



Master Gardener Thymes

www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

March 2009



ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, unless otherwise noted. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!!!!

Upcoming Meetings!!

March 12th:

“Interesting Calls to the Home and Garden Center”

Millie Davenport -- 6:30 @ Greenwood’s newly renovated Museum (Uptown Greenwood, next to Greenwood Community Theater.)

A light-hearted look at the interesting and unusual calls to the HGIC.

Millie Davenport joined Clemson Extension in January, 2006 as an Information Specialist with the HGIC, answering questions about gardening and pests from across South Carolina. She earned a BS in Horticulture from Clemson in 1995 and an MS in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Tennessee in 1997. Prior to joining Clemson Extension, she worked eight years for the Wholesale Division of Park Seed as a Product Manager.

April 9th:

“Successful Water Gardening”

Dwight Long – 6:30 @ Greenwood Museum

Dwight will talk about various types of water features/gardens, water quality, plants, pumps, filters and maintenance.

Dwight is originally from Greenwood & graduated from Engineering Graphics @ Piedmont Tech. He originally worked in the field of civil engineering, & then in computer graphics and computer technology. Currently, he is employed at Knox Nursery in Hodges. He became interested in water gardening in 1988, at a time when the idea wasn’t as popular as it is today. While living in Simpsonville, he built a small 300 gallon garden pond. A few years later, the fish were outgrowing the pond, so he built a larger 800 gallon pond. When he moved to Greenwood three years ago, he built a 1500 gallon water garden and transplanted the fish, plants, tadpoles and about three tons of stone.

May 14th:

Klaus Neubner “The Medieval Garden”

@ Immanuel Lutheran Church,
501 Creswell Ave.

6:30 pm

This garden, a tangible link to our Christian heritage, was re-created under the supervision of Klaus Neubner. The design of the garden dates back to 800 A.D. using plants known to Germany in Martin Luther’s time.

Hours & Miles

I know to many of you that it may seem a bit early, but for me to compile the hours/miles data of all our MG members and to be able to turn in my report in a timely manner to James Hodges for his end of the quarter deadline, your hours & miles must be **turned in by March 15th**. We must clearly represent our organization’s numbers to

those it matters to, especially as budgets are being cut.

Your hours and miles accrued after the 15th of March will be added to the next quarter's totals.

Linda Halsey
P.O. Box 82
Hodges, SC 29653

864-374-7253
halseyfarm@gogenesis.com

Sign Up Today!

Are you interested in learning how to fill out your quarterly **Hours, Miles, Continuing Education, and Contacts Log**? Are you a bit confused as to what constitutes an hour of horticultural community service and or an Office Volunteer Hour? Just what are the many options to add to your continuing education hours? These and other questions will be answered for you when you sign for an **appointment on March 6th at the Mall Office** 942-8664 to meet with Linda Halsey who will enjoy a time of teaching and conversing with all those who are interested.

E-MAIL

Donna Wilson, our new email person, is up and running. She will be forwarding important messages to you. If you aren't receiving messages from her, please contact her at utvolxfan@embarqmail.com or call her at 229-1740.

Jamboree!!!

We are delighted to announce the first Clemson Extension Master Gardener Jamboree at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden on March 21, 2009. The Jamboree will offer fun and fellowship, home and garden demonstrations, educational booths, and Master Gardener merchandise for purchase. This event is open to *all* Master Gardeners and is a great opportunity to socialize, further camaraderie, and forge new friendships with fellow Clemson Extension Master Gardeners from all corners of the state while visiting one of South Carolina's finest gardens.

SEARCH YOUR LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER FILES!

The Public Relations Committee will be cataloging past Lakelands Master Gardener minutes, newsletters, news releases, pictures, etc. Carol Scales and Public relations Committee members, Richard Elrod, Debbie Ashley, Judy Sieckman and Sandra Johnson. Please date submissions and identify people in photos, if you can. Thank you.

Carol Scales

Our Main Fundraising Event:

Submitted by Sandy Stachurski

PLANT SALE at the Farmers Market – Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18

As you begin clearing, separating and cleaning your bed plants, remember to pot some up for the **PLANT SALE**. We will not only need LOTS of plants but also volunteers to work the booth. A sign-up sheet will circulate at the March meeting. Remember, as you pot up your plants to donate, please mark them **CLEARLY** with pertinent information: Plant type (name), growing needs and any other type data that will help. Some other ways to donate are to start some seedlings or pot some bulbs to donate. The worm castings were a hit last year and will be available again this year. Our fundraising chair is John Wham. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact him at 229-0416.

