



Master Gardener Thymes

WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

Dates to Remember:

- MAY 17TH SPRING PICNIC DONNA FELDMAIER'S HOUSE (SEE FLYER IN NEWSLETTER)
- JUNE 12TH BOARD MEETING
- JULY 10TH SPEAKER MEETING
- AUGUST 14TH BOARD MEETING
- SEPTEMBER 11TH SPEAKER MEETING
- OCTOBER 9TH BOARD MEETING
- OCTOBER 23RD SCMMGA SYMPOSIUM
- NOVEMBER 13TH SPEAKER MEETING
- DECEMBER 11TH HOLIDAY SOCIAL GMD

TIMES AND LOCATIONS WILL BE POSTED WHEN EVENTS ARE CLOSER. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

May 2014



President's Message

By Sandy Orr

The Plant Sale results were spectacular. All of the wonderful workers, planners and contributors raised \$1,142, just slightly less than last year's results. Thank you so much Sarah and Ginny. I'd single out individuals who were there Thurs. night, Friday all day or Saturday all morning, but there are too many to list.

Last Saturday, the City Garden community project started, with four of us spreading mulch, weeding, and planting the many plants provided by the City Garden Club. There were lots of workers from garden clubs and fun garden chatter. Stop by and see the beautiful borders and the new circular Rose Garden. If you have something you think needs to go into our plot (the one opposite the Armory toward the end of the traffic island), please come on a Saturday workday and plant it. We'll probably have another work day in three weeks.

Keep watching for more notices regarding the Jeep Topiary. It will need a lot of tweaking until it finally goes on display. Sue Monaghan has been so great about making sure everyone gets a chance to work on the topiary. Sue will also be telling us when she wants a Rain Garden work day at the Extension Office. There are many opportunities coming up for newbies and seasoned LMG'ers alike to get their hours done.

We also have our fun-filled **May 17th picnic at Donna Feldmaier's** house to look forward to. We have a tradition that we need to continue of bringing plant divisions that we want to share with others. Now that our perennials have appeared, if you have a rare species that will delight another true gardener, bring it along. In my own garden, peonies and poppies are about to pop. Cardoons are also getting knee high. Seeds that I winter sowed and despaired of, have popped out. Crambe cordifolia, New Jersey tea plant, and callistephus have all surprised me with the warmer temperatures and sunshine. It's the best time of year to grab your breakfast drink and wander around the yard in a daze, exclaiming over ornamental onions, iris, Grancy Graybeard, and Japanese styra.



The mission of the Lakelands Master Gardeners, in association with the Greenwood County Clemson Extension office, is to extend to the public research-based education, horticultural programs and activities that enhance our environment, lives and community.

The Lakelands Master Gardeners Association is a volunteer organization made up of Master Gardeners from Abbeville and Greenwood Counties in SC.

KALE CHIPS and Permaculture TIPS

By Sandy Orr

By now, many of you have roasted cut up kale leaves with olive oil for 20 minutes in a very hot oven to get crispy chips. Since people keep giving me collards, I decided to try collard chips instead, resulting in a wonderful salty, crispy great tasting snack. Moreover, forget the oven, and use your microwave. I spray cut up kale, collards, and even cauliflower leaves with olive oil flavored spray on both sides, and place them on a microwave-safe plate. Microwave on high for 3 ½ minutes and salt them. Since I don't really like collards any other way, this is a good way to get rid of my neighbor's bounty.



Japanese Styrax tree

Permaculture fascinates me, because I'm all for doing as little as possible to hurt the environment, and doing as little as possible in general. A Permaculture technique I've recently learned is called "chop and drop". This means that if you trim shrubbery, or perennials, just drop the debris beneath the plant to fertilize it. (Discard any diseased leaves of course) If you are weeding, tuck the weeds under a bush, unless the weeds are in seed. I have been doing this for decades, thinking it was pure laziness. So many weeds and bushes or trees have nitrogen fixing capabilities. Naturally clover and vetch are great for "chopping and dropping", but mimosa, comfrey, and black locust are also nitrogen fixers. I've been planting mimosa seeds throughout my front natural area, with the plan of stooling them to four feet tall each year so that the ferny foliage sprouts out to look like a New Zealand tree fern. I chopped a 20 foot tall mimosa down to four feet, and it's already sprouting new shoots all around the top. I can't wait to see it fully fernlike.

Don't you love a good mystery?

By Janet Ledebuhr

Two weeks ago while strolling through my garden I happened to notice a strange 'growth' on my Red-twig Dogwood, *Cornus sericea*. Not sure what it was I thought I would share it on my Facebook page. I have a lot of gardener friends out in Facebook land, maybe one of them could ID it for me. I started calling it the Batwing, for lack of a better name. (see photo!)



One of my friends shared this photo with eXtension.org, an online extension service that links all the land grant university extension services in one place. Since we are in South Carolina, my photo was funneled to Clemson. Another friend posted the photo to 'Making it Grow' to see if they could ID the puzzling Batwing. Another friend thought perhaps it was insect in nature, so she posted it to Bugguide.net to see if anyone would know the answer. (the web is so full of places to get answers).

