



Master Gardener Thymes

www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

September 2009



ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH at 6:30, unless otherwise noted. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!!!

Upcoming Meetings!!

September 10: “Edible and Medicinal Wild Plants” – Dr. Jan Haldeman

Dr. Janice Haldeman, a native of Tampa, Florida, holds the B.S. from Rollins College in Winter Park,

Fla., the master’s degree in biology from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, and the Ph.D. in plant physiology from Clemson University. She has lived for 48 years in Due West, SC, where she taught biology at Erskine College from 1967 until her retirement in May 2002.

She continues to teach Botany part-time at Erskine, and for the past five years has directed the development of Erskine’s Pressly Heritage Garden. A member of the South Carolina Native Plant Society, Dr. Haldeman has a special interest in invasive plants and how they are affecting diversity of plants in the southeast. Dr. Haldeman is married to Richard Haldeman, retired director of public relations at Erskine College, and they have three adult children and two grandchildren.

Whether you live in a rural or urban setting, common wild edible and medicinal plants are often

readily available. Common lawn plants including dandelion, broad leaf plantain, clovers, as well as oak, dogwood and pine trees have a long tradition of medicinal and food uses. We’ll have a scavenger hunt to locate plants and find answers to questions about them at selected sites. Teams may compete to find plants and information! We’ll also discuss some current and past uses of plants for survival as well as precautions for medicinal and food uses of wild plants. Resources including recipes and formulas for producing foods and medicines will be provided.

We will gather for an introduction on the first floor, of Erskine’s Daniel Moultrie Science Center in Room 148. The building is located at the corner of Bonner and Wightman Streets in Due West.

(Directions: When coming to Due West on Hwy20/185, turn left at the stop sign on to Main Street. Go one block to Bonner Street and turn left <Just beyond Pavin Gas Station>. Proceed down Bonner and counting the corner building, the Science Center is the fifth building on the right. There is parking along the street near the Bowie Arts Center, and there is a large parking lot on the left if you turn right down Wightman Street just beyond the Science Center.)

Weather permitting, we will move to the outdoor classroom in Erskine’s Pressly Garden for the program.

Attention, please! Those who are planning to attend the September General Meeting can meet at Lakelands Nursery (Rebecca McClain’s Nursery). There you can caravan to Due West. The caravan will leave at 5:30 pm to allow adequate traveling time.

If you are planning to carpool, Rebecca says that you can leave your locked vehicles in her parking lot until you return to Greenwood.

For those who don't know where Lakeland's Nursery is located, it is on Calhoun St. (the road that the YMCA is on) just a block off By-Pass 72.

**October 8: “Host Plants for South Carolina Butterflies”– Anne Marie Glawe
(To be held at the Roots and Shoots Garden @ Oakland Elementary School)**

A native of Wisconsin, she moved to the South Atlanta, Georgia area in 1990 where she and her husband, Troy, raised their two daughters. She began using butterflies in her teaching while in Georgia. She has won awards in teaching, including Elementary Science Teacher of the Year, Gifted Teacher in the Classroom and Walmart Teacher of the Year. She traveled to Mexico in pursuit of Monarch Butterflies with other scientists and teachers with the “Monarchs Across Georgia Group”.

Ann Marie and her family have lived at Lake Greenwood since 2004 and cherish their home and all the native species around them. They enjoy being a part of the Greenwood community.

She has currently been teaching 2nd grade at Pinecrest Elementary and helps Mary Van Ellenberg in the Pinecrest Fence Garden where they have planted Asclepias, Fennel and many other plants for butterfly gardening and observation. However, “*Hot off the Press*”, Ann Marie has just informed me that she has been transferred to Springfield Elementary School where she will be teaching the Gifted and Talented. Congratulations Anne Marie!!

Don't miss this presentation because Anne Marie has all sorts of surprises in store for us!

**November 12: Live Wreath Workshop –
Judy Sieckman
(To be held at Lakelands Nursery)**

For our November meeting, Judy Sieckman will lead us in a Make-and-Take workshop. We will be making Living Wreaths of pansies and violas.

These can be hung outside and can be given as gifts or used in your holiday decorating. The wreaths are constructed of good

quality wire with feet to hold it out from the surface. They come already stuffed with spagnum moss and can be replanted as the season changes. For those who want to make a wreath the charge will be a \$20 to cover the cost of the wreath and the plant plugs. Participants will need to bring something such as a dibble for poking planting holes and gloves if you are sensitive to moss. We will need to have the names of those who plan to make a wreath and their \$20 no later than the **September** general meeting. Of course, there is no charge for watching!

