

Diggin' Dirt

Lowcountry Master Gardener Association



Spring 2015

President's Corner

What a strange season this has been, but I think "Ole Man Winter" has left us and spring is finally here. March came in like a lion – and went out like one. Then we had our April showers in March. We'll have to see what April brings, but hopefully we'll have a bumper crop of May flowers to enjoy. I recently ran across the following quote that I think we can all relate to this time of year: "One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides."

A record 70 LMGA members attended the informative and entertaining program by the Georgia Gardener, Walter Reeves, on March 26. As you may recall, this was open to the public and we had a number of non-members attend as well. Our thanks go to Sandra Educate for arranging Walter's visit and taking care of all the logistics.

In between showers (and sometimes in showers), Rent a Master Gardener teams have been making home visits throughout the County. We've scheduled about 50 visits to date. Many of these homeowners are new to the Lowcountry and are very grateful for the information we provide about gardening here. As always, volunteers, including our MG graduates, are needed to serve on the teams. All that's needed is a willingness to share your knowledge with our neighbors. To volunteer, check out the RMG page on our website and contact one of the RMG area coordinators.

Speaking of volunteers, thanks go to Marilyn Shaw for volunteering as the LMGA's Bluffton Coordinator and to Deborah Patterson-Robart as our manager for the LMGA website.

VP Betty Heath-Camp is working on some great programs for the rest of the year. Our next meeting will be on May 14 at Hampton Lake in Bluffton with one of our popular speakers, Lyn Taylor, talking about plants that thrive in the heat. Hampton Lake residents are also invited to the program, so we're expecting a large turn-out.

Betty will be sending out more information shortly. Why not make an afternoon of your visit to Hampton Lake – round up some fellow MGs and come early for lunch at Backwater Bill's. This will be our last membership meeting until the fall, but Betty is already lining up terrific speakers for our September and November meetings.

See you at our May 14 meeting!

— Bette

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Port Royal Sound Foundation



Despite our harsh winter temps, the shrubs, perennials, and grasses at the Maritime Center seemed to have pulled through - and so have the weeds! Seven Master Gardeners (and one husband) spent a couple hours on March 26 tidying up the Center's grounds. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work." PRSF staff expressed their appreciation to our volunteers: Pat Cooke (and Jim Nangle), Mary Harris, Steve Rupprecht, Dave Frederick, Jenny Kingery, Vivian Day and Bette

Warfield. Another work day will be scheduled in about a month. If you're not already on the volunteer list and want to help, contact Bette at betwarfield@gmail.com.

Pat Cooke
and
Jim Nangle



Steve Rupprecht with Naturalist Tim Price



Jenny Kingery
and
Vivian Day



Joy of Gardening

Four LMGA members attended the Symposium held in Rock Hill, SC, on February 28th. The very entertaining keynote speaker was Bryce Lane from the Dept. of Horticultural Science, NC State University. He opened the symposium on the topic of "Gardening in Modern Times" and

gave the closing address on "Gardening on the Edge: Latest Trends in Horticulture. Other fascinating presentations were given on "Garden Insects - The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" by Vicky Bertagnolli, an Entomologist and Horticulture Extension Agent for Aiken and Lexing-

ton counties. She is absolutely enthusiastic about bugs!! If you ever get the chance to hear her, don't miss it. Speakers also discussed "Building a Farm", "A Mediterranean Garden for Every Yard", "Creating Daylilies", and "Favorite Native Plants."



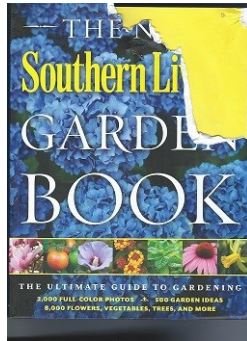
Moore Farms Botanical Gardens

Another exciting adventure was a trip to the Moore Farms Botanical Gardens in Lake City, SC, for *Bulbapalooza*, where over 40,000 bulbs had been planted. A presentation was made by Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs, who also led a group through the botanical gardens sharing his knowledge and experience with bulbs.



Book Review

My dog loved it. I didn't.



It's here at last; the first completely new **Southern Living Garden Book** in 10 years. At first glance, I was disappointed that it wasn't as thick as the previous edition, but the cover assured me that there were 2,000 color photographs, and 8,000 flowers, vegetables and trees. That's 800 more color illustrations and 1000 more plant descriptions than its predecessor.

The line drawings have been replaced with color photographs, and there is a much bigger emphasis on vegetables.

The back of the book which contains chapters on garden help, has been expanded and is illustrated beautifully.

Those are its good points.....here are some of the bad

The book seems cheaply printed....especially the cover and the frontispiece. Just my first perusal bent

the spine. It's not hard-bound; it has sort of a cardboard cover. (see photo) You'd expect more for \$35.00.

However, and this is a big however, one of the reasons that it contains more and is thinner, is because of thinner paper used and most importantly, because the fine print in the Plant

the original book until they're tattered. This new one will remain pristine for a long, long time. At least I thought it would before Bertie got to it. If you don't have a copy of the original edition, maybe you'd better buy one before they go out of print.

Educated Fireant



Guide (the biggest part of the book) is all but unreadable. I don't know which font was used, but the small, skinny font, combined with the thinner paper, makes reading heavy going. I know I have the failing eyesight of my generation, but even with glasses, I have to squint. This is not a book I would be comfortable reading just for the joy of learning about plants. I will refer to it only if I can't find what I need in my old copy. I have read two copies of

Bertie's Review

It's a book with appetite appeal, but like so many pretty dishes, it fails to live up to expectations. After the first few bites, it was bland and uninteresting. Give me either the 'haute cuisine' of a hard cover, or comfort food like a plain old paperback. But like a deer, I'll eat anything if I'm hungry enough.

Habitat House



How to be Sherlock Holmes in your Landscape

Closer to home, LMGA hosted a March 26th presentation by Walter Reeves, a very entertaining speaker and author of nine garden books -- and host of Atlanta's *Home and Garden Show* for the last 20 years. He spoke at Beaufort's TCL campus on *How to be Sherlock Holmes in your Landscape*. Many said he was the best and most informative they have ever heard.

(More photos on the next page)





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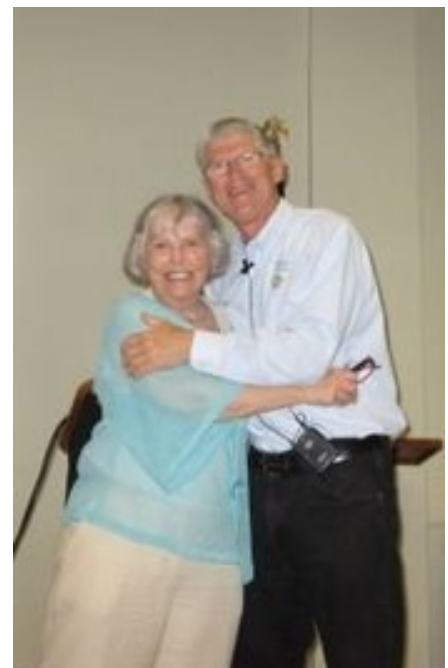
Photos from Walter Reeves Presentation



These ladies can't wait to see Walter Reeves



Barb Farrior queries Walter Reeves, while Alice Massey listens intently



Sandra Educate & Walter Reeves