



Garden Talk

MGOFDC OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Alisa's Royal Wedding Recipe, page 8

Don't miss this delicious recipe featured on *Talk of the Town* to promote the Urban Gardening Festival



Who Do I Contact?

2018 Executive Committee

Nominated and voted in by members every year

PRESIDENT

Leads the organization
Alisa Huntsman
president@mgofdc.org

CO-FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Coordinates monthly member meetings
Paul Martin & Bob Bryan
lvp@mgofdc.org

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Supervises the project gardens
Anne Underhill
2vp@mgofdc.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Records board & member meeting minutes
Carolyn Turner
records@mgofdc.org

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Sends information to members & public on behalf of organization
Kalli Lipke
Info@mgofdc.org

TREASURER

Accounts for organization's monies
Tom Coulter
treasurer@mgofdc.org

EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

Coordinates CE and community education outreach
Robert (Bob) Mather
education@mgofdc.org

EVENT CHAIRPERSON

Supports annual and special events
Marilee Jacobs
Events@mgofdc.org

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Manages member database & services
Karen Brown
membership@mgofdc.org

2018 Project-Garden Chairs

Nominated by board

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

At Ellington Agricultural Center
Trish Scudder & Gene Gallagher
DemoGarden@mgofdc.org

GRASSMERE HISTORIC GARDEN

At the Nashville Zoo
Rich Shiavi & Chuck Vehorn
Grassmere@mgofdc.org

HARDING GARDEN

At Belle Meade
Muff Cline
HardingGarden@mgofdc.org

KITCHEN GARDEN

At Andrew Jackson's Hermitage
Mary Langford
HermitageGarden@mgofdc.org

CITY CEMETARY GARDEN

Catherine Atwell & Robert (Bob) Mather
citycemetery@mgofdc.org

2018 Program Chairs

Nominated by board

EXTENSION OFFICE LIASON

Barbara Hoffman
Calendar@mgofdc.org

MEMBER GARDEN TOURS

Gloria Ballard
gardentours@mgofdc.org

JUNIOR GARDENER CAMP

Pam Swoner
jrmg@mgofdc.org

INTERN LIASON

Pam Swoner
mentors@mgofdc.org

INTERN MENTORING

Vacant
mentors@mgofdc.org

MERCHANDISE

Jean Buffler
merchandise@mgofdc.org

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Joan Clayton-Davis
speakers@mgofdc.org

2018 Event Chairs

Nominated by board

2018 LAWN & GARDEN SHOW

Barbara Drake & Mariwyn Evans
LawnandGarden@mgofdc.org

URBAN GARDENING FESTIVAL

Nancy Wilcenski & Rebecca DePriest
UGF@mgofdc.org

TENNESSEE STATE FAIR

Catherine Atwell & Bren Letson
StateFair@mgofdc.org

Chicken Scratch

A Note From Our President, Alisa Huntsman

Hopefully, all of you are enjoying the summer as much as we are at my home. The weather, although hot and humid, has been pretty great for our garden and we are enjoying lots of fresh produce. Now if we could just get a little more rainfall to keep the barrels full! This year, we had wonderful weather for the UGF and for once, no pop up thunderstorms! There were so many wonderful participants and it was a challenge to see everything. We had a fairly solid crew of member volunteers working to set up, run the event and break it all down, but honestly, we really could have used more hands. While I know that we all have lives and obligations outside of the Master Gardeners, I am asking everyone to consider doing more for next year. Before you think I am expecting you to work in the Demonstration Garden or man a booth at the UGF (and we would be happy to have more members volunteering to do so), consider doing things as the summer progresses because we know that waiting until January will not work.

Our plan for the UGF in 2019 is to start preparing in the Fall of 2018, a full nine months ahead of the date. You can help by crafting items for sale in the Craft Booth. If you are planning to divide or remove healthy plants from your garden, do it in late fall so that the plants have not only recovered by spring but are flourishing at the plant sale. Starting seeds is always a cost effective way to produce a number of plants but they really need to be started a minimum of five months ahead so that they are the proper maturity to harden them off outside for a week or two before the sale. The list goes on and on and only you can decide what is the best way for you to help. What I am trying to suggest is that it takes a lot of hands and a lot of hours to be ready and that you should not sell yourself short; you can make a difference, and we hope you will join us. This year we had the largest attendance, the most participants and the best plant sale revenue ever... with only a fraction of the membership helping. Think about how wonderful next year's UGF



could be if more of us get involved. The UGF truly is our time to shine and to introduce the Master Gardeners and all we have to offer to the folks living around us. Help us get the message out that we are here to teach about gardening. Lastly, the funds raised could help us fund our garden projects, bring in speakers and do more for the community. In the meantime, if you need me, I'll be out in the garden chasing chickens... 🐔

Master Gardeners of Davidson County

PO Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204

MGOFDC.ORG | facebook.com/mgofdc | instagram.com/mgofdc

© 2018 Master Gardeners of Davidson County. All rights reserved.

