

# GardenTalk

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

April 2014

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 4

## President's Thoughts

First of all, a very big 'Thank You' to Barbara Drake for heading our Lawn & Garden Show project this year!



Barbara started working in November gathering ideas and getting her committee together. The committee did an outstanding job bringing ideas and coordinating the many activities that are involved to make our Exhibit possible.

We had a great turnout of certified Master Gardeners and Interns during the Lawn & Garden Show along with speakers delivering wonderful presentations. I received many wonderful comments from Show officials and visitors to our exhibit.

Great job Master Gardeners!

**MASTER GARDENERS OF  
DAVIDSON COUNTY**

**April Meeting**

**Thursday, April 10, 2014**

**at 6:30pm**

in the

**Ed Jones Auditorium,  
Ellington Agricultural Center**

featuring

**Alan Powell**

presenting

**"Rediscovering Eden"**

Now that winter has passed and spring is upon us, the activities of our many projects and programs will soon go into full swing. Impress your neighbors and friends by inviting them to the Gardens at Grassmere for some "Gardening Lessons" with their Home Gardening Basics Series.

We also have more opportunities with our new Earn As You Learn Workshops for our Master Gardener Interns at many of our project sites. See page 6 for a complete list for details and check them out!

Your board has been busy preparing our 2014 Membership Directory. We are always updating our information in the Directory and will send out inserts containing updates periodically throughout the year. I hope you have updated your information as it is important to be able to receive our monthly newsletter as well as monthly information updates.

Doris Weekly is busy planning for our Junior Master Gardeners Camp in June. If you have not attended our camp before, you are missing out on a great experience! Class size is limited so if you need to get a child registered, do so as soon as possible by calling the Extension Office at (615) 862-5995.

With all of our activities, it is sometimes hard to find time to work in our own gardens. I find that early in the morning is the best time to get outside and put your hands into the soil. It's a restful time, and I seem to get a lot accomplished before the many duties of the day start!

Go outside, look at what plants are sticking their heads up in your gardens and enjoy this spring.

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

## Executive Committee

### President

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### First Vice President

Becky Fox Matthews, [becky@lostfrogs.com](mailto:becky@lostfrogs.com)

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Vacant

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## March Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Mather who led the Pledge of Allegiance following a prayer by Don Hover.

Bob reported that Master Gardeners who have been under the weather are recovering, including Patti Waller, who was present, and Muff Cline, who will be returning next month. He also welcomed visiting Meigs Magnet School fifth graders and their families who were there to share their science fair projects on local plants and animals that are endangered or in need of management.

Bob reported that the Lawn & Garden Show was a success and the exhibits were great. Bob thanked everyone for their participation. Our chairperson for the event, Barbara Ann Drake, thanked everyone who worked on our booth and at the show to help make it a success. She presented Busy Bees to: Barbara Allen, Catherine Atwell, Ann Carpenter, Mary Dickerson, Donna Freeman, Don & Jean Hover, Joy Kosarsky, Shirley Lee, Gwen McKinney, Carroll Marrero, Paul Martin, Robert Mather, Becky Fox Matthews, Pam Swoner, Terry Torre, and Virginia Waddy.

Treasurer Ed Taylor reported a balance of \$5,170.41 in the bank. He also announced that he is still collecting dues for the newsletter and urged members to make sure their information is correct for the new directory.

Becky Fox Matthews presented her program entitled, "What Do You Want to Know About Daffodils?"

**Merchandise** Bob Mather noted that Master Gardener merchandise was available for sale at the rear of the auditorium, also encouraging new ideas for varying products or sizes.

# March Meeting Minutes (cont.)

**Historians** Anyone with interesting articles, comments or pictures or information can give that information to our historians, Joy Kosarsky and Gwen McKinney.

**Mentoring Program** Jason Goodrich reported the program is going very well with 26 mentors for 56 interns and shared photos from the first Earn as you Learn activity at the Demonstration Garden.

