



FROM THE GROUND UP

"Sowing The Seeds of Love For Gardening"

March 2015

From Our President: Janet Bugbee

Can it get any colder? I think this winter has gotten everyone down. It's just lasting too long; been too cold. I want to get into the garden, don't you?

I want to thank Tony Melton for being at our February 16th meeting. Who else would know all about vegetables. That was our topic for the night, and we talked about our Extravaganza coming up.

There are a lot of events coming up this spring, and I have been asked to pass them along. Look for emails with the information.

I have been keeping myself busy trying to bring the last details together with our Spring Extravaganza. I want to thank those of you that are helping with all the plans, and are out there selling tickets, getting donations, and just getting the word out. I am hoping the tickets that are still out will be sold, before it is too late. It would be wonderful to have a full house with a full day of gardening inspiration.

REMINDERS

Master Gardeners need to wear badges to all events or functions. You can purchase a badge with the new MG logo on it for \$5. If interested, please contact Janet

CORRECTION: 2015 (not 2016) dues can be paid at the meeting or mailed to Janet Smith, Treasurer.

Remember that if you sell 4 tickets, then your ticket would only cost you \$25. We are still waiting to see who sells the most and wins the \$100. It will be announced at our March 16th meeting. There are still tickets at the Extension office if you run out or just need tickets. All donations whether for goody bags or door prizes should be turned in at the meeting on March 16th, unless they are plants or something that has to wait to be picked up. Make sure you add your donations to the Sign-Up Genius so we know who has been approached. We always have such good people with big hearts that donate to us every year and help make our day. Please get the name and addresses from all that give you a donation, for thank-you cards later. We do have some great vendors lined up along with a wonderful day full of events. I hope most of you will try to attend.

"The Love of Gardening is a seed once sown that never dies." _____ Gertrude Jekyll

Happy Gardening,

Janet Bugbee

Our next meeting is March 16 at John Calvin Presbyterian Church Bring your donations for the goody bags and door prizes for the Spring Extravaganza

It's not too late to become involved in the Raised Beds at PDREC. If you want to participate but can't be there, consider becoming a SILENT GARDENER. You can help the team with designing the bed, researching the

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plants for the bed, and any of the other needs. The time spent counts towards your total yearly volunteer hours.

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FCMGA OFFICERS

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DUES REMINDER

The FCMGA By-Laws require a member's dues be paid in order to vote on any issue brought before the Association. Dues are \$10 and can be paid at the next meeting on February 16 or mailed to:

Janet Smith
2544 Kingston Dr.
Florence, SC 29505

Quotation Corner

“Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food, and medicine to the soul.”

Luther Burbank

Spring Extravaganza

Master Gardeners,

With our Symposium coming up we will need a little help from Master Gardeners, which includes:

Helping vendors if needed, registration, goody bags, breakfast and lunch area, hand out door prizes. Please volunteer for one of these areas!

Besides that we really need everyone to collect door prizes and things to fill our goody bags. We will be filling the goody bags at our March 16th meeting.

There is a receipt for donations to be filled out, so we will have the businesses name and donation item, for thank-you's.

Any questions, contact Janet Bugbee

A list of past vendors, and donation receipt form will be emailed separately.

There will be a Sign-Up Genius to record donations. Please check the Sign-Up Genius before contacting a donor so we do not duplicate efforts. You may also contact a new vendor for donations. Please be sure complete the donation receipt as accurately as possible.

Upcoming Events

Moore Farms Botanical Gardens

March 20 and 21 – Bulbapalooza

March 26 – Composting

Artfields – April 24 through May 2 in Lake City

Jenks Farmer – April 11 10:00 – Noon

Redcliffe's Evolving Landscape at Redcliffe Plantation, a State Historic Site.

Brookgreen Gardens

March 21 – “Diggin It” Spring Garden Festival

Kalmia Gardens

March 21 – Oyster Roast Fundraiser

Riverbanks Botanical Gardens

March 21 – 10:00 – 12:30 pm Garden Propagation

March 28 – 9:00 – 4:00 Springtime at the Garden Festival

The HGIC is working with the Web Team to begin a social media campaign called #FactSheetFriday. Each Friday morning, we'll share a factsheet through the following social media channels:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ClemsonExt?ref=tn_tnmn

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/cuesnews>

Pinterest: <http://www.pinterest.com/clemsonext/>

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March In The Garden

MONTHLY TO DO LIST

- Gather and destroy fallen leaves and dead blossoms of camellias --- Do not compost.
- Be prepared to cover tender plants if a freeze is forecasted.
- Allow foliage of spring bulbs to die naturally to replenish nutrients in the bulbs.
- Check for aphids on new growth. Aphids can be controlled with an insecticidal soap spray, but some plants may be sensitive to this treatment. Treat one plant first and if the soap spray damages the plant, try ridding the aphids by spraying with plain water.
- Fertilize trees, shrubs, and ground covers.
- De-thatch lawns.
- Aerate compacted lawns.
- Weed lawn or apply herbicide.
- Check for insects, diseases and rodents in lawns. Treat appropriately.
- Fertilize houseplants, prune dead foliage, and repot plants that have become rootbound.

LAWNS

- Fertilizing:** Do not fertilize before April 20. A frost could kill tender new growth as well as damage established lawns.
- Special Care:** The last date to apply pre-emergence herbicide is March 15. It is still all right to spot kill winter weeds. Check for insects, disease, and rodents, and treat as needed.

VEGETABLES & FRUITS

- Planting:** Plant figs during this month. Sow seed for spinach, turnips, Swiss chard, carrots, and edible-pod peas. Set out transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and brussel sprouts. Before the **15th**, finish planting Irish potatoes, onion sets, and collards. Start planting sweet corn late in March in 2 week intervals to ensure a continual harvest. Perennial herbs, such as thyme, oregano, lemon balm, sage and chives, will be available soon through local garden centers. It is best to wait until after the threat of frost has passed before planting. Sow caraway seeds now.
- Fertilizing:** Supply brambles and blueberry bushes cup of 10-10-10 per plant before bloom. Fertilize new strawberries now and keep well watered.
- Special care:** Check the underside of leaves for insects. Begin spray program for fruit trees at time of bud swell and pet fall, continue at 1-2 week intervals. Do not spray with an insecticide when blooming. This may kill bees.

TREES & SHRUBS

- Planting:** Plant container-grown and balled-and-burlapped trees now.
- Fertilizing:** Fertilize camellias after flowering and again in six weeks. Fertilize trees and shrubs as growth starts. Feed gardenias with a slow-release fertilizer.
- Pruning:** Spring-flowering trees and shrubs should be pruned after they have bloomed. Trim overgrown and uneven hedges before new growth appears. Trim gardenias that have turned brown after severely cold weather

FLOWERS

- Planting:** Rework soil in perennial beds by applying organic matter. Divide and transplant summer- and fall-flowering perennials. Plant gladiolus corms at two week intervals to extend the flowering season. Plant annuals, such as snapdragons, dianthus, sweet William, sweet alyssum, calendulas, and English daisies. You can directly sow larkspur, baby blue-eyes, forget-me-nots, and Johnny jump-ups. Set out perennials now.
- Fertilizing:** Use 10-10-10 with minor trace elements to fertilize daylilies when new growth appears. Fertilize established roses with 1cup 5-10-5 per plant as new growth starts.
- Special Care:** Mulch flower beds and borders. Use beer or bait to control slugs. Remove old mulch around roses to control diseases. Watch for aphids and black spot on roses and begin a regular spray program. Plan to rotate annuals in flower beds to prevent decline in vigor caused by soil disease, nematodes, and other soil-borne organisms.