



Master Gardener Thymes

www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

MAY 2007

MEETING CALENDAR FOR MAY

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at NW Volunteer Fire Department @ 6:30pm, unless otherwise noted. The Fire Department is located behind Harris Baptist Church off of Center Street.

MAY 10th—Dr. Charles Horn—Dr. Charles Horn of Newberry College will travel to meet with our group and speak on South Carolina Wildflowers. Dr. Horn is a Professor of Biology and Department Chair of Biology and Chemistry at Newberry. He will speak to us about the May-white Azalea (*Rhododendron eastmanii*), which was first described in 1999 and Dr. Horn has since identified 23 populations in South Carolina. He is also the curator of the Herbarium at Newberry College. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Dr. Horn bring us up-to-date on new discoveries and interesting plants.

JUNE 14th—Dr. Bill Manning and his wife, Jan, will speak on daylilies. You won't want to miss this. The Manning's have hundreds of varieties of daylilies and are active propagators and breeders.

PRESIDENTS CORNER—Julee Marshall

WHAT WERE WE THINKING

How many people do you know that have vegetable gardens smack dab in the middle of their front yards? I venture to say, not many. But my husband, Pat, and I do. When we bought our house at Lake Greenwood, I just HAD to have a garden and the sunniest spot was in the front yard. Pat, who had never picked a bean in his life, humored me and agreed to help.

We started out small - about 20' by 20'. I tilled up the grass and had a load of mulch brought in to help make clay into dirt. Well, our mulch guy was way too generous and dumped this huge load on our grass and small garden spot. Then we had to shovel it all over the garden and off of the grass. Thought we were gonna die. To keep our local deer herd out, Pat erected a fence made of 4"X4"s and plastic deer net. It was a lot of work, but I finally planted my herbs, veggies, and flowers and was extremely surprised how successful the garden was that very first year. I was a happy woman!

A couple of years later, we decided to enlarge it to about 20'X30'. I don't remember much about that process. I think I must have blocked it out of my mind, because we decided to add another 10 foot this year. This bit of flawed decision making included removal of a crape myrtle tree, a raised bed that had the remnants of a pine stump in it, and of course, the gate posts that were set in concrete! Call in the troops!

Our neighbor pushed and pulled the tree out but left a lot of roots. So, we called our friendly mulch and tree guy to bring a "little bit of mulch" and grind up the roots and stump. Well, he is such a nice guy...very generous with the mulch...WAY too generous...WAY too much for the area. Now we have to shovel it off the garden again and haul it all over the yard. I am NOT a happy woman! Then it's on to turning the grass and clay by hand, transplanting some of the grass to a bare area, and tilling repeatedly. Our brother-in-law wenches out the gate posts and I'm starting to feel better. But Pat still had the fence and gate to do. Well, of course, there is a big fat root from the old pine tree right where a post is supposed to go. He is not a happy man. But the obstacle is overcome with much chopping and finally moving the post over a bit. I thought he was gonna die.

Well, we finally finished it Easter weekend, just in time for planting April 17 when the moon was favorable for above ground crops. It all started when I said that I wasn't going to plant corn this year. There just wasn't enough room. And last year the wind blew it over, the Japanese bean beetles ate the silks, and then the raccoons found it. It just wasn't worth it. "Oh no," he says. "The corn is the best thing you grow!" And so it started. The new ten foot section will be dedicated to Silver Queen corn and we already have an electric wire around the garden to keep the raccoons out. But can anyone tell me "What WERE we THINKING?"

JUDY KELLEY'S CORNER—*A Gardener's Journal*

Well, it's time for me to sit down and take a quick break from rearranging my yard. My mornings have found me trying to enlarge my water garden-pond and change the landscaping around it. After I dug my little pond (3' by 5') several years ago, I read several articles on how a person always wishes his or her pond had been larger. Well, you know, I have found that to be true. With the help of my husband this time, my pond is now a little larger (7' by 9') and has replaced both my original herb beds.