**Urban Gardening Festival** Alisa Huntsman reported that there will be a planning meeting on Thursday, March 20th, 2014 at 6 pm at the Metro Southeast Campus. Judy Burger spoke about the plant sale for the Urban Gardening Festival, requesting plant donations for the sale and suggesting herbs, tomatoes and vegetables all good choices. Judy also asked that plant donations include plant labels.

**Grassmere** Cathie Long announced that classes had begun at Grassmere on Saturdays from 11am until 12 noon.

**Belle Meade** Catherine Atwood reported that they will begin work in the garden next week. It have been too wet to work in the few weeks.

**City Cemetery** Bob Mather reported that we had a successful demonstration of boxwood trimming on February 22nd. There will be additional workdays on April 19th, 26th and May 3rd. The annual tour of the Cemetery will be May 10th from 10am to 11:30am.

**Demonstration Garden** Alisa Huntsman reported that the Earn as You Learn was a great success on March 8th and 9th and that another will be held March 22nd and 23rd. She encouraged all members to visit and earn additional volunteer hours while meeting our new class of interns.

**The Hermitage** Mary Langford reported that they will be celebrating Andrew Jackson Birthday from 9am to 3pm on Saturday, March 15th. Our Master Gardeners will host a tent to demonstrate spring seed planting for children. There will also be an Earn as You Learn at The Hermitage from 8:30am to 10am, Saturday, April 5th.

**Jr. Master Gardeners Camp** Doris Weakley reported that she is searching for someone to chair the arts and crafts for this year's Jr. Camp. The committee will have a planning meeting on Monday, March 17th, 2014.

During the meeting, Bob Mather welcomed new UT Extension staff member Carolyn Hanson. Jason Goodrich also briefly explained how to use our Facebook page as well as how to access the online newsletter.

Bob Mather announced that a few plants remain available for purchase from our booth at the Lawn & Garden Show. Becky Fox Matthews announced that the program for the April meeting is entitled "Rediscovering Eden" by Alan Powell.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Don Hover and seconded by Ed Taylor. 🌱

~ Doris Painter (2013), Recording Secretary

## Project Chairs

*Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center*  
Alisa Huntsman, [ahuntsman@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahuntsman@bellsouth.net)

### Education

David Cook, [dcook5@utk.edu](mailto:dcook5@utk.edu)

### Garden Tours

Becky Fox Matthews, [becky@losthogs.com](mailto:becky@losthogs.com)

### Grassmere Historic Farm at the Nashville Zoo

Cathie Long, [cathielong@comcast.net](mailto:cathielong@comcast.net) (Chair)

Susan Brown, [susanbrown1@yahoo.com](mailto:susanbrown1@yahoo.com)

Jean Buffer, [jean.buffer@comcast.net](mailto:jean.buffer@comcast.net)

Gwen Day, [gwenmartindale@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenmartindale@yahoo.com)

Mary Duncan, [duncanemary@aol.com](mailto:duncanemary@aol.com)

Bill MacLennan, [bmac4@comcast.net](mailto:bmac4@comcast.net)

Rich Shiavi, [shiavi2@bellsouth.net](mailto:shiavi2@bellsouth.net)

Paula Yelverton, [paulayel@bellsouth.net](mailto:paulayel@bellsouth.net)

### Harding Garden at Belle Meade

Muff Cline, [muffcline@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:rmather321@aol.com)

### Hospitality

Vacant

### Junior Master Gardeners

Pam Swoner, [connectingtngardeners@gmail.com](mailto:connectingtngardeners@gmail.com)

Doris Weakley, [dorisweakley@bellsouth.net](mailto:dorisweakley@bellsouth.net)

### Kitchen Gardens at The Hermitage

Laura Kraft, [lkraft1212@gmail.com](mailto:lkraft1212@gmail.com)

Mary Langford, [langfordlaw@hotmail.com](mailto:langfordlaw@hotmail.com)

