Spring 2016

Leaf Notes

The Newsletter of Lee County Master Gardeners

President's Message

I can't begin to express how much I love spring and being part of Lee County Master Gardeners. Azaleas and daffodils are in bloom, the grass is turning green, and MG are so busy supporting our community projects.

Much like a proud parent is quick to point out a child's accomplishments, I am so proud of all active roles you are taking. If you have not already signed up to help, please call the coordinators to offer your time to support these great projects.

WELCOME to our Interns. Twenty-six energetic interns are learning on Thursdays from 9 to 1. Stop by the extension office to welcome these great people. We are so glad to have the interns become part of our great organization.

I have listed some of the many activities and projects of Master Gardeners, we invite you to call the lead person and let them know of your interest and willingness to help.

Help Line Tuesday 9am to 1pm now through August. Call Alicia Tant if you have an open Tuesday. Our interns will soon be helping on this project.

April 2, MG Native Azalea Plant Sale, 8 am until all plant are sold. Past MG President Dennis Pinkard and his team have about 800 native azaleas and companion plants. Come choose your plants and help with the public sale.

April 13th and 14th, Earth Day Program for Auburn City School 2nd grade students, Town Creek Park, Auburn, Nancy Golson coordinating

MG booths at community events. Check these dates and come help.

April 9, Home and Garden Show, Event Center, Opelika, Raleine Sillman

April 30, Auburn City Fest, Keisel Park, Auburn, Charlot Ritenbaugh & Pat Giordano

May 7, 2016 Opelika Garden in the Park, Susan Parker

MG Garden Tour is May 14 and 15. Special thank you to Susan Price, Jim Disque, Pat Giordano, Charlot Ritenbaugh, Dianne Wages, and Beth Dorman and all the others who have sold tickets and committed to working during the tour. The gardens are spectacular and the owners are working diligently to make them even better. The tour is a must for anyone who loves gardens. Be sure to get your tickets at the April meeting or from Pat Giordano.

Have you seen our demonstration gardens? They are beautiful! Beth Dorman at Grandma's Garden, Spenser Roy at Caroline Dean Wildflower Garden, Charlot Ritenbaugh at Kiesel Park and their teams are doing a wonderful job. Thank you to them and I hope each of you will help with these gardens and visit them often. Work times are listed on our monthly agenda.

Another exciting project is from the Native Plant Committee, Dennis Pinkard, chair. They are making presentations and developing educational brochures on the benefits of native plants in the gardens. Dee Smith, who is on this committee, gave a wonderful talk at our March meeting, inspiring all of us to consider native plants as we replace items in our gardens to help support the birds, butterflies and insects that depend on native plants for survival. They presented at Louise Kreher Forest Preserve in March. Special thank you to this committee for educating us on the benefits of native plants in our landscape. Let them know of your interest to help.

Yes, spring certainly brings azaleas and daffodils as the Master Gardeners spring into action. Thank you for being a part of such a special organization. Happy Gardening and please call, email, or stop for a chat if you have questions, suggestions, or want to get involved in a project.

Nancy Golson

President

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Garden Tour Update

Our team managers have done an excellent job with plans for our upcoming Garden Tour. With good pitching, fielding and batting the bases are loaded and the chances for hitting the 2016 Garden Tour out of the park are excellent! The most important thing for any winning team is getting the fans to the ballpark. Right now it is crucial that all of us, from cheerleaders to grounds keepers and concession stand workers get out there and bring home the fans!!!

Tickets, tickets, tickets are now available! You can pick some up at our next LCMGA meeting, April 6 at the East Alabama Cultural Arts Center.

The weather promises to be springy, the gardens will be in excellent condition and tons of volunteers are counting on us to make the 2016 Garden Tour the best one yet.

Spring 2016

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Leaf Notes

The Master Gardeners Program educates volunteers in science-based gardening and landscape practices and helps them effectively extend research-based information to the public as Master Gardeners. The Master Gardener's role is primarily that of “educator.”

There are many different ways our volunteers in Lee County help the Alabama Extension System (ACES) expand outreach to the community. We construct and maintain community demonstration gardens and help implement community projects. A variety of garden-related programs and workshops are offered to the public.