SIGNS OF SPRING ARE IN THE LANDSCAPE

Have you had a chance to stop for a minute and notice all the changes in the landscape lately? I took a walk down our country road this afternoon and noticed more signs of spring. Of course, we've been seeing the narcissus and daffodils blooming. Now the forsythia is blooming in all its yellow glory. Looking up the maple trees are putting out their tiny red leaves and other trees are putting out sporadic green bunches of leaves. If you look down, you'll see many new green shoots popping up out of the ground. The plants in the water garden are beginning to reappear. The honeybees have been out collecting and delivering pollen to the hive. As a gardener, it is a very

exciting time but it can also be very overwhelming if you think about all the chores that need to be accomplished. We'll complete the things that are most important, we always do. But for just a minute, stop and enjoy the landscape.

GIGANTIC THANKS to all those that helped make our February meeting a success.

What an exciting and informative meeting with a great attendance. Thanks to everyone who participated to make this such a terrific event. The Programs Committee did a fabulous job of scheduling along with the fantastic advertising from our PR Committee. We have received many, many positive comments from our members and non-members in the community. Many are talking about installing rain barrels on their property. Have you installed yours yet?

20 Percent of household water, on average, is used for outdoor irrigation by home owners.

1 INCH Amount of rain falling on a 100-square-foot in 1 hour that results in 60 gallons for irrigation.

2009 The Old Farmer's Almanac

Do you enjoy teaching? Do you enjoy children?
Do you enjoy all aspects of gardening?

If so, you are just what we are looking for. Billie Elsley would love a Master Gardener to start a Jr. Master Gardener Program at Oakland Elementary. She would be a great liaison between the coordinator and the school. Children are our future leaders. We want them to realize the benefits of gardening and we can only insure that if we are willing to put forth effort to teach them. If you would be interested in being the coordinator for this program, please contact Sandy Stachurski for details.

Another teaching opportunity: In May, a teacher at Lakeview would like to have a mini seminar on vegetable gardening for her students. If you would like to share your joy of vegetable gardening with some very excited and inquisitive children, please contact Sandy Stachurski.

Upcoming Events:

April 2, 2009 8:30AM – 3:30 PM at the Columbia Conference Center SC Midlands Master Gardeners are sponsoring the 19th annual gardening symposium Down to Earth Gardening for you, Your Plants, and the Planet. \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. More information is available online at www.scmimga.org

May 29, 30, and 31 Lexington County Master Gardeners are sponsoring "Gardens N'Herbs Unite". Eight gardens will be on tour. \$18 in advance, \$20 at gardens. For more information contact BJ Brown at bjbrown53@msn.com or 803-755-9676.

Workdays

Submitted by Sandra Johnson

So you thought it was a little chilly at 9:00 am on Saturday, February 21, 2009. It didn't stop a team of Lakelands Master Gardeners, Museum Board Members and even a Northside Middle School from volunteering at the Railroad Historical Center. The group was on hand to ready the gardens for an April 4th opening. The volunteers - Uma Sridharan, Jay Sridharan, Evelyn Irwin, Yvonne Combs, Leo Petrusha, Ginny Wilson, Shelley Gilchrist, and Sandra Johnson – logged a total of nearly 18 hours of work in support of the Lakelands Master Gardeners, the Railroad Historical Center and Clemson Extension Service.

Each volunteer found their own spot to rake, trim, pick up limbs, gather leaves, etc. Soon everyone was warm and enjoying the peacefulness and charm of the gardens. Camellias were blooming and birds were singing. A big thanks to all who volunteered.

The next workday at the Railroad Historical Center (RRHC) will be Saturday, March 14th from 9:00 until 12:00. And for those of you who like to volunteer during the week, mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 17th from 9 am until 12 pm. Sandy Stachurski will be there to open the gates & wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

The RRHC is an extension of The Museum in Greenwood and is located at 908 South Main

Street between the Palmetto Bank & South Main Baptist Church. Park in the Palmetto Bank parking lot. Wheel barrows, shovels, rakes, smiles, pruning tools, etc. welcome!

