

Diggin' Dirt

Lowcountry Master Gardener Association



Winter 2014-15

President's Corner

Happy Holidays!

Now that winter has arrived and the holidays are upon us, our activities are coming to a temporary halt. Nonetheless, your new Board has been hard at work planning next year's programs. We'll be visiting some new venues for our meetings and offering interesting programs for our members, including a special event in March with acclaimed speaker Walter Reeves. Watch your in-box for emails with additional details. For now, be sure to mark down the dates of our upcoming meetings on your 2015 calendar. You won't want to miss them.

January 21, 1:00 – Meeting and tour at the Port Royal Sound Maritime Center

March 26, pm – Walter Reeves, TV host of 'Your Southern Garden' and author of nine books on gardening in the South, place TBD

May 14, 1:30 – Meeting at Hampton Lakes

September 19 - Annual Meeting

November 19 – Meeting

We're pleased to welcome Marilyn Shaw to the Board as a Member-at-Large, replacing Betty Heath-Camp who is now VP. We are still looking for a volunteer for the Bluffton Coordinator position so that our Board of Directors is complete. As a member of the Board, the coordinator helps steer the LMGA's activities. In addition, the coordinator serves as liaison between Project Directors, Master Gardeners south of the Broad, and the Board, and explores opportunities for LMGA projects in the Bluffton/Okatie area. In the absence of a coordinator, we will not be able to expand our activities. Bluffton/Okatie/Sun City MG's, won't you consider volunteering?? I look forward to getting an e-mail or phone call from you.

The LMGA is ending 2014 on solid financial ground. The Board again this year voted to

provide two \$2000 scholarships for students in Clemson's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. This was made possible, in large part, by the volunteer efforts of our Rent-a-Master Gardener teams. Our tireless teams visited over 75 homes in Beaufort and Jasper Counties! The Beaufort group took the "honors" for the most visits, with 49. Many thanks to all who contributed their time and energy.

The Board is looking forward to a productive 2015. Beaufort Coordinator Sheila Drouin is putting together some new projects north of the Broad, and Marilyn Rego is keeping an eye out for possibilities on Hilton Head. We all hope that you will make it a New Year's resolution to become more active in your LMGA next year.

I hope everyone has a joyous holiday season!

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Boys & Girls Club Bluffton

The Low Country Master Gardeners have been supporting garden projects at the Bluffton Boys and Girls Club. The gardens support the Boys and Girls Club Core Program area of

Health and Life Skills. The garden projects are used to teach the students the importance of good eating habits including a diet rich in fruits and vegetables. We have a dirt garden

and two hydroponic tower gardens.

The hydroponic towers are planted with fresh greens and herbs. Last spring we worked with teens at the club to develop a business plan and to obtain a business license to sell produce at the Bluffton Farmers Market. We sold fresh greens and herbs at the farmers market during May, June and July.

The dirt garden has five raised beds. Four of the beds are currently planted with fall vegetables including carrots, radishes, lettuce, beans and peas. The fifth bed is planted in strawberries. We also have a peach tree and a pear tree. Recipes for healthy foods are also tested by the students. The students have made fresh basil pesto, strawberry-banana smoothies and fresh tomato salsa.





We meet on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. at the Bluffton Boys and Girls Club. We are always pleased to get new volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Sharon Butler at 843-705-7946.

“In a gentle way,
you can shake the
world.”

-Mahatma Gandhi



Port Royal Sound Maritime Center

On November 14, Master Gardeners Marjorie Peterson, Vivian Day, Sharon Butler, Gwen Powell and Bette Warfield spent a chilly couple of hours tidying up the grounds of the new Port Royal Sound Maritime Center. At the conclusion, they were treated to a private tour of the Center by Naturalist Tim Price. Tim would like our assistance in establishing a butterfly garden next spring for the benefit of the numerous visitors (including school classes) to the Center. If you haven't already responded to Bette and would like to be involved in this new project, e-mail her at betwarfield@gmail.com. By the way, if you haven't had an opportunity to stop by the Center, our January 22 meeting will be held there. The PRSF has turned the old Lemon Island Marina into a wonderful educational center, and the view of the Chesapeake River is spectacular!



Vivian Day and Sharon Butler on 'weed patrol.'



Bette Warfield, Sharon Butler and Gwen Powell with Naturalist Tim Price.



December MG Appreciation Lunch



We forgot to take a picture before everyone left! But, here's a picture of those who were still there once we remembered.

Tour of Hilton Head Projects

Master Gardeners and their guests enjoyed a beautiful day for the October 11 tour of LMGA projects on Hilton Head. The docents enthusiastically shared the results of their labor in the Xeriscape Garden, HH High School gardens and the Coastal Discovery Museum's butterfly house. A monarch caterpillar put on quite a show for us, turning into a chrysalis right before our eyes! MG Susan Roderus said she's never seen that in the five years she's volunteered there. Our thanks go to

Bill Moss, who organized the tour, and to the many volunteers who made it a terrific event.





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GARDEN PERENNIALS for the COASTAL SOUTH

I was predisposed to like this book because it was written by a Carolina Master Gardener. My instincts were correct. I like this book.

It is well organized with over 1,000 plants and cultivars and has more than 200 excellent color photographs of plants and beautiful landscape designs.

It even has sections on plant care, propagation, diseases and pests. And it's written in basic Master Gardener-eze. That is, a no nonsense approach to evaluating the attributes and faults of each plan. I love the chapter on "The Best and Worst Plants for Coastal Gardens".

There are chapters on Vines, Ferns, Bulbs, Ornamental Grasses, Companion Plants, Seasonal Plants, Plants for Sub-Tropical gardens (perfect for Beaufort County) and so much more, as well as loads of gardening tips. And even though the book is mostly about perennials, it has a great selection of recommended annuals.

This book will not bore you with heavy and useless information. It's written for gardeners, after all, not botanists or scholars. And while most books about southern gardening include mountains and hot dry regions, this

book is written for gardeners in the hot and humid climate that is the signature of the Lowcountry.

It would make a great Christmas gift for your favorite gardener.....yourself!

-Sandra Educate

