

Diggin' Dirt

Lowcountry Master Gardener Association



Fall 2013

President's Corner

I hope you had a wonderful summer and are now ready to get back to LMGA activities. As of this writing, fall temperatures haven't yet arrived, but they will one of these days. My August travels took me to New England where I saw a splendid array of snow white hydrangeas in bloom – perhaps to remind New Englanders of the coming winter weather. Aren't we lucky we don't have to think about that! The highlight of my northern trip was a visit to Montreal's Botanical Garden to view the special exhibition of sculptures created with living plants. They were incredible – see the pictures of some of the more spectacular “sculptures.”

We have a busy season ahead of us with meetings, special programs and volunteer opportunities. Requests are coming in for fall Rent-a-Master Gardener visits, and additional team leaders and members are needed. So far this year, our teams have completed 69 educational visits, which raised over \$3000 for the LMGA! Laura Lee and others continue to receive requests for Master Gardener help since we have the reputation as the “go-to” people for gardening assistance, so stay tuned for more information on new projects. In addition, our numerous on-going projects around the County always need a few more bodies – contact your area coordina-

tor for more information or to volunteer. Members are encouraged to look for new project opportunities, but please remember that Board approval is needed for any new project requiring LMGA funds and/or Master Gardener volunteers. Consult your area coordinator and fill out the project approval form (on the Members section of our website).

We are pleased to welcome Bill Moss to the Board to fill the Member at Large seat vacated by Kathy Rundquist. Thanks, Kathy, for all your work for the LMGA! And thanks, too, to those who organized and participated in Lunch & Learn and our educational programs at the Bluffton Farmers Market and Hilton Head library. These programs truly exemplify our mission of educating our neighbors on good gardening practices. As you've heard, the Lunch & Learn program recently received the **Search for Excellence** award from the International Master Gardener Conference. Kudos to organizer Sandra Educate and her team of volunteers on a job well done!

(more pictures on p. 3)

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2
President's Corner (continued)	3
Camp Treasure Chest	4
Help Wanted!	5
“Keeping it Growing”	5
In Defense of Iceberg Lettuce	6



Upcoming Events



Joe Allard's Plumeria



Rick Kurz's Shitake mushroom log getting ready to produce!

October 9, 2013

LMGA Shitake Mushroom Workshop on at the Waddell Mariculture Center. Register at www.lowcountrymastergardeners.org

October 17, 2013

The South Carolina Midlands Master Gardener Association Symposium in Columbia. www.scmnga.org

October 19, 2013

Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden near Savannah (formerly Coastal Bamboo Farm) Fall Festival www.coastalgeorgiabg.org

January 22, 2014

A GULLAH GARDEN presentation which will be given at Penn Center on St Helena. Rick Kurz will cover the importance of what the Gullah speaking slaves planted in their gardens or harvested from the surrounding woods to their survival and health.

A key part of the presentation are insights into who these people were in terms of where they came from and the uniqueness of their culture which survives to this day. Several Gullah speaking residents of the area will join us.

Prior to the presentation we will tour the Penn Center Museum and inspect the area where we will be creating a Gullah Garden in February. After the presentation anyone who is interested can join me for lunch at the Gullah Grub restaurant.

February 19, 2014

KAYAK TRIP ON EBENEZER CREEK which is in the Savannah Wildlife Nature Preserve. This trip is an easy paddle through a swamp area populated by immense Bald Cypress and Swamp Tupelos.

An incredible amount of interesting native plants populate the shoreline. It is as close as you can get to a natural cathedral. One of the best of all the kayak trip options in the area.

April 3, 2014

OAKS PLANTATION Plantation tour and kayak trip. The plantation is on Lady's Island and was constructed in the early 1860s when it was 1,000 acres and had almost 300 slaves. It housed the Northern Army Generals and was their command post during the Civil War.

After the War it was occupied by several Quaker Missionaries who were sent here to educate the newly freed slaves. It evolved and was relocated into what is today Penn Center. It is located on Chowan Creek and is a beautiful setting.

We will start with a kayak trip on the Creek to observe interesting native plants and the remains of many old gardens and then return to have lunch on the porch or inside in a formal dining area. We will tour the historic house and grounds at this time. The plantation is now privately owned and not normally open to the public.

