



# FROM THE GROUND UP

## "Sowing The Seeds of Love For Gardening"

JANUARY 2014

### From Our President: Tom Pantos

Happy New Year everyone! As the month of January ushers in the beginning of a new year, it also begins a year where the FCMGA members are entering into a new venture. This venture is of the course, the Spring Extravaganza (formerly known as the Pee Dee Home &



Garden Workshops) and is being held at the Historic Bean Market in Lake City instead of the Pee Dee REC in Florence. Public promotions and

ticket sales for this event will begin during the second week of January. At our January meeting on **Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>**, we will update everyone on the progress of this event. We will also be discussing the various tasks that the group will be expected to perform during the event. Some of these tasks/activities include: greeters/ticket collectors, personnel to maintain breakfast area, distributing programs and goody bags, selling tickets for prize drawings, etc. All set-up and clean-up will be handled by Bean Market staff. The distribution and sale of tickets for the Spring Extravaganza will also be explained at the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>. **I want to encourage as many members as possible to attend this very important and informative meeting.**

Our Christmas party this past month was attended by 27 people. This was a slight decrease in attendance compared to previous years. However, these numbers had absolutely no affect on the amount of fellowship, food, or fun enjoyed. Ray McBride, Executive Director of the Lake City Community Museum Society (which includes the Bean Market) was in attendance as a guest and made a brief presentation on the emphasis the Lake

City community is placing on activities like our Spring Extravaganza coming to their town. Also, Janet Bugbee was presented with a plaque recognizing her outstanding leadership to the Florence County Master Gardeners Association during her three years as President. This award was well deserved. Congratulations, Janet!



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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 January 20 or mailed to:

Janet Bugbee  
1923 Penn Farm Road  
Timmonsville, SC 29161

## Quotation Corner

"Every gardener knows that under the coal of winter lies a miracle... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream"

Barbara Winkler

## Upcoming Events

### Moore Farms Botanical Garden

#### Living Art

Thursday, January 30  
9:30 AM – Noon

Registration: \$32 per person

For more information, contact Rebecca Turk at [rturk@moorefarmsbg.org](mailto:rturk@moorefarmsbg.org)

#### Terrariums: Bringing the outdoors in

Saturday, February 22  
9:30 AM – Noon

Registration: \$40 per person

### Riverbanks Zoo and Garden

#### Orchids on the Riverbanks Festival

See hundreds of blooming orchids and get great information on growing orchids from the experts. Entry is free with regular admission to Riverbanks Zoo and Garden.

Friday, February 7, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Saturday, February 8, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Sunday, February 9, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

### Cypress Gardens

#### Fruitmania Garden School

Saturday, February 22  
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Registration: \$25

### Brookgreen Gardens

Dirt 'N Details Horticulture Program  
Tuesday, January 14  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
Free with garden admission

South Carolina is blessed with an abundance of gardens, parks, and natural areas. Have you ever visited the Edisto Memorial Gardens in Orangeburg, SC? In 1865, small force of Confederate soldiers gathered on the land that is now the Gardens and temporarily halted to the advance of the Union Army. They were eventually forced to withdraw to Columbia. The site was first developed in the 1920s with some azaleas on 5 acres of land. A playground was added in 1922 and a greenhouse and nursery facility was added in 1947. To extend the season of beauty, the first rose garden was planted in 1951. Today there are more than 82 beds of roses ranging from miniature to grandiflora to climbers. The fountain once located at Memorial Plaza was placed at the entrance of Gardens in 1950 to honor the individuals who gave their lives in the World Wars, Korean War, and Vietnam Conflict and the name was changed to Edisto Memorial Gardens. Click [here](#) to read more about the Edisto Memorial Gardens.

## Poinsettias After The Holidays

Millie Davenport

Clemson Home & Garden Information Center



Poinsettias are a classic holiday plant used to decorate the home from November to December. The brightly colored bracts (modified leaves) of the poinsettia are often called flowers. But the true flowers of the poinsettia are very small and found in the center of the colorful bracts. When kept in an ideal environment, poinsettias will hold their brightly colored bracts for months. In fact, newer poinsettia varieties have been bred to hold bracts on the plants for a longer "shelf life". With the poinsettias still looking good after the holidays, the BIG question for homeowners is whether to trash the

Homeowners may choose to keep the poinsettia while the bracts remain colorful or just trash it after the holidays. For homeowners who are up for a real challenge, they may even attempt to rebloom their poinsettias for next Christmas. Either way, poinsettias kept after the holidays will require attention on a regular basis. First, the poinsettia should be moved to an area where it will receive at least 6 hours of bright, indirect sunlight each day. Then, check the poinsettia periodically to make sure the plant has adequate water. Remove any decorative pot covers at each watering to prevent over watering.

