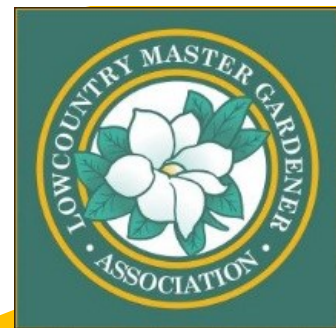


# Diggin' Dirt

Lowcountry Master Gardener Association



Summer 2014

## President's Corner

Welcome fall! I don't know about you, but I'm ready for an end to summer's heat and humidity. I think with all the rain we had it was a banner year for weeds, at least those that the deer didn't eat in my yard.

If you weren't able to attend our September 20 Annual Meeting, you missed a great presentation by The Greenery's Carol Guedalia. We also had elections for the following officers for the 2015/16 term:

- President – Bette Warfield
- Vice President – Betty Heath-Camp
- Recording Secretary – Debbie Miller
- Communications Secretary – Sandra Educate
- Treasurer – Susan Harden

As incoming VP, Betty is already working on some interesting programs for 2015, and I'm sure would welcome any ideas you may have. With her election as VP, we'll need someone to fill Betty's Member-at-Large

slot (Bluffton/Okatie).

In addition, Area Coordinator Gail Havens has stepped down. Not only has Gail been the coordinator for our activities in the Bluffton area, but she has also managed the RMG program in the Bluffton/Okatie area. She has been a valuable member of the LMGA Board and will be missed.

Now is a great time to come forward to help your Association. Members-at-large and area coordinators are voting members of the Executive Committee. They work with the elected officers to direct the LMGA's activities. The RMG coordinator is the Association's point of contact for RMG requests, assigns the visits to team leaders, and follows up as necessary. Won't you volunteer? If you are interested in doing so, please contact me ([betwarfield@gmail.com](mailto:betwarfield@gmail.com)), (987-0170).

We have a couple terrific events arranged for the remainder of the year:

Thanks to the efforts of Bill Moss and MG's on Hilton Head, on Saturday, October 11, we will be able to tour some of the gardens that Master Gardeners maintain on Hilton Head. Feel free to bring a spouse or friend and make a day of it. After lunch and the presentation at the Coastal Discovery Museum, you may wish to visit the newly-opened Whole Foods or one of the garden centers on the Island. You should have already received an e-mail blast with details. For our planning purposes, please sign up on our website.

On Wednesday, December 3, we'll have our holiday/volunteer appreciation luncheon at Callawassie's River Club. This has become a holiday tradition and is very popular with our members. Mark your calendar – more information will follow.

Hope to see you at one or both of these events!

### Inside this issue:

Keeping It Growing	2
Garden Tour of Italy	4
Visit to Clemson Soil and Plant Labs	5
RMG Changes	6
Bloomin' Bucks	6

## Keeping it Growing!

The incomparable Emmy-award-winning Amanda McNulty was the featured guest at the Lowcountry Master Gardeners' superb program Saturday, September 13th at the Port Royal Farmers Market. Amanda led a panel of experts answering challenging garden problems and questions from an excited and delighted crowd... some of whom were not going to let Amanda outshine them with creative hats. Special thanks to Amanda, Joe Allard, Laura Lee Rose, Alice Massey, and Sandra Educate.





## Italy

I have been to Italy six times, but this seventh trip, June 1 to June 12, was quite different. I was on a tour with Marion St.Clair: lifelong gardener, Master Gardener, garden writer, and owner of the tour company Hortitopia. It was all about gardens and villas in three areas of Italy: the Italian Lake District, Tuscany, and Rome. We visited seven stunning gardens [the villas weren't bad either!!!]

Yes, there were lots of flowers, but the Italians were certainly about the architecture of their gardens and the relationship of the garden areas to the home [think really big] and the surrounding land or water. Most on the trip were Master Gardeners, so you can imagine the identification discussions!

Big observation----they top a lot of trees and many are shaped like umbrellas. Pollarding is a common practice. It was a GREAT trip.

- Kathy McKinley



White peacock at Isola Bella on Lake Maggiore.



