



**FLORENCE COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION**

FROM THE GROUND UP

"Sowing The Seeds of Love For Gardening"

March 2014

From Our President: Tom Pantos

Hello Master Gardeners. As we are nearing the change of seasons, from that of a very cold and cruel winter into hopefully a warm and pleasant spring, we find ourselves also entering into the final stages of planning and implementation of our upcoming Spring Extravaganza. Most all of the basic planning stages are complete. Now we are actively involved in the implementation stage which includes such things as promotion of the event, ticket distribution, tickets sales, assembling 'goody bags', and soliciting door prizes. As one might guess, ticket sales are paramount in the success of this event. (At the time this message is being written, I do not know the ticket count sold. Tickets being sold by MG members will be turned in on March 10th. After this date we will have a pretty good idea of how many tickets have sold). If you are not selling tickets, I would like to encourage you to promote this event to friends and neighbors and if they indicate an interest in attending, direct them to get their ticket(s) at the Florence County Extension Office on the corner of Irby Street and Third Loop Road.

Our March meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 17th at 6:30 PM. There will be no program that evening because we will be involved in assembling the 'goody bags' there in the church meeting room. Please Note: Everyone who has solicited items to be put in the 'goody bags', please bring these items to the meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting and have items for these bags, please make arrangements to send them with someone who will be attending the meeting. If you have door prizes (and they are smaller than a bread box) you can bring them to the meeting (be sure they are identified with the donor's name and address). Prizes such as trees, shrubs, or any other large items can be taken directly to the Bean Market on the day of the event. There is an old saying "many hands make light work." The number of

people we have in attendance at this meeting will determine the amount of work each individual will be required to do and how long it will take. I don't expect this meeting to last much more than an hour or so. Updates regarding the Spring Extravaganza will be presented to those in attendance. I hope to see a good turn-out on Monday, March 17th.

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FCMGA By-Laws Article IV Officers and Elections Section 1 states the following:

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.

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The FCMGA is always looking for new people to take leadership positions in the association. Rotating leadership positions within the association is a good way to share the load of responsibility among the membership. A small group of members making up the nominating committee is presently looking over our membership lists in hopes of finding individuals that may consider serving as an officer for the coming year. There will more information regarding next year's officer election in an up-coming e-mail.

I look forward to seeing you on March 17th. Tom

FROM THE GROUND UP

FCMGA OFFICERS

Co-Presidents:

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Co-Vice Presidents:

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Christine Petrush 617-5147
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Treasurer:

Janet Bugbee 319-1105
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Secretary:

Terasa Young 269-5904
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Master Gardener Coordinator:

Anthony 'Tony' Melton 661-4800 x112
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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 March 17 or mailed to:

Janet Bugbee
1923 Penn Farm Road
Timmonsville, SC 29161

Quotation Corner

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

Gertrude Jekyll

Upcoming Events

FCMGA Meeting

Monday, March 17
6:30 PM

This meeting will be used to make final preparations for the Spring Extravaganza. Please bring 'goody bag' items and small door prizes.

Moore Farms Botanical Garden

[Household Horticulture: Crafting Botanical Cleaning Agents](#)

Thursday, March 13
9:30 AM – Noon

Registration: \$25 per person

For more information, contact Rebecca Turk at rturk@moorefarmsbg.org

[Growing Healthy: Summer Veggies and Herbs](#)

Saturday, March 15
9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Registration: \$25 per person

For more information, contact Rebecca Turk at rturk@moorefarmsbg.org

[How to Build Your Own Trellises, Lattices, and Supports](#)

Thursday, March 27
9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Registration: \$22 per person

For more information, contact Rebecca Turk at rturk@moorefarmsbg.org

Garden Destination: Cape Fear Botanical Garden

In 1989, a handful of Fayetteville gardening enthusiasts shared a grand vision. They believed our community should—and could—have a botanical garden of its own. These enthusiasts came together and established the Friends of the Botanical Garden.

Through the steadfast perseverance of these founders, the Friends of the Botanical Garden were able to lease a city-owned park and lay the foundation for Cape Fear Botanical Garden, now a priceless gem to all of Fayetteville.

Since then, Cape Fear Botanical Garden has flourished. Today, over twenty years later, the Garden encompasses 77 acres of pine and hardwood forest, and boasts meticulously preserved natural areas of the region's indigenous plants, trees and wildlife. The cultivated garden areas showcase more than 2,000 varieties of ornamental plants, and include our renowned Daylily, Camellia and Hosta gardens. The River Walk, Heritage Garden, Children's Garden, and PWC Water Wise Garden provide unique educational experiences for young and old alike.