Around the middle of April pinch the poinsettia back to 6 to 8 inches in height and leave it growing in a sunny location. When new growth begins, a liquid houseplant fertilizer may be used. Once night time temperatures remain above 50 °F the plant can be placed outside. Start by placing the poinsettia in a shady spot for a few days, gradually increasing its

exposure to sunlight until it becomes acclimated to full sun. At this time the poinsettia should be repotted into a slightly larger container.

Poinsettias that are grown for Christmas flowering should not be pinched (pruned) after September 1st. When the temperatures become cool (55 to 60 °F) bring the poinsettia back indoors and place in a sunny location. Poinsettias require short day lengths to bloom, which means it needs a continuous long dark period each night to form its colorful bracts. Starting around the first week of October (for an eight- to 10- week period), the plant must be kept in total and uninterrupted darkness for 14 continuous hours each night. During this time the plant must also receive six to eight hours of bright sunlight daily. For detailed information on growing poinsettias, see: [HGIC 1561, Poinsettia](#).

*This information is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service is implied. All recommendations are for South Carolina conditions and may not apply to other areas. Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. All recommendations for pesticide use are for South Carolina only and were legal at the time of publication, but the status of registration and use patterns are subject to change by action of state and federal regulatory agencies. Follow all directions, precautions and restrictions that are listed.*



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## January In The Garden

### GENERAL

Have your soil tested for lawns and spring gardens.

Plan herb garden now; then order seeds as soon as possible.

Cut back browned perennials.

Plan garden layout.

Study seed catalogs; order now for spring and summer planting.

Prepare beds for spring planting; remember to add compost, manure or other organic matter.

Replenish mulch to protect roots and tender plants; mulch to make vacant beds appear tended.

Water gardens during periods of inadequate rainfall. This will reduce damage to plants during a cold snap.

Remove dead flowers from and around camellia bushes to prevent camellia petal blight.

Apply aluminum sulfate to hydrangeas to obtain blue flowers; treat with lime for pink flowers if this was not done in the fall.

Deep water plants before a hard freeze.

Force spring bulbs for early blooms indoors.

Mist houseplants to maintain humidity.

### LAWNS

**Mowing:** Cut back ornamental grasses to 6-8 inches above the ground. Edge the lawn. Even when dormant, runners that stretch onto the sidewalk, driveway, and beds can be trimmed.

**Special Care:** Treat broad-leaf winter weeds with post-emergent herbicide.

### VEGETABLES & FRUITS

**Planting:** Sow seeds indoors for spring gardens. Start seeds for tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers inside. Plant garden peas and mustard mid-month. Plant asparagus crowns. Plant fruit and nut trees, as well as blueberries. Sow dill and chive seeds now through March. Set out transplants of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and cabbage late in the month. Plant sugar snap seeds and other edible podded peas now.

**Fertilizing:** Fertilize established asparagus and strawberries. Mulch strawberries and order additional plants.

**Pruning:** Prune muscadine and other grapevines.

**Special care:** Spray fruit trees with dormant oil to control mites and scales. Do this on a day when the temperature will be at least 45 degrees for 24 hours.

### TREES & SHRUBS

**Planting:** Plant / transplant ornamental trees and shrubs. Consider mature size. Choose varieties recommended for the Pee Dee area. While selecting a spot for a new shrub, remember that an area sunny now may be in the shade when deciduous trees are in leaf. Root hardwood cuttings, i.e., azaleas, camellias, hollies, forsythias, crape myrtles, flowering quince, old-fashion roses. Prepare beds for roses now for planting later, select location that is well drained and receives at least 6 hours of sun per day.

**Pruning:** Wait until spring to prune plants that are damaged by freezes. Extent of the damage can be better assessed at that time.

### FLOWERS

**Planting:** Plant seeds of cool-season annuals (larkspur, sweet peas, poppies). Sow seeds of slower growing annuals (ageratum, petunias, begonias) indoors. Force bulbs indoors now. Plan changes and additions to your garden and then order seeds and plants.

**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.

**Pruning:** Deadhead pansies to encourage more growth.

**Houseplants:** The most common reason that houseplant leaves turn yellow or drop is too little light. Be careful to water correctly: most plants like to be slightly dry between waterings. Look for spider mites, scale, and mealybugs. Treat as indicated.