Master Gardeners Please Note:

If you have misplaced or have need for a new badge, please let Mallory Kelley know —.

Mallory Kelley:

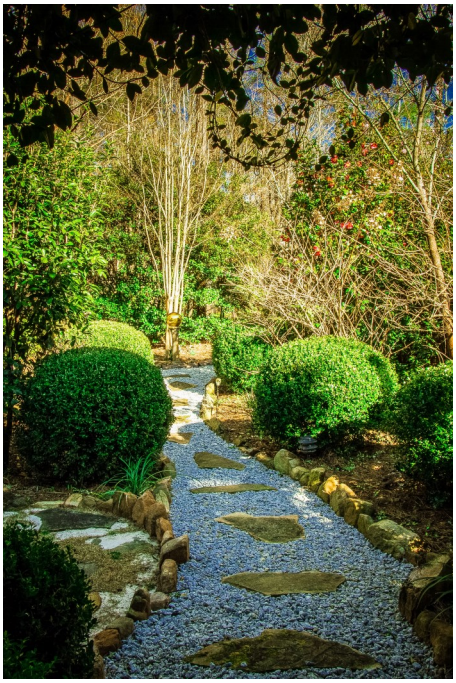
Jones57@aces.edu

PLEASE INCLUDE:

Name, County, Year of Master Gardeners Certification!

Garden Tour Challenge

Find this garden pathway



Quarterly Quiz

Name this flowering plant

(Answer on page 4)

(See hint on next page)

Photos by DP

Meet your 2016 Board

Carola Pike—Secretary

After four decades of careers and work, in November 2013 we retired and moved to Auburn. Serving as a social worker for 10+ years with the Children's Bureau in Atlanta and Cliff with the FBI, we were ready for life as retirees. Wanting to live near our children and seven grandchildren made Auburn an easy choice.

I have a long history of family with a love of gardening, with several generations of farmers. The top of my do to list as a retiree was to participate in the Master Gardener Class. I enrolled in the 2014 class and enjoyed the class time with a group that too loves the joy of gardening. My newly learned skills have been put to the test as Cliff and I landscape around our new home with a blank canvas of over an acre.

I accepted the position of Secretary of the LCMGA in the spring of 2015 and look forward to serving in this capacity with the 2106 slate of officers.

Quiz: Hint: Flower Setting

Pat Giordano—Programs

Pat Giordano, a life-long Hoosier, moved to Auburn with her husband Nick in August 2013. Realizing that everything she knew about gardening in the Midwest did not apply to her new climate, she enrolled in the Master Gardeners Program. Two facts learned in the course made a huge impact. First if you want butterflies in your garden you plant what the caterpillars need. The second lesson learned was that pansies which grow in Indiana from May until September are planted in Alabama from September until May.

Before retiring, Pat was an academic advisor at Purdue University. Her last position was in the Computer Science Department. It was not that she knew a lot about computers, but she worked well with nerds. She lives with a nerd. Nick, her husband, is a physicist and currently the Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Auburn. He does not know the different between pansies and peonies, but is a good sport when asked to help in the garden.

Both her children are living in the Seattle area. Son Nick Jr.(a computer security specialist) and wife Laura are raising twins - Sophia and Oliver. Daughter Lizz finished her Masters in Journalism and just moved from Chicago to Seattle. Little doubt where Pat will be going as often as possible.

Meet your 2016 Board

Jim Disque—Treasurer

Jim Disque took the Master Gardener Course in 2013 and is currently the LCMGA Treasurer.

He is a pharmacist, originally from Kansas where he grew up on a farm. Most of his career was spent in the pharmaceutical industry. His job took him, along with his wife Patty, an Auburn Graduate, to Arizona, Texas and New Jersey. They moved to Auburn in 2012.

His interest in gardening started in Arizona where plants grow even faster than in Alabama. He prefers natural and semi-natural landscapes. His primary interest is with blooming plants, including perennials, annuals and shrubs. His ideal plant is one that is deer resistant, blooms often, evergreen, fragrant and hearty. Most of his plants only have one or two of those attributes, so he is still searching for ideal plants.

