

**2019
Calendar**

Feb. 9,
Greenville MG
Seminar. Go to
ggmga.org for
registration.
Sells out early.
Always fabulous
way to start
spring.

2/14/19: LMG
Board Mtng.
Clemson Ext. at
4:30

2/21/19 : LMG
ANNUAL
BANQUET!!!!

, Harris Baptist
Church (300
Center Street,
Greenwood) at
6:30 pm. Bring a
side dish. YUM



FEBRUARY 2019 LMG NEWSLETTER



The ANNUAL LMG AWARDS DINNER

Since this will be the last newsletter produced by Sandy Orr, she will speak the truth. The Master Gardener of the Year will be announced at the ANNUAL BANQUET per the flyer below. If you haven't voted for your candidate, please do so immediately by emailing the name Donna Feldmaier, oops, I meant email your candidate name to donnasears@rocketmail.com or by texting the name to 301-481-5487. As the MG of the Year, two years ago, I can tell you that it really means a lot to be recognized for the blood, sweat, and toil that all the candidates bring to our group. (Complain to me at the dinner about this blatant campaign pitch for the tireless Donna Feldmaier, whose birthday is very soon). Also, attend the dinner, even if you didn't have time to cook the perfect side dish. There is always PLENTY of food.



LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENERS
ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019
6:30 P.M.

HARRIS BAPTIST CHURCH
300 CENTER STREET
GREENWOOD, SC



Please join us as we recognize the newest class of Lakelands Master Gardeners, the 2018 Master Gardener of the Year, and vote in the new LMG Board.

Wally Sears is grilling brisket, pulled pork and sausage. Drinks are also provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

PLEASE RSVP YOUR ATTENDANCE AND YOUR DISH SELECTION BY

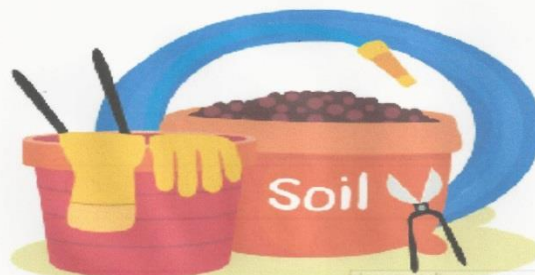
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2019

TO

CANDACE WHITE

cinman50@bellsouth.net

864-538-4480 (H) Or 864-915-3868 (Cell)



HOMAGE TO THE HUMBLE YAUPON HOLLY by Chris Hackmeyer

The days may have been getting longer for a while now, but temperature-wise we're still in the coldest depths of winter. And with freezing nights a regular visitor, the plant kingdom just doesn't have a lot of natural color to offer this time of year. Holly berries are one of my favorite exceptions.



So I must say I was a little disappointed a couple weeks ago when I was walking around my neighborhood and saw a whole berry-laden holly bush in someone's trash pile, mixed in with what looked like the remnants of their Christmas tree. If not for the dozens of red clusters, looking accidentally appropriate like tiny ornaments, you might not have guessed it was a holly. It wasn't the thorny type that usually comes to mind, but the humble yaupon holly that comprises every other Southern household's foundation hedge of "little green meatballs". I guess it wasn't really the fact that someone had cut the bush down that bothered me – it's not like we have a shortage of them around here – I just hate to see such a perfectly useful plant go to waste. So I crouched down and started running my fingers along the branches, stuffing the leaves that fell off into my pockets as I went. Occasionally I paused to look around and contemplate what I should say if somebody came along and asked why I was going through the neighbors' trash heap. The last time I told someone about making yaupon tea, I got the distinct impression that it evoked less interest than concern. See, the yaupon holly has a pretty serious and long-standing public relations problem. Early European colonists around these parts somehow got the mistaken idea that it was the "active ingredient" in a Cherokee ceremonial brew called "the black drink" that made them

puke. And ever since, it's been saddled with what has to be the most disgusting name botanists have ever concocted – *Ilex vomitoria*. Apparently it's widely, if nonsensically, regarded as invasive within its native range (right here in the Southeast), when really it's just too robust and well-adapted for its own good. Even a Texas company that's trying to commercialize it as a beverage boasts on their website that they're saving a native pine forest from the yaupon's alleged ravages by wild-harvesting it.