December 10: Annual Christmas Party

To be held at St. Mark's Methodist Church
Social Hall
(Details to be announced)

Sandy's Corner

NEW LOCATION

Have you been able to locate our new Clemson Extension Office yet? The official address is 105 North University Street in Greenwood. Physically we are located at the corner of East Cambridge and North University Street. This is part of the Old Brewer School facility. The Master Gardeners have a very nice space, so take a minute and stop by to scope it out. **NEW CLEMSON EXTENSION PHONE NUMBER 223-3264**

As you probably know by now, the new class for the Lakelands Master Gardeners began on Tuesday, August 18. One person was in need of a scholarship, so the board agreed to do a partial one of \$70.00. Congratulations to all the students on your new adventure. Enjoy.

Officers and Board Members for 2010

In 2010, Uma Sridharan will serve as President and Sandy Stachurski will serve as Past-President. We will be nominating members to serve as Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested in serving in one of these capacities, please give your name to a current board member. The current board consists of Sandy Stachurski,

Uma Sridharan, Julee Marshall, Louise Powell and Susu Wallace.

According to our by-laws, the Vice-President will serve a 3-year term, with the first year as Vice-President, the second year as President, and the third year as Past President. The Vice-President will preside at meetings in the absence of the President.

The Treasurer will serve a 2-year term. The Treasurer will collect dues and other authorized contributions, maintain financial records, report the status of the treasury to the membership, and expend funds as authorized by the Board of Directors.

The Secretary will serve a 2-year term. The Secretary will record and report minutes of all meetings and handle any necessary correspondence.

Committee Chairs for 2010

It is time to fill our chair positions on committees also. Board Members are in the process of contacting chairs for 2009 to see if they would still like to chair for 2010. To date, these are the committee and chairs that have agreed. If you are interested in filling an open position, please contact a board member.

Community Projects:

Education: Helen Spiller

Finance/Fundraising: John Wham

Phone:

Membership:

Newsletter: Jean Anderson

Programs/Speakers: Catherine Swindell

Public Relations:

Social Activities:

Web Site:

Ed.note: I am looking for someone to help me on the newsletter committee by taking the newsletter when I send it out, copying it, and mailing it out to those members who can't receive it by e-mail. Of course, all expenses are covered by the club. If you would like to do this, please contact Sandy. Thanks.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Dianne Shubert and **Terri Mostiller** were gracious with their time and manned the Lakelands Master Gardener booth on July 31 at the Wesley

Commons fair. It takes each of us spreading horticulture knowledge with others. We greatly appreciate both of you.

Thanks to **Donna Boozer** for presenting our program on Honeybees for our August meeting. If you missed this, you missed a GREAT program. Donna has lots of passion for her girls. We were all given a wealth of information and if you didn't appreciate the honeybees before, you certainly did after her presentation.

Thanks to **Gil Sampson at Doris' Greenhouse** for germinating broccoli seeds for our Fall Vegetable Container Garden Class. Gil is also keeping our plants alive until our class in September. Several seeds were germinated in the small plug flat and they needed to be separated and planted into larger flats. Mega thanks to **Cindy Wilkins, Donna Laster and Nancy Collin** for the last minute notice. They had the delicate job of transplanting the tiny, little plants into flats. Since they hadn't had the opportunity to do anything like this before, it was not only fun, but very educational. Thanks!

Master Gardener of the Year for 2009

Do you have somebody in mind that you would like to nominate for Master Gardener of the Year? In the past, the board has made the decision for this prestigious award but this year every single Master Gardener will have the opportunity to choose a person they think has gone above and beyond the Master Gardener "call of duty." A written nomination for the person must be sent to our Secretary, Susu Wallace via email susuwallace@embarqmail.com or snail mail 523 E. Creswell Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646.

Any Master Gardener is a possibility with the exception of the current President. The current President is not eligible to be nominated or receive this award. There are some requirements that the nominee must meet. A person must participate in most of the different activities sponsored by the Master Gardeners over the past year. Some of the activities include but are not limited to: our plant sale, our social activities, the Festival of Flowers, Railroad Historical Center, planting daffodils, Old Brewer Sign Project, Fall Container Garden Project, and Hospice Tree. Don't forget about our

Master Gardeners who share their knowledge with the community by presenting horticulture information to groups of adults or children. The person must attend most of our regular monthly meetings and they must continue to participate in activities year after year.

