. This is a pot luck style dinner combined with recognition of both the 2016 Master Gardener Class Graduates and the 2015 Class Graduates who have completed their 40 hours of volunteer service. We will also announce the Master Gardener of the Year, and vote on and introduce new Officers and Board Members. An email with an invitation style flyer with more details will be sent your way soon.

Wilson  
4/21,22- LMG  
Farmer's  
Market Plant  
Sale

On March 9, we will meet again at the Greenwood Library to hear Rusty Wilson speak on Backyard Birds. Those of you fortunate enough to hear Rusty's talk on snakes last year know you don't want to miss this one.

Looking into April, our Spring Plant Sale is scheduled for April 21 and 22. The date is a little later this year in an effort to avoid multiple conflicts. The change will also give us a few more weeks for the weather to warm and seedlings and divisions to mature.

Even in winter, it's always comfortable in the City Greenhouses. Come to the group sessions on Thursday mornings, or contact Ann Barklow at [annbarklow@embarqmail.com](mailto:annbarklow@embarqmail.com) to set up a time that works for you.

There are a couple of additional items that need to be mentioned.

First, if you haven't cast your vote for Master Gardener of the Year, time is running out. But don't worry. We've made it easy for you. A ballot with selection criteria along with a list of past recipients will be sent out soon in an email blast. Ballots will also be available at the January 12 meeting. You can cast your vote at the meeting. Or, you can call me at 804-314-6503 or email me at [wscott471@gmail.com](mailto:wscott471@gmail.com) with your choice. Right now it's a close contest, so every vote counts. The deadline to vote is January 13.

Second, and yet again, it's time to renew your membership. Enough said.

See you soon. I think I hear a catalogue or two calling my name. B

*"For gardeners, this is the season of lists and callow hopefulness; hundreds of thousands of bewitched readers are poring over their catalogs, making lists...., and dreaming their dreams."  
Katharine White, "A Romp in the Catalogues," The New Yorker, 1958, collected in Onward and Upward in the Garden, 1979*

**BOKASHI IS AMAZING ENOUGH, BUT ANNIE HAS MADE IT EASY TOO.**

# BOKASHI COMPOSTING



Led by Annie Keith  
Lakelands Master Gardener

Join Us!  
Thursday, January 12  
6:30 PM  
Greenwood County Library

Would you like to convert ALL your leftover food and scraps (even meat, small bones and cooked food) into compost?

Learn how!

By using Bokashi Composting, you can:

- Pickle your scraps in an anaerobic process that eliminates unpleasant composting odors
- Jump start the composting process right by your kitchen table or under the cabinet
- Produce garden-ready compost in just a few weeks

SOUTH CAROLINA

Master  
Gardener

A CLEMSON EXTENSION PROGRAM



## SHOULD YOU DIG PLANTS FROM THE WILD FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE?- Dr. Bill Stringer, via Jimmy McInville (from SCNPS newsletter).

We all should be using more native plants in our landscapes for several reasons: Enhancing the attractiveness; enhancing the ecological soundness; increasing wildlife and pollinator habitat value, avoiding use of potential invasive plants; reducing reliance on irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides; enhancing your “sense of place”, and so on. Further, we should use local genotypes of native plants whenever possible. For some, this begs the question: Should I dig native plants from the wild?

There are two questions in this question. There is the issue of ethics, and there is the issue of biology. First let’s look at the **ethics question**.

First, **is the plant on your property**, or do you have permission from the property owner? This is the very minimum gateway to your answer. This involves respect for property rights. Permission from the landowner is absolutely vital, and digging without permission is a serious ethical breach, not to mention a legal risk. Beyond that, any digging in the wild damages the habitat by removing components of a functioning ecosystem.

Or, **is the plant on public property**? Public property belongs to us all. We all should have equal opportunity to enjoy the views available on roadsides, state and national forests, and parks. I for one notice attractive specimens of native plants along roadsides, and anticipate the view of that blooming butterfly milkweed around the next bend in the road. I also notice when it has disappeared overnight because someone dug it up. The same issues of ethics and ecosystem damage from above apply on public lands.