The joy of the Topiary Safari Project was that it put bright colors and delightful critters in downtown Greenwood for everyone to enjoy during the month of June. The unusual and stunning visual arrangements were achieved by ingeniously marrying different wire frames with interesting plant combinations. The sheer beauty and eye-catching, color themed plantings were a delight and inspiration for the Festival of Flowers visitors. The pleasure this wonderful show brought to the families and especially the children of the area, was our reward for the hard work, creative planting and careful nurturing that many Master Gardeners devoted to the project.

The artificial conditions of the topiaries, with limited space for compost and the dense plantings, meant that feeding and watering during the hot month of June, became overwhelming. Many Master Gardeners spent hours checking, watering, replanting or repairing each topiary to ensure that the beauty would last. This type of garden is like our potted plants. If we want eye-catching, colorful and beautiful pots that give us pleasure we have to work hard at it.

Last year, this Master Gardener had neglected gardens at home, was exhausted, frustrated and at the same time exhilarated with this new adventure. We learned new skills, made new friends, and dreamed about beautiful flowers on all 13 topiaries. Many of us worked very hard and spent many more hours than anticipated but the project was a wonderful success.

The topiaries didn't come with a "User's Manual" that gave us exact instructions on how to install irrigation, stuff moss, plant, fertilize, water and maintain. Each step was a learning experience, and we all made the best of the crazy situation. We impressed a lot of people and we touched a few hearts along the way. The display was open 24 hours a day and was free to everyone that wanted to take a stroll downtown.

Three bus loads of children arrived while this Master Gardener was working on the giraffe. The children were completely awestruck by the size and how real it looked. Some actually thought it was a real giraffe. The amazed little faces and the knowledge that our topiary giraffe might be as close to a real giraffe that some of these kids would ever see, was the moment that made the hard work and long hours worth it.

We are already working on the topiaries for this year's festival and we've added some exciting new ones. Hopefully, you'll find time to donate a few hours to this wonderful and exciting project.

Nancy Collin

The Clemson Annual Public Meeting – March 30th 6:30 PM

Submitted by James Hodges

**Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fellowship Center
501 Creswell Avenue, East, Greenwood, SC
Tickets \$12.00 –Steve Odom, Helen Spiller &
James Hodges have tickets or get them at the
Extension office at 106 Park Plaza. Deadline is
March 16th.**

Dr. Patrick McMillan of Clemson University and SCETV's Expeditions with Patrick will be our guest speaker. His topic will include information on special places and Maintaining Environmental Balance in Urbanizing Areas.

Patrick is a botanist and naturalist with much knowledge on special plant communities in South Carolina. He is curator of the Campbell Museum at Clemson and host of the show Expeditions on SCETV. Expeditions have crossed the State to highlight unique areas and plant communities. His program seeks to explain the importance of achieving a balance between nature and mankind to create a sustainable environment while preserving unique communities and cultural resources as the state grows in population.

Greenwood is a county and area of the upstate that is in transition from agriculture and rural living to more highly developed urban areas. It is important to grow in a way that enhancing our special natural resources.

Join us as we eat, socialize and celebrate the work done by many organizations that improve the lives of local residents with education and outreach programming.

James

Looking for Volunteers for Senior Voucher Distribution at the Farmer's Market Again

Submitted by James Hodges

Eating good is an important part of health. Many master gardeners raise their own vegetables, fruits and nuts just for this reason. Our own SC Department of Agriculture has been involved in a nutrition program for seniors for the past 8 years. Greenwood Farmer's Market has participated in a program called "Senior Nutrition or Vouchers" during this time. Currently, 1200 low income seniors receive \$25 each to purchase fresh vegetables at our market. This totals \$30,000.00 coming to Greenwood County. Redemptions rates at our market have averaged 95% or more during this period.

This source of customers and cash has helped our Greenwood Farmer's Market maintain a consistent group of vegetable growers. This grant program and the annual plant festival, help our market to grow and provide good food and plants for our area.