He has found that in retirement he has the time to enjoy gardening and has learned a tremendous amount through Master Gardeners.

Dennis Pinkard—Board Member-Past President

- Graduated AU in ’69 as Textile Engineer
- Troy football scholarship but declined offer
- While at AU was Sigma NU, in Naval ROTC and was Cheerleader
- 30 Naval career as surface line officer, including being a diver in Vietnam in ’71-’72 in harbors and coastal waters
- Also retired from Naval Civilian Service as Program Manager
- Moved to Auburn from San Diego in ’07 after 39 years working for the Navy
- Enrolled in MG course in Nov ’07; served as President from Jan ’10 - Dec ’15, a total of 6 years; in Jan ’10 we owed $3500 for work at Kiesel Park and could not pay it and we had around 25 MG; today we have about 150 members, Actives and Friends.

Answer to quiz on page 2

Lupinus nootkatensis, the Nootka lupineis a perennial plant of the genus *Lupinus* in the legume family, Fabaceae. It is native to North America. The Nootka lupine grows to 60 cm tall. Late in the 18th century it was first introduced to Europe.

The Nootka lupine is common on the west coast of North America, and is one of the species from which the garden hybrids are derived, being valued in Britain and other North-European countries for its tolerance of cool, wet summers. It grows along roadsides, gravel bars, and forest clearings from the Aleutian Islands, southcentral Alaska, and along the Panhandle to B.C. Rigorous self-seeders as they are, lupine can often be seen along roadsides and in open meadows, their bright blueish purple flowers catching ones eye from quite a distance. Their long tap roots make transplanting difficult, so sowing seed is preferable.

Azalea Biscuits

Not the best way to prune Azaleas!!

Photo by David Peterson

Meet Your 2016 Board

Patti Householder-Board Member

I grew up outside of Auburn, near Waverly on land that has been in the James (my maiden name) family since 1858. My father taught at the Vet School. I left Auburn in 1976 to go to UAB for nursing school. My last quarter I went to New Orleans to work at Oschner Hospital and continued to work there after graduation. In 1979, I moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to marry my husband, Jerry. In 1980 we moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana . And then in 1981 we moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, where my husband is from and stayed 5 years. In 1986 we went to Virginia Tech for my husband to teach and I returned to school to get my masters in nursing and teach. I worked in the Emergency Room and critical care for most of my career to this point.

After 5 years in Virginia we moved back to Baton Rouge in 1991, where my husband took a department head position and I taught nursing at a private college. Our children grew up here and our son graduated from LSU. In 2001, I moved back to Auburn after our daughter graduated from high school. We built a house on 75 acres I inherited from my grandmother. Since we moved back, my husband has retired from LSU, but he consults now. My son and daughter married, and gave me 5 beautiful grandchildren between the two. In 2014 they moved to Florida and Texas with their families leaving me lonesome for them but caring for my mother in law whose health began to decline.

Over the years, in all the places we lived I had a vegetable garden and canned food for our family. In 2004, I read in Chuck Brown's weekly column that they were signing people up for a Master Gardener course. I got my love for gardening from my Gramma James, who knew the name of every daylily and Iris plus all the other flowers in her yard. She always had a huge vegetable garden and fruit trees. When I first started with the Master Gardener's we were a small group with a president, newsletter person and a secretary/treasurer. Most of the projects we did (Keisel being one) we would have 4-6 people involved, doing everything. I was "asked" and served as president from 2006-2008. We met bi-monthly and did not have the organization that has taken place since Dennis's tenure. A few people involved doing everything was difficult, but I made great friends along the way. I love to can, freeze, dehydrate things from my garden. My home garden was featured on two of the Master Garden Tours, including the first one we ever had. I served a couple years on the State MG Advisory Council and that led to three years on the State Master Gardeners Board of Directors. I am now the Advisory Council's Representative from the Lee County group, which serves as a liaison from the local chapters to the State Board. For several years I was the "Hours Coordinator" for the LCMG. I am not as involved as I once was. My husband and I like to travel (Ireland is our favorite). I go visit my children and grandchildren and see to the care of my mother in law, who is now in Arbor Springs. On Wednesdays I volunteer at the Family History Library at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Opelika. That is my other love, genealogy!