Well, I'm not so sure about that, but I do share their interest in its beverage potential. As it turns out, there was a time when yaupon tea had become about as popular with European-Americans as it once was among the indigenous peoples of our region. Why? Probably because in the early days of colonization, before the East India Company started importing what we now call "tea" (*Camellia sinensis*) from India and China, yaupon holly was the only plant in this part of the world that contained caffeine. Apparently it remained popular in the Southeast until sometime after the Civil War, when it fell out of favor for unclear reasons that now seem lost to history.

Then, oddly enough, over the last twenty years or so the United States saw something of a revival of tea made from caffeinated hollies, but not the native ones growing right outside so many of our doors. This time it was yerba mate – *Ilex paraguariensis* – which as the name implies is imported from South America. I assume this is because of that continent's huge existing marketing infrastructure for yerba mate, not any actual superiority as a beverage, since a 2014 study from the University of Florida found that most people actually preferred the taste of yaupon tea.¹ According to the same article, they also contain similar levels of caffeine and antioxidants.

So around a year ago, I started experimenting with making my own yaupon tea from bushes growing around my home. And as a long-time tea lover, I really like it! To me it tastes a lot like green tea, but with less bitterness. There are many methods of preparing it, but I like to lightly toast the leaves (not the berries, which will make you sick) by putting them in the oven while it cools down after baking a loaf of bread. Then I just crush them up a little and brew them in hot water for a few minutes longer than regular tea.



Probably all gardeners from our region know of the dwarf yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria* var. *nana*) that is so ubiquitous in foundation plantings, but some may be unfamiliar with the much more striking “weeping yaupon” (*Ilex vomitoria* var. *pendula*), a taller variety with long, cascading limbs of evergreen leaves and characteristic bright red berries (on female plants). If you’re ever looking for a low-maintenance, tough-as-nails native shrub or small tree, it’s an option that provides an unusual visual accent and welcome touch of winter color in the landscape, while offering a much-needed food source for many local birds and a healthy, stimulating drink for you and me!

Sources:1: University of Florida, A Misleading Name Reduces Marketability of a Healthful and Stimulating Natural Product, 2014, <https://biology.ufl.edu/2014/09/10/a-misleading-name-reduces-marketability-of-a-healthful-and-stimulating-natural-product/>

