

GardenTalk

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County and UT Extension

March 2014

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President's thoughts

February has certainly been a cold month but it has also been a busy month for Master Gardeners in Davidson County. We've had planning sessions for several projects that have kept us all busy this month, but I did manage some free time to see the Broadway play "I LOVE LUCY"!

I am very happy to report that we have accomplished quite a lot in preparation for the 25th Annual Nashville Lawn and Garden Show. We've also been hard at work preparing for our Urban Gardening Festival in May and it's going to be big! We'll feature more about both in next month's issue.

We have also managed to get our new website up and running with just a few more tweaks. Now, with the website and our Facebook page, and not to mention our E-blast system, Master Gardeners of Davidson County are always in touch with everything that is happening! And do we have a lot of happenings!

Grassmere has announced their spring Saturday Gardening education sessions. This is an excellent opportunity to learn or teach, and remember you can earn hours for both!

After bad weather canceled our first Boxwood trimming session, we finally got a nice day. We had a great turnout and I am glad that so many people now know the proper way to trim Boxwood.

Our new class of interns for 2014 is also off to a great start. They are all anxious to learn and become Master Gardeners. I am happy to announce that we now have a Mentoring Program that will match Master Gardeners to new interns helping them to achieve certification and their own goals. We hope this will help in-

terns to better understand the Master Gardener Program and how it can enrich your life working with others that share a passion for gardening.

I have asked Carroll Marrero to spearhead this new program for us and she's done an excellent job jump-starting this program for the Class of 2014.

It was a natural step after our members attended the training classes last year, bringing refreshments and meeting each and every intern. We saw how this helped retain new members from last year's class, and we can't wait to see how many new Master Gardeners will graduate from the Class of 2014! Be a Mentor!

All of our projects have great plans for the 2014 year and I look forward to working with each of our members to make this the best year yet!

What a great group of Master Gardeners we have in Davidson County!

March is here, so enjoy your gardens!

*~ Robert Mather (2000)
President, Master Gardeners of Davidson County*

MASTER GARDENERS OF DAVIDSON COUNTY

March Meeting

Thursday, March 13, 2014

at 6:30pm

in the

**Ed Jones Auditorium,
Ellington Agricultural Center**

featuring

Becky Fox Matthews

discussing

Daffodils:

What Do You Want to Know?

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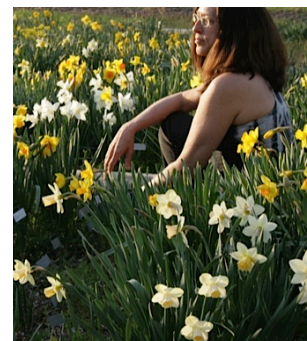
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March Program

Master Gardener Becky Fox Matthews will present "Daffodils: What do you want to know?" at our March 13th monthly meeting.

Becky was born and raised in northwest Mississippi 90 miles south of Memphis. In 1988, she began a 25-year career as an informal science educator at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville retiring last year as a Senior Educator and Special Projects Manager.



She is president of the American Daffodil Society; a daffodil judge and accredited judges instructor; past-president of the Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society; and a Master Gardener of Davidson County (Class of 2005). She judged at the 2008 Royal Horticultural Society Daffodil Show in London and at the North Island National Show in Hamilton, New Zealand in 2012. Her Brentwood garden includes a collection of over 3,000 varieties of daffodils and some 13,000 bulbs.

Send your questions to Becky before the meeting and they will be answered during her program. Contact her at (615) 838-1359 (cell) or becky@lostfrogs.com. 🌷

Junior Master Gardeners Camp

For ages 9 thru 14, the Junior Master Gardeners Camp will be held **June 9-13, 2014** at the UT District II Office Conference Room and Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center. Space is limited to 25 campers and registration is first come, first enrolled. A \$50 fee must accompany registration forms to be considered complete. For more information or to register, call UT Extension at (615) 862-5995. 🌷

~ Doris Weakley (1999)

Mayor Dean Made Honorary Master Gardener of Davidson County



Extension Agent and Master Gardener David Cook presenting Mayor Karl Dean with his Honorary Master Gardener certificate as Carol Marrero (2009) and Nashville's Chief Service Officer Laurel Creech look on.

