



Master Gardener Thymes

www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

May 2009



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

Upcoming Meetings!!

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.

June 11:

Annual Picnic – Magnolia Park
“The Joy of Canning”
Vickie Hedden

Vickie will discuss different canning methods and processes. She will share some recipes with us and will give us the opportunity to taste the results.

The Master Gardeners will be supplying the meat and drinks for our picnic. Members will be asked

to bring a side or dessert. We will have a sign-up sheet at our May meeting.

July 9 :

Farmer’s Daylilies – Cleo Farmer – 500 labeled varieties of daylilies!

218 Woodlawn St., off Center St. in Harris Village subdivision, near Harris Baptist Church.

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

Upcoming Events:

May 1-3 Ashville Herb Festival
Located at the Western North Carolina Farmers Market, 570 Brevard Road Ashville, this is at the intersection of I-26 and I-40.
Free parking and admission
55 businesses will be represented
Hours: Friday & Saturday 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Sunday 10:00AM – 3:00PM

Thursday, **April 30-Saturday, May 2**

8:00AM-6:00PM

Sunday, **May 3** 10:00AM-4:00PM

Piedmont Plant & Flower Festival 864-244-4023
Greenville State Farmers Market, Greenville, SC

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.

James still needs a few more volunteers for distributing senior vouchers on June 20th.

If you can help, please contact him.

PLANT SALE

We had a very successful plant sale mid April. The net profit was \$1024.00. We greatly appreciate all the donations, especially the huge donations from John Wham and Melody McInville. The sale wouldn't have been a success without all our booth volunteers. We had plenty of volunteers to cheerfully serve all our customers. The fundraising committee did a fantastic job and much appreciation to them: John Wham, along with his wife Ella, Chris Moffitt, and Ann Mendelson. Also, we are grateful to Paul Drew and Mike Brown for allowing The Sunshine House to be a drop-off location. It takes each of us to make our fundraiser a success and you served us well. Thanks!

COMMUNITY SPEAKER LIST

As Master Gardeners, one of our jobs is to share our horticulture knowledge and experience with those in our community. The Clemson Extension office is always getting calls asking for program speakers for their groups or organizations. It is impossible for the Extension staff to do all the presentations. We, as Master Gardeners, each have special interests and are qualified to speak to other groups. What is your specialty? Are you interested in lawns, fruit or vegetable gardens, water gardens, native plants, container gardening,

composting, plant propagation, or landscape design? These are just a few gardening topics. Do you have your own topic you would be willing to share with others? We are updating our "community speaker list." If you are interested in sharing gardening information with others in our community, please contact Sandy Stachurski at drglenn7@embarqmail.com or call 229-7444 office, or 554-1235 cell.

Volunteer Opportunities

Mark your calendars: Saturday, **June 6**
We will be having a workday at the railroad museum. We will also have a mini seminar before the workday. More details will follow

Thanks - Sandy

Festival of Flowers

***Topiary Maintenance** – Once again we will be checking the topiaries after they are placed Uptown Greenwood. This will take place during the month of June. Last year we had folks checking them in the mornings and afternoons to make sure they were being properly watered and we were responsible to notify committee members if plants needed to be replaced. Look for a schedule at the May meeting to sign-up.

***Host/Hostess during Garden Tours** – This will take place on Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28. This is a very easy way to earn volunteer hours. We will have a sign-up sheet at our May meeting with all the details.

***Information Booth** – The booth will be located at Park Seed on Saturday, June 27. This is a great opportunity to meet others in our community that may be interested in becoming future Master Gardeners. It is also a great way to give plant information to those interested. Look for the schedule to sign-up at our May meeting.

Successful Tree and Shrub Planting Techniques

Submitted by James Hodges

Most trees and shrubs are now established with container grown plants in the spring. Many great plants are currently available at local nurseries to choose from. Sometimes there are too many choices and we wind up confused.

