



**FLORENCE COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENERS  
ASSOCIATION**

# FROM THE GROUND UP

## "Sowing The Seeds of Love For Gardening"

January 2015

### From Our President: Janet Bugbee

Hello Master Gardeners,

I hope everyone survived the Holidays. Those of you that didn't make the MG Christmas party this year missed a lot of good food and fun. I wanted to thank those of you that brought so much good food and gifts that evening. Like always it is some of the greatest out there. Everyone enjoyed themselves with all the food, gifts and door prizes awarded.

I hope you can all come to the January meeting on the 19th at the church. Our speaker for the evening will be J. David Utterback, talking about sustainable landscaping and landscape design. He is a Landscape Architect and Designer, Artist from Myrtle Beach and will be talking about his story of a "landscape work in progress". For those of you that might want some information about proper landscaping should attend. You know we can always use new ideas.

At the meeting there will also be some things to talk about coming up in our near future. The Symposium is not that far off. Only a

couple of months to prepare. Come and learn of the progress so far.

See you all at the meeting on January 19th  
Best wishes in the New Year!

Janet Bugbee

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

### Dues Reminder

Attention Master Gardeners Annual Dues for 2015 are now due. The amount is \$10 and can be mailed to Janet Smith, Treasurer or you can bring your payment to the meeting.

**FCMGA Meeting**  
January 19  
7:00  
John Calvin Presbyterian  
Corner of Marsh and 3<sup>rd</sup> Loop  
Speaker: J. David Utterback

# 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.

## Area Events

If you know of any other area events not listed, please let me know that I can include them in future newsletters.

### Moore Farms

Thursday, Jan. 29 from 9:30 – Noon. Registration \$25  
Houseplants, Bringing the Outdoors In  
<http://www.moorefarmsbg.org/events/houseplants-bringing-the-outdoors-in/>

### Cypress Gardens

Saturday, Jan. 17 from 9 – 4:30 Fruitmania  
Lunch included, Topics include: Blueberries, Strawberries, Container Grown Citrus, and Bees and other Pollinators. Vendors and more, includes admission to the gardens.  
Sign up at <https://squareup.com/market/low-country-fruit-growers-society/fruitmania-garden-school-1?>

### Brookgreen Gardens

Silent Cities Cemetery Tours  
The Oaks Plantation History and Nature Excursions  
See website for details  
[http://www.brookgreen.org/calendar\\_jan.html](http://www.brookgreen.org/calendar_jan.html)

### Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Gardens

Saturday, Jan. 31 from 10 – 11:00 am Intro to Potting Orchids  
Registration \$10  
<http://www.riverbanks.org/botanical-garden/>

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### Here are a few of my latest additions to my gardening library. What have you been reading?

The Drunken Botanist The Plants that Create the World's Great Drinks  
by Amy Stewart  
Wicked Plants, The weed that killed Lincoln's mother and other  
Botanical Atrocities by Amy Stewart  
Medicinal Herbs, A Beginner's Guide by Rosemary Gladstar  
Deep Rooted Wisdom by Jenks Farmer

Thankfully, our winters are short and mild. Even while I try to hibernate, there are flowers blooming and lettuces waiting to be harvested. The garden is calling, reading will have to wait for now.

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# FROM THE GROUND UP

## **Master Gardener Directory**

As Secretary, one of my responsibilities is to maintain a current listing of the Florence County Master Gardeners. I would like to update this list and make it available to other Florence County Master Gardeners. A directory will be available to those who respond. Your information will not be shared with anyone else. If you would like to be included in the current directory, please send me an email and provide the following:

Your First and Last Name

Year you became a Master Gardener

Phone Number (home or cell or both)

Your mailing address

Personal email address (the one you check most often, not a work email)

Your areas of interest (for example: vegetables, annuals, trees, perennials, organic gardening, herbs and their uses, propagation, shrubs, native plants, planning and design, and, and, and!)

Thanks so much for helping me with this project. I feel the finished directory will do a great deal to help us keep in contact with each other and “grow friendships in our gardens”.

Christine Petrush

Christine.Petrush@gmail.com

## **PDREC GARDENS**

Last October was the signup sheet for the raised beds at PDREC. If you signed up for a raised bed, plans are due this month. The plans do not have to be detailed; a general outline or list of what you'll be planting in the bed will be fine. If you didn't sign up for a bed and would like to be a part of this on-going project, please contact Happy Powell at [happygregg@mac.com](mailto:happygregg@mac.com). In addition to the 9 raised beds, there are other areas at PDREC that are maintained by the Master Gardeners.

# FROM THE GROUND UP

From the Clemson HGIC web page:

## Protecting Evergreens from Ice Damage

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Cory Tanner,  
Clemson University Extension Agent

Evergreen trees and shrubs are prone to unsightly damage from ice storms. They can be splayed open like a blooming onion or flattened like a pancake by heavy ice loads. Damaged shrubs sometimes resurrect themselves in a matter of days or weeks; other times, they require severe pruning and a long restoration period. Fortunately, diligent gardeners can take a few actions to prevent serious ice damage.

The first strategy is to start out right! Many conical evergreens – such as magnolias, cedars, junipers and some hollies - tend to develop multiple stems or trunks. This results in weak branches at the shrub's base, which can allow the plant to split apart in a storm. Avoid this problem in the beginning by only selecting new plants that have a single main stem and avoid plants with multiple leaders altogether. Once the plant is in your landscape, prevent this problem from developing when it is young by simply pruning out any stem, other than the main trunk, that is growing in a strong vertical direction, i.e., competing with the central stem. By doing this early, the main stem will become dominant and your work is essentially complete since single-stemmed trees and shrubs

Another method, requiring less foresight but equally successful, is to lightly tie-up the plant before the storm. This simple measure could be the difference between minor damage and complete shrub restoration. With a roll of twine (preferably a biodegradable product like jute), tie the loose end around a stem near the plant's base. From there, loosely wrap the twine around and gradually up the bush, until about three-fourths of the plant is encircled. At that point, secure the twine to the end of a stem. The spiral should be tight enough to keep stems in place without being severely flexed. The goal is to prevent stems from spreading apart, but not to immobilize them. This strategy will be successful on any evergreen that is small enough to tie-up safely.

Leave this restraint in place until all ice has melted. There is no harm in leaving it on longer, however, for protection in case of another storm, but make sure the twine is removed before new growth begins in the spring. Discard any twine tied or wrapped around individual stems that could girdle them.

Lastly, resist the temptation to remove ice from your plants. This well-intentioned act can result in unnecessary damage to branches. It's best to let the ice melt naturally.

We never know when the next ice storm may strike, but the next time milk and bread start disappearing from grocery shelves, take steps to make sure you and your shrubs are prepared.

# FROM THE GROUND UP

## MONTHLY TO DO LIST

### January

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:** Maintain regular mowing of rye grass. 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, brussel 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

**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.