Now, that means I'm going to have to do some plant rearrangement since I can't give up my herbs. What to do? As I considered that great question and looked at the plants I already have to work with, I started digging. Herbs would go into a kitchen garden by the deck as well as mix in around the pond. I found that I had some Stokes' aster plants (*Stokesia laevis*) that were one of my Mother's favorite plants. She had several large clumps by their back deck steps that my sister and I divided at least 6 years ago. In my new landscaping project, these asters would be perfect in a new flower bed I created on the slope by the steps going down to the pond. So, one of my two clumps was moved. I think my plant was really glad because it certainly was time for it to be divided. Then, I also had rescued two little candytuff (*Iberis sempervirens*) plants from the border around my parent's boxwoods. Those poor little plants were overwhelmed by the border grass that had been planted at the same time. Since bringing them to my house, they've shared residency with the asters so I couldn't leave that poor little white tuff by itself. It had to share the bed with the aster.

You may be asking yourself how all this could fit into a garden of memories. The answer is simple. All these changes reminded me of the days when I first dug and put in those herb beds right after we bought our house. At that time, my mother was able to come to my house and spend time with me in her 'comfy' chair while I worked. She sat and supervised my Dad as he cut landscape timbers for me right at the spot where the new bed is located. Her Stokes' asters and candytuff are now supervising the rest of the plants I am putting into place. What a perfect spot for some precious flowers that a very precious lady first cared about and introduced into her yard.

Time to go! I hear weeds calling now! They just won't go away.

UPCOMING EVENT WORTH ATTENDING—*Submitted by Sumter Master Gardeners*

The **Sumter Master Gardeners and the Sumter Council of Garden Clubs** are sponsoring their annual **Spring Garden Tour** on **May 5 from 10-5:30**. Cost of the tour is \$10 and tickets can be purchased at any of the homes. Plan a trip our way, and think about a side trip to Swan Lake Iris Gardens while you are here! Any questions call me at 803-469-0048. Thanks—
Ruth Ann Bigger

Virginia Capper

837 Possum Hollow Way

A sprawling country garden and a quiet pond fringed with azaleas reflect Mrs. Capper's love of the traditional southern countryside. An amazing variety of plants, both native and new specimens, bears testimony to a dedicated gardener's loving devotion. Mrs. Capper turns 90 the end of this month!

Frank and Vicky Edwards

20 Hunters' Point Cove

An all-season walled garden perfect for entertaining family and friends is the result of loving care provided by the owners. Combinations of Frank's good eye for design, construction skills, and creative plantings have produced a charming garden.

Gary and Judy Culbertson

2845 Lillington Drive

The centerpiece of this Certified Wildlife Habitat Garden is a landscaped pond with a three tiered waterfall and central oval island that is approached by an 8' cedar bridge. Landscaped lighting enhances nighttime viewing. The Culbertson's are members of the Charleston Showa Koi club, and state that some of the nearly four dozen fish in the pond are over ten years old.

Ann Snead

815 West Gloucester Drive

A classic "Charleston Garden" designed with inspiration and input from famous Charleston writer and gardener Mrs. Emily Whaley and the teachings of her landscape designer Loutrell Briggs fulfills the gardening dream of the owner. Traditional Charleston design elements of evergreen, brickwork, and garden features add up to a delightful experience.

Beth and Mike Watcher

265 Idle Lake Drive

Diverse plantings in both front and back yards of the lovely pond-side garden reflect the owners' plans for a family-oriented landscape. A rock garden and over a dozen flower beds offer dashes of color that will delight the eyes.

Betsy and Hugh Humphries

115 Snowden

This lovely tree shaded garden, planted and tended by the former gardening writer for *The Item*, will amaze and inspire you with the sheer variety of woody ornamentals and perennials, particularly the extensive collection of hostas.

Willean and Ozias Gray

991 Antlers Drive

Transforming this formerly overgrown front yard and foundation plantings to a lower maintenance and less reptile friendly areas were the goals of new residents and assisting landscaper "The Dirt Diva." Smaller scale plants are placed in the foundation plantings and larger ones to provide shade and privacy in the outside seating area. "Before" photos will be on display to offer inspiration for landscape renovation possibilities.