MOONLIGHT GARDENS- Jimmy McInville

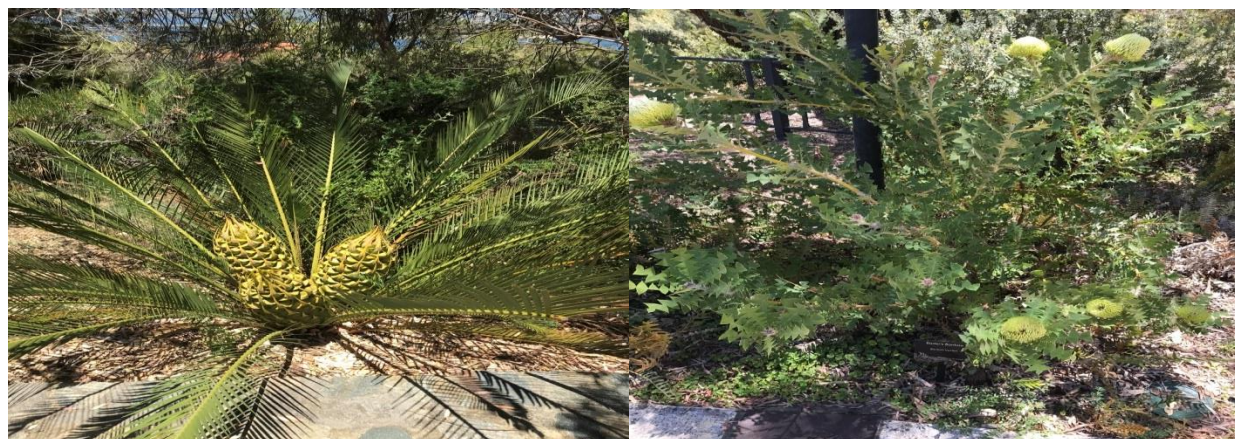
We all sift through countless garden catalogs and websites every year on the hunt for inspiration. Hoping to find the perfect combinations that will make our gardens POP. Dreaming of spending sunny days enjoying these outdoor spaces with friends and family. We spend so much time on these spaces we should enjoy them as much as possible. What if I were to tell you here is a way to experience your garden in a whole new way, like having two gardens in one. Moonlight gardens allow you to enjoy your yard and hard work in the cooler evening and night time hours. Plants that bloom at night and those that emit a fragrance in the evening hours will add shimmer in the moonlight. By adding a few select plants you can turn that sunny garden into a Moonlight Garden.

A few white plants: Sweet Alyssum, Dianthus Maiden Pink White, White Calla Lily, Impatiens, Bleeding Hearts

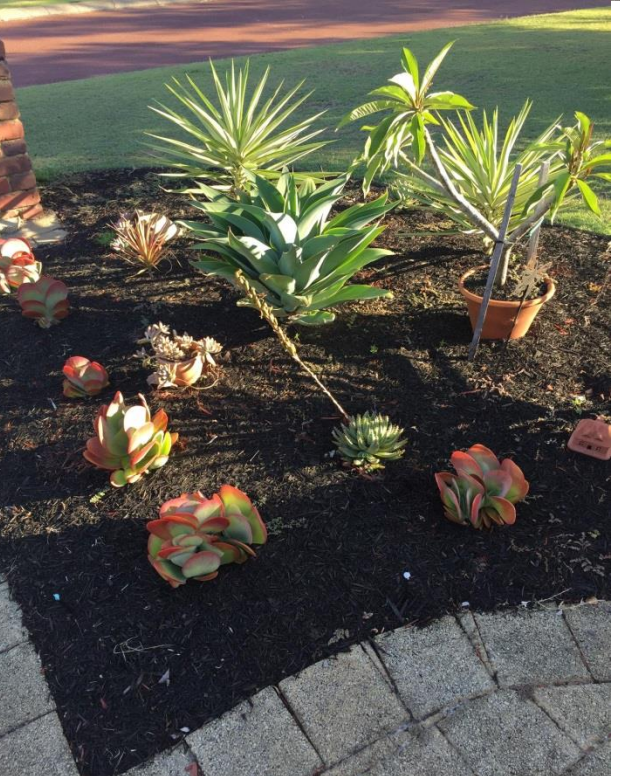
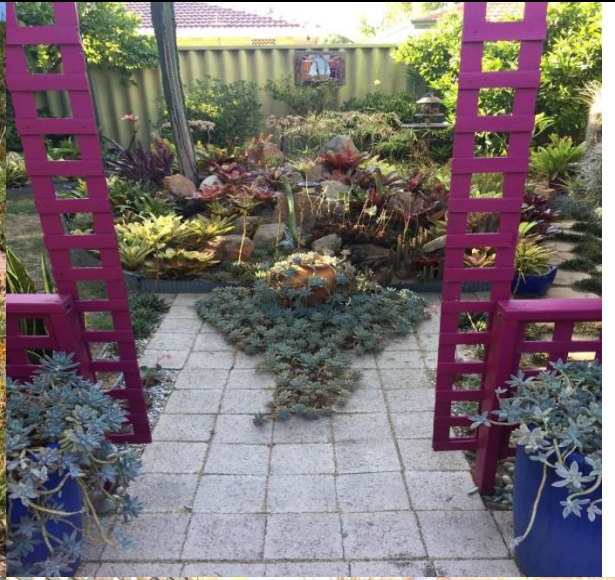
For a great Moonlight glow add silver plants like these: Lamb’s ear, Hosta “Patriot”, Little Spire Russian Sage, Dusty Miller, Silver Thyme, Artemesia

