

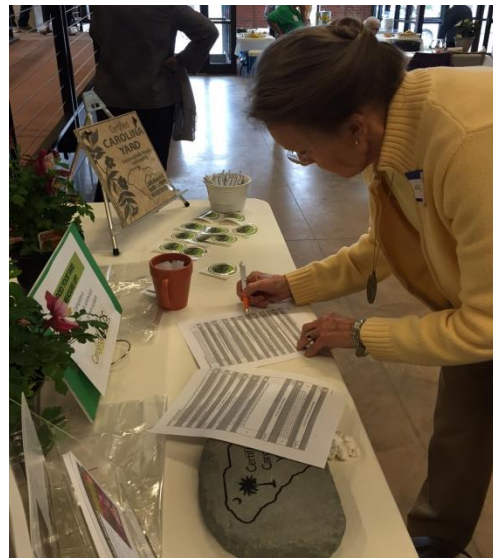


**FLORENCE COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION**

FROM THE GROUND UP

“Sowing The Seeds of Love For Gardening”

April 2015



Thanks to Terasa Lott for the photos seen here

FROM THE GROUND UP



Enjoy these pictures from the Spring Extravaganza held at the Bean Market in Lake City. We had excellent weather and a good turnout. Helen Yoest was an entertaining speaker and shared with us from her two books, Gardening with Confidence and Plants with Benefits. She was available afterwards to sign copies of book. Stan McKenzie also was a speaker telling us about his citrus trees in general as well as those at his farm. Stan joined Amanda McNaulty and Tony Melton forming a panel to answer questions from the audience. Terasa Lott roamed the audience with the microphone and gave us the opportunity to hear the questions as well as the panel's responses. The breaks allowed participants an opportunity to visit the vendors. Following lunch, door prizes were awarded. Afterwards our Extravaganza guests had the choice between Moore Farms' Bulbapalooza and a tour and sale at Stan McKenzie's farm.

Hi folks,

I just wanted to send out a separate email to you folks and thank you for all you did for my husband and I the day of the Extravaganza. Some of you helped throughout the day and made it turn out to be great! Some of you stayed after and helped me so much with one of the most horrible days of my life. Thanks for cleaning up and taking care of our things. I don't know what I would have done without people like you. You are all a life saver.

I want to thank you too for the really nice plant that was sent to the hospital. I know you all prayed and thought about us and you have no idea how much that meant to my husband and I.

I do need to ask about the door prize that was left behind. It is a print of the magnolia flower bud done by Donna Goodman. Do you know who it belongs to. I feel bad that someone left it behind, because it is beautiful. Let me know.

Thanks again for everything and may God Bless you all!!

Planning your vegetable garden? Happy Powell shares the following suggestion when planning your garden this spring. Do you know someone who won't be planting a garden this spring? Add a few of his or her favorite plants to your garden. Then as your crop ripens, share it with those people. Most people enjoy the flavor of home grown fresh fruits and vegetables. Thank you, Happy.

FROM THE GROUND UP

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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

APRIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 20 AT 6:30
John Calvin Presbyterian Church
Corner of Marsh Ave and Third Loop Rd.
ELECTIONS

Sarah Nyikos, Education and Outreach Coordinator at PDREC, is sharing this invitation with the Master Gardeners.

"I'd like to invite the Florence County Master Gardeners to be an exhibitor at our upcoming event, "Pee Dee Outdoor Discovery Day", on Saturday, May 2 from 10am – 3pm. This event is free and open to the public, is our largest annual event, and draws visitors from across SC.

Please forward this invitation to other FCMG members. Here is a brief description of the event to give you a better idea. You can also check out the event page on Facebook for more information, including some pictures from past years: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1431486870477192/?ref=98>

Or on the Clemson Calendar:

http://calendar.clemson.edu/event/pee_dee_outdoor_discovery_day

Pee Dee Outdoor Discovery Day (formerly known as Rural Science and History Day) is a free all-day outdoor event that is open to the public. There will be exhibits on a variety of agricultural and natural science topics, ranging from wildlife, to forestry, to agricultural history, and many more. Heritage craftsmen and re-enactors such as woodcarvers, beekeepers and blacksmiths will be doing demonstrations, and local artisans and small farm vendors from the Pee Dee will be selling their products. There will also be many science and outdoor activities for families to participate in throughout the day, including fishing and kayaking lessons.

The Facebook page is publicly accessible, even to non-Facebook members, or you can view the event on the Clemson Calendar. We are looking for local exhibitors/vendors who showcase SC nature topics or rural heritage-related crafts. If you'd like to join us, we'd love to have you do a booth on SC gardening! You could either do an educational booth, or sell plants, or a combination of both...whatever you prefer. I think it would be great for visitors to learn about FCMG and what you do here at the PDERC and in the Florence Community.

There is NO FEE for exhibitors; you just need to register with us in advance by April 20, and bring with you whatever you need for the day – we provide you with the space. The venue is entirely on our nature trail (no electricity or running water) so you may want to bring along a tent for shade. If you don't plan to exhibit but just want to come enjoy the event, all you have to do is show up! Come for a little while, or bring a lunch and stay the whole day if you feel like it. We hope to see you there!"