Next, are you aware of **conditions required for the survival and persistence of the plant**? Some plants have rather specific requirements for establishment and persistence in a site. Orchids, for instance, depend on a mutualistic relationship with specific soil fungal species. Moving a plant from a site where it is prospering (obviously in equilibrium with its habitat) to a site where it did not exist before runs the risk of introducing that plant to a totally inappropriate habitat. Different soil water relationships, and soil chemical and physical properties between the dig site and your garden can result in the death of your dug plant. That dead plant represents a loss to its source habitat and a waste of your efforts to introduce it into your site.

Finally, are you **prepared to take heroic measures** to assure the survival of the plant? Some dug plants may be able to survive with ample watering and soil amendment. But if the soil at your planting site does not drain well, applying enough water to keep the plant adequately watered may create saturated soil around the plant, thus promoting root and crown rot, and killing the plant. This may necessitate frequent, small water applications. The ratio of shade to sun at the planting site also influences the water needs. More sun translates to greater water needs. And remember that blooming season, when you are likely to notice the plant, is the worst time to transplant a dug plant.

There is one scenario where the ethics question is moot: A plant rescue. Plant rescues arise when areas containing native species are about to be bulldozed for development purposes. In this situation, native plants are facing imminent physical destruction. Then, given permission from the landowner and the grading contractor, plants can be salvaged and transplanted into sites that offer a suitable habitat. This is a great way to obtain native plants for public landscaping projects, such as school grounds or parks. But then you still need to consider the biological issues discussed next. And then you may need to plan for heroic measures if rescue is necessary in an inopportune season.

Then there is the **biological issue**. A perennial plant growing in a wild site is there because a seedling found the site to provide the necessary conditions for germination, and subsequently found it suitable for development and persistence. Suitability of a site derives from a number of site characteristics. Among these are site lighting, soil depth, soil water storage capacity, soil pH and nutrients, soil organic matter, etc. Transplant a plant to a site with the wrong light environment, wrong soil water characteristics, or wrong nutritional/ pH status, and it is likely to be very short-lived. Some plants have other requirements including companion species on the site. Some species may need a mutualistic relationship with another species to survive. An example is downy false foxglove (*Aureolaria virginica*), which is a hemi-parasite on oaks (*Quercus spp.*). This species has chlorophyll and photosynthesis, but thrives only when its roots develop in close proximity with oak tree roots. Many native orchids are similar, but have an obligate relationship with a soil mycorrhizal fungus, without which they will not persist.

Then there is the effect of digging the plant out of a compatible site. Native plants tend to have very substantial root systems, because they evolved in soils with low nutrients, or low water supply. Most native plants dug from a wild site leave a lot of their root system on the site, whether because of digging a narrow root-ball, or a shallow root ball. This is a problem because the active uptake sites for water and nutrients are at the very tips of roots. Most roots can only absorb nutrients and water in the distal ½ inch or so of the root. The rest of the root length is just a pipe to convey the nutrients and water to where they are needed in the plant. This becomes a problem when we dig up a milkweed plant root ball 8" wide by 8" deep, when the intact plant had a root system 12' wide and maybe 18" deep. We just left the majority of the active root absorbing surface in the soil, and take home a plant with a seriously truncated root system. Then, if we take off most of the soil on that harvested root ball at transplanting, we just lost most of the remaining absorptive root surface.

If the plant we dug is a sun loving milkweed, and we dug it during the growing season, when it caught our attention, and then we transplant it into a new sunny "home", it will have an almost impossible job of re-establishing itself. We will have to chop off most of the leafy canopy and all the flowers, to reduce the demand for water placed on the truncated root system. And we'd better be ready to water it frequently, to supply it with enough water, but not so much water as to create a wetter habitat than the plant can tolerate.

If we dig a plant that requires a host to satisfy its hemi-parasitic habit, we must be careful to plant it within the root zone of a host plant. But when we dig a hole under an oak tree to plant that *Aureolaria* plant, we just disturbed the tree root system in the hole, where the truncated root system of the dug plant must establish the hemi-parasite relationship.

If we were so unwise as to dig an native orchid species with an obligate relationship with a soil fungus, chances are that we will not get that plant to survive longer than 6 months to a year, even if we do everything right.

So what should we do? Try to find plants that are growing in a pot, where they were propagated from seed, or vegetative root or stem cuttings. When we take the growing plant out of the pot, it will have its absorption system much more intact. And never purchase plants from unscrupulous plant sellers who dig native plants from the wild for sale. These folks can do tremendous damage to wild-growing native plant communities.