What a way to kickoff training for the Class of 2014! Nashville Mayor Karl Dean was made an Honorary Master Gardener at our first class on January 23rd by UT Extension Agent David Cook. 🌱

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

Gardens are about many things – beauty, environmental awareness, and hard, but satisfying, work. But for many of us, gardens are also about history.

How often have you looked at that 8-foot dogwood tree in your yard and remembered when it was just a twig fresh from the nursery? The lucky among us look at our peonies, roses, or phlox and remember the mother, sister, or friend who shared their plants with us. Such memories add an extra layer of joy to a day in the garden.

History is also a big part of gardening at Belle Meade. We are lucky enough to have records of many of the plants and varieties that were grown by John Harding and his family in the mid-1800s.

So this spring, as we turn the earth and plant Tennis Ball lettuce and Prince Albert peas, we are in some small way recreating history. Soon the Cherokee Purple and Yellow Pear tomatoes that Catherine Atwell is nurturing in her sunny south window will become the next link in the history of gardening at Belle Meade.

Come join us in the garden and be a part of history on Wednesday at 9am, starting in late March. 🌱

~ Muff Cline (2007)

Project Chairs

Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center
Alisa Huntsman, ahuntsman@bellsouth.net

Garden Tours

Becky Fox Matthews, becky@lostfrogs.com

Grassmere Historic Farm at the Nashville Zoo

Cathie Long, cathielong@comcast.net (Chair)

Susan Brown, susanbrown1@yahoo.com

Jean Buffler, jean.buffler@comcast.net

Gwen Day, gwenmartindale@yahoo.com

Mary Duncan, duncanemary@aol.com

Bill MacLennan, (615) 354-8156

Rich Shiavi, schiavi2@bellsouth.net

Paula Yelverton, paulayel@bellsouth.net

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

Muff Cline, muffcline@yahoo.com (Chair)

Catherine Atwell, (615) 297-0600 (Co-Chair)

Historic Nashville City Cemetery

Catherine Atwell, (615) 297-0600

Robert Mather, rmather321@aol.com

Hospitality

Vacant

Junior Master Gardeners

Barbara Drake, bsd Drake@comcast.net

Pam Swoner, connectingtngardeners@gmail.com

Doris Weakley, dorisgweakley@bellsouth.net

Kitchen Gardens at The Hermitage

Laura Kraft, lkraft1212@gmail.com

Mary Langford, langfordlaw@hotmail.com

Master Gardener Class Liaison

Barbara Allen, (615) 309-6130

Mentoring Program

Carol Marrero, bmarrero@comcast.net

Merchandise

Barbara Adams, babstn@bellsouth.net

Susan Brown, susanbrown1@yahoo.com

Ethel-Lonniell Williams, elmwilliams@yahoo.com

Music & Molasses Festival

Tyann Chappell, tyann.chappell@comcast.net (Chair)

Don & Jean Hover, hovertj@charter.net (Co-Chairs)

Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

Barbara Drake, bsd Drake@comcast.net (Chair)

Anne Carpenter, hapcarpenter@comcast.net (Co-Chair)

Tennessee State Fair

Russell Kirchner, mudking52580@yahoo.com

Urban Gardening Festival

Alisa Huntsman, ahuntsman@bellsouth.net (Chair)

Robert Mather, rmather321@aol.com (Co-Chair)

February Meeting Minutes

Master Gardeners of Davidson County Monthly Meeting held in Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural Center, February 13, 2014 at 6:30pm. Forty members attending.

President Bob Mather called the meeting to order. Don Hover led the prayer and Bob Mather led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bob Mather informed the members that **Patti Waller had surgery** and was recovering at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Bob also shared that longtime Master Gardener **David Flemming** passed away on February 12th.

Bob announced that Master Gardeners speaking at our booth for the Lawn & Garden Show are listed at our website and Facebook pages.

