



**FLORENCE COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION**

FROM THE GROUND UP

"Sowing The Seeds of Love For Gardening"

November 2014

From Our President: Janet Bugbee

Greetings Master Gardeners,

I hope you are enjoying the fall weather we are having. The cool temperatures sure are welcome to me. I want to thank those that have helped out volunteering at the latest projects and at the Farmer's Market Festival weekend. It is always good to know you are still involved and doing what Master Gardeners do. I know the public always appreciates it when they see Master Gardeners helping out.

I do want to thank Echo Macdonald for giving us a wonderful presentation at our October meeting about "Natural Ways to Boost the Immune System". It was quite informative and I think we all learned a lot we can do to better our bodies. As we get older that is probably a good thing to keep in mind.

Remember if there is any Master Gardener that wants to give a presentation at one of our meetings is welcome to do so, and you will receive a "thank you" gift by doing so. If there is any topic that you would like to speak about, please feel free to let me know.

At our next meeting in November, we will have guest speaker Bobbi Adams come and give a presentation on "Why go native?" It will be informative, considering you can never know enough about growing native plants, whether you are doing it for wildlife or for yourself.

I hope to see you all at the meeting on November 17th

Happy Gardening,
Janet Bugbee

New this month

"Print this Newsletter"

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

FCMGA Meeting

Monday, Nov. 17, 6:30 PM

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

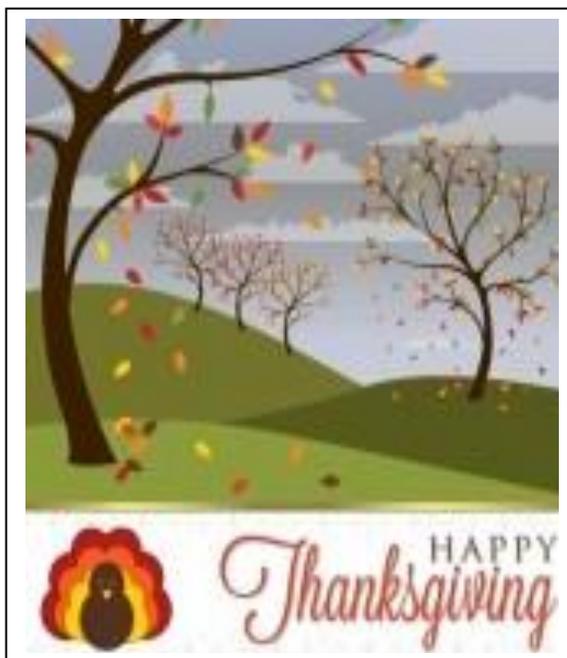
Park in the Third Loop Road lot

Enter through the double red doors

Guest Speaker

Bobbi Adams

"Why go Native?"



FROM THE GROUND UP

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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.

PDREC Raised Beds Volunteer Opportunity for 2015

The following Master Gardeners have signed up to maintain a bed at PDREC. If you would like to join a group, contact a member of the group or Happy Powell.

Bed 1: Christine Petrush, Susan LeBase, Happy Powell

Bed 2: Gwen Sonier, Happy Powell

Bed 3: Eva and Gus Wilson

Bed 4: Gus Wilson, Simon Carraway

Bed 5: Christine Petrush, Susan LeBase, Happy Powell, Simon Carraway, Barbara McCarthy

Bed 6: Echo McDonald, Janet Bugbee

Bed 7: Echo McDonald, Janet Bugbee □

Bed 8: Christine Petrush, Brenda Parker, Susan Bass

Bed 9: Barbara McCarthy, Simon Carraway, Happy Powell

In addition to these beds, there are two large beds outside the fenced area and the fenced border.

Basic Leaf Mold

(condensed from an article appearing in Organic Gardening.)

Don't bag those leaves and put them on the curb, turn them into a soil builder. Leaf mold improves the structure and water-holding capacity of soil and it's great in potting mix. Free, easy-to-make and readily available, there's no excuse not to try it. Don't mix them with grass clippings that have been sprayed with synthetic chemicals. Also don't use leaves that have raked onto the street. Either of these can contaminate your leaves.

The first step in transforming your leaves is to ensure the leaves are thoroughly moistened. Dried leaves lose their nitrogen. The lazy gardener can transform leaves into leaf mold by piling leaves in a sheltered area and leave them for two years. The more ambitious gardener can make a 3'x3' cage from stakes and chicken wire and turn the pile occasionally.

How to use the nutrient-rich soil conditioner:

- Peat substitute
- Moisture-retaining mulch
- Soil Conditioner
- Drought-proof soil
- Seedling mix

Leaf mold is from leaves that have fully decomposed over a long time. Leaf compost is compost made by mixing leaves with other organic materials.

Follow the link to the Organic Gardening website for the full article and other interesting, informative articles related to organic gardening.

Thank you Janet for sharing with us)
(<http://www.organicgardening.com>)

FROM THE GROUND UP

November Yard and Garden Tips

Things to do:

Flowers

- **Bulbs** - it's time to plant those spring-flowering bulbs you purchased in September, such as daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, and crocus. See [Spring-Flowering Bulbs](#) for more information.
- **Soil Test** - now is the time to test the soil in your planned beds for plant nutrients. Soil tests usually take 10 days, so test now to have the results when you plant bulbs and beds. It is important to till in the lime needed (if any) for faster soil pH adjustment. You may also sample your vegetable garden now if you do not plan to add more fertilizer for late crops. See [How to Collect a Soil Sample](#) for information on sampling your areas.

Fruits

- **Fruit sanitation** - begin inspecting your fruit trees. Be sure to remove any mummified remaining fruits, and rake up and dispose of old leaves and branches that may harbor diseases over the winter.

Lawns

- **Trampweed** - if you saw this fluffy-looking weed last summer and fall, now is the time to treat your warm-season lawn to prevent its return. This should be your first treatment if you have a warm-season lawn. Wait until February if you have a cool-season lawn (such as fescue). See [Annual Trampweed](#) for more information.
- **Wild garlic and wild onion** - November is the time for the first herbicide application for these two problems if you have them in your yard. See [Wild Garlic and Wild Onion](#) for information on herbicides and rates of application.
- **Annual bluegrass** - this is a soft little grass weed (also called po annua) the comes up in the yard. Treat this month to keep it under control. See [Grassy Weeds](#) for more information.
- **Irrigation** - it's time to begin thinking about winterizing your system. See [Winter Irrigation and Winterizing](#) for more information.

Trees and Shrubs

- **Leaves** - leaves are continuing to fall. If you have space and a little time composting is a great option; if not, you can also till them into any fallow beds you have or the vegetable garden. See [Composting](#) for more information.

Vegetables

- **Garden clean-up** - Many diseases will over-winter on old infected leaves and stems. Now is the time to finish cleaning and tilling your garden. Planting a nice cover crop, such as crimson clover or vetch, is a great idea!