Sarah"

FROM THE GROUND UP

Attracting Hummingbirds

Amy Dabbs,
County Extension Agent
Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service

Many people have a hard time keeping hummingbird feeders full and clean during the spring and summer months. Even if you opt out of providing a supplemental food source, you can actively garden to attract hummingbirds.

According to the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service, the keys to creating a hummingbird friendly habitat include nectar-producing plants, insects and water. Gardeners can provide a welcome oasis. While feeders are great for supplementing the diet of these busy birds, they cannot replace their need for protein and nutrients. The U.S. Forest Service encourages gardeners to plant native, showy flowers en masse to allow more feeding with less effort, much like visiting a feeder that never runs out! Besides, over 150 species of native plants depend on hummingbirds specifically for pollination. Many of these plants cannot be pollinated by bees or other insects, the hummingbird's long beak and tongue are specially designed to reach the nectar of these native plants. They transfer the pollen on their foreheads while they move about the garden. Hummingbirds often return to the same gardens each year, remembering where they previously had a meal. Some favorite plants include: coral bean (*Erythrina herbacea*), native pinxterbloom azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*), swamp hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), cardinalflower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), blazing star (*Liatris* spp.), spotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*), beardstongue (*Penstemon* spp.) , and any one of the many *Salvias* (*Salvia greggii*, *S. guaranitica*, and *S. coccinea*).

To encourage beneficial insects for hummingbirds in the home landscape, try creating naturalized areas. Simply leave an unmowed strip of grass near a woodland edge. If a naturalized area isn't possible, incorporate native wildflowers that will attract beneficial insects such as purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), bee balm (*Monarda didyma*), anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) or black eyed susans (*Rudbeckia* spp.). Hummingbirds need clean water, preferring moving water which gardeners can provide with birdbaths or fountains.

You can read the full article at
http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/hot_topics/2015/04%20attracting_hummingbirds.html

FROM THE GROUND UP

APRIL MONTHLY TO DO LIST

- Prepare soils for planting by fertilizing soils according to soil test recommendations, if not already done.
- Purchase vegetable seeds and transplants, shrubs and trees, flower seeds and flats for planting.
- Leave bulb foliage alone until it turns yellow.
- Don't buy pot-bound transplants. Look at the roots carefully.
- For a longer vegetable harvest season, plant at intervals during suggested planting

LAWNS

- **Planting:** Sow grass seed, lay sod, or plant sprigs and plugs of warm-season grasses now through July.
- **Fertilizing:** Fertilize all warm-season grasses, after April **and**, according to the soil test analysis. Do it 2 weeks after grass begins to green up and grow. Apply evenly.

- **Irrigate:** Water when the signs of wilt occur. Drench the soil to a depth of 5-7 inches (equivalent to approximately 1 inch of rainfall).

VEGETABLES & FRUITS

- **Planting:** Sow seeds for beans, cantaloupe, cucumbers, okra, peanuts, southern peas, sweet corn, squash, and watermelon in the garden. Transplant eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes in the garden.
- **Fertilizing:** "Side dress" to fertilize established plants per established guidelines.
- **Irrigation:** Thoroughly wet the soil once a week, unless there is sufficient rainfall to moisten the soil around the roots.

TREES & SHRUBS

- **Planting:** Fall is best for planting. If you plant now, you must be prepared to take special care of your plants.
- **Fertilizing:** Fertilize and mulch new plants. Fertilize azaleas after blooming and mulch.

- **Irrigation:** Water new shrubs and trees once a week during dry periods and during the 1st and 2nd growing season, to ensure their survival and rapid growth

FLOWERS

- **Planting:** Sow seeds in the garden and transplant flats. Plant gladiolas, cannas, and other summer-flowering bulbs.
- **Fertilizing:** Use half strength fertilizer on newly-planted annuals.
- **Irrigation:** water regularly and deeply, up to 2 hours a week during dry periods.

FROM THE GROUND UP

Area Events

Spring Plant & Flower Festival

Pee Dee State Farmers Market

April 9 – 12. Thurs. – Sat. 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Brookgreen Gardens Plantacular Sale

April 11 and 12 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm both days

Brookgreen.org

Darlington County Master Gardener Plant and Garden Art Sale

Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

And Saturday, April 18 at Earth Day at Kalmia Gardens

Joslin Education Center

Next to Kalmia Gardens

1624 W. Carolina Avenue

Hartsville, SC

Lexington County Master Gardeners

State Garden Jamboree at Saluda Shoals Park

Friday, May 1 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

\$50 per person, pre-registration required

www.scjamboree.org or www.lcmgv.org

speakers, interactive workshops, garden fashion show, door prizes, take home projects, vendors and catered luncheon

A Celebration of the Senses, 14th annual garden tour presented by

Lexington County Master Gardeners

Thursday, May 14 and Saturday, May 16 from 9:00 to 5:00 Rain or Shine

Tickets \$25. To purchase contact www.lcmgv.org

Moore Farms Botanical Gardens

Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16

\$15 per person admission includes:

Lunch, all day Plant sale, Featuring Pearl Fryar, view the garden at your own pace