He also noted that we have merchandise for sale in the back of the room and presented two new items to bear the Master Gardener logo, a tote bag and an apron.

Leigh Anne Lomax, Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Horticulture Manager, presented a program highlighting their Dogwood Collection of over 300 trees consisting of 14 different species.

Bob Mather presented Lady Bugs recognizing members for their non-project work, including **Don Hover** (Webmaster), **Cathie Long** (Historian), **Judy Burnette** (Extension Office Liaison), **Lois Frances** (Record Hours), and **Barbara Adams**, **Susan Brown** and **Ethel-Lonniell Williams** (Merchandise).

Bob introduced **Caroll Marrero** as chairperson of our **new Mentoring Program**. Caroll spoke about the importance and value of the program and asked for volunteers to sign up to be mentors to Interns.

Treasurer Ed Taylor reported an account balance of \$4,359.94 as of February 13, 2014. He announced that we have a **new address** for all correspondence: Master Gardeners of Davidson County, P.O. Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204. Ed also said that going forward all requests for project money should be made in writing and sent to the above address.

Cathie Long reported that classes at Grassmere will begin March 1st and will be held from 11am to 12 noon.

Alisa Huntsman hoped to be working the demonstration garden this weekend, weather permitting. She also said the new website is up and working, and requested articles, photos and information for events be emailed to her. The new website address is www.mgofdc.org.

Bob announced that the Boxwood Trimming Demonstration would be held on February 22nd from 9am to 1pm.

Catherine Atwell reported that work at the Harding Garden at Belle Meade may begin on March 1st.

Barbara Drake asked for volunteers to help with setting up the Lawn & Garden Show on Tuesday, February 25th and Wednesday, February 26th beginning at 10am. She also reminded members to show their name tag to qualify for free parking. Members are advised to enter the Fairgrounds at the Bransford Avenue entrance and park at the livestock area.

Becky Fox Matthews announced that she will be presenting a program on Daffodils at the March 14th meeting.

Bob Mather announced that **Winter School will be held next week**. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mike Lannom. 🐼

~ Doris Painter (2013), Recording Secretary

Annual fees due, membership directory forthcoming

Each calendar year we collect a \$20 newsletter fee in lieu of membership dues from our certified Master Gardeners that help us to produce our newsletter, pay postage and support our projects and education activities.

Fees are not assessed for interns, and couples need only pay a single fee. If you have not already done so, please mail your payment of \$20 to:

Master Gardeners of Davidson County
P.O. Box 41055
Nashville, TN 37204-1055

We are also preparing our 2014 Membership Directory and ask that you please check last year's directory and **report any changes by March 10th** to Jason Goodrich at (615) 403-5766 or jason.goodrich@gmail.com. 🐼

March Calendar & Coming Events

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Upcoming Events ★ April 5, 2014 — Annual Plant Sale , presented by the Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee ★ April 12, 2014 — Annual Plant Sale , presented by the Herb Society of Nashville ★ April 25, 2014 — 2014 Spring Flower & Garden Show , presented by Master Gardeners of Cumberland County ★ May 10, 2014 — Wilson County Spring Festival, presented by Master Gardeners of Wilson County ★ May 17, 2014 — Urban Gardening Festival , presented by Master Gardeners of Davidson County ★ June 9-13, 2014 — Junior Master Gardener Camp, Master Gardeners of Davidson County						1 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Grassmere Class 11am-12 noon
2 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	3 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	4	5 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	6 2014 Intern Training Class 6pm	7	8 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Grassmere Class 11am-12 noon Intern Earn & Learn Demo Garden 10am-1pm
9 Intern Earn & Learn Demo Garden 10am-1pm Work Day Hermitage Kitchen Garden 9am-1pm	10 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	11	12 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	13 2014 Intern Training Class 6pm March Monthly Meeting 6:30pm	14	15 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Grassmere Class 11am-12 noon Hermitage Jackson Birthday Celebration 9am-3pm
16 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	17 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	18 TSU Extension Third Tuesday Field Day and Workshop 10am-1pm	19	20 2014 Intern Training Class 6pm	21	22 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Grassmere Class 11am-12 noon Intern Earn & Learn Demo Garden 10am-1pm
23 Intern Earn & Learn Demo Garden 10am-1pm	24 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	25	26	27 2014 Intern Training Class 6pm	28	29 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Grassmere Class 11am-12 noon
30 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	31 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon					