RAILROAD HISTORIC MUSEUM

We've had several work days at the Railroad Historical Museum this spring. It is finally starting to take shape. We appreciate everyone pitching in to help. On Thurs, April 19 Evelyn Irwin and Stuart Menaker worked diligently tidying up the Cast Iron Plant and digging up unwanted Nandinas in the front garden. On Saturday, April 21 Sandra Johnson headed up the workforce in the back garden. Thanks to [Jane Price](#), [Linda Kellam](#), [Julee Marshall](#), [Stuart Menaker](#), [Beth Kapperman](#), [Bryan Wesson](#), [Chris Snipes](#), and [John Wham](#) for giving your time and energy to get the garden ready for the Festival of Flowers. We still have scheduled workdays on Thurs, May 17 from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM and Sat, May 19 from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. We are winding down for the spring with our community projects, so if you still need volunteer hours plan to attend a work day in May.

LANDER ARBORETUM

Wow - Did we have a great crew on Saturday, March 31 to plant about 55 azaleas and dogwoods at Lander. We thought it would take much longer than it actually did. Thanks to Daniel Nolan for having MOST of the holes dug by the Lander grounds crew, we finished shortly after 11:00 AM. We say most because he saved the best for last and had us digging. Daniel, of Daniel Nolan Design, did a tremendous job designing and getting all the logistics set for this project. We also appreciate all the help Chris Snipes, Julee Marshall, Sandra Johnson, Joe Upchurch, Lynn Bornemann, Connie Normand, Bryan Wesson and Lee Natvig did. Thanks to everyone we completed the project on Saturday. If you get a chance, stop by and take a look at what was accomplished.

PALS

The PALS project is moving along nicely. This project has encompassed the help of so many people. On April 10, Donna Boozer gave a mini-seminar on Gardening 101. This was an informative start for the children on what gardening is and the care necessary to produce a crop of vegetables. On April 17 the children constructed the raised beds along with the help of James Hodges, Ann Mendelson, Steve Odom, Cathy Swindell and John Wham. James had all the wood precut and marked. He even had the nail holes already drilled for easy assembly. The boys had a GREAT time using the hammers and did a very good job. They were very attentive during the learning segment of hammering and we didn't have a single hammered thumb. Then it came time to filling the boxes with soil. The shoveling didn't intrigue them as much as hammering, but they completed the task. We will have the planting stage on April 24. Thanks to all the above for assisting with this project. A very special thanks to Agnes Beckett, Cathy Swindell's mom, for the wood donation. We could not have completed this project without the help of James and Steve. Their knowledge and cooperation makes every community project fun and informative. We are fortunate to have both of them on our team.

UPDATE TO PALS

Today, April 24, we planted at the PALS project. Those attending were James Hodges, Julee Marshall and Ann Mendelson. The kids planted tomatoes, squash, cucumbers and peppers. We had several different varieties of each. After planting, we placed newspapers and mulched. Now it is up to the kids to water and wait on the fruits of our labor. We appreciate all those that donated supplies and money for this project.

OAKLAND MEMORY GARDEN

We met bright and early on April 17 to revitalize the Memory gardens. Our plans were to weed, till and mulch. Beth Kapperman is the project coordinator for this project and has done a fantastic job. She had the weeds sprayed and mulch delivered before our arrival. Julee Marshall and Cathy Swindell joined in the weeding phase. We will meet again on Tuesday, May 1st from 8L:30am until 11:30 am to finish weeding. We will also till and mulch. Come join us. Bring your weeding tools, wheelbarrow and shovel for the mulching. We greatly appreciate everyone's help. We can only complete our projects with a little help from everyone.

UPCOMING WORK DATES

Tuesday May 1 st	8:30am-11:30am	Oakland Memory garden
Thursday May 17 th	3:00pm-6:00pm	Railroad Museum
Saturday May 19 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Railroad Museum

If you can't spend the entire time, come spend what time you have. All hands are welcome. The Railroad Museum is on the Festival of Flowers Tour this year. We need it to look it's best for this important event. Thanks to all that help. You truly are appreciated. If we left anyone out, it is Lauren's fault.