### Master Gardener Class Liaison

Barbara Allen, (615) 309-6130

### Mentoring Program

Carroll Marrero, [bmarrero@comcast.net](mailto:bmarrero@comcast.net) (Chair)

Jason Goodrich, [jason.goodrich@gmail.com](mailto:jason.goodrich@gmail.com) (Co-Chair)

### Merchandise

Barbara Adams, [babstn@bellsouth.net](mailto:babstn@bellsouth.net)

Ethel-Lonniell Williams, [elmwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:elmwilliams@yahoo.com)

### Music & Molasses Festival

Tyann Chappell, [tyann.chappell@comcast.net](mailto:tyann.chappell@comcast.net) (Chair)

Don & Jean Hover, [hovordj@charter.net](mailto:hovordj@charter.net) (Co-Chairs)

### Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

Barbara Drake, [bsdrake@comcast.net](mailto:bsdrake@comcast.net) (Chair)

Anne Carpenter, [hapcarpenter@comcast.net](mailto:hapcarpenter@comcast.net) (Co-Chair)

### Tennessee State Fair

Russell Kirchner, [mudking52580@yahoo.com](mailto:mudking52580@yahoo.com)

### Urban Gardening Festival

Alisa Huntsman, [ahuntsman@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahuntsman@bellsouth.net) (Chair)

Robert Mather, [rmather321@aol.com](mailto:rmather321@aol.com) (Co-Chair)



# April Program

At the next Master Gardeners of Davidson County meeting on Thursday, April 10th, at 6:30pm, Alan Powell will present “Rediscovering Eden.”

“Rediscovering Eden” is meant to remind us that Eden was never destroyed, and remains around us to this day. We simply need to reconnect with it, and realize it can still enrich our lives in many ways, not least of which is to provide delicious, nutritious, and free food to supplement our meals. Many of the plants referred to as weeds are abundant and more nutrient dense than cultivated foods. Alan also discusses how knowledge that was once common to all people has largely disappeared from our culture and what led to this forgetting.

aggregates food from more than 30 local farms, making access easier for local restaurants and caterers.

Alan has a degree from Berklee College of Music in Boston, and has been teaching private guitar, as well as playing in bands, doing studio work, and playing classical guitar at weddings and private functions. 🎸

~ Becky Fox Matthews (2005), First Vice President

## Junior Master Gardeners Camp

Scheduled for June 9th to 13th for ages 9 thru 14, space is limited to 25 campers and registration is first come, first enrolled. A \$50 fee must accompany registration forms to be considered complete. Space is still available. For more information or to register, call UT Extension at (615) 862-5995.

Our camp schedule is set and we're looking forward to the Jr. Master Gardener Camp this summer! We need Master Gardener teachers and aids for the camp as well as a volunteer to serve as the chair of our Handicraft Projects, either daily or for the week.

The schedule consists of 4 subjects each day for 5 days, totaling 20 subjects for the week.

- ▶ Day 1: Soil, Compost, Water Wise, Basic Botany, Garden Safety
- ▶ Day 2: Vegetable Gardening, Recycle/Reuse/Repurpose, Making Potting Soil, Container Gardening, Raised Bed Gardening
- ▶ Day 3: Birds, Trees, Native Plants, Nutrition
- ▶ Day 4: Garden Latin, Herbs, Insects/Bees, Propagation
- ▶ Day 5: Landscape Design, Soil Lab, Floral Design, Agricultural Museum

Sign up now to teach or be an aid. Donations of handicraft items are appreciated. Items are plants for gardens and propagation, beer bottle caps, driftwood pieces, black walnut halves, figurines, daylilies, cup and saucers and items for door prizes.

Please contact me at [dorisgweakley@bellsouth.net](mailto:dorisgweakley@bellsouth.net) or (615) 353-1816 to help! 🎸

~ Doris Weakley (1999)



*Alan Powell leading a Wild Foods Walk at Warner Parks for the Nashville Folk+Free Skool.*

Alan has been teaching about edible plants for about eight years. It is one among several primitive skills he studies, including fire-making with a bow drill, cordage and rope-making using native plants, basic shelter skills, and finding clean drinking water.