The Butterfly Stroll, a new addition to the Children's Garden, is a 450 foot, paved walk beside the Cypress pond that showcases over 100 different "butterfly irresistible" plant varieties. Surrounding the Wyatt Visitors Pavilion Complex is a collection of sustainable oaks, fastigiate ironwoods, fringe trees, parrotias and long leaf pines. Also featured in the landscape are a collection of magnolias and a ginkgo tree, given to the Garden in 1996 by the US National Arboretum in Washington, DC.

FROM THE GROUND UP

March In The Garden

GENERAL

Gather and destroy fallen leaves and dead blossoms of camellias --- Do not compost.

Be prepared to cover tender plants if a freeze is forecasted.

Allow foliage of spring bulbs to die naturally to replenish nutrients in the bulbs.

Check for aphids on new growth. Aphids can be controlled with an insecticidal soap spray, but some plants may be sensitive to this treatment. Treat one plant first and if the soap spray damages the plant, try ridding the aphids by spraying with plain water.

Apply pre-emergent herbicide.

De-thatch lawns.

Check for insects, diseases and rodents in lawns. Treat appropriately.

Fertilize houseplants, prune dead foliage, and repot plants that have become root bound.

LAWNS

Fertilizing: Do not fertilize before April 20. Lawns should be fully greened up before fertilizer is applied. A frost could kill tender new growth as well as damage established lawns.

Special Care: The best time to apply pre-emergent herbicide is prior to mid-March.

Check for insects, disease, and rodents, and treat as needed.

VEGETABLES & FRUITS

Planting: Plant figs during this month. Sow seed for spinach, turnips, Swiss chard, carrots, and edible-pod peas. Set out transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and brussel sprouts. Before the 15th, finish planting Irish potatoes, onion sets, and collards. Start planting sweet corn late in March, in 2 week intervals to ensure a continual harvest. Perennial herbs, such as thyme, oregano, lemon balm, sage and chives, will be available soon through local garden centers. It is best to wait until after the threat of frost has passed before planting. Sow caraway seeds now.

Fertilizing: Supply brambles and blueberry bushes with a cup of 10-10-10 per plant before bloom. Fertilize new strawberries now and keep well watered.

Special care: Check the underside of leaves for insects. Begin spray program for fruit trees at time of bud swell and petal fall, continue at 1-2 week intervals. Do not spray with an insecticide when blooming, as this may kill bees.

TREES & SHRUBS

Planting: Plant container-grown and balled and burlapped trees now.

Fertilizing: Fertilize camellias after flowering and again in six weeks. Fertilize trees and shrubs as growth starts. Feed gardenias with a slow-release fertilizer.

Pruning: Spring-flowering trees and shrubs should be pruned after they have bloomed. Trim overgrown and uneven hedges before new growth appears. Trim gardenias that have turned brown after severely cold weather.

FLOWERS

Planting: Rework soil in perennial beds by applying organic matter. Divide and transplant summer and fall flowering perennials. Plant gladiolus corms at two week intervals to extend the flowering season. Plant annuals, such as snapdragons, dianthus, sweet william, sweet alyssum, calendulas, and English daisies. You can directly sow larkspur, baby blue-eyes, forget-me-nots, and Johnny jump-ups. Set out perennials now.

Fertilizing: Use 10-10-10 with minor trace elements to fertilize daylilies when new growth appears. Fertilize established roses with 1cup 5-10-5 per plant as new growth starts.

Special Care: Mulch flower beds and borders. Use beer or bait to control slugs. Remove old mulch around roses to control diseases. Watch for aphids and black spot on roses and begin a regular spray program. Plan to rotate annuals in flower beds to prevent decline in vigor caused by soil disease, nematodes, and other soil-borne organisms.

FROM THE GROUND UP

University of Florida Study: Use of mulch reduces soil water loss to evaporation by 33%

Garden Professors Blog, Author Bert Cregg

Published January 29, 2014

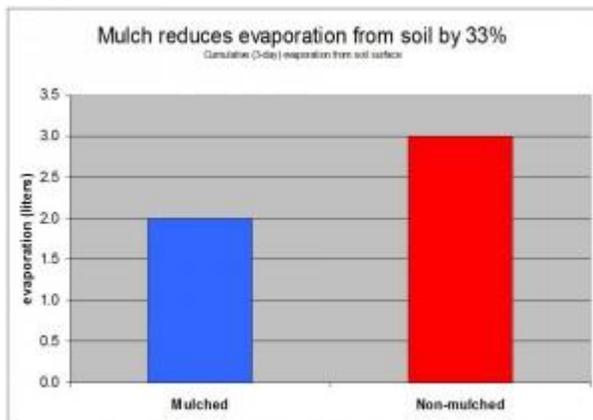
<http://blogs.extension.org/gardenprofessors/2014/01/29/university-of-florida-study-mulch-reduces-soil-water-loss-to-evaporation-by-33/>

I was just in Fargo for the North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association conference – our pantywaist -12 deg. F wasn't cold enough – I wanted to experience some real winter. Dr. John Ball from South Dakota State University, whom I enjoy listening to, was also on the program. As an aside, if you are ever invited to speak at the same conference as John, DO NOT allow yourself to be scheduled after him. He is hilarious and you will sound like a boring moron by comparison. John is an excellent and entertaining speaker and I usually agree with 90+ % of what he says. In this case he was talking about mulch – a subject near and dear to my heart – and lead off by mentioning the recent study by Gilman et al. (2012) as a reason why we should be concerned about possible negative impacts of mulch.

