

2015 CALENDAR

3/2 1-3 Plant Sale Pot-up at City Greenhouse

3/5 9-12 Topiary Thurs., City Greenhouse

3/5 1PM Library-Linda Lee of Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, "Unique Botanical Features of SC Piedmont"+Seed Xchange

3/12 6:30 American Legion 806 Calhoun-Ikebana with Fumiko Ichikawa, Board at 5:30 and Membership at 6:00PM

4/09-Farmers' Market Spring Plant Festival booth setup-4:30PM

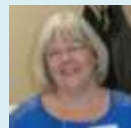
4/10-4/11-LMG Plant Sale at Farmers' Market Spring Plant Festival 7:30-4 and 7:30-2PM. Call Sandy to sign up. 543-4888.

4/11-SC Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale 9-1, Clemson

4/18-SC Native Plant Sale 9-1, Greenville

5/16 Picnic at Susanne Blumer's Farm

6/25-27 Activities related to Festival of Flowers



President's Letter-Donna Feldmaier

By the time you are reading this, our cold snap will be history (I hope) and spring will be on the way. Not only will we be out in our gardens but also participating in the wide range of activities that LMG has for us all! Our first event will feature an exciting speaker we have for this month's meeting. Fumiko Ichikawa will be presenting a wonderful demonstration of Ikebana and we will be able to make our own arrangement to take home. She will bring some floral frogs, flowers, and holders, but if you want to take home your own arrangement, bring your own floral frog (pin base) and container.

It is topiary season!! Sue Monahan will be holding weekly plug planting and trimming days at the city greenhouse. Please join her from 9-noon every Thursday. Be sure to let Sue know you're coming.

*The Farmers Market Plant sale is fast approaching. Volunteers will be needed for the following days and times: Thursday, April 9 from 4-6 for plant drop off. Friday, April 10 7:30 am – 4:00 pm and Saturday, April 11 7:30 am – 12:00 for the sale. Sign-up sheets will be at the March meeting or you can give Sandy Orr or me a call. Also, don't forget about Sandy's goal for everyone to provide 10 plants. The seeds I have planted for my donation are starting to look very promising. So far I have Nasturtium Canary Creeper Vine (*Tropaeolum Peregrinum*), Black-eyed Susan Vine (*Thunbergia Alata*) and Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia*).*

Congratulations to Chuck Bender for being elected this year's Master Gardener of the Year. Chuck was in the Master Gardener Class of 2007, but before then, he didn't have a lot of experience in gardening. Helping the community by working on projects and seeing the results are some of Chuck's favorite things about being a Master Gardener. Thank you Chuck for your dedication to the Lakelands Master Gardeners!

Also, from January 1 until now, LMG has volunteered over 175 hours to the City of Greenwood. Awesome job!

CALENDAR cont'd
8/13 LMG Board Meeting, Gwd Library 4:30

9/10 Rusty Wilson on Snakes, American Legion 806 Calhoun 6:00 Membership Meeting 6:30 Speaker

10/15 LMG Board Meeting, Gwd Library 4:30

11/12 Speaker and membership meeting, To be determined, American Legion 806 Calhoun 6:00 Membership Meeting 6:30 Speaker

12/10 Board Meeting, Library, 4:30

MARCH 12th @ 6:30 pm

At the American Legion

ADMISSION IS FREE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



The Lakelands Master Gardeners Present:

IKEBANA

The Japanese art of flower arranging

For Information Contact:
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bill.aaron13@gmail.com



Join us on **March 12, 2015** at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 806 Calhoun Avenue, Greenwood as Fumiko Ichikawa demonstrates ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging. Fumiko spent 5 years studying ikebana while in Japan. She was raised in Kanagawa, a city about one hour south of Tokyo. She moved to Greenwood three years ago with her husband, who works for Fuji Film, and two children.

LMG Membership Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting Pictures-2/12/15



Chuck Bender, Master Gardener of the Year- by Olivia Reynolds

Chuck Bender was presented with the award of Master Gardener of the Year at the recent annual meeting of the Lakelands Master Gardeners. Chuck was a member of the Master Gardener Class of 2007. Before then, he didn't have a lot of knowledge or experience in gardening. Since his retirement brought him some spare time he wanted to learn about his landscape plants, lawn, and trees on his newly developed property on the lake. Since then he has added over 75 plants mostly from dividing and transplanting volunteers, all topics he learned in his Master Gardening class. He also enjoys growing his own food and is now toying with the idea of grafting plants to further his experience in propagation. Chuck is also active in helping the community. He spreads his volunteer activities out to the Lander Arboretum Committee, his Homeowners Association, the AARP Tax Preparation program, and multiple community gardening projects. When asked about gardening, Bender replied: "An attractive landscape makes a difference to a house, neighborhood, and town. It is a value, I think many take for granted, and the knowledge I have attained makes me appreciate it more."