Notice: Trade and brand names are used only for information. Tennessee Extension does not guarantee nor warrant the standard of any product mentioned; neither does it imply approval of any product to the exclusion of others which also may be suitable. Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. Tennessee Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

UT EXTENSION DAVIDSON COUNTY CONTACTS

1417 Murfreesboro Pike, 2nd floor
PO Box 196300, Nashville, TN 37219
615-862-5995 | Davidson.tennessee.edu

EXTENSION AGENT: David Cook | dcook@utk.edu
COUNTY DIRECTOR: Michael Barry | mbarry@utk.edu
STATE COORDINATOR: Natalie Bumgarner, Ph.D. | nbumgarn@utk.edu

November Nominations

Time to get ready for 2019

Our bylaws require us to hold elections for Board of Director positions each November and believe it or not, we need to start thinking about choosing new board members to fill these positions. The first step is to appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three members in good standing. If you think you have what it takes to nominate your fellow members for a position, we need to hear from you, ASAP (email president@mgofdc.org)! **Interns are not eligible for board positions*

If you think you would like to help lead the Master Gardeners of Davidson County next year, below are a few things you need to know about the various positions. For a complete list of all duties performed by each member, please refer to the bylaws on the website, link here - <https://mgofdc.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Bylaws.pdf>

President: The president shall preside over association membership meetings, advise officers of executive board meeting dates and locations and shall preside over those meetings and shall appoint the chairman and members of all standing committees.

First Vice President: The first vice president shall perform the duties of the president in his or her absence and plan programs for the association monthly membership meetings.

Second Vice President: The second vice president shall perform the duties of the president and first vice president if their absences occur at the same time, is responsible for the supervision of projects and coordinate orientation of the new class interns to all the projects and events.

Recording Secretary: The recording secretary shall be responsible for recording and keeping the minutes of the association membership meeting and making those minutes available to the membership and shall be responsible for keeping minutes of the executive board meetings.

Corresponding Secretary: The corresponding secretary shall be responsible for handling the correspondence of the association and will help write, edit and send out a newsletter on a periodical basis as may be determined by the officers of the association. He or she shall handle media matters. He or she will send announcements and notices of association meetings to the members.

Treasurer: The treasurer shall be responsible for the collection, receiving, holding, managing, investing and expending of monies of the association and pay all legitimate obligations of the association in a timely manner.

Education Chairperson: The education chairperson shall be responsible for supporting coordination of continuing education activities and community education outreach.

Events Chairperson: The events chairperson shall be responsible for supporting events and the organization of all annual and special events.

Membership Chairperson: The membership chairperson shall serve as chairperson of the membership committee and shall be responsible for assisting in the coordination of member services.

Besides the Board of Directors, we also have several appointed positions and they are as follows:

Hospitality Team -5 vacant positions

Merchandise Sales - 1 vacant position

Mentoring Team Leader - 1 vacant position

Inside This Issue

Contact List	2	Program Updates	10-11
A Note from Our President	3	Updates from our Gardens	12-13
November Nominations	4	State Fair Exhibit	14
About Comfrey	6	Summer Celebration	14
Garden Tour: Nature's Song	7	Upcoming Events	15
Royal Wedding Recipe	8-9	Member Article	16



Seed Exchange

Did you know that you can use your Nashville Public Library Card to “check out” vegetable, herb and flower seeds? Lou Anne Williams (a fellow Master Gardener who works at the NPL) is often asked if borrowers have to return seeds at the end of the season. She says, “don’t worry, there are no late fees!” Borrowers are encouraged to return seeds but don’t have to do so in order to borrow again.

For more information on how the Seed Exchange works, and to learn which branches participate, as well as find a list of gardening events at the NPL go to: <https://library.nashville.org/event/seed-exchange>

You can also join the Seed Exchange Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NashvillePublicLibrarySeedExchange>



Member's Garden Tours

Did you know that any member (or intern) can host a garden tour? This is a great way to share what we’re learning with each other. Also, both the member hosting and the members attending a garden tour earn hours. Even if your garden is a “work in progress,” Master Gardener colleagues enjoy and learn from it. Plan your garden tour today and contact Gloria Ballard (garden-tours@mgofdc.org; 615-297-6686 or 615-351-7111) to get the information on the calendar.



Member Merchandise

Light blue member t-shirts available in S, M, L, XL, or 2XL for \$15. Tan baseball caps available for \$10. FOR SALE AT MEETINGS.