Garden Tour May Day Sunday Supper

Please join in celebrating the upcoming Garden Tour

Sunday May 1 2016 4 -7 pm

Nunn-Winston House and pavilion at Kiesel Park (520 Chadwick Ln, Auburn)

One of our Master Gardens Demonstration Gardens

This May Day Sunday Supper will give us time to celebrate all the work for Garden Tour and give a big Master Gardeners Thank You to the homeowners who have opened their gardens to the community.

All are invited to May Day Sunday Supper is catered by Ursula.

The cost for members, MG friends, and inters in covered in the expense of the tour as a thank your for your hard work.

Spouse, significant other, or friend there is charge of $15 for each guest.

It is important for an accurate head count by the deadline of April 15.

Be sure to check you "Evite" (that will come to you email) with all the details and the RSVP request.

Please Stop Abusing and Ruining Crape Myrtles

Posted on February 9, 2016 by Shane Harris

As a horticulturist, one thing that really gripes me each winter is seeing crape myrtles all across the area being pruned wrong – butchered back and abused. Why, why, why? Many tall beautiful crape myrtles are

being reduced to nothing but ugly stubs. This improper pruning technique has been coined “Crape Murder”, as once described by *Southern Living* magazine, and involves severely pruning back crape myrtles from tree form to shrub form.

Whacking back crape myrtles off at about four feet high to leave only the three to five main trunks is an ugly and foolish habit. **It is NOT a recommended horticulture practice. Please stop doing it and quit paying “landscape professionals” to do it. You are getting swindled.**

Crape myrtles do not always need to be pruned each year. If they do and if done properly, minimum pruning is needed each year. Listen to these facts on how to correctly prune crape myrtles:

Crape myrtles are small trees, not shrubs as some might want to believe and can range from 18 inches to 30 feet tall. Crape myrtles are one of the most popular landscape plants because of their colorful summer blooms and their thin, paper-like bark that peels away to reveal smooth cinnamon brown trunks. However, a crape myrtle’s landscape value can be dramatically decreased when its branches are severely disfigured.

Pruning Effects

Extensive pruning or cutting crape myrtles back each year only causes them to vigorously grow back what was removed. The only pruning that should be done each year is to remove suckers and to maintain its attractive shape by removing deadwood and seed pods. Early training will help eliminate any extensive pruning later on. Crape myrtles tend to grow numerous suckers from its base due to “crape murdering”.

Pruning Process

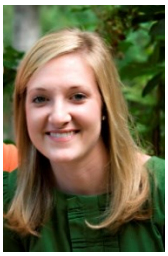
If you think a crape myrtle needs to be pruned, do it only during the middle to late winter once the leaves have fallen and the tree is completely dormant. As a rule of thumb to pruning crape myrtles: don't cut to see over it; cut to see through it. Remember that crape myrtles are trees and are supposed to get tall. However, by shaping the tree, removing the lower limbs, and having only three to five main trunks, will give the crape myrtle a more attractive and formal appearance.

Before beginning pruning, imagine the final size and form you want your crape myrtle to look like. Begin pruning by starting at the base of the plant and cutting away all suckers that may have developed. Then move up the tree and remove all small spindly twigs from the main trunks. Removing these small twigs will allow the smooth showy bark to be seen and more air circulation among the trunks, which helps prevent diseases. If the tree is young and hasn't been pruned before, select no more than three to five of the straighter, thicker stems to become the tree's main trunks. The selected trunks need to be evenly spaced, not touching or rubbing each other, and should fan outward in a vase shape. If some limbs are too large for loppers or pruning shears, a pruning saw will be required.

Next, move on up the trunk and remove any large branches below 3 feet high. The general idea of pruning crape myrtles is to cut limbs back to the crotch or lateral branch at the branch collar, the raised or swollen area at the base of the branch where it joins the trunk. It forms a protective barrier against disease and insects and promotes healing of the wound that results from pruning.