THE POETRY CORNER—Submitted by Evie Galloway

Evie is an avid listener of The Prairie Home Companion on NPR....I hope many of you are! I missed the Spring poetry contest they held, but Evie didn't! She says this is her favorite from the finalists. All of the finalists submissions are posted on the Prairie Home Companion website. After reading them, I think Evie got it right! This poem from Jack Dillard says it all about being a gardener. Thanks to Evie for the contribution and for sharing it with all of us.

"Spring Onions" by Jack Dillard of Charlotte, NC

A wild spring onion first appeared
Last Tuesday in my lawn.
I cranked up my weed-wacker.
With one whack it was gone.

With no small satisfaction,
I then surveyed the yard.
To get it so immaculate,
I'd worked both long and hard.

The next day it was back again,
that wild and wispy weed.
I admired its persistence
and reluctance to concede.

But I refused to be outdone
by a pesky bulb with shoots.
I bent down and I yanked it out
with care to get its roots.

Before I could dispose of it,
the weed had grown right back.
That's it, I said, I've had enough.
I went on the attack.

I dug a hole where it had been,
two feet deep, three wide.
Then, I doused the dirt and grounds
with a potent herbicide.

It sprang up in another spot
so I got out the tiller.
I chased it all around the yard,
a serial weed-killer.

In the end I lost the fight.
Defeat was absolute.
The lawn that once was manicured
looked like war-torn Beirut.

I realized then I couldn't win.
No use to rant and rave
and when I die, I'll fertilize
spring onions on my grave.

Jack Dillard is a freelance writer living in Charlotte, NC. He is a graduate of Appalachian State University with a degree in English. He is the co-founder of the Brew Pub Poets Society, a loose literary group of wits and wiseacres patterned after the Algonquin Round Table on a beer budget. He is the former editor of Cold Mountain Review.

Even you can donate to the newsletter!!!! Have a favorite garden to visit, a good garden book to review? Please pass it to the editor: LBoylston@earthlink.net

DID YOU KNOW????—Submitted by James Boylston

Three Sisters Agriculture
(From the Wikipedia Website)

The **Three Sisters** are the three main agricultural crops of some Native American groups in North America, particularly in New England: squash, maize and climbing beans (typically tepary beans or common beans).

In a technique known as companion planting, the three crops are planted close together. Flat-topped mounds of soil are built for each “cluster”, about 1 foot high and 20 inches wide, and several maize seeds are planted close together, in the very center of each mound. When the maize is 6 inches tall, beans and squash are planted around the maize, alternating between beans and squash.

The three crops benefit from each other. The maize provides a structure for the beans to climb, eliminating the need for poles. The beans provide the nitrogen to the soil that the other plants utilize and the squash spreads along the ground, monopolizing the sunlight to prevent weeds. The squash leaves act as a “living mulch”, creating a microclimate to retain moisture in the soil, and the prickly hairs of the vine deter pests.

In parts of the Atlantic Northeast, fish or eel were often planted with the maize seeds, to act as additional fertilizer where the soil was poor.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE AT THE FARMERS MARKET—Submitted by Jane Price

Many thanks to those that helped make the Plant Sale Fundraiser a success at the Farmers Market.

The following Master Gardeners contributed by either setting up, donating plants, birdhouses, worm castings, composter, Public Relations or clean-up: Sharon Alvarez, Jean Anderson, Donna Boozer, Lauren Boylston, Mike Brown, Jeannie Curry, Webster Curry, Paul Drew, Billy Dukes, Dana Ellis, Carol Fritz, James Hodges, Sandra Johnson, Linda Kellam, Julee Marshall, Stuart Menaker, Ann Mendelson, Sue Moore, Gail Murph, Connie Normand, Jane Price, Jim Ridgeway, Miriam Smith, Sandy Stachurski, Peggy Ticehurst, Joe Upchurch, SuSu Wallace, John Wham and Kathy Zak.

