Orangeburg County Library Seed Exchange

 The Orangeburg County Library Seed Exchange was officially opened to the public Tuesday, March 3, 2015. The Master Gardeners of Orangeburg, in cooperation with the Clemson Extension Service, and the Orangeburg County Library introduced the seed exchange in the “How Does Your Garden Grow?” program held Tuesday, March 3, 2015. The seed exchange is open to the public as a means to exchange seeds, gardening advice and information, and to encourage new home gardeners to try planting for the first time.

 The initial investment from the OCL was increased with donations from the Master Gardeners and private individuals and used to purchase seeds and supplies for the exchange. In addition to the monetary gifts there has been a tremendous amount of time and effort given in support of the seed exchange as well as actual seed donations. The exchange is dependent on these donations as there is no set budget to purchase supplies.

 The goal of introducing home gardening and its benefits to new gardeners and helping facilitate the community gardening exchange that often occurs among neighbors and friends within a public setting of a library takes community involvement to sustain. The efforts of local citizens, Master Gardeners, and the Clemson Extension program to promote the seed exchange and provide information for patrons is important to keeping the momentum growing. Including the seed library information in local gardening expos and in their already established public library programs has piqued public interest and raised awareness in those who may be venturing into gardening for the first time. Regular library patrons who are also avid gardeners have contributed seeds, advice, and the promise of donations at harvest time. The seed exchange concept is dependent on this continued community interest and support to continue growing.