



# FROM THE GROUND UP FLORENCE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

December 2013

*"Sowing The Seeds Of Love For Gardening"*

## From Our President:

Hello fellow Master Gardeners,

It is hard to believe that in just a few more days we will be coming to the end of another year. As we find ourselves getting ready for the beginning of a new year, we might want to pause and think about what lies ahead for the FCMGA. We will be entering the year 2014 going full speed ahead preparing for the 'Spring Extravaganza' to be held in the historic Bean Market building in Lake City. This is a new venture for our Master Gardeners and I must say an exciting one.

Sally Haynes, Barbara Mathews, and Bill Duncan, along with Ray McBride (Executive Director of the Lake City Community Society), Ann Marcengill (manager of events for the National Bean Market) and a host of other members of the Lake City community and the Museum Society are working very diligently with us to make this program a success. The Lake City folks are carrying the lions' share of the work involved in this event which includes setting up the facilities, printing promotional materials, and distributing them throughout the communities. They are helping in the design of tickets and program brochures. They have all the items needed for the morning breakfast (all we will need to do is bring in the breakfast food items). As of this writing, there will be no work day scheduled for Master Gardeners to set-up the facilities. The price of admission ticket will be the same for everyone, \$45. The following is what is included the price of a ticket: *breakfast, lunch, two key-note presentations by professionals in the field of gardening, chances to win door prizes, goody bags full of surprises, access to on-site vendors selling garden related items, question and answer booth manned by county agricultural personnel and Master Gardeners, and FREE ADMISSION to the Moore Farms Botanical Garden during the afternoon.* We are looking at the first week of January to start the selling of tickets. We will have more details regarding all the above as well as a list of assignments (i.e. greeters, hand out goody bags, distribute door prize tickets, oversee breakfast area, etc.) for members to consider signing up for at our next meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center starting at 6:30 PM. We will not have a speaker as this is the annual Christmas Party.

See on the 16<sup>th</sup>,  
Tom

**FLORENCE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OFFICERS:**

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Master Gardener Coordinator:  
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**DUES REMINDER**

If you have forgotten to pay your dues, they can be paid at the next meeting or mailed to:

Janet Bugbee  
1923 Penn Farm Road  
Timmonsville, SC 29161

*Note to the Class of 2013:* You are not required to pay dues this year.

*Quotation Corner*

"Many things grow in the garden that were never sown there."

~Michael P. Garafalo

**DECEMBER MEETING**

The next monthly meeting, the Christmas Party, is scheduled for December 16 at 6:30 PM at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center. The Association will provide the meat and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please also bring an item for the white elephant gift exchange if you would like to participate.

**Upcoming Events  
Moore Farms Botanical Garden**

[Lather It Up](#) (soap making workshop)  
Saturday, December 14  
9:30 AM – 2:00 PM  
Registration: \$35 per person (includes tour of garden and lunch)  
Find out more at [www.moorefarmsbg.org](http://www.moorefarmsbg.org)

**Riverbanks Zoo & Botanical Garden**

[Natural Holiday Wreaths](#)  
Saturday, December 7  
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM  
Registration: \$25 per person  
Find out more at [www.riverbanks.org](http://www.riverbanks.org)

[Lights Before Christmas](#)  
November 22 – December 30  
5:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
\$10 Adults / \$8 Children 3-12 / Children under 3 are free

**Swan Lake Iris Gardens**

[Festival of Lights](#)  
The Festival of Lights is part of Sumter's Poinsettia festival and the largest free Christmas light display in the state.

**Kalmia Gardens of Coker College**

[Christmas Open House](#)  
Sunday, December 8  
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Free

**Brookgreen Gardens**

[Nights of a Thousand Candles](#)  
December 5-7, 12-14, & 19-21  
3:00 PM – 10:00 PM  
\$16 Adults / \$8 Children

## December in the Garden

### GENERAL

Turn your compost pile, and continue to add fruit and vegetable matter.

Sprinkle wood ashes in compost pile or in vegetable and flower gardens.

Prune grapevines and fruit trees.

Gather greenery for holiday decorations.

Mulch trees, shrubs, and bedding plants when dry. They should receive 1 inch of water weekly.

Plant trees and shrubs.

Fill bird feeders and bird baths.

Keep tulip bulbs in the refrigerator until January.