He has also been the CSA coordinator for Jeff Poppen, the Barefoot Farmer, for the past eight years. This provided an entrance to the local food scene in Nashville. He now serves on the Nashville Food Policy Council, and is co-founder of Nashville Grown, a ‘food hub’ that

# April Calendar

## 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work at Belle Meade is subject to weather conditions.</li> <li>Earn As You Learn Workshops will be held rain or shine unless otherwise noted.</li> </ul>		1	2 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 9am	3 2014 Intern Training Class 6pm	4	5 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Grassmere Class 11am-12 noon Earn As You Learn The Hermitage 9am-11am
6 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	7 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	8	9 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 9am	10 2014 Intern Training Class 6pm April Monthly Meeting 6:30pm	11	12 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Grassmere Class 11am-12 noon Work Day The Hermitage 8am-11am Work Day City Cemetery 10am-1pm
13 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	14 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	15 TSU Extension Third Tuesday Field Day and Workshop 11am-1pm	16 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 9am	17 2014 Intern Training Class 6pm	18	19 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Grassmere Class 11am-12 noon Work Day The Hermitage 8am-11am
20 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	21 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	22	23 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 9am	24 2014 Intern Training FINAL CLASS 6pm	25	26 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Grassmere Class 11am-12 noon Earn As You Learn City Cemetery 10am-1pm Work Day The Hermitage 8am-11am
27 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	28 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	29	30 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 9am			

# Education Opportunities

## Wednesday, April 2nd

6pm 8pm; **Engage Green Small-Scale Gardening Workshop** on self-watering container gardens hosted by Team Green Adventures and Urban Green Lab at Second Harvest Food Bank, 331 Great Circle Rd, Nashville, 37228. Free event; RSVP online at by clicking [here](#). *Earn 2 continuing education hours.*

## Saturday, April 5th

9am 11am; **Earn As You Learn Workshop** for Master Gardener Interns at The Hermitage. *Earn 2 continuing education hours.*

11am 12pm; **Home Gardening Basics Series** at Grassmere. **Topic: Nutrition & Gardening Fresh is Best.** *Earn 1 continuing education hour.*

## Thursday, April 10th

9am 4pm; **Food For Profit Workshop** hosted by UT Extension and UT Center for Profitable Agriculture. Workshop for growers interested in adding value to fruits and vegetables through food processing enterprises. Limited to 25 participants. Preregistration required with a \$30 fee. Lunch included. Contact Sarah Bruch at (931) 486-7777 or [mlbruch@utk.edu](mailto:mlbruch@utk.edu) with questions. *Earn 7 continuing education hours.*

## Saturday, April 12th

11am 12pm; **Home Gardening Basics Series** at Grassmere. **Topic: Folklore & History of Medicinal Herbs.** *Earn 1 continuing education hour.*

## Tuesday, April 15th

11am 1pm; **TSU Extension** hosts its Third Tuesday Field Days & Educational Workshops at the TSU Agricultural Research Farm, 3101 River Rd, Ashland City, TN 37015. **Topic: Hivesplitting for Beekeepers**, by Chris Robbins and John Ferrell. Includes lunch. Cost: \$10. To register, visit [www.tnstate.edu/extension](http://www.tnstate.edu/extension) or contact Dr. Jason de Koff at [jdekoff@tnstate.edu](mailto:jdekoff@tnstate.edu) or (615) 963-4929. *Earn 2 continuing education hours.*

## Saturday, April 19th

10am 12pm; **Companion Planting & Pest Management** workshop on creating ecosystems and bio-intensive planting hosted by **Hands On Nashville** at its Urban Farm located at 361 Wimpole Dr, Nashville, TN 37211. Cost is \$40 to cover materials. Participants to take home 15 plant starts and seeds. For more details,

contact Master Gardener Josh Corlew at [josh@hon.org](mailto:josh@hon.org). *Earn 2 continuing education hour.*