Villa Borromeo on Isola Bella on Lake

## A Visit to the Clemson Soil & Plant Labs

Ever wonder what happens to that soil or sick plant once it's bagged and sent to Clemson? Well, a small group of Lowcountry Master Gardeners decided to find out recently by visiting some of the labs.

Besides us, who uses the soil lab? Mostly farmers—51%. Also, a goodly number of home gardeners (33%). The remaining

group includes golf courses, orchards and landscapers.

The lab's staff and machinery test not only soil, but compost, water and even soft plant tissue.

The lab is busiest January through April, just before farmers get ready to sow and plant. By June the 500 daily samples drop

to an easier to manage 100 per day.

We also visited the plant problem clinic. This lab analyzes what pathogens keep a plant from thriving, be they insects, virus, bacteria or fungi.

- Anita L. Hill

(For the full text of the article see the attached document.)

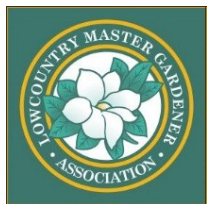


Maggiore.



Giardini della Landriana near Torre San Lorenzo

*Images used with permission from Marian St. Clair's blog 'Hortitopia'*  
[marianstclair.wordpress.com](http://marianstclair.wordpress.com)



Laura Lee Rose  
Beaufort County  
Horticulture  
Extension Agent

**Lowcountry Master Gardener Association**

Beaufort County Extension Service  
P.O. Box 189  
102 Industrial Village Rd. Suite 101  
Beaufort, SC 29906

Laura Lee Rose - [lrose@clemson.edu](mailto:lrose@clemson.edu)  
or by phone:  
(843) 255-6060 ext. 117

Master Gardener Hotline:  
(843) 255-6060 ext. 124

---

[www.lowcountrymga.org](http://www.lowcountrymga.org)

---

## Officers

**Board President**

Bette Warfield  
[betwarfield@gmail.com](mailto:betwarfield@gmail.com)

**Vice President**

Betty Heath-Camp  
[heathb@vt.edu](mailto:heathb@vt.edu)

**Communications Secretary**

Sandra Educate  
[silkroad@embarqmail.com](mailto:silkroad@embarqmail.com)

**Recording Secretary**

Debbie Miller  
[millerthymegirl@gmail.com](mailto:millerthymegirl@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Susan Harden  
[yoteus@embarqmail.com](mailto:yoteus@embarqmail.com)

**Newsletter**

Jennifer Staton  
[treefrogfen@gmail.com](mailto:treefrogfen@gmail.com)

**CES Advisor**

Laura Lee Rose  
[lrose@clemson.edu](mailto:lrose@clemson.edu)

**Board Members at Large**

Joe Allard  
[burnbeforereading@earthlink.net](mailto:burnbeforereading@earthlink.net)

Bill Moss

[billmosshhi@gmail.com](mailto:billmosshhi@gmail.com)

**Area Project Coordinators:**

**Hilton Head**

Marilyn Rego  
[marilynrego@aol.com](mailto:marilynrego@aol.com)

**Bluffton**

Vacant

**Beaufort**

Sheila Drouin  
[sheiladrouin@islc.net](mailto:sheiladrouin@islc.net)

## RMG Program Changes

Thanks to publicity and word of mouth, the LMGA has experienced a dramatic increase in RMG requests over the past two years. As a result, our volunteers have been burdened with the need to deliver the many soil tests to the Extension Office. The Board has, therefore, voted to discontinue taking soil samples as part of the RMG visit. Home-owners will be encouraged to get a soil test and provided with the soil bags and instructions. The fee for the RMG visit will remain \$50, all of which will now go to the LMGA's Treasury. We encourage our members to continue to spread the word about the RMG program, which is currently our sole fund-raising activity – and to volunteer as RMG team members.



### HOW IT WORKS:

It's simple...go to [www.bloominbucks.com](http://www.bloominbucks.com) (with no 'g') and from a pull down menu of all of the organizations registered, select to support the Lowcountry Master Gardener Assoc.!

With one click, you are then sent to the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website where you can order whatever you want, in whatever quantity you want...books, bulbs, tools, supplements, gift certificates...ANYTHING...and a percentage of all of the orders goes to the LMGA!