Imagine the sweet fragrance being carried by a gentle summers breeze, a Luna moth circling in the moonlight. Plant these and they will come: White Moonflower vine, Jasmine, Night Phlox, Evening Primrose, Angel’s Trumpet

TIE ME KANGAROO DOWN, SHERRY EDWARDS IN PERTH and IVOR IN DARWIN BOTANICAL GARDEN – (Pics below)









Schedule of Upcoming Certificate in Native Plant Studies* Courses

2019 Certificate courses that are already on the calendar include:

February 2 Basic Botany (Clemson)

March 22 Basic Botany (Charleston)

Basic Botany is a prerequisite for all other courses.

March 13 Principles of Sustainable Landscaping

March 23 Natural Plant Communities

March 30 Nature Journaling

April 9 Tree Identification

April 18 Native Plants and Birds of the Beidler Forest

April 20 Principles of Sustainable Landscaping

May 4 Plant Communities of the Jocassee Gorges via Lake Jocassee

May 8 Vascular Plants of the Low Country

May 9 Longleaf Pine Savanna

May 10 Ferns*

The Certificate in Native Plant Studies program is offered jointly by the South Carolina Native Plant Society and the South Carolina Botanical Garden. To find out more, visit

scnps.org/certificate-in-native-plant-studies

Class size is limited, so sign up now!

See a complete list of upcoming courses here:

<https://www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/education/certificate-program.html>

**REVITALIZE YOUR INNER GARDENER
AT THE
14th ANNUAL JOY OF GARDENING SYMPOSIUM**

The Master Gardeners of York County (MGYC), SC, extend a welcoming invitation to gardeners of all skill levels for functional knowledge, fellowship, food and fun at their 14th Annual Joy of Gardening Symposium. This day-long event on March 2, 2019 will be held at the Gateway Conference Center in Richburg, SC (I-77, exit 65 and SC 9) from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Noted plantsman, author and nurseryman Jenks Farmer will deliver the opening keynote address "Haybales to Flower Fields -- Lessons for Your Yard from Transforming a Farm." An engaging storyteller and teacher, Mr. Farmer has a talent for getting people of all ages and from all walks of life to go outside and get their hands dirty.

Marie Butler, will deliver the closing keynote address "I have Elephants in My Garden, So What's Your Problem - The Wild World of Zoo Horticulture." Ms. Butler challenges everyone to find and cultivate the joy that is nature: plant, animal and human.

Both Jenks and Marie will also present at break-out sessions. Six additional gardening experts will lead break-out sessions on a variety of topics.

The registration fee of \$70 includes lunch, garden-related shopping, a silent auction with proceeds supporting MGYC community outreach programs, and a chance to win fabulous door prizes.

For information on speakers and to register online, visit symposium.yorkmg.org. To register and pay by mail, make check payable to Master Gardeners of York County and send to Cecelia Smith, 11079 Caroline Acres Road, Fort Mill, SC 29707.

**2019 SC Garden Jamboree
Nourish Your Inner Gardener**

Friday, May 10, 2019
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Saluda Shoals Park
5605 Old Bush River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

For more detailed information about this event, visit <http://scjamboree.lcmgv.org/>

Garden in Style

You can now garden in style with Master Gardener apparel and branded gear. A variety of shirts, tops, aprons, caps, hats, and bags are available through a special store set up just for SC Master Gardeners. You can follow this link or click on the "Branded Apparel and Gear" tab on the Master Gardener website. The store does require a password which is Jessamine.