On the Cover

Photo by Susan Bryant of Tom Coulter's and Karen Brown's garden pant project at the 2018 Urban Garden Festival.

Psst!!

Do you have something to say? Are you an expert on a garden topic? Submit an article to info@mgofdc.org to be featured in our newsletter! Submissions due by the 15th of the following month of this publication.

The Comfrey Garden Companion

By Alisa Huntsman

Comfrey is a large angiosperm or flowering plant in the Boraginaceae family, which also includes Borage, Brunnera, Heliotrope and Pulmonaria to name a few. While it is native to Europe and Asia, Comfrey has been allowed to naturalize all over the world and can be found growing in wet soil along streams and creeks as well as other moist areas.

The two most common varieties found are Common Comfrey, *Symphytum officinale* and Russian Comfrey, *Symphytum x uplandicum*. This showy plant has large, highly textured leaves that are covered with coarse hairs and will produce stalks with many flowers ranging in shades of pink, blue or white, which can bloom through the summer. An added bonus to having Comfrey in the garden is the number of bees that will visit the blooms, which makes it a good forage crop for native pollinators.

Historical references of comfrey go back as far as ancient Greece when it was commonly used to treat heavy

bleeding and bronchial illnesses. Commonly referred to as Knitbone, the name is derived from the Latin word *conferta*, which means to grow together. Comfrey leaves were frequently brewed into a tea to treat numerous ailments in addition to closing wounds and healing broken bones.

Unfortunately, Comfrey has fallen out of favor for consumption due to the discovery of dangerous alkaloids present in the leaves that could cause liver damage. Although some say that the quantity of the alkaloids is so low that one would have to drink large quantities of tea, it is best to err on the side of safety and confine the leaves to external uses in poultices or soaks.

One of the best uses for this garden workhorse is in the compost pile. The leaves are considered to contain similar nitrogen content to animal manure, which means it is a great way to pump up the nutrient level in your finished compost. Harvest leaves, as they are available, filling a large bucket then cover with water. Allow

it to steep for several weeks keeping in mind that it will stink. Dilute the strained liquid 1:1 with water to use as a substitute for synthetic fertilizers.

Hardy to zone 4, Comfrey is a large, sun loving plant that can spread as much as 4 feet in diameter and grow 3-5 feet high, so give it plenty of room to grow. The size of the plant makes it ideal for naturalizing areas or covering wet ground. The roots run deep and can be difficult to completely remove so be sure to plant it in an area where it can stay.

While it is possible to grow Comfrey from seeds, it is usually easier to find young starts that sprout from established plants, and the rapid growth of an established plant means that it can be split yearly. Keep new plants well watered until they are established and consider using some mulch around the base to help keep them moist. Once established, the lower leaves will create a natural mulch layer that will help retain water in the soil. ♪



Garden Tour: Nature's Song

By Melanie Davis, MGofDC Intern



Pam Rice opened her garden, Nature's Song, for a tour in late June. What a treat for the senses!

With water features throughout, well-planned pops of color, and winding, easy-to-walk paths, it only took a few minutes to discover why Nature's Song is such an apt name; the birds, bees, and water sounds all provide a calming, peaceful backdrop in a garden that inspires both curiosity and serenity.

The front of the house is clean and inviting, with hydrangeas and hostas taking center stage.

Fountains flank the front walk, giving first-time visitors an inkling of what the back yard has to offer.

I approached the garden by the path to the right of the house. As I crossed under the arbor and entered the garden, I was greeted with a lovely table and chairs that look over a bed of native grasses, across a path and onto a border bed of flow-

ers and evergreen shrubs.

There are several paths that wind through the garden, and there is no right or wrong way to start. I followed the path past the patio to the parking area next to the garage. The pollinator garden there is punctuated with large tubs of vegetables and herbs. The tubs, gate, and bench offer some welcome structure to the softness of the plantings.

Winding up to the top of the garden, I entered the shade area filled with ferns, hostas, and hydrangeas. A lovely seating area surrounds a fire pit, and there's a hidden hammock, perfect for a peaceful afternoon nap or an escape with a good book. Turning a corner, I came to the top of the waterfall feature where a covered swing awaits, beckoning visitors to sit and relax while enjoying the beauty of their surroundings.

As I meandered along the paths, I saw several different kinds of art: abstract metal

pieces, statues, and markers with verses from the bible or sayings that are meaningful to Pam and her family. These little vignettes allow visitors to have a place for their eyes to come to rest when taking in the garden, and also shows



Pictured above: Claudia Neely (left) and Margaret Lovett (right).

Pam's personality throughout the garden.

Pam's use of native perennials, annuals, trees and shrubs showcase the diverse beauty one can bring to their yard with a bit of planning and preparation.

Nature's Song is a beautiful retreat, and a perfect example of how a steeply-graded yard can be designed into an inviting and easy-to-navigate escape.

