



Garden Talk

MGOFDC OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER





Chicken Scratch

A Note From Our President, Alisa Huntsman

Summer is flying by and I am not ready to let it go-even if it is hot. The thought of being cooped up inside and cold weather outside is enough to keep me out in the garden, dripping with sweat and covered in dirt! What are you growing this year? Anything that you would like to share with our membership? We planted a Glencoe thornless raspberry two years ago and this year was our first harvest and we picked 15 pounds of fruit from one shrub. The berries are slightly smaller than typical raspberries but they aren't red; these berries are a beautiful shade of purple!

Do you remember the milkweed dig that we did in June? The plants that made it back to the greenhouse are fully recovered and are now growing new leaves and sending new shoots up from the soil. When we are ready to build the new waystation in the fall, they will be in fantastic shape and should not have any trouble surviving the winter. In time, we hope to have enough new plants to be able to return them to Becky Collins so that she can build a new waystation at the lower school of Lipscomb Academy.

Personally, I am looking forward to our next meeting be-

cause we have an exciting line up of speakers. Dr. Windham will be discussing Boxwood Blight and Dr. Hale will give a presentation on the spotted lanternfly, two subjects that are somewhat new to middle Tennessee. We are also expecting a visit from Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, UT State Coordinator for the Master Gardener program, so that she can give us a short presentation on the long awaited new website.

Until then, try and stay cool, if you need me, I'll be in the garden!

Master Gardeners of Davidson County

PO Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204

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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

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Upcoming Events

August

In August our speakers will be Dr. Frank Hale and Dr. Alan Windham. Both are with the UT Extension Soil, Plant and Pest Center at Ellington Agricultural Center. Dr. Hale will be talking about the spotted lanternfly and Dr. Windham will be talking about boxwood blight.

September

In September Katie Quine will be speaking on Slow Food Middle Tennessee.

Central Regional Conference report

By Robert Mather (2000), Educational Chair

The Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Central Regional Conference was held on June 27th at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, Tennessee. The Sumner County Master Gardeners hosted this year's event. Five Davidson County Master Gardeners attended this year's conference. One year each regional (Eastern/Central/Western) holds a conference and the next year, there is a statewide Conference. Central Region hosted the State Conference last year at Montgomery Bell State Park.

The conference started with registration and then boarding a bus to either Historic Rock Castle and Mansker's Station Connell Community Garden or bus Tour 2 to Rock Bridge Tree Farm, Historic Cragfont, and the Volunteer State Demonstration Garden. All projects of the Sumner County Master Gardeners. I chose the 1st tour.

Historic Rock Castle is an 18th century home of General Daniel Smith, the man who named the state of Tennessee. Sitting on 18 scenic acres beside Old Hickory Lake in Hendersonville, it is the oldest building listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Middle Tennessee. The gardens are well maintained and in full bloom.

Mansker's Station consists of a reproduction of a 1779 log station. The gardens include a Certified Monarch Waystation Butterfly garden as well as a smaller butterfly garden beside the historic Bowen house. There is also a large native wildflower garden on the grounds. The tour concluded at the Connell Garden, established in 2014 and developed to provide fresh produce to low-income residents of Sumner and surrounding counties. The garden uses a variety of techniques including both in-ground and raised beds to produce vegetables and fruits. All three sites are maintained by the members of the Sumner County Master Gardeners.

After lunch, we broke out into two sessions, with four options: Getting started with residential landscapes in Tennessee, Diving into the world of backyard fruit in Tennessee, Daylily discussions with the daylily kid and More members, more money, more marketing. I picked "More members, more money, more marketing" (hosted by our own marketing guru, Kalli Lipke and Carol Reese speaking on "Getting started with residential landscapes in Tennessee", who always has a great talk.

I don't remember how many Master Gardener conferences I have attended over the past 19 years, starting back at the old "Winter Schools", and Regional and State conferences. You see many old friends and make new ones. They have not announced the date yet, but the next State Conference will be in East Tennessee.

I hope you will make plans to attend as I know you can learn a lot and make new friends.

On September 7th the Nashville Area Beekeepers will be conducting a seminar for teachers and educators to help them learn how to teach students about honey bees and pollinating insects.