This year the Market must provide volunteers to distribute the vouchers at the market. The annual procedure is to use the opening 3 days to distribute vouchers at the market to seniors. This is not a small task. Ten to twelve volunteers are needed at any one time to process each form. On opening day at the market each year 600-800 people receive voucher checks. Clemson Extension is aiding the market in this effort again this year. With Master Gardener help we accomplished the task in record time in 2008

I am looking for volunteers to help at the market in this project. Dates and times are given below. The primary dates for the distribution are Saturday June 20, Wednesday June 24 and Saturday June 27th. Times are 7AM-Noon on each of these days. I will have a signup sheet available at the Mall office (942-8664) on Thursday-Fridays, at the Park Plaza office 942-8590 or you can email me. We can use volunteers for entire market 5 hours or for short blocks of 1, 2, 3 or 4 hours.

This is a very important program for the market and seniors so we don't want to lose this opportunity. Please help if you can. We will provide training for volunteers prior to June.

Thanks
James

Master Gardener Quiz – A recertification requirement

Submitted by James Hodges

Hey all you Master Gardeners out there; How's your memory or guessing ability?

I had an interesting call from a local landscaper just this week. It is interesting to discuss with someone in the business about what he sees as major landscape problems in his work. Here is your quiz question:

What is the major problem he encounters in his work?

Hint: We have had periodic droughts for several years.

Give up.---- It is overwatering!!!! No one knows how to water.

Talk about killing your plants with kindness and you have to include a very large number of people who own in-ground irrigation systems. I think back to many of my visits to homes and I have to concur with his assessment. I have never gotten an answer from any client (none, nada, zero) when I asked "How much water in inches do you put out on your lawn each week?"

No, the answer is not 30 minutes on each zone 7 days per week. Irrigation system installers obviously don't provide clients with any information on how much their system applies in inches per length of cycle.

My friend the Landscaper, told me of a conversation he had with a client last year. "She called me and said she had to drop my contract to maintain her lawn. I asked her why, was she dissatisfied or could I do something different? Her reply was that my work was fine, but the family could not afford me and the \$300-400 per month water bill too." Wow! That's when he started to learn more about irrigation systems, including re-setting systems, making adjustments, small repairs and educating customers. He did finally convince those clients to shut the automatic system off and water as needed twice per week deeply. They could then afford his service.

Now if you want to meet wasteful irrigators, go to the Lake. Except during the very hottest drought periods he noticed squishy lawns as he mowed for many clients. On one particular client's lawn, one area was always wetter than all the other irrigation zones. He pointed out the problem to the customer and explained that overwatering was going to damage the lawn and landscape plants. That one area was overly wet because the client ran that zone twice each cycle so that a small area at the end of one irrigation line got enough water to keep the grass alive. The solution was to extend one irrigation line about 5 feet and add one more head to tPlant sale flhe system.

Your real test as a master gardener is to calibrate your irrigation system before you use it this summer. Can anyone do this? James

Jerry Baker's Lawn Care Tips

Submitted by Stuart Menaker

1. Always wear golf shoes when working in your yard.
2. Water before 2 p.m., between 5 a.m. and 8 a.m. is best
3. Pick up all grass clippings and use as a garden mulch.
4. Apply weed controls between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on a bright, sunny day.
5. Apply disease controls after 7 p.m.
6. Mow after 7 p.m. for your and your lawn's comfort.
7. Mow only with a sharp, sharp blade.
8. Hose down your mower after each use.

Garden Quotes

Gardening gives one back a sense of proportion about everything--except itself.

May Sarton 1968

Gardens were before gardeners, and but some hours after the earth.

Sir Thomas Browne 1658

All gardeners know better than other gardeners.

Anonymous

Those who labour in the earth are the chosen people of God, if he ever had a chosen people.

Thomas Jefferson 1787

What a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back, with a hinge in it.

Charles Dudley Warner 1871

An iris likes to sit on the ground the way a duck sits on the water: half in, half out.

Anne Raver 1995

CLEMSON EXTENSION

GREENWOOD FARMER'S MARKET

PROUDLY SPONSORS OUR

SPRING PLANT SALE FESTIVAL

Free Admission

Friday & Saturday
April 17th & 18th
8AM - 6PM

Flowers Plants Herbs

Garden Crafts Master Gardener Plant Clinic

Greenwood and surrounding County growers and crafters will be on hand to get your spring yards and gardens started off right. Whether you are a hobbyist, a seasoned gardener, or new to this area this is an excellent opportunity for you to discover what works and what doesn't for gardeners in the South. The Farmer's Market Building is located behind the Civic Center on Hwy 72E.

Please contact the Greenwood Extension Office at 864-942-8590 if you need any more information.