Make sure powdered or granular chemicals are protected from moisture. Keep the labels intact for proper identification.

Keep liquid chemicals sealed tightly and stored in a cool, dry place that is protected from freezing temperatures and excessive heat. Keep all chemicals out of the reach of children.

### LAWNS

**Planting:** You may still overseed your lawn in early December with rye grass seed.

**Mowing:** Mow cool-season grasses as needed.

**Special Care:** Wild artichoke, Florida betony, skullcap, or rattlesnake weed should be controlled in the fall and winter through the use of herbicides.

### 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 grapevines and fruit trees. Pinch back windowsill herbs.

**Special care:** Review the last growing season. Start a garden diary: record crops for rotation, insect outbreaks, varieties planted and how they performed. This can help to prevent problems next year.

### 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.

**Irrigation:** Water as needed. Well-watered trees and shrubs have more protection against winter injury. Don't forget to keep warm water in your Christmas tree stand.

**Special Care:** Remove bagworm cocoons from evergreens and destroy. Check camellias for tea scale, and treat with dormant oil when temperatures are between 45°F 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.

**Irrigation:** Water all newly-planted items well during dry periods.

**Special Care:** Mulch after you weed the beds for winter. Protect tender perennials with thick mulch of straw. Check greenhouse plants and houseplants for mealybugs, spider mites, and white flies and treat. Cut back perennials after frost has browned their tops.

Please find below, a copy of the updated Florence County Master Gardeners Association By-Laws:

**FLORENCE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION  
BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Florence County Master Gardeners Association (FCMGA). Said organization shall operate as a non-profit organization.

**ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this organization shall be:

- a. To implement the Florence County Master Gardeners Program through volunteer educational projects.
- b. To provide a public service for home gardeners by:
  1. Conducting plant clinics
  2. Presenting seminars, programs on gardening subjects
  3. Providing office assistance, answering phone questions and in other ways promoting Master Gardener education techniques.
  4. Working closely with and under the supervision of the Florence County Extension Agent
  5. Offering trips, tours and seminars of an educational nature for the Association's members and guests
  6. Participating in and/or initiating community gardening projects

**ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

There shall be two categories of Membership in the Association

Voting Members shall consist of:

1. Certified Master Gardeners who have paid current dues; are willing to promote Master Gardener programs and objectives; and working to complete their annual 40 volunteer hours.
2. Interns who have completed their instruction and passed their examination

Non-Voting Members

1. Inactive Members have been active in the past but are not current in payment of dues and/or have not been active in completing their volunteer hours
2. Associates who are currently taking instruction and have not taken their examination
3. Patron Members are members of the Industry and Business who support the FCMGA. Patron Membership shall be at the discretion of the President.

The Master Gardener graduate donates at least 40 hours of service yearly. The volunteer activities are coordinated through the Association's Secretary.

Annual dues are payable at the January meeting. Dues must be paid to be eligible to vote.

## ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. The governing body of this organization shall consist of: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

These officers shall perform the duties as prescribed by these By-Laws and the parliamentary authority adopted by the organization.

Elections shall take place at the regularly scheduled meeting in April by ballot and the majority shall elect. New Officers will be introduced at the May meeting/Graduation Dinner and begin their term of office at the June meeting.

Section 2. The term of office shall be one (1) year and begin with the June meeting.

Section 3. No office will be held for more than three (3) consecutive terms, but an officer may serve in another office.

Section 4. Should a vacancy occur in the office of President, the Vice President shall succeed to that office and another Vice President elected by the remaining officers. The president shall fill other vacancies as they occur.

## ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. President shall preside at all meetings; request reports; appoint the chairperson of all special project committees and other such committees as designated by these By-Laws.

Section 2. Vice President shall perform the duties of President when that officer is absent and perform all other duties as determined by the President and will provide By-Laws to all members.

Section 3. Secretary shall be both the recording and corresponding secretary; informing all members of meetings and events; keeping accurate minutes of all meetings and maintaining correspondence. The Secretary will keep the official copy of the By-Laws and standing committees and an up-to-date roster of membership.

Section 4. Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds; will collect dues annually for each member and shall disburse money upon proper authorization. The Treasurer will advise the Secretary of members in good standing prior to the elections in April. All funds shall be deposited in the name of Florence County Master Gardeners Association (FCMGA) in a bank selected by the officers. A report of receipts and disbursements shall be presented at each meeting and a complete financial report given at the April meeting. The fiscal year will run May 1 – April 30 each year with the books ready for audit at the annual meeting.