The following Master Gardeners worked at the sale on one or all of the days we were there: Jean Anderson, Donna Boozer, Mike Brown, Paul Drew, Billy Dukes, Carol Fritz, James Hodges, Julee Marshall, Stuart Menaker, Ann Mendelson, Sue Moore, Terri Mostiller, Gail Murph, Connie Normand, Jane Price, Miriam Smith, Sandy Stachurski, Joe Upchurch, SuSu Wallace, Bryan Wesson, John Wham and Kathy Zak.

Thanks to all that helped. An article about the Plant Sale will appear in next month’s newsletter.

CLEMSON EXTENSION AGENT CORNER—James Hodges **COLD DAMAGE**

Many of our local or native plants damaged by the “Easter Freeze” seem to be recovering with new buds and sprouts emerging. Several other imports were more severely damaged at some locations. In the 3 weeks since the freeze most natives such as white oaks and pecans are starting new leaves with mostly tip damage. The variability of damage provided an excellent example of micro-site effects and genetics difference between different plant species and even cultivars within a species.

Some of the hardest hit plants were Japanese maples and Crape myrtles. Most heavily damaged were plants that had just started new leaders with soft succulent stems and leaves. All my crape myrtles had quarter size leaves which were toasted. I have two cultivars and both were defoliated by 23 degree temperatures.

I checked my crape myrtles this weekend and found new sprouts emerging along the stems. Most have lost the pencil size stems and the new leaves are emerging further down the stems. Unfortunately, some stems were damaged down to stems that are nearly an inch in diameter. I noticed on some that there are freeze cracks now showing on the dead twigs and stems. As the tissue dies and dries out the bark splits along twigs and stems. Several of my myrtle trees have root suckers emerging.

All of the negative effects of the freezing temperature are not yet evident, but you can begin to prune dead tissue out if you like. “In this case you will sometimes top the myrtles because the top is dead. In some cases this will be minor, while it may be more prudent to cut some heavily damaged trees down to the ground and start thinning new sprouts. Hopefully, your yard was one that was more protected than mine.

The jury is still out for many of our grafted Japanese maples. The thread leaf varieties seemed to be hardest hit in some yards. Many lost most of their leaves, but buds are emerging in the leaf axles. Some may have significant stem death, so proceed with caution in pruning.

Some emerging sprouts at the highest point on the tree or shrub may still not survive the summer. Often parts of the stem are killed but leaving green streaks with emerging buds which later die back. Be patient and don’t totally remove trees too quickly because we won’t know the total effect on individual plants until most of the season has passed.

EDITORS CORNER—*Lauren Boylston*

- I am off to the International Master Gardeners Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas this week. Carol Scales is also going. It is a great pleasure for us to be attending this huge event. I am sure I will have a lot to write about when I return. So, stay tuned to next month's newsletter for a review of this conference. The next conference will be held in 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- I am still asking for ALL OF YOU to consider donating items to our newsletter. We could have used you AGAIN this month. Believe me, when my husband can find time to dig up a little article for me, I know you can. We need recipes, book reviews, garden reviews, upcoming events of interest and anything else "garden" related.
- Thanks to all of you who came out to my garden for our last meeting and plant exchange. We had a good crowd and managed to dodge the raindrops! Maybe the wine helped! Jim and I always love having people visit our property. We started out with 3.5 acres of red clay on a hill 6 years ago and are thrilled with the progress we have made. But, as we all know, it is never done. When the daylilies begin to bloom in the next weeks, please stop by to see them. Also, it looks as if the hydrangeas are recovering from the 23 degree temperatures and we still might get a decent show. I'll let you know.
- I have noticed in the Community Projects update and the Fundraiser update that MANY MANY interns are putting in a lot of hours volunteering. This new class seems to be really active and I think it is great! Keep up the good work!
- And, last but not least, if you are interested in being the newsletter EDIOTR next year, let me know, This will be my last year as Editor and if you think you might like this position, feel free to call and ask questions!!!

Send all articles and contributions to LBoylston@earthlink.net. It is best in a word document but I can usually copy and paste from an email!!!! Let me hear from you.

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