Featured at the seminar on the Belmont campus will be Master Beekeeper and nationally famous educator Katharina Davitt from Oregon. See attached details.

NASHVILLE AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION "BEES IN THE CLASSROOM" SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

Bees in the Classroom Seminar by Katharina Davitt Katharina Davitt, Master Beekeeper University of Montana, is working on making this class material available to all those that are interested into offering a bee class at an elementary school. Her seminar will contain all this material. She goes into detail and you will find that her seminar will take solid 3-4 hours to complete. You will go home with lots of ideas and instructions on how to make your own visuals to use during class. You don't need to be a seasoned teacher to pull this off. You need to be prepared and bring something of value to the table and you must engage the children. A show and tell is good for Kindergarten through 2nd grade, but it will not be enough to satisfy the 3rd and 4th grade science requirements. This seminar will lay out step-by-step what you can tell and ask the children. This is helpful to those that don't know where to start at all. You will later develop your own way of doing things. There are also logistics involved and they will be addressed as well. So here is a small listing of what will be covered:

- Intro to the program with things she has learned over the years of teaching about honeybees. Why Katharina Davitt wrote the "Black and Fuzzy is so Lovely" bee book.
- What grades benefit the most and what is covered in each grade. How to qualify with educational regulations for each grade. Which pit falls to be avoided.
- What can be expected when organizing the program; logistics including expenses are important. Tools of the trade and what you should know before you teach. Online resources and classes that may help you to succeed.
- Time management and organization of the program. Simple steps to assure a smooth operation. Email templates and management documents to track your contacts, progress and expenses.
- Equipment and products needed to get you started and continue your school visits for years to come.
- Downloadable posters and laminated worksheets that will help you to convey the educational material to the children.
- Creating products as a DIY project for use in the classroom. The fruit-game to teach the connection between pollinators and our food chain. Creating a visual effect tool to explain what pollination is. Building a find-the-honeybee-game to teach the difference between wasps and bees.
- Hands-on class on how to create your own insect vials used during 4th grade class for identifying insects. She will teach the skills needed to create and maintain your insect vials.
- DIY wood working products: Creating your own bumble bee and mason bee houses for show and tell. A jigsaw and a drill are your best friends, and you don't need extensive woodworking skills. These items provide great visual effects to children.
- Detailed instruction and what to ask the children to make them think and participate in the program. Fun is the rule and children eagerly participate. She will run you through every step she does for various grades. A fool-proof step-by-step guide can be downloaded.

Katharina Davitt will share via link her presentation slides and instructor's handbook. A copy of the bee book "Black and Fuzzy is so Lovely" will be provided.

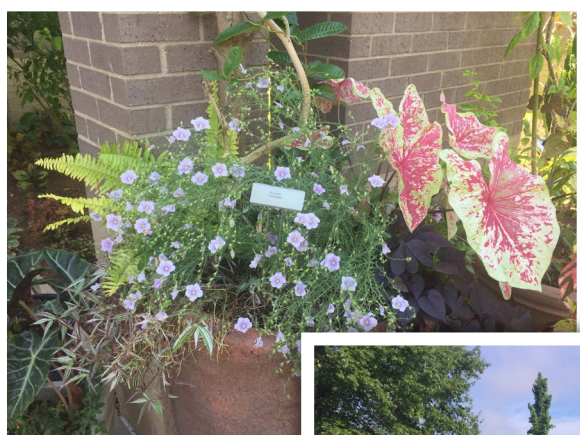
BEES IN THE CLASSROOM WWW.KLAMATHBEES.COM JUNE 2019
KATHARINA DAVITT - MASTER BEEKEEPER UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
PHONE: 541-591-8995 E-MAIL: KATHARINA@DAVITT.COM
P.O. BOX 70, KENO, OR 97627



On the Cover

Photo of the flower garden in all its glory at Harding Garden at Belle Meade.

See Pictures from the
Central Region Conference and
Summer Celebration in Jackson



Meet Our Youngest Intern, Miller Bryne



Miller Bryne Stebbins was welcomed on August 2nd. He was 9lb, 6 oz, 22.5 inches long. Since he technically attended all the MG of DC classes, we consider him to be our youngest intern!

His mom is Stephanie Brown.