Oh boy. Let's go through this and see what the paper does and doesn't say about mulch.

The study was done in collaboration with Richard Beeson, who is widely known for his work using weighing lysimeters to estimate water use by container-grown trees and shrubs. In this case lysimeters were used to measure water lost from containers filled with soil or container media (60% pine bark : 30 % peat: 10% sand) and then covered with pine bark mulch or left uncovered. The containers were watered and allowed to drain. Water loss due to evaporation (there were no trees in the containers) was measured for three days. For the first day after watering there was more evaporation from the containers filled with container substrate that were mulched than the containers that were not mulched. However, if you add up the evaporation over the entire 3 days there is no difference between mulched and non-mulched containers. This is not too surprising since the mulch and container media were largely the same thing – pine bark.

Now here's the important part. If you look at evaporation for the soil-filled containers – **which are the ones we really care about from a landscape perspective** – total evaporation was 3L for non-mulched containers versus 2L for mulched. In other words, there was much greater water loss from soil when the pots where not mulched. A much better title for the article would have been, "Mulch reduces evaporation from soil by 33%!"



It's easy to nit-pick articles but this isn't pit-picking. There is only one table in this article and they got it wrong. For whatever reason people are [prone to hysteria](#) when it comes to tree care and I can already see this morphing into "Oh my God! Did you hear? Ed Gilman says if you mulch a tree you're going to kill it!" A misinterpreted 3-day study has everyone criticizing mulch while ignoring a [vast body of long-term studies](#).

FROM THE GROUND UP

Plant selection made easy: Carolina Yards Plant Database

Terasa M. Young, Clemson Extension



Good landscape design hinges on one basic principle; choosing the right plant for the right place. I will admit that I have not always adhered to this principle. It can be so tempting to visit a flower festival and make an impulse buy without taking into consideration if your landscape conditions match the plant's needs. This can lead to a constant struggle to keep the plant as "happy" as possible in less than ideal conditions. Careful planning can have numerous benefits including better plant performance and reduce maintenance needs.

The Carolina Yards program recently launched a new tool to help South Carolinians make more informed decisions when it comes to plant selection. The Carolina Yards Plant Database contains nearly 300 plants suited to growing in South Carolina. Plants were selected with the principles of environmental landscape management in mind. This online tool generates a customized list of plants based on user selected search criteria. For example, those interested in native plants may choose to limit a search to only native plants. Those interested in attracting wildlife, perhaps birds, can select that as a search criteria. Search fields are optional so a user can select as few or as many criteria as he or she wishes.

Spring is on its way which means it is the time of the year when gardening related events are plentiful. Before heading to one of those events, consider trying out the Carolina Yards Plant Database at www.clemson.edu/cy/plants. It is mobile friendly which means if you forget to give it a glance ahead of time, you can use your smartphone or other mobile device onsite.

Please keep in mind the Caroling Yards Plant Database is still in beta testing. If you would like to provide feedback, please email carolinayards@clemson.edu.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Carolina Yards Plant Database. The page title is "Plant Database" and the URL is "www.clemson.edu/extension/natural_resources/water/carolina_yards/plants/index.html". The main content area has a heading "Plant Database" and a welcome message. Below the message are navigation buttons: "Home", "Name Search", "Advanced Search", "Browse by Region", "Browse by Type", and "Browse by Photo". A "Search the Plant Database" section contains several dropdown menus for filtering results: REGION, SC NATIVE, PLANT TYPE, SUNLIGHT, SOIL TYPE, SOIL MOISTURE, SALT TOLERANCE, WILDLIFE, and STORMWATER. Each dropdown has a question next to it. A "Search" button is at the bottom of this section. On the left side, there is a sidebar with "Resources" and "Related Links" sections. The "Resources" section includes a "100 Year Anniversary of Cooperative Extension" logo and links for "Home & Garden Information", "Agricultural Services", "Pesticide Safety & Education", "Pesticide Regulation", "Emergency Preparedness", and "eXtension". The "Related Links" section includes "Research & Ed. Centers", "Livestock Poultry Health", and "Experiment Station". The browser's address bar and taskbar are visible at the top and bottom of the screenshot.