This award will be presented at the Clemson Extension Annual Meeting which is usually held in March. All nominations MUST be received by Susu before midnight of December 31, 2009. The nominations will be published for everyone to review and voting will take place and be completed by February 11, 2010.

It seems like this article is a little premature, but time flies...be thinking about who your choice would be.

Learn to Grow Vegetables in Containers

Please pass this information on to your family, friends, and neighbors who may be interested:

The Lakelands Master Gardeners are sponsoring a Fall Vegetable Container Class. The class will be held on Saturday, September 19 with sign-in beginning at 9:00AM and the class beginning at 9:30AM. This will be held at the Old Brewer School Complex at the corner of East Cambridge Avenue and North University Street. The Master Gardeners will supply the containers, soil, plants and knowledge. You just have to supply the willingness to learn. If you are interested, you **must pre-register by calling 223-3264 between August 24 through and including September 4.** Containers are limited to the first 100 who register by calling. Pre-registration may be extended if we still have openings after the September 4 date.

If you are a Master Gardener and interested in assisting with this project, please contact Sandy Stachurski at drglenn7@embarqmail.com or call 229-7444 office, 227-2769 home or 554-1235 cell.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

Saturday, October 3 Bio-retention Pond
Old Brewer School Complex at the corner of East Cambridge Avenue and North University Street

9:00 AM Rossi Corwon will present "What Exactly is a Bio-retention Pond?"

9:30 AM Planting Bring tools necessary

Thursday, October 15 Unpack/Clean-Up
Old Brewer School Complex at the corner of East Cambridge Avenue and North University Street
10:00AM

Wednesday, December 2 Decorate Hospice Tree Details to Follow

DUES ARE DUE

Yes, we know it is early. But, all dues for 2010 will need to be paid in full before December 31, 2009. Dues can be paid to **Louise Powell** at general meetings or mail them to her at **107 Crestview Drive, Greenwood, SC 29649.**

If you are in the new class, your tuition covers dues for 2009, but you will be responsible to pay the 2010 dues.

Please keep in mind, if your dues are not paid by the December 31, 2009 deadline your name will not appear in the directory, nor will you receive any newsletters. We thank you in advance for your participation.

59 years old and under	\$15.00
60+ years old	\$10.00
Married couples 59 and under	\$20.00
Married couples 60+	\$15.00
Lifetime Membership	\$125.00

Possible location needed for our January 14, 2010 graduation/awards banquet. This is an eating meeting so a kitchen would be helpful. We always have a terrific crowd too, so please keep that in mind. If you have a place available, please contact Sandy Stachurski drglenn7@embarqmail.com or call 229-7444 office, 227-2769 home or cell 554-1235. Thanks

JR. MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to help develop future Master Gardeners? Are you looking for volunteer hours? The Pinecrest Elementary School needs help with the Jr. Master Gardener Program. The program teaches third, fourth, and fifth graders the basics of

becoming a future Master Gardener. Qualifying students are awarded a certificate deeming them Jr. Master Gardeners at the completion of the course and volunteer hours. The program meets at Pinecrest Elementary on Mondays after school from 3:00 – 4:30 PM.

The program coordinators, **Patti Larson and Mary Van Ellenberg**, are seeking Master Gardeners to assist them with the program by **teaching** subjects of special interest or expertise that our Master Gardeners may have. They are also looking for Master Gardeners that could help the students in maintaining the Pinecrest Fence Garden. If you are willing to volunteer your time and expertise, or have any questions about the program please contact Patti Larson at **864-554-1600** or via e-mail at **greenwood_patti@yahoo.com**

Eggplant Flea Beetles

Vincent Plotczyk



David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

While out walking around taking pictures I was stopped by a neighbor and asked to find out what was eating the dickens out of his eggplants.

The culprit is the Eggplant flea beetle. The flea beetle is a tiny beetle with jumping hind legs that can jump if it is disturbed.

The flea beetle feeds on eggplant, potato, horsenettle, pokeweed, sugar beet, and strawberry.

Flea beetles feed on new growth, as it appears in the spring. Flea beetles can be very destructive to young plants. When the flea beetle feeds, it leaves tiny circular holes which give the appearance of shot holes. In severe cases heavy feeding can kill plants.

Eggplant flea beetles overwinter as adults in the soil, crop debris or other protected areas. Flea beetles complete one to four generations each year.

