



**FLORENCE COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION**

FROM THE GROUND UP

"Sowing The Seeds of Love For Gardening"

December 2014

From Our President: Janet Bugbee

Hello Master Gardeners,

I hope all of your gardens got put to bed and you are enjoying our cool weather. I also hope you all had a very nice Thanksgiving holiday, spent with family and friends. There's nothing better than to be surrounded by good people and good food. And we all have a lot to be thankful for.

There's not a lot going on this time of year in the garden, but there can definitely be time spent on making plans for your garden. Now's the time too, to ask yourself what would I do differently next year.

I want to thank those of you that came to the November meeting and had a lot of questions for Bobbi Adams. We learned some new things about our native plants and why we should be utilizing them in our gardens. If anyone is interested in a signed book from Bobbi; they can be purchased from her directly for \$30. I have the address and information for you. Her books are titled "Gatherings From The Garden", Volume I and Volume II.

I hope you are all making some fun plans for the Christmas holiday too. We will be having the usual Christmas party at the PDREC. Even though they are getting set for all their construction, they still will let us use one of their rooms for our event. Please bring a side dish or dessert to pass. The MGs will supply the meat and drinks. We also ask that you bring a small gift for our White Elephant exchange. It should be a lot of fun like usual. Remember it will start at 6:30 pm on December 15th, and it is open for your spouses to come too, and if they do, remember to bring an extra gift if they want to participate in the exchange.

See you there!

"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies" Gertrude Jekyll

Janet Bugbee

"Print this Newsletter"
We've added a tab at the top of the page
so you can print your newsletter .

FCMGA Meeting
Monday, Dec. 16 at 6:30
PDREC
Bring a Side dish to share
Small gift for White
Elephant Gift Exchange

FROM THE GROUND UP

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 or mailed.

December Events

Brookgreen Gardens

<http://www.Brookgreen.org>

Holiday Exhibit
Nights of a Thousand Candles
New Year's Eve Garden by Candlelight

Moore Farms Botanical Garden

<http://moorefarmsbg.org>

Whimsical Winter Arrangements
December 4 9:30 – 2:00 \$30
Instructor Amanda McNulty

Winter Garlands
December 13 or December 18
9:30 – 2:00 \$35
Instructor Rebecca Turk

Kalmia Gardens

Kalmiagardens.com
Holiday Spirit at Kalmia Gardens' Hart House
December 7 3:00 – 5:00 Free

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FROM THE GROUND UP

Create a living wreath that will last all year with your choice of sensational succulents.

Materials list:

- Wire and moss wreath form
- Large basin
- Small, sharp knife
- Picture-hanging wire
- Hardy succulents from your garden or nursery
- 4 pieces of 2 foot long green florist's wire
- 2 screws or 16 penny nails

Instructions:

Buy a wire and moss wreath form. You can order from a catalog, buy from a garden center, nursery or craft store.

Soak the wreath for at least 2 hours in a large container such as a laundry tub, wheelbarrow, or trash can lid

Prepare the succulents Water the purchased succulents. Invert each pot and remove the plant. Place the plant on a sturdy surface and use a sharp knife to cut into 2 or 3 sections.

Attach wire to wreath. Fasten the four pieces of green florists wire to the wreath at the 12 o'clock, 3 o'clock, 6 o'clock and 9 o'clock positions. Attach by winding around a piece of wire on the wreath form.

Plant Succulents Cut a slit in the moss barrier with your knife. Pull the moss back and tuck the plant into the soil. If you run into wire, poke around until you find a spot without wire. After planting, poke the moss back into place.

Secure Plants. After planting a few succulents take the florist's wire and pull it over the plants and wind it around the whole wreath to keep the succulents in place.

Let Wreath Set. When you're done, carefully move the wreath to an out of the way location in a sunny outdoor spot. Keep it lying on its back 4-5 weeks to let the plants take root. Water occasionally if it is not getting adequate rainfall.

Hang Up the Wreath. Before you hang it up, soak the wreath at least 30 minutes and let it drain for 15 minutes. It will be quite heavy. Use the screws or nails and picture hanging wire to hang it with.

Storage. Your wreath can be kept outdoors year-round in temperate climates. If you have cold winters, lay the wreath in a protected corner and cover with at least 12" of leaves. Once the threat of heavy frost has passed, you can once again hang the wreath.

FROM THE GROUND UP

December MONTHLY TO DO LIST

- Turn your compost pile, and continue to add fruit and vegetable matter. Add 1 cup fertilizer and water.
- Gather greenery for holiday decorations.
- Mulch trees, shrubs, and bedding plants when dry. They should receive 1 inch water weekly.
- Plant trees and shrubs.
- Prune crape myrtles.

LAWNS

- **Planting:** You may still overseed your lawn in early December with rye grass seed.
- **Mowing:** Mow cool-season grasses as needed.

VEGETABLES & FRUITS

- **Planting:** Plant fruit trees, vines, and shrubs. Sow lettuce and other greens in cold frames for winter use. Place orders for fruit and nut trees, blueberries and brambles.
- **Pruning:** Prune grape vines and fruit trees. Pinch back windowsill herbs.

TREES & SHRUBS

- **Planting:** Continue planting trees and shrubs. Select and plant camellias while they are in bloom. Transplant deciduous and ornamental trees and shrubs. Choose evergreens to fill in empty spots in your landscape.
- **Fertilizing:** Fertilize dormant trees and shrubs.
- **Pruning:** Prune Crape Myrtles now for better color in June.
- **Special Care:** Check camellias for tea scale, and treat with dormant oil when temperatures are between 45 and 85 °F for at least 24 hours.

FLOWERS

- **Planting:** Plant spring bulbs. Plant bulbs for inside forcing. Divide ferns and apply compost when replanting. Sow seeds of gomphrena, Johnny-Jump-Ups, nasturtiums, alyssum, calendulas, gaillardia, sweet peas, stocks directly into prepared beds.
- **Fertilizing:** Fertilize winter annuals with a complete fertilizer, using 1 lb. Per 100 sq. ft.
- **Special Care:** Mulch after you weed the beds for winter. Protect tender perennials with thick mulch of straw