May 2, 2014

SC State Master Gardener Jamboree At Saluda Shoals State Park in Columbia, SC. Topics include:

Vermiculture, Adaptive Gardening Techniques, Terrariums, Timeless Garden Treasures, Healing with Herbs, Nature Walk to Discover Native Plants, Vintage Finds to Garden Art, Photography-Basics of Landscape And Garden Photography, and Hypetufa. See attached flyer.

President's Corner (continued)



Montreal's Botanical Garden

Waddell Mariculture Bluff Plantings

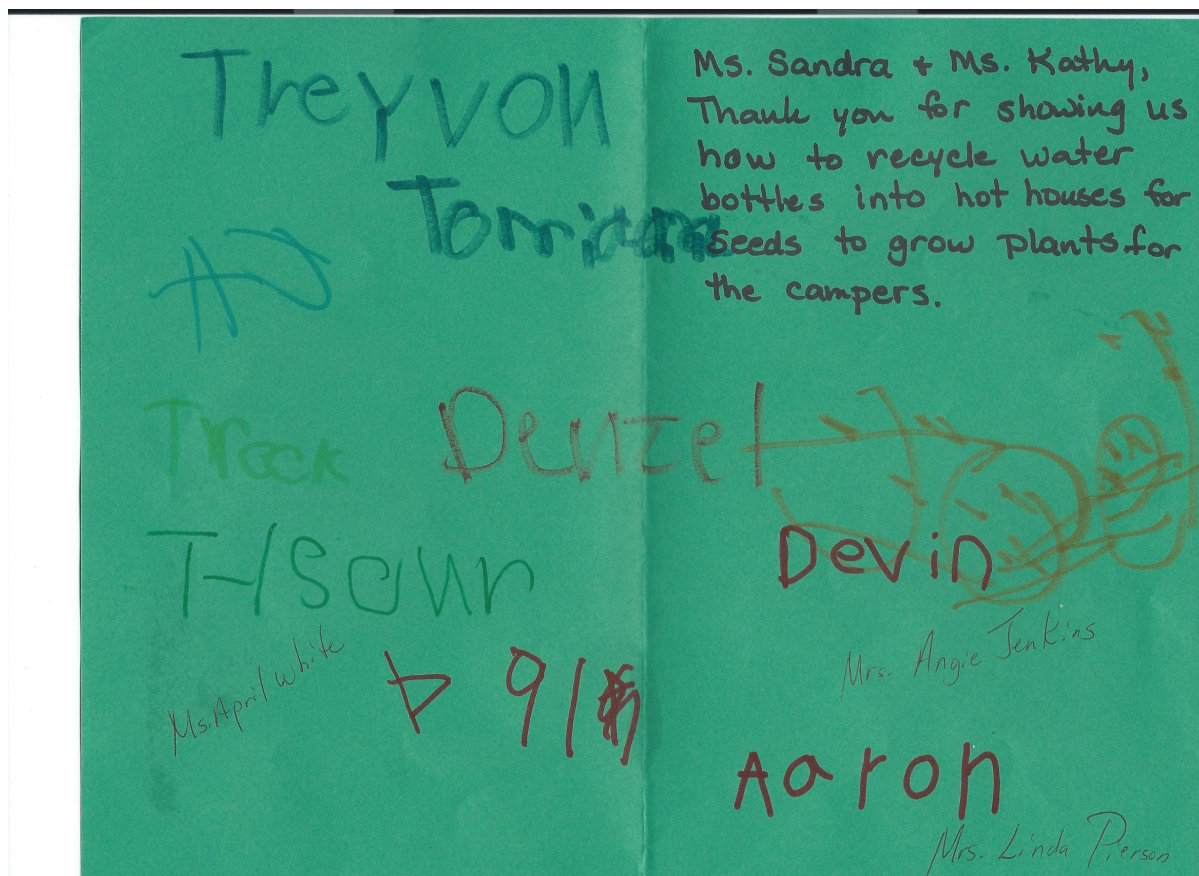
On June 18 a total of 14 volunteers from the LMGA and LCMNA went to buffer zone planting area at Waddell Mariculture Center to apply a new layer of mulch around the 200 foot long where over 150 plants have been installed over the last 16 months. The volunteers also weeded, pruned and applied deer repellent.