11am 12pm; **Home Gardening Basics Series** at Grassmere. **Topic: Antique Roses and Perennial Flowers.** *Earn 1 continuing education hour.*

## Saturday, April 26th

10am 1pm; **Earn As You Learn Workshop** for Master Gardener Interns at Nashville City Cemetery. *Earn 3 continuing education hours each day.*

9am 12pm; **Raised Bed Workshop** hosted by the **Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange** at the Bordeaux Branch Library, 4000 Clarksville Pike. *Earn 3 continuing education hours.*

11am 12pm; **Home Gardening Basics Series** at Grassmere. **Topic: Culinary Herbs Spice Up Your Life.** *Earn 1 continuing education hour.*

## Wednesday, April 30th

Beginning 9am; **Rain Garden Workshop** hosted by **Mount Juliet Stormwater** at Mount Juliet Community Center located at Charlie Daniels Park. Free; requires advance registration due to limited space. Classroom instruction followed by hands-on activities. To register, contact Donna Howard at (615) 773-6270 or [dhoward@cityofmtjuliet.org](mailto:dhoward@cityofmtjuliet.org). *Earn 6 continuing education hours.*

## Merchandise for Sale

We have several items available for certified Master Gardeners to purchase, including various colored t-shirts and tank tops, totes and aprons.

You may enjoy an early morning coffee before visiting your garden with this Master Gardeners mug for only \$6! Pick yours up at the next meeting or email Ethel-Lonniell Williams at [elmwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:elmwilliams@yahoo.com).





# 2014 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

*by Barbara Drake (2012)*



On behalf of our Lawn & Garden team, I want to thank each and every one of our Master Gardeners and new interns for their help to make this year's Lawn & Garden Show a success!

As you all know, the Lawn & Garden Show is a very important event for us and this year we had many wonderful opportunities to speak with visitors and deliver some very informative classes on so many different subjects. Your investments of energy and time truly paid off and are most appreciated! 🍷





## Harding Garden at Belle Meade by Muff Cline (2007)



Photo courtesy Mariwyn Evans / MGDC

To paraphrase that old adage: “Plan your garden twice dig just once.” So before we start digging in compost, raking up last fall’s leaves, and pruning the Cherokee rose, the Weedin’ Women of Belle Meade decided to hold a planning meeting for 2014. And because part of the fun of being a Weedin’ Woman is food and fellowship, we had a breakfast meeting on March 19th at Le Peep. Great omelets and just a stone’s throw from the garden. Perfect!

We started by making a list of the plants that may need replacing after this harsh winter – a much longer list than we’d like. Rosemary, boxwoods, and lavender all succumbed to the cold, so we’ll be hitting the PPS Plant Sale and the Herb Society sale in early April for replacements.

Next, we reviewed the seed purchases for this year. In addition to the Cherokee Purple and Yellow Pear tomatoes Catherine Atwell has started, we have heirloom seeds on hand for Rat’s Tail radishes, Scarlet Nantes carrots, Cherokee Train and Kentucky Wonder beans, Bull Nose and Fish peppers, and Purple Top turnips. We’re also adding in a few Love Lies Bleeding (*amaranthus*) for some summer color.

We plan to start working on Wednesdays in April, starting at 9am while the weather is cool. Come join us and share the excitement of another year in the garden. We especially hope that members of the new class will come and experience spring at Belle Meade. 🌱

~ Mariwyn Evans (2011)

## April Garden Tour: Another Invitation to See Daffodils!

Since the March 15th tour of Becky Fox Matthews’ garden was very early daffodil season thanks to the Polar Vortex, you are invited back to the garden on Saturday, April 5th from 1pm to 5pm for a mid- to late-season daffodil garden tour! Daffodils and native wildflowers should be in bloom.