There are really no rules for pruning the branches of crape myrtles above three feet. At this point, only take out branches that are necessary. The crape myrtle may not need any limbs removed or any additional pruning. It is now more a personal opinion on how much or how little to prune. Less is better but any branches closer than 6 to 8 inches or numerous small twigs might need to be pruned. Just remember that shearing, topping, or just cutting branches into will only promote vigorous, long branches when new growth begins. Pruning to the crotch or lateral branch will prevent that. Lastly, prune out the brown seed heads on the tips of the branches that formed after the crape myrtle flowered. This again helps give the crape myrtle a cleaner, formal look.

The Home Invasion of Ladybugs



By Mallory Kelley
Regional Extension Agent
Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Having the problem of ladybugs invading your home, your not alone. Asian Ladybird Bugs are notorious of coming into homes in fall and winter seasons. On a warm winters day the ladybugs emerge and then when the temperature begins to drop they try to find an entry point into a protected space from the elements “your home.”

Ladybugs indoors will not bite you or your pets and will eventually die from the lack of food. Ladybugs eat only small "juicy" insects, so they will not cause damage to plants, paper, cloth or any other household items. They are actually beneficial insects outdoors as they are predators of those problem insects such as the aphids, mealy bugs and scale, but when these ladybugs come indoors they can be a big nuisance. Ladybugs release a yellowish and smelly liquid when they are disturbed or distressed, this will leave yellow markings on your wall and windows.

Even though they are beneficial insects, we do not want them inside our homes. I do not suggest applying pesticide to kill them indoors. The most popular way to get them out is vacuuming them up and releasing the unwelcome guests outside.

Is there other means to get rid of them? There is a trap called a Ladybug Black Light Trap, but there is no research data as to its effectiveness and sticky traps have little effect on ladybugs. You can spray an insecticide outdoors around the perimeter of your home and also pull back the mulch from around the foundation. Also pruning back shrubs where more light and air can circulate around the foundation will reduce ladybugs as well as roaches, lizards or skinks and many other home invading insects.

Quarterly Quote

An idea that is developed and put into action is more important than an idea that only exists as an idea. - Buddha

Special Presentation

Spencer Roy presents past president Dennis Pinkard with an Eagle he carved with a chainsaw.

A gift from LCMG

There and Back Again, an Azalea's Tale

By Patrick Thompson

Back story:

The landscape of east Alabama and west Georgia has been blessed with more types of native deciduous azaleas than anywhere in the world. The nurseries of south Alabama have been blessed with perfect growing conditions and a wide customer base that has allowed them to fill the southern states with a variety of evergreen azaleas. What has kept the native deciduous azalea from matching the popularity of the evergreen ones? The lack of leaves in winter has done little to diminish the popularity of roses, hydrangeas, and many others in a long list of popular deciduous plants. Deciduous azaleas bloom in all the colors of evergreens as well as vibrant yellows and oranges not found in the evergreen azaleas. Three things make deciduous azaleas more difficult for nurseries to grow: Cuttings are difficult to root, seedlings can be extremely variable, and it takes years for young plants to reach a marketable size. This is the story of how a group of azaleas developed here in Auburn and Opelika are growing past these problems.

The story of these plants begins decades ago when fine specimens of deciduous azaleas were chosen by local gardeners. They were established an appreciated by many in places like the garden of Tom Corley, Dennis Rouse, and Caroline Dean. These parent plants included native species, native hybrids, and garden hybrids including the Exbury azaleas from England. From these parent plants, Dr. R. O. Smitherman (Smitty) bred more than 100,000 seeds which were started and evaluated. When the best of the plants were chosen, Smitty and other local gardeners named some of these fantastic plants.

The next issue to face is how to share these plants with all the other gardeners that had come to know and appreciate them? Seedlings might have small flowers, or not smell as good as named plants. Cuttings can only be produced in small numbers, and with tremendous effort. For more than 20 years these plants grew only in the gardens of local azalea enthusiasts. In 2008 Smitty came to the Arboretum to offer his azalea collection as gift to display and raise funds for the Arboretum. Smitty brought azaleas to the arboretum, a few at first, then by the truckload. It went on like that a few truckloads every winter for a couple of years. In the spring of 2011 Smitty lost his battle with ALS, and his final donation was an offer to choose the best of his dense azalea collection and transplant it to the Arboretum for propagation and distribution.