The new automatic in-ground irrigation system that was installed several weeks ago by volunteers was tested and works perfectly.

Al Stokes, the Director of the Center was delighted with the end result. This will be our last volunteer day at Waddell until the Fall when we will extend the oyster reef that we started a year ago. Thanks to everyone who participated.



Camp Treasure Chest



Kathi McKinley and Sandra Educate did a presentation at the Robert Smalls Middle School's 'Camp Treasure Chest'.

They made little greenhouses from empty soda bottles and planted them with Morning Glory and 4 o'clock seeds.

The group photo was taken at the end of the class, the photo with the poster and the greenhouses growing in the window was taken a couple of weeks later.

Fun for us and fun for the kids.



Volunteer Opportunities**Bluffton Farmers Market**

Thursdays, 2:00-7:00

Michelle Baldwin

michellejbaldwin@yahoo.com

843-757-8669

Port Royal Farmers Market

Saturdays, 8:30-noon

Sandra Educate

silkroad@embarqmail.com

843-524-1916

Rent a Master Gardener Teams**Beaufort**

Martha Jamison

hmjamison@embarqmail.com

843-986-5965

Bluffton

Gail Havens

gailhavens@hargray.com

843-368-4851

Hilton Head

Corinne Roe

corinner50@yahoo.com

650-400-7231



Our fearless moderator, Sandra Educate

Help Wanted!

Each year the LMGA spends approximately \$600 to prepare our Federal and State tax returns. This is a hefty expense for us. Since we have 501(c)3 status, the Federal Government only requires completion of a simple questionnaire to maintain our status. However, it appears that South Carolina requires the completion of a longer form. It's not complicated since our income and expenses are straightforward. Is there a member with a tax background who would be willing to prepare the tax forms for the LMGA? If so, contact Bette Warfield at

betwarfield@gmail.com.



Participants in the String Gardening Workshop at the Port Royal Farmers Market.

“Keeping it Growing”, Port Royal Farmers Market, 9/7/13

Joe Allard, Jenny Staton, Laura Lee Rose and Will Balk (exiting stage right)



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
or by phone:
(843) 255-6060 ext. 117

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

www.lowcountrymaster
gardeners.org

Officers

Board President
Bette Warfield

Vice President
Rick Kurz

Communications Secretary
Sandra Educate

Recording Secretary
Carol Sevelowitz

Treasurer
Susan Harden

Newsletter
Jennifer Staton

CES Advisor
Laura Lee Rose

Board Members at Large
Joe Allard
Betty Heath-Camp
Bill Moss

Area Project Coordinators:

Hilton Head
Chris Rosenbach

Bluffton
Gail Havens

Beaufort
Sheila Drouin

In Defense of Iceberg Lettuce

Dear Editor:

I have promised myself for years that I would write a letter in defense of iceberg lettuce, so here it is:

Iceberg lettuce fell out of favor with the hoi polloi with the introduction of leafy lettuce and imports of varieties such as radicchio, arugula, mache and their like. The wedge of iceberg lettuce with Thousand Island Dressing disappeared almost overnight from menus and dining room tables. No great loss, I admit.

It didn't take long for "gourmet" cooks to remove it from their shopping lists, and on the rare occasion when they would fall from grace and sneak a head into the house, you may be sure it was hidden in the back of the crisper. In the supermarket trolley, it was hidden from sight under organic granola, freshly squeezed orange juice (not from concentrate) and imported baby squash.

One simply didn't buy iceberg lettuce. Well, one didn't admit to it.

On the other hand, you simply can't make a good tomato sandwich without iceberg lettuce. All the others are wimpy substitutes. Who can forget the crunch of iceberg lettuce paired with tomatoes so ripe the juice would run down your forearms? I freely admit that I no longer use Wonder Bread (a whole loaf can be compressed into a ball the size of a walnut), but otherwise, I don't mess around with a tomato sandwich. Neither should you. Good bread, iceberg lettuce, vine ripened tomatoes, Hellman's Mayonnaise and lots of salt and pepper. 'Nuf said.

So all you au courant cooks out there, loosen up. After all, iceberg lettuce is sooo retro!!

The Educated Fireant