What a Valentine's treat! Master Gardeners Becky Fox Matthews, Caroll Marrero, Pam Swoner and David Cook accompanied by UT Extension's Dan Harrell judged the 5th Grade Science Fair at Meigs Magnet Middle School on February 14th. Also pictured is science teacher Jamie Schimenti.

Opportunities for Earning Hours

- March 1** 11am to 12pm; MGDC hosts its Home Gardening Basics series at Grassmere Historic Gardens at the Nashville Zoo. **Topic: Introduction to Gardening, Ground Breaking, and Seed Planting Indoors.** Cost: Zoo admission of \$15. For more information or to register, contact Cathie Long at cathielong@comcast.net or (615) 661-4771. *Earn 1 continuing education hour.*
- March 1** Starting at 10:30am; **Seed Starting Workshop** hosted by the Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange at the Edmondson Pike Branch Library, 5501 Edmondson Pike. **Workshop taught by UT Extension Agent David Cook.** *Earn at least 1 continuing education hour.*
- March 6** Starting at 6:30pm; **Basic Gardening Workshop** hosted by the Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange at the Bordeaux Branch Library, 4000 Clarksville Pike. **Workshop taught by Kevin Sykes of Six Boots Growers' Collective.** *Earn at least 1 continuing education hour.*
- March 8** 11am to 12pm; Home Gardening Basics series at Grassmere. **Topic: Tool Care and Pruning Fruit Trees.** *Earn 1 continuing education hour.*
- March 8-9** 10am to 1pm; MGDC introduces its **Intern Earn & Learn** series with hands-on learning at our Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center. *Earn 3 continuing education hours each day.*
- March 15** 11am to 12pm; Home Gardening Basics series at Grassmere. **Topic: Composting Scraps to Riches.** *Earn 1 continuing education hour.*
- March 18** 11am to 1pm; TSU Extension hosts its Third Tuesday Field Day & Educational Workshop. **Topic: Local Foods and Gardening Basics.** Includes lunch. Cost: \$10. For more information or to register, visit www.tnstate.edu/extension or contact Dr. Jason de Koff at (615) 963-4929 or jdekoff@tnstate.edu. *Earn 2 continuing education hours.*
- March 22** 11am to 12pm; Home Gardening Basics series at Grassmere. **Topic: Heirloom Plants and Seeds: A Taste of the Past.** *Earn 1 continuing education hour.*
- March 29** 11am to 12pm; Home Gardening Basics series at Grassmere. **Topic: Organic Home Remedies for Bug and Weed Control.** *Earn 1 continuing education hour.* 🐛

Pesticides and Honeybees: A Dangerous Combination



by Alisa Huntsman (2008)

In the last few years, it has been hard to escape all of the news surrounding the decline of the honeybee population worldwide. And just like all great mysteries, solving this one is just as difficult.

Ask long term beekeepers and you will hear tales of the days before small hive beetles, mites and colony collapse disorder, and how difficult it has become to keep colonies healthy.

To further complicate things, researchers all over the world keep finding new reasons for the decline as fast as other researchers are confirming and discrediting the information at hand. Simply put, no one really

knows why it is happening or how to stop it from continuing.

There are several factors that point to the decline in honeybee population. One big problem for honeybees is mite infestation. Whether they are varroa mites or tracheal mites, both can cause serious health issues for a colony. But just as harmful as mites can be, stress can also cause serious damage to the population of a colony. It is hard to believe but bees can suffer stress just like humans can. One of the largest causes of stress for honeybees is travel. Honeybees are rented out to large agricultural producers for pollination and this means boxing them up and moving them by truck over hundreds of miles to the areas where they are needed.