My Favorite Gardening Tool

By Karen Brown

Our next installment of My Favorite Garden Tool comes from Tom Coulter, our Treasurer and from the Class of 2015. He was so excited discovering a Mattock, that I asked him to tell me more. Here's his story:

My new favorite tool is a mattock. I had not heard of it until recently. I tried to create 2 flower beds around my house. It was not happening! The gravel, clay and hidden construction debris was so bad

that my pointed shovel could not penetrate the ground. I grudgingly went to neighbors to ask for a pickaxe. No luck, but a mattock was available to borrow.

Oh my goodness, I went to town with this handy tool. I made fast work of digging out just what I needed. It is really a good tool to own in middle Tennessee.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Mattock: A mattock is a versatile hand tool, used for digging and chopping, similar to the pickaxe. It has a long handle, and a stout head, which combines an axe blade and an adze (cutter mattock) or a pick and an adze (pick mattock). A cutter mattock is similar to a Pulaski.

If you have a favorite garden tool, let me know and we'll feature it in the next newsletter!



Junior Gardener Camp

MGofDC Junior Camp June 10th - 14th, 9am - 3pm at the Demo Garden

By Pam Swoner

It's a wrap for Jr Camp 2019. When I asked parents what the kids talked about each day, they had a long list. Snacks, hiking, looking at life under the microscope, soil ph, goats, birds, planting and pulling weeds (he really said that), games, bees, tasting honey from the hive, buying food from Cul2Vate, weather, pollution and how they can help. WOW! This is a short list of things the campers talked about with their parents.

A special Thank You to David Cook and Sheila and Tess Brantley for putting together the experiments and displays on soil. Their hours of effort made wonderful learning tools for camp.

I can not express how much our anchor volunteers mean to the success of the camp. Your time and efforts will leave an imprint on their lives forever. Ethel-Lonniell Williams, Missy Hamilton, Tonya White, Billy Carnichael, Jane McLaughlin, David Cook and my co-chair Susan Bryant.

The following sums up our 2019 Jr Camp. I think it speaks for everyone that participated.

"Working at Junior Master Gardener Camp is an amazing experience. Every year is different, but I think that this year was the best so far. The perfect weather, informative guest speakers, and engaging atmosphere combined to create an environment where the campers are truly excited to learn about gardening. As an intern returning for the second year, I knew that I was going to be working with the campers more this year. However, I was not expecting to be a joint group leader. Working with my group of five campers, I found that I enjoy helping the campers expand their knowledge of plants and their environment. I always learn something new when I am helping at Junior Master Gardener Camp, and this year I was surprised to learn that the soil that we live on has more life in it than on top of it. By Friday I was sad to see the week of camp come to a close, but I was also looking forward to next year. I feel that I have done my part to help every camper learn something new about the world we all call home." -Corinne Parker

*Editor's comment: here is an email from David Cook that followed Pam's newsletter submission: "I can truly say that all of the kids and everyone that helped with the camp, including me, learned something new about this beautiful planet we all live on and call "Home". Thank you, Pam Swoner, for your leadership and inspiration."

Pam Swoner

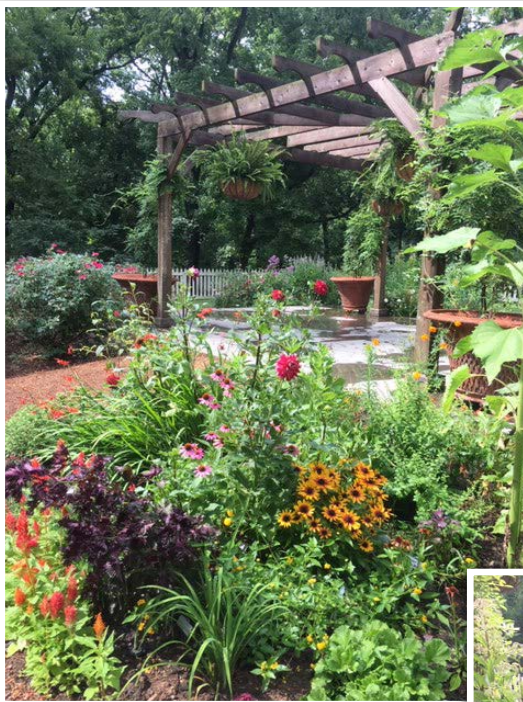
Jr Camp Coordinator - MG of DC
615-397-5114



Harding Garden at Belle Meade

Despite a few battles with aphids and rabbits, the Harding Vegetable Garden is yielding a bumper crop of beans, okra, squash, and peppers. Even the cucumbers are performing well, thanks to a homemade trellis that keeps vines off the ground and away from destructive mildew. Soon we hope to have popcorn and eggplant to add to our bounty. If this keeps up, we plan to share our harvest with the Nashville Food Project, as well as our gardening crew.