Becky’s garden is located at **1006 Waller Rd., Brentwood, TN 37027**. For those comfortable with walking across Concord Rd. and taking a short hike to the garden, parking will be available at the Concord Community Church, 9826 Concord 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 house on the left. Those not comfortable with the short hike may park at the 1006 Waller Rd. location. For more information contact Becky at [becky@lostfrogs.com](mailto:becky@lostfrogs.com) or (cell) 615-838-1359. 🌱

## New Speakers Bureau

To help “Celebrity” Master Gardener and Extension Agent David Cook and increase our education outreach in the community, we have begun to assemble a Speakers Bureau.

Several groups, including the Co-Op of Davidson County, Community Food Advocates, Nashville *A Rocha*, Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange and several community gardens have expressed interest in hosting workshops and classes by our Master Gardeners.

We have begun to create our topics list for 2014 as well as inventory presentations and materials that David will make available for us to use. David will announce an orientation for speakers to be held in late April.

If you are a Certified Master Gardener and have a specialty or topic of interest you’re passionate to share, contact Jason Goodrich at [jason.goodrich@gmail.com](mailto:jason.goodrich@gmail.com) or (615) 403-5766 by the April 17th monthly meeting! 🌱

~ Jason Goodrich (2013)





## Grassmere Gardens at The Nashville Zoo

by Cathie Long (1999)

The cool season is going well at Grassmere!

Seeds have been planted indoors and are coming up. Amish snap peas and potatoes have been planted in the garden, awaiting warm sunshine to bring them forth.

Meanwhile, early spring chores such as fence line clearing and mending have been completed. Faye Dorman (at right), a 2014 intern, finds that a bucket works just as well as an expensive garden bench for weeding.

Our beds are getting a fresh layer of pine straw and hellebores have been trimmed of damaged leaves and the blooms are looking espe-



***Faye Dorman, a Master Gardener Intern from the Class of 2014, at Grassmere helping with some early spring cleaning. At top, the audience at one of the Home Basic Series classes held at Grassmere.***

cially nice now. The flowering quince is about to burst with spring color.

As the days get warmer and the soil gets dryer, we have more seed to plant, such as beets, Swiss chard, carrots, greens and lettuces.

Home Gardening Basic classes are underway and have been well-attended. Seven Master Gardeners have participated in the first three Saturday mornings (11am) to cover Introduction to Gardening; Tool Care, Pruning and Seed Planting Indoors; and Composting.

There's always room for more interns and mentors to join us in the on-going Earn as You Learn workshops of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County. See you in our beautiful historic gardens of Grassmere! 🌱



# Mentoring Program

Our new mentoring program has launched at warp speed! A big “thumbs up” for teamwork! A total of 26 Certified Master Gardeners jumped at the chance to be a Mentor for the 57 Interns of the Class of 2014 who have been so excited to have someone assist them in achieving their certification.



*The beaming smile of Master Gardener Mentor Sylvia Wahl (2003) at our first Earn As You Learn Workshop.*

The Earn As You Learn workshops were launched at the same time. This program not only allows for hands-on learning opportunities, but also opportunities to “get acquainted” and, in many instances, new friendships have already been forged.



*Interns Shirley 'Smax' Cody & Laura Boatwright (2014) with Master Gardener Mentors Doris Painter (2013) and Mary Boyd (2008).*

I appreciate the project chairs embracing the Earn As You Learn workshops which not only afford Interns opportunities to earn hours and continue learning, but offer unique insights into our current projects as well.

Photo courtesy Pam Swoner / MGDC



*Master Gardener Intern Anjou Gerhardt (2014) pruning one of the many butterfly bushes as others work throughout the Demonstration Garden.*

I had the privilege of taking part in our first Earn As You Learn workshop at the Demo Garden, on Saturday, March 8th. Twenty Mentors and Interns worked elbow-to-elbow for four hours; teams formed quickly, almost magically, and so much was accomplished both in preparing the garden for spring's arrival and having the opportunity to work as a team.