The LCMG answered the call to assist in this monumental task. First cataloguing and mapping the more than 900 azaleas in Smitty's yard at Lake Martin, then digging and loading trailer after trailer and truck after truck with more than 300 of the finest plants, and finally carefully replanting them in the Arboretum's azalea garden. Once the plants took root and began producing vigorous new growth, we began the difficult process of selecting the very best plants to attempt to go through the long process of mass propagation, so these plants could be shared with all who wanted to grow them.

There and Back Again, an Azalea's Tale—Continued

By Patrick Thompson

The supply chain:

A single beautiful deciduous azalea chosen out of all its siblings grows in a garden. Many gardeners would like to have this plant in their garden. If they planted seeds off of this azalea with orange ruffled flowers, it could take 3-5 years before the plants were big enough to flower. When they did bloom, the flowers could be white or pink or yellow or big or small. If a gardener took stem cuttings the success rate could be good, but it is often very low, even when attempted by master propagators. How can the nursery industry help gardeners get this orange azalea they want? One of the best options to start many identical plants is tissue culture.

Wikipedia defines tissue culture as a collection of techniques used to maintain or grow plant cells, tissues or organs under sterile conditions on a nutrient culture medium of known composition. Plant tissue culture is widely used to produce clones of a plant in a method known as micropropagation. There are many challenges to overcome to get a sterile culture started of a particular plant. The Auburn Azaleas have been started in a small home lab near Atlanta. Azalea guru Earl Sommerville (http://www.earlsommerville.com/) has kindly started our cultures free of charge, otherwise cost would have prohibited this azalea series from even getting off the ground. Earl takes a vegetative bud from the plant to be cultured, and working in special cabinet with a constant flow of filtered air, sterilizes it in bleach, peels off some bud scales and places it on the nutrient medium. This is like agar in a petri dish, but it has all the nutrients plants need to survive, and the hormones to encourage development of shoots. If mold, fungus, or bacteria get into the culture, they will grow out of control and the contaminated culture must be tossed out.

Once Earl is satisfied that the culture is clean and growing satisfactorily, he sends it to a large tissue culture lab in New Jersey where the plants are multiplied and separated into hundreds of tiny micro cuttings thinner than a piece of yarn and perhaps only an inch in length. Micro cuttings can be put on a different medium with a higher concentration of auxins, a plant hormone that encourages roots.

Once rooted and given some time to develop a more robust size, plants can be moved to small cells with soil where they can begin to harden off and get ready for the next step in their journey.

Already a couple years old, the plants are just now in a 2 inch pot and ready to travel south again. Flats of these 2 inch plants are delivered to a grower. In our case this is Ernest Koone of Lazy K Nursery and Garden Delights retail center in Pine Mountain Georgia. Ernest up pots the plants from the 2 inch liner pots into 1 gallon pots where they will spend another 1-2 years. After 30 years of trial in Auburn gardens, and nearly half a decade working their way through the nursery supply chain, some of Auburn's most beautiful azaleas are finally available in sufficient numbers to offer them up for sale to the Auburn family. To find out more visit our website http://thomppg.wix.com/auburnazalea

Azalea photographs submitted by

Patrick Thompson

Potpourri

By Charlot Ritenbaugh

Red Mountain Park in Birmingham has 1500 acres of “impassible, overgrown forest.” The Director of the park has tapped into a fast-growing seven-year-old company from Virginia to assist with the existing “incredible infestation of invasive plants. “

Since October, a herd of 150 Kiko goats have been browsing in the Park and have cleared more than 100 acres that will be developed into hiking and biking trails. These lightweight, cloven-hoofed eating machines do not compact the soil and in 24 hours all that they eat turns into fertilizer.

As the goats browse, historical artifacts, buildings and foundations remain unharmed and exposed for the first time in decades. There is a system in place to remove biomass after the goats move through and invasive plant stumps are treated with herbicides. The area is then restored with native plants.