In the flower garden, larkspur and yarrow are giving way to phlox, sunflowers, oriental lilies, and black-eyed susans. It's hard to believe that a little over a year ago, this was just a barren flowerbed. Thanks to Mother Nature and lots of willing hands—including several new Weedin' Women from the 2019 Master Gardener class, we now have a beautiful spot for visitors to Belle Meade. Come visit any time.



Suzanne Cox (left) and Judy Murray build a place for the pole beans to climb.



Historic Grassmere Gardens

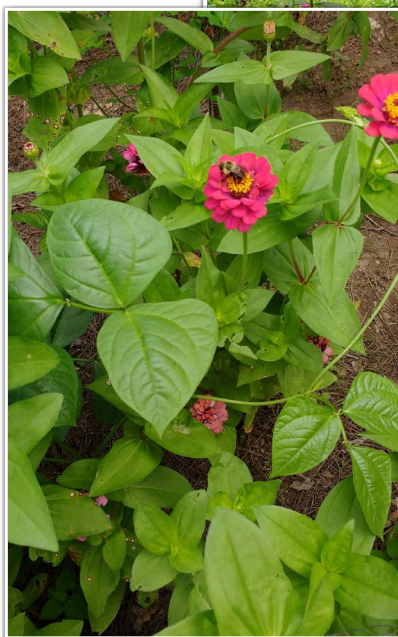
by Chuck Vehorn, Class of 2014

In mid-July I walked around the Grassmere Garden wondering what can I write about for the newsletter. Instead of seeing weeds to be pulled, tasks to be undertaken, and things to be fixed, I opened my eyes. What a sight!

How does one describe nature at work? First, I saw how lush the garden had become – and by lush I mean abundant thick green growth. On what was barren ground a few weeks ago, healthy squash vines and watermelon vines had taken over. Other crops, too, were displaying their vibrant leaves. Flowers, which had bloomed steadily early in the season were surpassed by the colorful summer bloomers of zinnia and marigold, along with the cleome (which had gotten off to a slow start due to an insect that was feasting on its leaves).

On a second look, I saw things (pollinators) getting close and personal with the flowers. There were bees on the zinnias and a large black butterfly on the milkweed. It is probably too early in the season to see swarms of butterflies, but it was good to see a few of these visitors. It was even more pleasant to see these black butterflies (presumably pipevine swallowtail) flitting in and out of the pipevine leaves. Were they laying eggs? A tiny caterpillar was spotted on a pipevine leaf in early July.

Finally, I saw that the Grassmere Garden had a mind of its own. We Master Gardeners care for it, but once nature steps in we need to step back, sometimes, and just admire it. Come out and take a look for yourself.



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.

Veggie-Rich Pasta Salad

1 pound pasta of choice (rotini, spaghetti, etc.) 1 pint cherry tomatoes, chopped in half

2 medium zucchini, diced

1 large cucumber, diced 1 medium green bell pepper, diced; 1 red bell pepper, diced

1 large red onion, diced

2 cans (2.25 ounces each) sliced olives, drained FOR THE DRESSING

1 bottle (16 ounce) fat-free Italian salad dressing 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1 tablespoon sesame seeds; 1 teaspoon paprika

1/2 teaspoon celery seed

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse in cold water. Place pasta in large mixing bowl and add tomatoes, zucchini, cucumber, bell peppers, onions, and olives. To make the dressing, whisk together all ingredients in a smaller bowl. Pour over pasta mixture and stir until coated. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours or overnight. Serve cold.

As prepared by the "UT Kitchen Divas" at the 2019 Jackson Summer Celebration.

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