♪

Did You Know?

You earn FIFTEEN volunteer hours for hosting a garden tour!

You earn one volunteer hour for every hour you assist (including travel time to and from the garden) a host.

You earn one CEU by visiting the tour garden.

Alisa's Royal Wedding Recipe

As Seen on Talk of the Town

Editor's Note: This recipe was featured on Talk of the Town to generate buzz on the Urban Gardening Festival, which happened to be the same day as the Royal Wedding

Blackberry Julep Cake

Makes 1 (8-inch) triple layer cake to serve about 16

2 sticks (8 ounces) unsalted butter, at room temperature
2 cups sugar
1 tablespoon freshly grated lime zest
½ teaspoon salt
7 egg whites
3 cups cake flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
1-1/4 cups milk
Blackberry-Lime Preserves, recipe follows
Bourbon Buttercream, recipe follows
Fresh flowers, mint sprigs and blackberries for decoration

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease three (8") cake pans, line them with parchment paper and grease the paper. In a mixer bowl, cream the butter with the sugar, lime zest and salt until light and fluffy. Gradually add the egg whites, 2-3 at a time, beating well between additions and stopping to scrape the bowl.

Combine the flour with the baking powder and whisk gently to blend. In 2-3 alternating additions, beat the dry ingredients and milk into the butter mixture, scraping down the sides of the bowl several times. Beat on medium-high speed for about 1 minute to smooth out any lumps and aerate the batter.

Scoop out 1 cup of the batter into a small bowl. Divide the remainder equally among the 3 prepared pans, smoothing out the tops with a rubber spatula. Mix 2-1/2 tablespoons of the Blackberry-Lime Preserves to the reserved batter and blend well. Drizzle heaping teaspoons of this blackberry mixture over the batter in the pans. Using a skewer or paring knife, swirl the blackberry mixture in short strokes to drag it down through the batter but take care not to mix it in.

Bake for about 25 minutes or until a cake tester or toothpick stuck into the center comes out clean and the cake begins to pull away from the sides of the pan. Let the layers cool in the pan for about 10 minutes, then turn them out onto wire racks, remove the parchment paper and allow them to cool completely.

To assemble the cake, place a layer, flat side up on a cake stand or serving plate. Spread half of the Blackberry-Lime Preserves over the top. Place a second layer on top of the first and spread the remaining preserves over it. Finally, place the third layer on top of the second and frost the sides and top of the cake with the Bourbon Buttercream Frosting. Arrange the flowers, mint and berries around the top of the cake and the serving plate. 🍷

Watch Alisa on News Channel 5

www.newschannel5.com/talk-of-the-town/recipes/blackberry-julep-cake-inspired-by-the-royal-wedding

www.newschannel5.com/talk-of-the-town/creating-a-royal-bouquet-or-floral-centerpiece

Blackberry-Lime Preserves

Makes about 1 cup

3 cups frozen blackberries, fresh or frozen
¾ cups sugar
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice
2 teaspoons freshly grated lime zest
1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger

If using frozen blackberries, allow them to thaw and the juices to accumulate. Place the berries and the juice into a blender. Puree the berries and pass them through a strainer to remove the seeds.

In a heavy medium nonreactive saucepan, combine the blackberry puree with the sugar, lime juice, lime zest and the ginger. Bring to a gentle boil over medium heat, stirring frequently dissolve the sugar. Continue cooking, stirring often, for 20 minutes, until the preserves have thickened and are reduced to 1 cup. 🍷

Bourbon Buttercream

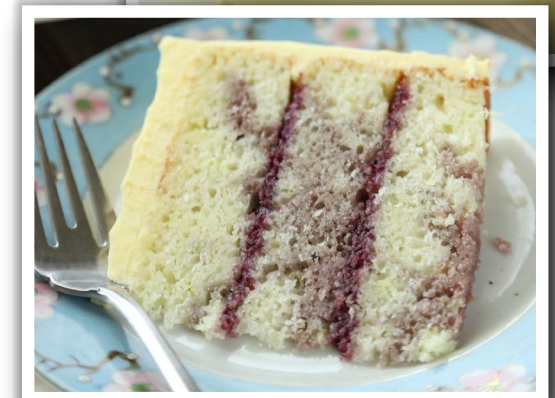
Makes about 3-1/2 cups

1 cup sugar
6 tablespoons bourbon
2 eggs
3 sticks (12 ounces) unsalted butter, at room temperature
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice

In a small nonreactive saucepan, combine the sugar and bourbon. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Continue to boil with out stirring, occasionally washing down the sides of the pan with a wet pastry brush, until the syrup reaches the soft-ball stage, 238 degrees F, on a candy thermometer. Immediately remove from the heat.

