



**FLORENCE COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION**

FROM THE GROUND UP

"Sowing The Seeds of Love For Gardening"

February 2015

From Our President: Janet Bugbee

Hello Master Gardeners,
Spring will be here before we know it. Do you have your spring garden plans ready? Every year we hope for a better year.

I wanted to "Thank" all that came to last months meeting. We had a great turn out. David Utterback was a great guest with interesting information about landscaping our yards. Hopefully we learned a little bit about what we might want to do.

I wanted to "Thank" everyone for agreeing to donate to Harvest Hope Food Bank again. It's always good to help out.

We have just started talking of our upcoming Symposium and the comments were appreciated at the meeting.

Our Symposium will be here soon enough and we need to plan ahead. It will be a fun day like always and we need support from all the Master Gardeners. Our tickets will be available soon and we depend on Master Gardeners selling as many as they can. This year we have decided to have a little contest. For the Master Gardener that sells the most tickets; they will receive a \$100 gift certificate (cash or Walmart card). Master Gardeners will still get their tickets for \$25.00 if they sell 4 tickets. It is not very hard to do. We want to fill the National Bean Market and have a great day too.

Please watch for all the information pertaining to the Symposium and please consider helping us out.

Remember that it is time to help out at the PDREC with the raised beds if you are interested. Please contact Happy Powell at happygregg@mac.com

We will also need to consider some volunteer time to help out at McLaurin School for those that would like to teach young gardeners on vegetable gardening. Let me

know if you are interested. I will be there to help get them started.

Our next meeting will be February 16 and I hope a lot of Master Gardeners attend. We will have a lot to talk about, so I hope to see you there. There will be Extravaganza tickets available.

Remember to "remember" your sweetheart coming up February 14th.

"Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it!" - Author Unknown

Take care,
Janet Bugbee

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 Bugbee

2016 dues can be paid at the meeting or mailed to Janet Smith, Treasurer

Our next meeting is February 16 at John Calvin Presbyterian Church

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

“

FROM THE GROUND UP

FCMGA OFFICERS

President:

Janet Bugbee

319-1105

janetbugbee@gmail.com

Vice President:

Susan Lander LeBase

662-2149

slp1122@aol.com

Treasurer:

Janet Smith

2544 Kingston Dr

Florence, SC 29505

Secretary:

Christine Petrush

617-5147

christine.petrush@gmail.com

Master Gardener Coordinator:

Anthony 'Tony' Melton 661-4800 x112

amelton@clermson.edu

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

Upcoming Events

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.

FROM THE GROUND UP

February In The Garden

GENERAL

Clean foliage on houseplants.

Order seeds or purchase from local farm center.

Prune rose bushes.

Prepare vegetable garden.

Take soil sample to Clemson Extension Service.

Move established plants to other locations this month.

Freshen up edging, flower bed areas, and natural areas.

Remove dead branches, twigs, and leaves from areas to prevent disease.

Cut early flowering shrubs to force indoors now.

Trim mondo grass and lirope with lawn mower set on high.

Be sure to put out birdhouses and fill feeders and birdbaths. Water during dry periods.

Lime lawn and garden beds if indicated by a soil test and not already performed.

LAWNS

Mowing: Using the highest setting, mow ground covers of mondo and lirope mid-month.

Special Care: Spot treat broadleaf weeds. Pre-emergent herbicide should be applied when forsythia are in bloom to control crabgrass and other summer annual weeds. This is generally March 1 in the coastal and central areas of SC.

Repair areas in lawn with sod if necessary.

VEGETABLES & FRUITS

Planting: Sow outdoors: peas, snow peas, Chinese cabbage, onions, broccoli, beets, carrots, lettuce, radishes, spinach, turnips, Irish potatoes, and transplant collards. Plant the "short day" onion varieties for bulb onions. Plant blueberries now. Use 2-3 different varieties to ensure pollination and fruit production. Select local varieties (rabbit eye) for best results. Finish planting fruit trees. Start herb seeds indoors of basil, borage, chamomile, parsley, and summer savory. Sow chives, dill and coriander outdoors.

Fertilizing: Fertilize and lime herbs. Rosemary, sage, thyme, and marjoram, and parsley need extra lime. Fertilize fruit trees. In the absence of a soil test, Pecan trees will need 4 lbs. of a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10 per inch of trunk diameter as measured at 4.5 ft. above ground. Zinc is also important to pecan nutrition. In the absence of a tissue analysis, apply 1 lb. of zinc sulfate to young trees and 3-5 lbs. to large trees each year. A soil pH of 6.0-6.5 assures availability of essential nutrients. Fertilize established strawberries with 6-8 lbs. of 10-10-10 per 100 feet row.

Pruning: Prune peaches, plums, apples, and pears.

Special care: Plant bare root woody landscape plants and trees. This is also the time to prune summer-blooming evergreen shrubs

FLOWERS

Planting: Sow seeds for warm-season annuals indoors: marigolds, zinnias, coleus, salvia, etc. Plant bare root roses.

Check stored bulbs, corms, tubers for signs of rot.

Fertilizing: Continue feeding pansies every two weeks with liquid fertilizer and water regularly. Feed spring bulbs with 5-10-10 or bulb food when leaves appear. Fertilize roses toward the end of the month. Fertilize established perennials with 12-6-6.

Pruning: Prune rose bushes: remove dead, diseased, and weak wood now, saving 3-5 good canes. At the end of the month, prune pampas grass to within 6 inches of the ground. This is the last month to prune hybrid tea roses.

HOUSEPLANTS

Look for spider mites, scale, and mealybugs. If found, spray with dormant oil or insecticidal soap as directed on the label. Plants on window sills need attention on cold nights. Tender foliage will be killed if they come in contact with the cold window. "Seeing a spider isn't a problem. It's a problem when it disappears."

Florence County Master Gardeners Association

Spring Extravaganza

Saturday, March 21, 2015 – 8:00 AM

The National Bean Market - 111 Henry Street, Lake City, SC

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM - The National Bean Market

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM – Garden Tours

\$45.00 Ticket Price Includes:

Breakfast and Catered Lunch, Two Garden Tours, Door Prizes,

Goody Bags, Garden Vendors, Panel of Experts for Q & A

Keynote Speaker: *Helen Yoest ...*

A curious gardener and an award

winning freelance writer and garden

stylist. She has written for some of the most

well known magazines and is author of "Plants

with Benefits" and "Gardening With Confidence".

McKenzie Farms Tour (and plant sale) with **Stan McKenzie**

Moore Farms Botanical Gardens – "Bulbapalooza" event (discount admission)

Call For Ticket Information: Anne – 843-374-1500/The National Bean Market, Lake City

Anjanette – 843-661-4800, Ext. 111/Clemson Cooperative Extension Center, Florence

Additionally **Tickets** may be purchased from: Florence County Master Gardeners