Section 5. Each outgoing officer must deliver all books, records, and papers to the successor at the annual meeting.

## ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Standing committees shall include:

By-Laws: Vice President and two other members; to be reviewed and revised as needed.

Nominating: Three members of the Association; appointed by Officers of Association.

Publicity: Appointed by President

Programs: Vice President, or Chairperson appointed by Vice President

Historian/Scrapbook: Appointed by President

Volunteer Activities: Secretary or Chairperson appointed by Association Secretary

Special Projects Committees: Appointed by President as required.

#### ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Monthly meetings will be held at a date, time, and location agreed upon by a majority of voting members.

Workshops or field trips may be held on special notice.

Members present at a given meeting shall constitute a quorum.

#### ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting with a quorum present, provided the written amendment has been submitted to the entire membership prior to the meeting. The majority of Members present at a given meeting shall rule.

#### ARTICLE IX PARLIAMENARY PROCEDURE

Robert's Rules of Order shall apply to all meetings.

#### ARTICLE X ADVISOR

The Florence County Extension Service Agent in charge of Master Gardeners shall act as advisor to this group.

#### ARTICLE XI DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

In case of dissolution of this organization, the officers will donate all assets to the charity (charities) of their choice.

These By-Laws, as amended and approved, will take effect on November 19, 2013.



Extension Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator Tony Melton shared information about preparing garden beds for winter at the November meeting.



Co-Vice President Christine Petrush presented the final recommended By-Law changes.



Photo by Terasa Young

## Christmas Cactus, Thanksgiving Cactus, and Easter Cactus

Content obtained from hortmag.com

November 20, 2012 | [Maria Woodie](#)

I have a "Christmas cactus" that always blooms at Thanksgiving. Is there a way to make it bloom a few weeks later?

**Answer:** A Christmas cactus is one of three popular holiday cacti: Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. You can probably guess by their names when these festive plants usually bloom; Thanksgiving cacti typically start in late fall and Christmas cacti around a month later. An Easter cactus starts producing flower buds in February.

If you have a Christmas cactus that always blooms around Thanksgiving, it is probably because of one of the following reasons: it is actually a Thanksgiving cactus or it blooms early due to growing conditions.



Thanksgiving cacti are often sold as "Christmas cacti" and these two holiday plants look very similar. Both fall under the genus *Schlumbergera*, have the same color scheme and require the same care. There are two main differences between a Christmas and Thanksgiving cactus: the flowering season, which we have already

discussed, and the segments of the leaves. To help determine whether your cactus is a Christmas or Thanksgiving variety, will depend on the edges of the leaf segments. Christmas cacti have smooth, round edges while Thanksgiving cacti have pointy, jagged ones. **A Thanksgiving cactus is shown at the top of this article; a Christmas cactus is shown at right.** Note the difference in the leaves.



If your holiday cactus still sounds like it belongs to the merry Christmas groupings, than it probably flowers early in the season due to the growing conditions. Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti need cool temperatures (roughly 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit) to begin the production of flowers, so your cactus is most likely exposed to this change in weather early. You can help instigate when your plant will bloom by keeping track of the temperature outside. When it is below 50 degrees, you can place the container by a drafty window or when it hits the ideal 55 to 60 degree range, place the container outdoors. These cacti are most successful with longer periods of uninterrupted darkness, around 13 to 16 hours, and shortened days.

My biggest piece of advice for you if you want a Christmas cactus to bloom later in the season, is to make sure it actually is a Christmas cactus and not a Thanksgiving one. When purchasing a new cactus go by the botanical name instead of the common one. A Christmas cactus is *Schlumbergera x buckleyi* and a Thanksgiving cactus is *Schlumbergera truncata*. As for now, manipulate your cactus's exposure to light and temperature conditions to try to achieve the perfect blooming season for your needs.

These striking, festive cacti are perfect ways to bring a little joy and cheer to the holiday season.

- See more at: <http://www.hortmag.com/weekly-tips/qa/christmas-cactus-thanksgiving-cactus-and-easter-cactus#sthash.Bbipq8SA.dpuf>