In a large mixer bowl with the mixer on medium speed, beat the eggs briefly. Slowly add the hot syrup in a thin stream, pouring it down the sides of the bowl; be careful to avoid hitting the beaters or the syrup will splatter. When all of the syrup has been added, raise the speed to medium-high and beat until the mixture is very fluffy and cooled to body temperature. This can take 15 minutes or longer.

Reduce the mixer speed to medium-low and gradually add the softened butter 2-3 tablespoons at a time, beating well between additions. As you're adding the last few tablespoons of butter, the frosting will appear to break, then suddenly come together like whipped butter. Beat in the lime juice, and the frosting is ready for use. 🍷



MGofDC PROGRAM UPDATES

2018 Interns

By Pam Swoner

2018 has been another great year for our Master Gardener Intern Class. We had 84 register and already have a waiting list for 2019 (which will be a day class).

We had interns drive from as far away as Ashland City and Woodbury and we had a full house every week.

Our intern class volunteers have been exceptional this year. They volunteered for every available time slot for the Lawn and Garden Show with 100% participation.

The sign-up for our Master Gardener sponsored Urban Gardening Festival was also impressive. Intern concierge participation for both Friday and Saturday set up was 100%.

A great big THANK YOU from the members of Davidson County Extension Master Gardeners. The mission of our organization touched our community due to your efforts.

We look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings and celebrating your completion of hours.

Editor's Note: See an intern thank you on page 15. 🌱

Urban Gardening Festival

By Nancy Wilcenski

More than 2,500 people attended our Urban Gardening Festival this year with 74 participant booths and four food trucks. With our sponsor support and plant, craft, soil and mushroom log sales we were able to come out ahead this year! People were drawn to the great lineup of vendor participants, speakers and topics and the popular children's tent. Our professional marketing/promotions team did a wonderful job bringing in the folks.

Thank you to our amazing planning team! Thank you to all the volunteers getting the Demonstration Gardens ready for the festival. Thank you for the volunteers who helped. Thank you to the Master Gardeners that volunteered and had booths this year! Thank you to those who attended the festival. Thank you to everyone who donated plants, crafts, and containers (Donna Haggitt was the winner of the drawing for the \$25 gift card to the Gardens of Babylon). We would have no event without all of you!

The festival is a team effort: The Master Gardeners of Davidson County volunteers are responsible for from start to finish. To make 2019 even better, we'll start planning in September. This allows us to devote more advance lead time to sponsorships and speakers, as well as soliciting media coverage. We would like to have more people involved at all stages. Many people say they are good at doing, not planning. That's fine; you don't need to attend planning meetings. We need doers! We just need to know who the doers are and what they want to do.

Here are some examples of how you can help:

1. Help Alisa and Pam on a greenhouse project in the fall that will result in plants for the festival.
2. Help at the Demonstration Gardens to create and maintain horticulture examples for city dwellers.
3. Review your network and identify sponsors and vendor names. For example, we were looking for a reasonably priced hot dog/hamburger truck. Out of the blue Barbara Drake (thank you!) sent an email of someone she knew who retired and had a small truck doing just this! He turned out to be a gem.
4. Volunteer to design and setup the front entrance and MG booth décor.

Mark your calendars for the Urban Gardening Festival Saturday, May 18, 2019. Let the committee know where you want to help or give me a call to explore how you can help: UGF@mgofdc.org 🌱



Junior Gardener Camp

By Pam Swoner

Junior Camp took place June 11 – 15 and was a great success! This year's Curious Campers spent each day exploring their environment. Daily field trips included visiting the creek to study creek health and critters, visiting the bees at the Apiary, identifying trees in the forest, learning about outdoor fire safety and preparing/planting gardens. We studied the Ecosystem, Birds, Water Conservation, Landscape Design, Floral Design and even how plants "breathe!"

Planning has already started for next year's Camp (June 10 – 14, 2019) where we will build on this year's mission to creatively educate and engage young people on our environmental impact.

A great big thank you to a wonderful group of Master Gardeners, Local Educators and Campers! We could not do it without you.

We are especially grateful for the grant from Perennial Plant Society for the purchase of the microscope and David Cook for putting the photosynthesis activity together. The microscope made the Elodea activity possible. Watching a plant actually breath (make oxygen) and projecting the image through the microscope onto the big screen was amazing.