You can find more information on Goat Busters at VAGoatBusters.com.

And on a totally different note….

My MG intern class of 2010 learned the fundamentals of pruning by Chuck Browne. While showing his slides of different pruning techniques, we all moaned and groaned seeing large hardwoods that had been subjected to our form of “crepe murder.” Chuck kindly explained *pollarding* has a purpose and is a valued technique around the world, especially in Europe. He also added a mild but significant caution about judging horticultural techniques with which we were unfamiliar.

Just two years later I was infatuated by the use of large trees trimmed like hedges in the Champ de Mars surrounding the Eiffel Tower and the park overlooking the Seine in Saint Germaine en Laye, a wealthy suburb of Paris. Upon returning to Auburn I wanted to delve further into worldwide techniques used to prune larger trees. Here is just a smattering of what I have learned.

Pollarding dates back to Ancient Rome. A hardwood tree may be pollarded to maintain a consistent height, generate fodder to feed livestock, or for a ready source of firewood. If the pollarded resource is used for feed the tree can be pollarded at six-year intervals to create an abundance of leafy stalks. If the technique is done in eight to 15 year rotations, the end product is straight, limbless growth used as poles in fence and shipbuilding. More flexible branches can be used for basket weaving and various garden supports. An interesting fact about pollarding is that trees pruned this way tend to grow slower and live longer.

In southern England, *coppicing* is a popular and historic practice that remains economically crucial to the area. In this practice young trees are repeatedly cut down at ground level, instead of the higher level used in pollarding.

Stewardship of our earth requires wisdom and continued learning. Enjoy the journey.

Photo by DP

Master Gardeners Dig for Treasures

On Friday March 4, 2016, Master gardeners gathered at Spencer Roy's farm for treasure hunting. Treasurers included Christmas Ferns, Wild Ginger, and other specimens soon to be destroyed for the installation of a gas line.

Numerous plants were found, and although the mud was aplenty and the transportation to the site rather rough (note the flat tire on the wagon), everyone had a great time. All left with numerous new plants for their respective gardens.

Many thanks to Spencer Roy for this wonderful opportunity, as we were able to save a few specimen from destruction.

Gathering for the "hunt"

Transportation to the site

Treasurers found!

Preparing to dig

Photos by David Peterson

Dr. Bill Shell (MG) Receives Prestigious Award

The Maple Society

Congratulations to Master Gardener Dr. Bill Shell for being the recipient of the annual Peter Gregory Award from The Maple Society. Peter Gregory started the Maple Society back in 1989 in Europe. The North American Branch was started in 2002. Susan Wiegrefe started the award three years ago when she was president of the MSNAB. Dr. Shell is the third recipient.

" The Peter Gregory Award is conferred on an individual who embodies the mission of The Maple Society… sharing the love and knowledge of maples, especially across national boundaries, and promoting their culture and enjoyment by all."

Over the past twenty years Japanese maples have become increasingly popular, with more and more people planting them in their gardens. There are over 120 species growing wild throughout Europe, North Africa, Asia and North America. What other tree genus can offer horticulturists the variety and scope for large or small gardens, patio or container planting, that can be found among the numerous maple species and cultivars? Selections for size, form, bark, foliage, flowers, leaves or autumn color are abundant. There are species for wet, dry, acid or alkaline soils, and for sunshine, shade, exposed or sheltered conditions.

Dr. Shell's garden of Japanese maples will be on our garden tour May 14th and 15th. Dr. Shell and other maple experts will be on site to share you how to successful grow these beautiful trees.

Dr. Bill Shell

A view of Dr. Shell's Yard

New Master Gardeners Class

Our 2016 Interns are busy digesting all the information our talented and respected faculty are presenting.

With 22 interns and 2 more auditing, this years class is very excited (and exciting)! So, we are looking forward to their long and active participation in our association.

Please feel free to stop by on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. to welcome them and share your name and your special interests.

We offer all of our interns a big warm welcome!

Receiving Textbooks

Class in Session

Preparing to Hand in First Quiz

Photos by David Peterson