What can be done about them?

- 1) Remove any diseased crops and debris
- 2) Keep garden weed free
- 3) Adjust planting dates
- 4) Plant “Trap Crops”
- 5) Use floating row covers
- 6) Insecticides

If you are going to use insecticide, you must carefully read and follow all label directions.

Make sure the insecticide being considered is registered for use on your crop.

The label is the law!

References:

The Center for Integrated Pest Management, North Carolina State University
Department of Entomology, North Carolina State University
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Colorado State University Extension

Ed. Note: The following articles were submitted by Susanne Bender and taken from e-mail newsletters authored by Mike McGroaty.

Growing and Drying Gourds

Gourds are an interesting crop to grow in your garden. The plants need no special pampering and the gourds are decorative on their own or in craft projects.

There are two types of gourds. The small, oddly-shaped colorful gourds often seen in Autumn decorations are soft-skinned varieties of the Cucurbita family. These little gourds can be dried and saved, although their bright colors tend to fade over time.

The larger, hard-skinned gourds are in the Lagenaria family. These include Birdhouse and Bottle gourds, among others. Lagenaria gourds are green on the vine and become tan or brown as they dry. Lagenaria gourd vines produce white blossoms which bloom at night.

It's very easy to grow gourds, making them a good choice for beginner gardeners. Gourds prefer well-drained soil and they grow vigorously if compost is added to the soil when planting. Like other vining

plants, gourds will appreciate a fence or other vertical surface to climb, but they'll happily sprawl on the ground as well.

Gourds that are to be dried should be harvested very late in the season, after the vines have died back. Gently wash the gourds to remove any caked soil, then dip them into a solution of 1-2 cups of bleach in a 5-gallon bucket of water. Handle the gourds carefully to avoid bruising them. Place washed gourds in an area where they will receive good air circulation. Some folks hang their gourds with a string attached to the stem. The drying gourds can be kept outdoors; rain or freezing temperatures won't hurt mature gourds.

Check your drying gourds each week and discard any that have soft spots. No matter how careful you are with your gourds, some of them are going to rot. While they are drying and curing, gourds may also develop mold on their skins. The presence of mold indicates that moisture is escaping through the skin, which is a good thing. Unless the gourd is soft and mushy, the mold is not harmful and will leave a lovely pattern on the dried gourd.

It can take up to 6 months to completely dry gourds. When the gourds become lightweight and hard and the seeds rattle inside, they are ready for use.

I've dried gourds indoors, and in a well-ventilated and unheated barn, and left them on the vine all winter where they were covered with snow for months. Those that dried the best for me were the gourds that laid neglected in the garden all winter

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Improve Your Garden Soil with a Cover Crop

Cover crops are fast-growing small grains, grasses or legumes that are generally planted in the fall

and tilled under in the spring.

Cover crops are used to increase the amount of organic matter in the soil, prevent erosion, fix nitrogen in the soil, reduce the number of weeds in the garden, and provide habitat for beneficial insects. Your choice of cover crops will depend on the results you want to achieve in your garden.

Cover crops that are tilled in to improve the soil are sometimes referred to as green manure. Legumes such as dwarf white clover, crimson clover, hairy vetch or bell beans will fix nitrogen in the soil while adding organic matter when they are tilled under in the spring.

When fast-growing winter rye is planted in the fall, it quickly covers the ground and crowds out weeds. The roots survive winter cold and the plants begin to grow early in the spring before early weeds have a chance to become established. Tilling under the rye in the spring will increase the organic matter in the soil and leave the garden bed with fewer weeds and ready for planting about three weeks after it is tilled in.

Buckwheat is a cover crop that is planted in summer. Plant buckwheat where an early vegetable crop has already been harvested, or in a spot that has become overwhelmed by weeds. Till the soil before broadcasting the seeds, which quickly germinate and prevent weeds from taking over again. Till under a buckwheat cover crop before the plants go to seed. Buckwheat grows and flowers in only six weeks and it also adds calcium, phosphorus and potassium to the soil.

Cover crops with blossoms, such as hairy vetch, crimson clover or buckwheat will attract beneficial insects to the garden where they will help pollinate your plants and attack damaging insects.

Leaving bare soil in the garden is an open invitation for weeds to come in, but planting a cover crop will help make your garden a private party for your plants.

Learn more about cover crops here:
<http://freeplants.com/cover-crops.htm>

Have a great week, and as always, stay inspired!
-Mike McGroarty