Quotes from Jr. Camp

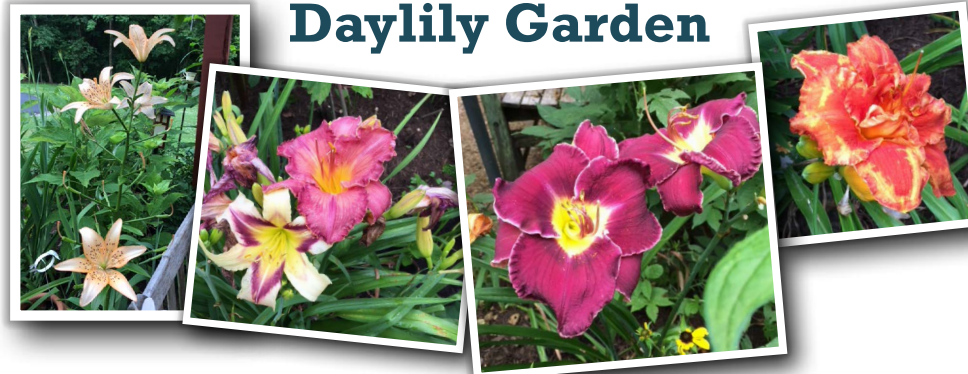
"Our Jr. Camp teams were phenomenal in using their measurement and creative skills to design a square foot garden, prepare the soil and plant the beds." - Joan Clayton Davis

"As a newcomer, I cannot think of a more awesome way to gain insight into the work and joy that comes with being a Master Gardener. It almost killed me to go back to my "grown up" job after spending a week with amazing kiddos, staff and volunteers." - Missy Hamilton

"I got to see a plant make oxygen ... to see a plant BREATHE! And make fairy gardens. I really enjoyed making fairy gardens. I love that every year!!" - participant 🌱



Barbara Drake's Daylily Garden



MGofDC PROGRAM UPDATES

Speaker's Bureau

By Joan Clayton-Davis

Master Gardener Intern Marquita Holt partnered with the Speakers Bureau to use Master Gardeners to assist in teaching young scientists about botany at Nia House Montessori School.

Students dressed in laboratory coats to discuss the Color Wheel and took soil samples on the school grounds to understand colors used in flower and garden bed design and how scientists use soil tests to gain the greatest benefits from landscape maintenance and vegetable gardens at the school.

COMING UP:

Fall Gardening with flowers and vegetables, August 11 at 11AM at Bordeaux Library and August 18 at 11AM at Southeast Library 🌱



The Hermitage Kitchen Garden

By Mary Langford

The Hermitage Kitchen Garden is behind the mansion, just to the west of some trees. We have learned that if we arrive early enough, we can work in the shade, so we are generally there on Saturday mornings shortly after the grounds open until around 10 a.m.

We finally gave up on the rosemary. The plants were about six years old, huge and lush, but they couldn't survive the below zero temperatures we had early in the winter. Removing the dead wood was a chore, but we have replanted and hope to have huge, lush rosemary again.

For several weeks, the deer repellent spray worked well. Unfortunately, one Saturday in early July, we found the deer had been munching on the okra and sweet potatoes. We covered what was left of them with netting and (so far) it has worked. We are still hoping to get a crop.

The cucumbers, eggplant, tomatoes, peanuts, watermelon cabbages, leeks, shallots and onions are growing well. New signs and mulch in the herb garden have really improved its look.

We are looking forward to showing off our gardens when Master Gardeners meet at The Hermitage in September. 🌱



Harding Garden at Belle Meade

By Mariwyn Evans

This summer, it seems that the water, the sun, and the willing hands of the Weedin' Women have come together to yield a blooming, bountiful garden. Corn is as high as an elephant's eye, and the beans are in flower. A new watering system from our partners at Belle Meade Plantation has also helped keep everything verdant.

Up at the cutting garden, monarda, veronica, sun-flowers, and Shasta daisies are bringing mid-summer color to the beds. Last year, the Plantation experienced a record number of visitors, and the cutting garden has become a favorite stopping point on the tour. A recently added pergola should help a little with much needed shade.

We are continuing to work on Wednesdays starting at 8:30 a.m. We alternate between the two gardens. Please come and visit us any time. Members of the new class are particularly welcome. 🌱



(From left) Leah Hawkins, Anne Underhill, and Lyn James gear up for the construction of bean trellises.

Historic Grassmere Gardens

By Chuck Vehorn,
Class of 2014

What's new at the Grassmere Gardens? In April, we held various gardening classes, one of which was the planting of the Children's Garden. Faye Dorman and Jane McLaughlin worked with nearly 40 children from 9:00 to 12:00 on a Saturday morning, teaching them about seed planting and showing them how to make butterflies out of a piece of tissue paper, a clothes pin, and a pipe cleaner.

In May, Jennifer Cox and Kay Gragg were interviewed about the garden by a zoo communications officer, who then published the interview on the Zoo Blog. Kay explained that we plant and care for a variety of heirloom flowers and vegetables, such as Burgundy Okra and Dragon Tongue Bush Beans. Jennifer described how much of what we harvest is taken to the animal commissary to supplement the animals' diet. She also discussed the satellite 4'x10' garden that she planted back behind the scenes, where the animals live. (To read the blog just Google Nashville Zoo blog – garden to feed animals.)