Chris Ester, Olivia Reynolds, Renea Sprowl, Lola Wynter, and David Belcher become Certified Master Gardeners. Not pictured are Cyndy and Bill Aaron, Susanne Blumer, and Christine Cornetto.



At the Annual Meeting, the Board's Nomination Ballot was approved by the membership. March 1st, the new President is Donna Feldmaier. The new Vice President is Barbara Wells. The new Secretary is Chris Moon. Melody McInville will continue as Treasurer. For a full list of Committee Chairs, see the end of the newsletter.



**FARMERS MARKET
SPRING PLANT FESTIVAL**

FRIDAY APRIL 10th
8:00AM - 4:00PM

SATURDAY APRIL 11th
8:00 AM - 2:00PM

FLOWERS
VEGETABLES HERBS
GARDEN CRAFTS
& **LAKELANDS**
MASTER GARDENERS

AT THE **GREENWOOD FARMER'S MARKET**

SC HWY 72/221 EAST

MARKET MANAGER
NEWTON O'DELL
884-223-6305

Logo: A sun with rays, a green leaf, and a circular seal that says 'CERTIFIED BY SEEDS'.

PLANT SALE POT-UP WORKDAY-MONDAY MARCH 2, 1-3PM, CITY GREENHOUSE

Remember to start transplanting your divisions. One quart pots or red Solo cups work well, since anything larger is hard for people to carry. (Of course if you have a mature tree or shrub, do your best). Ann Barklow has graciously grown transplants to pot up at the greenhouse for sale at the Festival. If you don't have 10 plants to contribute, you may take these home to care for them until the sale and count them toward your 10.

*Please contact **Sandy Orr at 543-4888** to sign up to work on either Friday or Saturday of the Plant Sale.*

The Pair that Announces Spring in the Landscape – James Hodges

It's that time of year when local nurseries are full of tree planting stock. Which trees are right for your home or business landscape? In the flowering tree category two of our natives should top anyone's list of spring time beauties; the dogwood, (*Cornus florida*), and the redbud, (*Cercis canadensis*).



Up close view of dogwood and redbud flowers in full bloom

Dogwood and redbud are small maturing trees that fit into many landscape situations. Both are small enough at maturity to fit into small planting areas or compatible as understory trees; particularly when mixed with our southern pines. Their early spring blossoms quickly brighten those winter shades of brown and dark greens of evergreen trees and shrubs.

The redbud, (really more of a lavender or magenta color) is one of the earliest blooming trees. There are white cultivars of redbud too. The logic of the common name is a little off, but the first buds of the tree do appear redder in color, except on the white version.

Regardless of the true color, the spring display brightens one's landscaping spirit in March after the dreary days of winter. Given adequate space to spread, redbud trees mature into a small umbrella shaped tree (25-30 feet) with large heart shaped leaves.

The flowering dogwood is probably the most popular native small flowering tree in the Lakelands. Over the next few weeks neighborhoods throughout our area will come alive with the bright white, pink and red blooms of the various cultivars. The white colored bloom is the dominant color of our native populations and its white color blends well with the rainbow of colors created by other spring flowering shrubs, trees and bulbs.

The Clemson University Home and Garden website: <http://hgic.clemson.edu> has useful bulletins on both trees. Four tips on growing these two trees:

1. Choose good planting stock from your local nursery. Big is not always best when selecting any tree for use in the landscape. Larger planting stock requires much more effort in handling, transporting, planting and aftercare. Tall planting stock (six feet or more) often are spindly and require staking to hold them upright. If the trees are to be planted among pines in a natural setting, small trees with small root-balls require much less digging and cutting of other trees roots.
2. Both tree species are adapted to part shade, but can be planted in full sun if adequate planting sites are chosen or created. Plopping a dogwood in the middle of a heavy turf-grass spot without a mulched, grass free zone is a recipe for poor

performance. Usually improving heavy clay involves loosening an area 2-5 times the width of the root ball by breaking it up with a spade. I prefer a raised bed approach where composted material and good soils are added to create a raised bed 4-8 inches in height into which the tree is then planted. After planting, 2-4 inches of mulch is added, but it should not cover the root-ball or stem.