Just like all wildlife, the loss of a natural habitat is also a factor at play in the decline. Most of the literature available on the subject of honeybee decline will point to synthetic pesticides and fungicides.

None of the chemicals used gets more blame than the neonicotinoid group, and many have singled out imidacloprid as the biggest threat to honeybees. Unfortunately, this pesticide is easily purchased by homeowners as well as professionals and that makes it a threat to honeybee populations in the United States. Officials in the European Union have recently imposed a two-year



ban on three widely used neonicotinoid pesticides: clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiametoxam.

While we wait for the researchers to finish solving the mystery, we need to carefully consider the chemicals we use in our home gardens. Simply reaching for an organic alternative does not mean that the chemical is safe for honeybees or other beneficial insects; in fact, it can be just as harmful if not used properly.

While pyrethrum and pyrethrin are a common choice for organic gardeners because they are derived from the flowers of the chrysanthemum plant, they are highly toxic to honeybees and should never be used when they are present in the garden.

What we as gardeners can do is to put chemicals down and resort to old time methods that are tried and true. Mainly, use your hands to remove as many harmful insects as possible. Simply pick them off the plants and drop them into a bucket of soapy water. For tiny ones, such as aphids, insecticidal soap can do the job and is generally harmless to honeybees.

Increase the amount of beneficial insects in your garden by adding plants that will attract them. Remember to only plant the appropriate plants at the proper times. Trying to plant broccoli or cabbage in the summer is like hanging out a welcome sign for certain insects, so only plant cold weather crops for fall and early spring gardening and hot weather plants for late spring to early fall gardening.

Finally, consider planting some herbs in your garden. Honeybees love rosemary, oregano, lavender, chives and thyme. To go one step further, consider naturalizing your lawn. Eliminate the chemicals that kill “weeds” and let plants such as dandelion, clover, dead nettle, henbit and chickweed grow; all of these plants will provide much needed nectar and pollen for honeybees. 🌱

Online sources:

- [Pyrethrin/Pyrethrum Factsheets](#)
- [Larval Honeybees and Pesticides](#)
- [Dangers of Pyrethrum](#)
- [Colony Collapse Disorder and Neonicotinoids](#)

Historic Grassmere Gardens at The Nashville Zoo

Master Gardeners will be conducting classes in the garden at Grassmere on **Saturday mornings from 11am to 12 noon during the months of March and April**. See the table below for the dates and topics.

Date	Course Description
March 1st	Introduction to Gardening, Ground Breaking and Seed Planting Indoors
March 8th	Tool Care and Pruning Fruit Trees
March 15th	Composting Scraps to Riches
March 22nd	Heirloom Plants and Seed, A Taste of the Past
March 29th	Organic Home Remedies for Bug and Weed Control
April 5th	Nutrition & Gardening Fresh is Best
April 12th	Antique Roses and Perennial Flowers
April 26th	History of Medicinal Herbs and Culinary Herbs To Spice Up Your Life

Along with the class setup, teaching and take down of chairs, we will be working in the gardens: antique rose, perennial, vegetable and herbs. As soon as soil conditions and temperatures permit we will plant a spring garden of beets, carrots, greens, potatoes and onions. All of Master Gardeners of Davidson County are invited to come and be a part of this project. Work hours are as usual from 8am until 12 noon. See you in the gardens! 🌱

~ Cathie Long (1999)

Host a Garden Tour in 2014

Did you know that you can earn 5 Teaching hours, the “T” of your ACT hours, for preparing and hosting a garden tour?!

You choose the date and time to highlight something of seasonal interest in your garden. Garden Tour dates, times and locations will be posted in our newsletter, at our Facebook page, and shared with certified and in-

tern Master Gardeners inviting them to tour your garden.