Clemson Extension HGIC internet site <http://hgic.clemson.edu> has information on many good landscape plants for South Carolina. If you have a desire to add to your landscape check out the site (before you go shopping for plants). The site has information on trees and shrubs for sunny or shady locations. There is information on large maturing trees such as oaks, small trees for partial shade such as dogwoods, and shrubs suitable for foundation plants such as dwarf yaupon holly. A little bit of research and information in hand can help you to avoid creating an ugly tree in the future.

Ugly trees are so often created because trees quickly outgrow their available space, are planted too close to homes, or plopped down under utility lines.

Various trees and shrubs are often grouped together by utility, such as colorful flowering, screening, shade tree or tough site trees. This type of information can help you to select appropriate trees or shrubs for various landscape areas on your property. Over the years I have noticed several little known categories for our local tree and shrub groupings.

1. The "Break Your Heart Category"
2. The "Brown in the Spring Category"
3. The "It Won't Stop Growing Category"
4. The "I Wish I had never Planted this one Category"

The number one tree in the "Break your heart Category" has to be the ever popular Bradford Pear. Each year thousands continue to be planted. Every year, as they reach the ripe old age of 12- 15 years, thousands of them break apart because of branching defects.

Popular local trees and shrubs in the "Brown in the spring" are Eucalyptus trees and Oleander shrub. Both are beautiful plants, but neither is continually hardy in Greenwood's Zone 7. If a plant is listed as hardy in zones 8-10 that means it

may do fine on the coast, but will eventually suffer from cold damage in our area.

The "It won't stop growing category" is a prime source of our ugly trees candidates each year. My favorite in this category is the "by your picture window or two feet from the home's foundation; Natchez white Crape Myrtle." If you like to drastically prune your crape myrtles each winter this is a great choice. If you enjoy the look of barren stubs in the winter, prolific stump sprouts in the summer and enjoy a plant that will always need constant pruning; then choose this combination of tree and planting location. Hint: Natchez is programmed genetically to grow to a size of 30 feet or more.

Another close second in this category is the Leyland Cypress. Most people don't look at the tag closely on this one. It can get to 60 feet tall. It starts out as a great plant for a privacy hedge, but it may take over half of the space on your side of a residential lot.

The number one candidate in the "I wish I had never planted or left it when I built my house category" of trees has to be the Sweet Gum. As an immature tree it is great, but as soon as it starts to produce seed and sweet gum balls it will drive you crazy. Many of the sharp sticker holly shrubs also wind up becoming a "pain" to prune and shape each year.

Now that you have all this great useful information what selections will you make at the garden centers? Hint: Check the website or Clemson Extension.

Most Dangerous Cake Recipe

5 MINUTE CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE

4 tablespoons flour
4 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons cocoa
1 egg
3 tablespoons milk
3 tablespoons oil
3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)
a small splash of vanilla extract
1 very large coffee mug (a 2 cup Pyrex measuring container works well)

Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly. Pour in the milk and oil and mix well. Add the vanilla extract and mix well. Add chocolate chips (if using) and mix lightly.

Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts (high). The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed. (My microwave takes 2 min. and 45 sec.)

Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired. EAT! (this will serve 2 if you want to feel slightly more virtuous).

And why is this the most dangerous cake recipe in the world? Because now we are all only 5 minutes away from chocolate cake at any time of the day or night!

Nancy Collin

Note: We love the dark cocoa and dark chocolate chips.

FOLLOW THE FUCHSIA BLAZE

Submitted by Sandy Stachurski

If you missed the Clemson Annual Public Meeting held on March 30, you really missed out big time. The speaker was Dr. Patrick McMillan of Clemson University and SCETV's Expeditions with Patrick. Dr. McMillan told us about a gem right in our own backyard; Steven's Creek Heritage Preserve.