In June, The Historic Commission held a reception one evening in the backyard of the Croft House. The Zoo requested a few master gardeners to be stationed in the garden during this event. Kay Gragg and Chuck Vehorn had a wonderful evening talking about the garden with many interesting and inquisitive people.

In July, some of the older Zoo campers made a Bee Bath and brought it to the garden. A bee bath is a shallow water-filled container with rocks above the water level that allow bees to find a landing pad. According to the David Suzuki Foundation, which promotes protection of pollinators, you won't encourage mosquito larvae if you keep the water level low. (Many of us Master Gardeners have our doubts about that statement, but we will watch the bee bath in hopes that larvae do not develop.) 🌱



Project Gardens

As part of the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Program, we design demonstration gardens to educate citizens on sustainable lawn, garden and landscape practices. Our project gardens are our place to show off our skills and the techniques we've learned from the extension office and CEU - and is a great way to earn volunteer hours. Our Master Gardener division operates **five** educational garden sites through collaborative partnerships around Nashville: Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center, Harding Garden at Belle Meade, Hermitage Kitchen Garden, Grassmere Gardens at the zoo and the City Cemetery.

MG of DC State Fair Exhibit

By Bren Letson

Every year the State Fair asks the Master Gardeners of Davidson County to host an exhibit centered around gardening education. This year our exhibit theme is "Earth, Wind, and Fire – Elements for Successful Gardening."

The fair will be open to the public September 7 - 16. Co-chairs of the exhibit, Bren Letson and Catherine Atwell, are looking for volunteers for the following:

- Exhibit design
- Content writing
- Project planning
- Publicity
- Construction/fabrication for assembly and tear-down
- Party planning for a post-event party
- Donating or loaning material

Resources for those interested in volunteering:

- Anyone interested in developing individual displays can check this "ideas" document. It contains links to specific Earth, Wind, and Fire display concepts: <https://goo.gl/gD5Awc>
- To get an idea of the concepts www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmkqJC5mWg4.
- 2018 Tennessee State Fair web site tstatefair.org

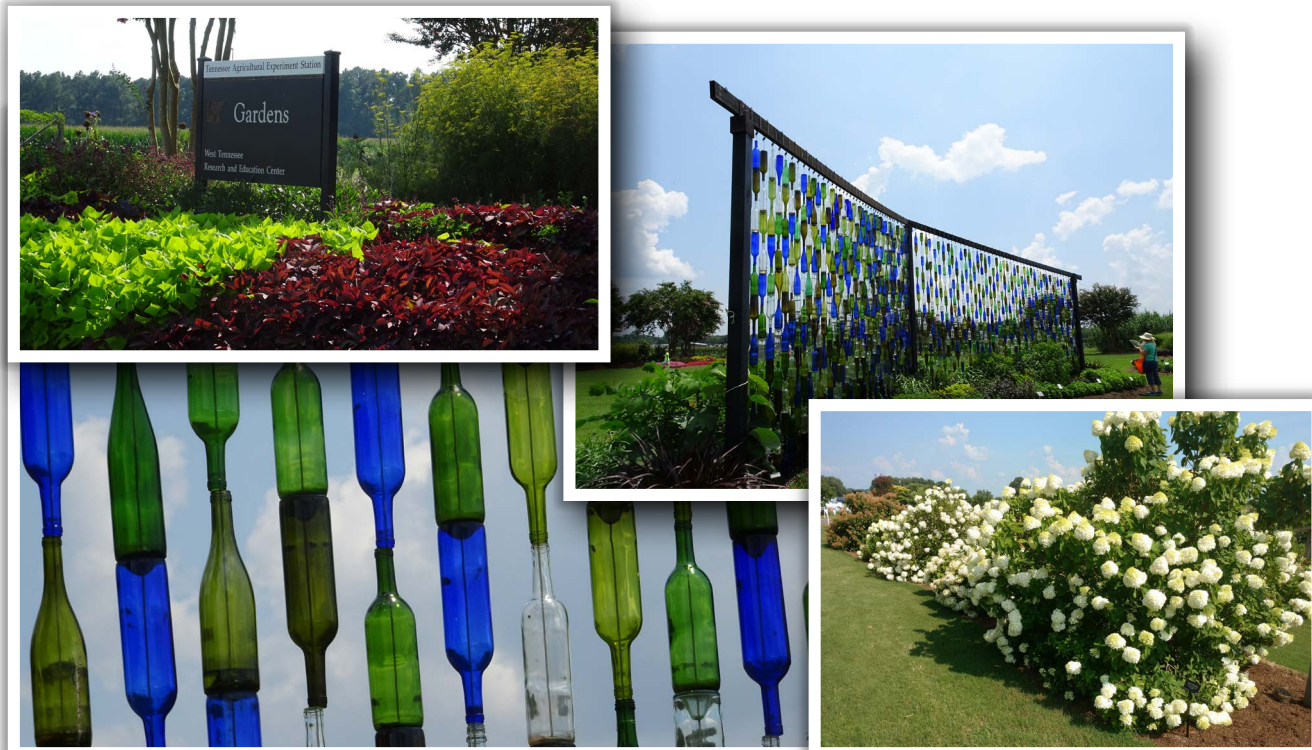
This is a big job, which will take a group effort. Let's make the Master Gardeners of Davidson County's 2018 Tennessee State Fair exhibit something we will all remember with pride. 🌱