So, if you choose to dig established native plants, be sure to ask yourself these ethical and biological questions, and answer them truthfully. It is a loss for us and the other wild organisms that are our co-travelers. See you at our next sanctioned, authorized plant rescue or native plant sale!



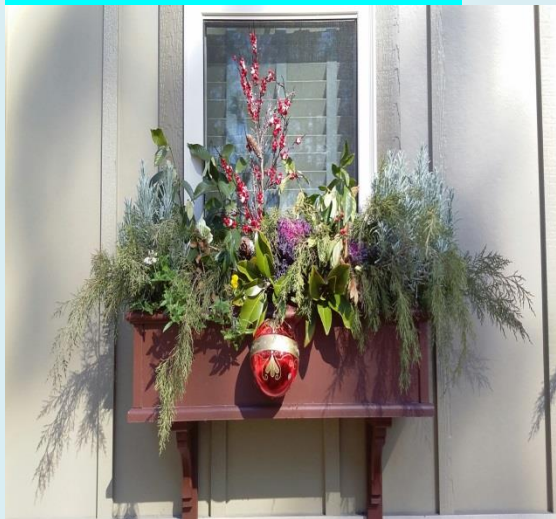
Asclepias Tuberosa, or Butterfly Milkweed is very difficult to move from the wild. Photo courtesy of John Gwaltney

**PODCAST AND HOW-TO CORNER- Ann Barklow and her indoor sprouts.**



Ann has become an avid podcast listener. On Mike the Gardener's podcast #234 at [Averagepersongardener.com/podcast](http://Averagepersongardener.com/podcast), Peter Burke ([Year Round Indoor Salad Gardening](http://YearRoundIndoorSaladGardening.com) and [Dailygardening.com](http://Dailygardening.com)) explains how you can have salads all winter. It is a system that uses trays to start seeds every two days. The sprouts are edible within 10 days. Some of the seeds that Peter sprouts include black hulled sunflower seed, buckwheat, radishes, kohlrabi or broccoli, and peas. I love the pea shoots that result, but think the beet seeds and brassica seeds are too slow to germinate. Ann started hers in cheap Dollar Store aluminum loaf pans. I used a 720 cell tray, which didn't work as well as Ann's trays. Peter starts the seeds in darkness for four days, then moves them to the light of a window (any window including north-facing). No special lights are required. At the end of 10 days, the shoots should be big enough to shear and toss for a salad. This all might seem obvious to those of you who sprout seeds in jars, however, that method requires washing three times a day and a lot of fussing. This method does require a continual 2 day planting cycle and potting soil, but there is no risk of contamination.

**GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST** - Some LMG'ers use natural materials to good effect.



*Melinda's window boxes with drop earring ornament and Sandy's wreath with eucalyptus and hops.*

**BARBIE Q WINS NON-PROFIT CATEGORY OF CHRISTMAS PARADE**



*Barbie Q gets a Santa Hat and earrings for her big day out.*

*Jimmy, Annie, and Anna primp her out for the parade.*

## MICROSCOPE LESSONS AND PROPAGATION FUN IN THE DOME OF SERENITY



*Sherry has a new appreciation of aphids.*



*Martha, Jimmy, Julie, Sherry, Annie, Donna, and Sandy make many plants.*



*Annie divides daylilies from Velux sign.*

Join us on Thursdays. Your universe will expand. Jimmy showed us his new iPhone lens which magnifies his cell phone camera for closeups of bugs, etc. Jimmy's savvy shopping found it for only \$9.

## LMG PLANT SALE APRIL 21,22- START DIVIDING PLANTS AND PLANTING SEEDS

Let's make sure we have a lot of plants to sell in April. If every Master Gardener provides 10 plants, we'll have plenty. Red Solo cup-sized plants are just fine.



## Lakelands Master Gardener Board/Committee Chairs

### **Voting Members**

#### *Executive Committee*

President: Barbara Wells

Vice President: ? Open to volunteers

Treasurer: Melody McInville

Secretary: Chris Moon

Past President: Donna Feldmaier

### **General Board Members**

Community Projects: Jimmy McInville and Donna Sears

Education: Linda Halsey and Wally Sears

Membership: Betsy Russ

Plant Sale/Fund Raising: Sandy Orr and John Wham

Programs/Speakers: Anissa Lawrence

Public Relations: Donna Sears

Website: Marla Starling

### **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: Ella Wham