Sign up **soon** to host a MGDC Garden Tour so we can publish it in advance! Email me at becky@losthogs.com, call me at 615-838-1359, or see me at the meetings for more information. (FYI Master Gardeners that visit sites during our Garden Tours earn Continuing Education hours!) 🌱

~ Becky Fox Matthews (2005)

Mentors and Intern Earn & Learn

We are introducing two exciting new programs this month to assist our incoming class of Master Gardener Interns!

Our Mentoring Program pairs interns with a certified Master Gardeners to help them navigate the Master Gardener Program, log their hours, and begin their volunteer service. If you would like to serve as a Mentor, please contact Carol Marrero at bmarrero@comcast.net or (615) 554-3344.

To provide hands-on learning opportunities and assist our interns with achieving their certifications, this month we are beginning an exciting new program called Earn & Learn. The program will use our project sites as outdoor labs to practice what is being taught in Master Gardener classes and allow interns to earn volunteer hours.

Our first Earn & Learn workshop will be held Saturday, March 8th and Sunday, March 9th from 10am to 1pm at the Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center.

A second is planned with different activities for March 22nd and 23rd. A schedule including all project sites is forthcoming and will be sent out as an E-Blast! 🌱

~ Jason Goodrich (2013)

First Garden Tour of 2014

Tour the daffodil garden of Becky Fox Matthews on Saturday, March 15th from 1pm to 5pm located at 1006 Waller Rd, Brentwood, TN 37027.

For those comfortable with walking across Concord Road and taking a short hike to the garden, parking will be available at Concord Community Church, 9826 Con-

cord Rd, Brentwood, TN 37027. The church is located at the corner of Concord Rd and Waller Rd. Walk across Concord Rd and Becky's house is the 4th on the left. Those not comfortable with the short hike may park at the house. 🌱

~ Becky Fox Matthews (2005)

Kitchen Gardens at The Hermitage

Master Gardener volunteers will be needed on March 15th for Andrew Jackson's 247th birthday celebration!



Master Gardeners meeting in February planning for 2014 at The Hermitage.

The Master Gardeners will be responsible for executing 'Spring Planting', helping visitors plant seeds for a variety of herbs that can be found on the plantation that are period correct - rosemary, thyme, marjoram. The focus of the activity is the importance of herbs to cooking and medicine as well as about the work required to maintain the plants.

We will be asking for volunteers to help from 9am until 3pm. This activity is one of five stations that people can visit. All activities during the celebration are meant to explore life on the plantation and what a plantation does in the early spring to get ready for the growing season.

We will also have our **first big garden workday** of the season, on **Saturday, March 9th**, when we will begin working the soil. We will meet at the kitchen garden at **9am!**

Stay tuned to the Master Gardeners' E-Blast for more. Contact Mary Langford at langfordlaw@hotmail.com or Laura Kraft at lkraft1212@gmail.com with questions! 🌱

~ Laura Kraft (2010)



Master Gardeners of Davidson County

P.O. Box 41055

Nashville, TN 37204-1055

www.mgofdc.org

Potato Masala

Recipe of the Month

Ingredients:

- ▶ 3 small potatoes, Yukon Gold or Russet
- ▶ 1 tsp canola or olive oil
- ▶ ½ tsp black mustard seeds
- ▶ ½ tsp urad dal (black lentils)
- ▶ ½ tsp channa dal (chickpea lentils)
- ▶ 1 to 2 green chiles, slit lengthwise
- ▶ ¼-inch sliver ginger
- ▶ 1 onion, finely chopped
- ▶ ¼ tsp turmeric
- ▶ 1 tsp salt
- ▶ Chopped fresh cilantro
- ▶ Juice of ½ a lemon or lime

Instructions:

Boil the potatoes in a medium saucepan until tender and drain. Peel and coarsely mash. Heat the oil in a frying pan and add mustard seeds. When they begin to pop, add the *urad dal*, *channa dal*, chiles and ginger. Sauté for 1 minute, then add onion and sauté until golden. Add potatoes, turmeric and salt. If seemingly dry, add ½ c water. Mash potatoes until they become a semisolid gravy. Boil for about 10 minutes. Garnish with chopped cilantro and a dash of lemon or lime juice.