He compared some of the plants there to the plants found in the Appalachian Mountains. My family and I decided to check it out. We loaded the car with water and snacks and headed to the Modoc area. I have hiked about 30 miles on the Appalachian Trail (AT), my husband, Glenn, hiked about 400 miles of the AT to date, and my son, Jason, has through hiked the entire 2175 miles of the AT. As we hiked the small trail at Steven's Creek, following the fuchsia blaze, we were amazed at how we each felt as though we were actually on the AT. It was so exciting to see plants that you typically only see in the mountains.

We saw wildflowers galore. If our identification was correct, they ranged from Mayapple, Trillium, Solomon's Seal, Squawroot, Wild Geranium, and Wild Ginger to name a few. The trail is a gentle hike and winds around the

woods even going down to the creek. You won't even realize you are so close to a road. You will hear the stillness of the woods, the birds talking to each other and even the woodpeckers looking for food.

It is definitely a place worth checking out. Who would've known that we have such a jewel so close to us?

To reach Steven's Creek, follow Highway 28 from McCormick toward Clarks Hill, going approximately 20 miles. You will see the Clarks Hill Herring Hut on your right. Turn left directly across from the Herring Hut. You will cross over the railroad track and immediately turn left again. Follow the signs leading you to the La Cantina Restaurant. You will pass La Cantina and go approximately another mile looking to the left for the Steven's Creek sign. The parking lot is very small.

Oh, My Aching Back!

Submitted by Jean Anderson

Have you ever had to dig up a whole garden area and redo it? I have. We recently started an addition to our house, so that my 90 year old mother can come live with us. The problem? We put the addition where my rose garden used to be. Now, I am not the greatest rose grower, so many of them were rather puny looking. But to save them from the bobcat and backhoe and to make room for the addition, I dug them up and put them in pots for the duration. The biggest, best one was, fortunately, far enough away from the building to leave in the ground and work around. By the way, if you can have only one rose, I highly recommend 'Just Joey'. I got it from Park three years ago and it grows really well and has HUGE fragrant roses.

Last week, I finished replanting the side yard next to the addition, and have it completely mulched--- about 25 cart loads!!!! My only regret for having to move all the roses is that I lost one that I had had for 30+ years. It had recovered from the move here, but just couldn't take another move. It was kind of scraggly looking anyway, but had the most delicious smelling flowers! I may try to find one like it, but it won't be the same.

On the bright side, an orange rose that came from

one I rooted long ago (gave some away, got cuttings--long story!) is blooming. It's tiny, but I wasn't sure it had survived. All in all, although I wouldn't redo a large area voluntarily, the garden area actually looks a lot better than it did. And I was more careful this time to make sure all the roses get lots of sun. I'm going to eventually plant low growing perennials among the roses, but there is no rush for that.

I have lots of mulch to haul to other beds, but today I am going to finish my new granddaughter's quilt. It's a little bitty quilt and I should have finished it long ago----but it's gardening time!!!!!!! However, I'm out of time if I want to finish it before she gets here. She's due any minute!

I put some hosta seeds in to grow this week. I used to think "hostas? how bland!", but that was before I saw all the varieties available. One hosta I started from seed about 2 years ago was big enough this spring to really see what it looks like. It has long slender leaves that are light yellow-green with splashes of blue-green all over. I wish I had lots of those! So pretty! That's what I like about starting mixed seeds---you're always getting a surprise!

Have a good gardening day!

Editor's Note: Thank you to all who contribute regularly. But, even though I'm repeating some notices that still need attention, you may notice that the newsletter continues to shrink. If you haven't written lately, or at all, please consider sending something in for the next newsletter. Others want to hear about your favorite garden, or plant, or garden book or recipe. Please contribute as often as you can. I print articles just as you send them unless you specifically ask me to check spelling, grammar or whatever. I use pictures periodically, but they can't be too large a file and need to be easy to see in a small format. And remember, one more time, if I don't acknowledge your contribution, it means I didn't get it. Thanks in advance for all you are going to send!

Editor's side note: No grandbaby yet! Still waiting!