A new friend, Steve Compton, from the Clemson Invasive Species Lab contacted me and asked a number of questions about this Batwing. He drove down from Clemson to collect this specimen and take it back to the lab to analyze it. He was concerned that I would crack it open and allow some unknown to escape into our environment.

After returning to Clemson's lab, Steve emailed me with the results. Sad to say, it was petroleum in makeup. He speculated perhaps it was black caulk. Hmmm, not the kind of answer I was hoping for. Now we have a second mystery— how did black caulk get on my Red-twig?? For those who don't know where I live, I am in a new neighborhood on the lake with 6 acres to the east and 4 acres to the west that are wooded. Across the street is Champion forest—lots of acres. No one has used caulk in our yard for at least six months. I do have some wonderful photos of the dogwood in this past winter's snow....without the Batwing on its stem! So where did it come from? Life's little mysteries.....

PICNIC



Lakelands Master Gardeners

It's Picnic Time!

Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 3:00 pm

Donna Feldmaier's Home

108 Pucketts Cove in Puckett's Ferry

Drinks, hamburgers, and hot dogs provided.

Please bring a Side Dish, Appetizer, Salad or Dessert & Chairs

Also needed are Master Grillers!

You may RSVP your attendance & Dish Selection through the online Evite, email to susanne@huckfarm.com or by calling

Susanne Blumer at 554-3651.

Urban Tree Walk Through Star Fort

By Janet Ledebuhr

A small group of Master Gardeners, led by James Hodges, took a walk through Star Fort on April 16th. Prior to the walk James sent us some questions, pre-homework. The focus of this walk was tree related. Topics that were covered ranged from “Balance of Nature” to “Natural Forest Succession” to “Forest Carrying Capacity”. We started with a discussion on native versus local trees. When choosing trees for your landscape and you search out native trees, it is important to investigate a little further, is its native range in your local area? Wisely choosing trees best suited for your location makes for a healthier and happier tree in your landscape.

Our discussion of “Balance of Nature” brought us to a conclusion that nature is really in a state of flux, always changing. Trees compete for light, moisture and room, some survive, others decline. Balance of Nature leads right into “Forest Carrying Capacity”, what will the given area of land support—water, space, light— all factors that influence Carrying Capacity.



James also shared some observations of various fungal diseases on pine trees, cherry trees, and a rotting stump. Some fungal diseases need two hosts to transmit the spores. We saw Cedar Quince Rust on some Junipers— *Juniperus virginiana*, commonly called Eastern Red Cedar. There was also some Fusiform rust on a Loblolly pine, *Pinus taeda*. This fungus is a two host fungus, pines and red oak. The picture on the left is James pointing out scarring from a fungus that occurred early in the tree’s life. On the right is a photo of a black knot, a fungus that causes ugly knots on cherry trees, this one is a Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina*.



The tour took us through the woods and we observed a couple different growth patterns of same species of trees. When there is no (or little) light and space competition the scaffolding on the trees are more balanced and there are limbs over more of the trunk of the tree— think about the stands of pines where they look like telephone poles— all are reaching for the light. If you look at the tree at the top right corner of the page, this is a Loblolly pine, just like those that are planted in rows for harvest. This one had minimal competition for growth and its lower limbs are stronger and wide spread. The two major factors of a tree’s growth pattern are genetics and environment. Genetics of an oak, for example, a decurrent growth pattern (another new term while on the walk— decurrent: spreading leader, branching habit, excurrent: dominant leader, pyramidal growth pattern) determine its branching habit unless there is a lot of competition for sunlight, then the tree is reaching more for light than spreading its canopy. Pines are excurrent in habit. Environment is key when you look at competition for all aspects of growing conditions.



Deciduous holly, *Ilex decidua*

We also used the Leaf Key in our handout (one we received during our MG training as well) *Familiar Trees of South Carolina, A manual for tree study*. It was fun to make identifications in the field with this key.

There was so much that we covered, this just scratches the surface. All these observations help when we look at our urban landscape. I found myself thinking about the land carrying capacity when I went to do the walk through for the first Landscape Diagnostic Clinic. As our landscapes mature we need to reassess space, water, and sunlight for the health of our trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Nature’s way of balance might not be to our design. Keep mature sizes in mind when planting and you will be rewarded with healthy, nicely shaped plants for years to come.

Thanks to James for leading this tour through the Star Fort. It was a perfect day to walk through the woods, talk trees and find some native plants growing along the way.



Rattlesnake fern
Botrypus virginianus



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www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

Shutterfly - <http://lakelandsmastergardeners.shutterfly.com>

Clemson Cooperative Extension Office– Greenwood– 864-223-3264



Don't forget the photos from our Christmas social and other LMG events are on our Shutterfly page. (see link above) You can leave comments or download photos from the Shutterfly page. The password has been sent in the email with this newsletter attached.

LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENERS

Lakelands Master Gardener Name Badge Order Form

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