Want to Volunteer?

Contact Bren Letson
statefair@mgofdc.org
615-585-5399
or Catherine Atwell
615-297-0600

Photos of Summer Celebration

By Bob Bryan & Tom Coulter



Upcoming Events

AUGUST

9

Mark your calendars!

August 9, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Member Meeting: at the Crieveview United Methodist Church
Neil Letson will be our speaker in August and his will talk on
"New Tree Biology and How it Affects the Way We Care for Trees."

August 11, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Speaker's Bureau will speak at Nashville Public Library - Bordeaux Branch: Fall Gardening with flowers and vegetables

August 18, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Speaker's Bureau will speak at Nashville Public Library - Southeast Branch: Fall Gardening with flowers and vegetables

August 28, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Fall Gardeners' Festival at UT Plateau Agresearch & Edu Center
Crossville, TN. More info at CCMGA.ORG.

September 6, 6:30 PM

Member Meeting: meet at the Hermitage Garden at 6:30 PM. Tour Rachel's Garden before the meeting and hear from our members that work at the Hermitage Garden during the meeting.

STATE FAIR

September 4-6: MG of DC exhibit setup

September 7 - 16: Open to public

September 17: MG of DC exhibit tear down

September 8, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Speaker's Bureau will speak at Nashville Public Library - Inglewood Branch: Native Plants of Tennessee

September 15

Newsletter articles due! Send to info@mgofdc.org

September 29, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM, \$50-55 registration

Herb Society's Herb Day at Cheekwood Massey Hall: program features "thoughts on organic farming", "Herbs for the Health of It", and "Cooking with Herbs"

www.herbsocietynashville.org

September 29, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Speaker's Bureau will speak at Nashville Public Library - Edmondson Pike Branch: Beginner's Guide to Growing and Enjoying Herbs 🌱

SEPTEMBER

6

Mark your calendars!

THANK YOU

"On behalf of the class of 2018, I would thank David Cook, Pam Swoner, Caroll Marrero, Alisa Huntsman, Andrew Price Memorial UMC and all of our guest speakers for making the class of 2018 a great success. I learned a lot and I am sure my fellow students did as well.

I look forward to working with everyone through the many projects that the Master Gardeners of Davidson County sponsor and support."

Mark A. Mayer
Master Gardener Intern

Why?

By Mark A. Mayer, Intern 2018

Whether or not you are an experienced Master Gardener, new Master Gardener, or an intern like me, I have a question... What made you want to become a Master Gardener?

For me it is three reasons:

1. My wife and I have been looking for some land in the area for three years to retire to in 15 or 20 years (we found it). When we do that, we want to live on it with as little negative impact as possible to the land (improve the permaculture, pollinators, watersheds, etc.).
2. I miss the growing of the vegetables in my grandmother's and mother's gardens. There really is nothing better than vegetables picked 10 minutes ago, being eaten in your dinner salad, home-made pickles, or kimchi/sauerkraut.
3. I am a member of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic family, men's, fraternal, organization. One of our principals is Charity and with my council one of the things we do is feed the hungry. I want to be able to make the biggest impact that I can by growing as much fresh food as possible. As most of you know, the poor have the worst access to fresh nutritious foods and a lot of soup kitchens will take fresh food as well as Second Harvest Food Bank. I am planning on starting a community garden at my church to help in that mission.

So, there you have it, my reasons for becoming a Master Gardener. What are yours? I would like to hear some of your reasons. Feel free to share them: markmayer8354@gmail.com.

I hope this gives you something to think about in your continuing journey as a Master Gardener.

MG of DC is considering increasing the frequency of the newsletter. If you would like to see that happen, consider what kind of material you can contribute. I am going to continue to write articles that are of interest to me and, I hope, you.

I will do my part, will you? 🌱

Master Gardeners of Davidson County
PO Box 41055
Nashville, TN 37204