3. Both trees tend to be shallow rooted in our heavy clays and require regular watering during their first years after planting and occasional irrigation during hot, dry weather to maintain good health.
4. Even though both trees are small at maturity, avoid planting either under heavy shade or where there is not enough space for them to mature to their normal width or height of 20-30 feet. Given adequate growing space and nutrients they will give you a wonderful spring display for many years.

Piedmont Tech to start Seed Library/Exchange!

In the spirit of springtime, Piedmont Tech is starting its very own Seed Library! Here's how Piedmont Tech says this works:

"We'll have some easy-to-grow and heirloom seeds to share with YOU. We want you to share your seeds with us, too. So, you may TAKE A PACKET, and if you have something you'd like to share, LEAVE SOME SEEDS for someone else.

We'll keep this up for a few weeks. Then, we'll collect seeds at the end of the summer growing season to share for next year.

Join us on March 5 at the Linda Lee talk at the Greenwood Library and let's get our gardens growing!"





WORKDAY IN CITY GREENHOUSE: Clockwise from Red Donna Feldmaier, Betsy Russ, Linda Halsey, and Chuck Bender stick alternanthera cuttings. Chris Ester, Barbara Wells and Sandy Orr also pitched in.

GREENVILLE MASTER GARDENERS' SYMPOSIUM GAVE ME A JUMPSTART ON SPRING- Sandy Orr

The symposium once again lived up to its standard of excellence. Jenks Farmer, Renee Shepard, David Culp and Trad Cotter were among the many featured speakers.

***Jenks**, who raises crinum for his online nursery at Beech Island Farm in Aiken County, is a humorous folksy speaker. His featured book, "Deep Rooted Wisdom", recounts the characters who informed his gardening choices. Random deep-rooted wisdom that he imparted included the planting of poppies, phlox pilosa (rampant growers), ardisia, wax myrtles, sensitive briar and podocarpus (as nitrogen fixers). We should be rooting figs NOW, and eating gourds instead of squash, because gourds thrive in our climate without the dreaded squash vine borer. He showcased his public garden design successes including Riverbanks Zoo, Moore Farms, General Wade Hampton Preston Garden (Columbia), and the Florence SC Museum Garden.*

***Renee Shepherd**, President of the Home Garden Seed Association, and founder of two successful seed companies spoke about some fun seed varieties in her Renee's Garden seed catalogue. She has many cookbooks also, so she mixed in recipes for chard lasagna, corn mache salad (with walnut oil, eggs, beets and chives), and arugula 'Wasabi' pesto (self-seeds to give you perennial pesto). Her Portuguese Kale 'Tronchuda Beira' beckons*

due to its heat tolerance. She pooh-poohed the GMO concern in relation to backyard garden seeds, since she said there aren't GMO varieties of backyard vegetables. Commercial corn and soybeans are the only seeds sold in sufficient quantity to justify the expense of genetic engineering.

***David Culp** was full of landscape ideas from his "Layered Garden" book. He advised us to put the understory back in our yards, using groundcovers of hellebores, asclepias, allium karataviense, sanguisorba, calamintha, ferns, species tulips in gravel so the squirrels don't dig, and golden hakonechloa. He breaks up groundcovers with pots or feature plants of cannas, and various small trees like James's much-loved cercis.*

***Trad Cotter** reprised his talk to LMG, explaining the technique of studding fresh cut deciduous logs with plugs of mushroom spores. He spoke of the vast array of uses mushrooms might have including oil spill treatment, remediation of abused land, fire ant removal, and cancer treatment. He has a new laboratory facility near Greenville and is on the verge of getting patents on some of these uses. He showed us how to make a spore print of a mushroom and encouraged us to send them to him for mushroom identification. Mushroom spores can also be mixed with birdseed to carpet bomb your woods to increase land fertility.*

Lakelands Master Gardener Board

President- Donna Feldmaier

Vice President- Barbara Wells

Treasurer- Melody McInville

Secretary- Chris Moon

Past President- Sandy Orr

Clemson Advisor- James Hodges

Membership- Betsy Russ

Education- Linda Halsey

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