

## Lake and Hills Garden Club March 2019 Scuttlebutt Article



Figure 1 Kerri Roach, Horticulture Agent for the Clemson Extension Service for Oconee County, informs garden club members at the LHGC February meeting how they can add color to their gardens.

Green, green, we must be more green! Haven't we all heard that lately? But, sometimes, there is too much green in our yards. "Too Much Green? Let's Add Some Color" was the subject of Kerri Roach's presentation at the February 8 meeting of the Lake and Hills Garden Club (LHGC). Kerri is the Horticulture Agent for the Clemson Extension Service for Oconee County.

Kerri explained that Garden Club members must consider several factors when they plan their landscapes: personal wants, plant needs, plant selection, and plant care. For example, we may want a lilac like we had up North. However, lilacs need colder winters than we have in Zone 7. As a result, we may want to consider a new variety of lilac - perhaps, a fragrant, white Betsy Ross which has been developed for this area. Then, we must consider

sun, shade, moisture, and whatever the plant requires to grow successfully in our yard. Kerri also gave some good tips about the appropriate types of trees to plant, as well as which ones to avoid. Blue spruce, for example, sports a lovely color to add to the landscape, but it does not grow well here. Size matters. Kerri suggested that we should plant Arborvitae, instead of Leyland Cypress. We should keep a garden journal, too. If an area is boggy, make a note about it. If an area has slugs or bugs, jot that down, too. Keep those little white labels that come with the plants and note where the plants are located. Doing all of these things will make next year's planning easier. At the end of her presentation, Kerri provided a North Carolina Extension Service website that will help Garden Club members add color to their yards: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/>. Searches for new plants can be filtered by both leaf and flower color.

LHGC members recently attended two *Let's Go Out and Learn* events. Vibrant, beautiful tropical orchids mesmerized LHGC orchid enthusiasts at the Blue Ridge Orchid Society Show at Duke Energy on February 22. Other Garden Club members enjoyed the first sights of spring at the South Carolina Botanical Garden as they toured the gardens on a First Friday Walk with Dr. David Bradshaw on March 1.

Join us for our next meeting on March 13 when LHGC member and master gardener Laurie Churchill presents “Raise It Up,” a program on the benefits of raised garden beds. This is an important topic for the LHGC, as a raised garden bed at Seneca Rehabilitation is a key 2019 project.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Club or attending as a guest, please contact membership chairs, Diana Beane at (304) 546-9110 or Edna Melamed at (864) 944-8791. Monthly meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at the Keowee Key Event Center. The meetings include a program, lunch, and activities that are both informative and enjoyable.



*Figure 2 LHGC member Donna Buchanan poses a question to LHGC President, Lynn Pode, about the Garden Club's February 8 meeting agenda*