Photo courtesy Pam Swoner / MGDC



*Master Gardener Mentor Terry Torre (2003), Brenda Colladay (2014), Master Gardener Mentor Mary Boyd (2008), Laura Boatwright, and Master Gardener Mentor Doris Painter.*

Everyone's enthusiasm has certainly been contagious. A heartfelt “thank you” to everyone for a very successful launch! A very big nod goes out to the best partner ever, co-chair Jason Goodrich. 🌱

*~ Carol Marrero (2009)*

## The Hermitage Kitchen Gardens

Master Gardeners of Davidson County volunteered to help celebrate Andrew Jackson's 247th birthday on March 15th with a little “Spring Planting.”



The beautiful sunshine had over 370 guests stopping by our activity. Visitors learned how to plant and care for seeds, and, as a 'birthday gift', they were able to take their newly planted seeds home with them.

We are looking forward to our own Spring Plantings in the Kitchen Gardens starting April 5th when we host an Earn As You Learn Workshop where we will focus on all things seeds! We will be prepping the soil, planting seeds, soil blocking and more! We will meet that day at the Kitchen Gardens at 9am.



**Intern Laura Boatwright, Master Gardener Mary Langford (2009) and Hermitage volunteer Alan Lancaster at The Hermitage Spring Planting Event.**

Stay tuned to the Master Gardener's E-Blasts for more details or contact Laura Kraft at [lkraft1212@gmail.com](mailto:lkraft1212@gmail.com) or Mary Langford at [langfordlaw@hotmail.com](mailto:langfordlaw@hotmail.com) with any questions! 🌱

~ Laura Kraft (2010)

## Historic Nashville City Cemetery

Our cold February limited our Boxwood Trimming Demonstration at the Nashville City Cemetery to only one Saturday. Cold notwithstanding, we did have great attendance of Master Gardeners, Interns and interested gardeners from the public.

Boxwood is a popular, easy to grow evergreen shrub that is found in many gardens. It has only one major annual need for maintenance thinning. English and American Boxwood have very dense growth habits and lends itself beautifully for hedges and accent plantings.

It is very important to maintain annual thinning to bring light and air into the interior of the plant and encourage the growth of new foliage within the canopy. The best time to thin Boxwood is February and March.

If you carefully bend the branches back, you can see that the foliage is growing only on the outermost reaches of the branches. This severely reduces air circulation and favors the development of diseases. To thin, use a bypass pruner that is sharp and the blade has been cleaned with alcohol. Reach inside the shrub about 6-inches and prune on the stem. Continue thinning until the small interior twigs just start to be come visible. You should remove about ten percent of the outer branches.

After proper thinning, small voids appear in the canopy that permit air and sunlight to enter the interior of the shrub where older leaves are now visible. After about two or three years of annual thinning, a new growth will start to appear in the interior portion of the shrub. This results in a healthy plant with strong stems. You can now use your larger trimmers to shape your shrub (Note: do not use electric trimmers). Plan to join us next year at the City Cemetery to learn more about Boxwood Trimming.

Our Annual Master Gardeners Tour of the Nashville City Cemetery is at 10am, Saturday May 10th.

Come join us! You can learn more about the cemetery at [www.nashvillecitycemetery.org](http://www.nashvillecitycemetery.org). 🌱

~ Robert Mather (2000) and Catherine Atwell (2004)

## White Elephant Sale by Junior Master Gardeners for Urban Gardening Festival

Items are needed for Junior Master Gardener White Elephant Booth at the Urban Gardening Festival. Lawn art, plants, gardening items, jewelry anything that one can donate will be appreciated.

A workshop has been scheduled for 10am Monday, April 21st at my house to construct garden glass towers and cup and saucer bird feeders to sell at the White Elephant Sale.

Please contact me at [dorisgweakley@bellsouth.net](mailto:dorisgweakley@bellsouth.net) or (615) 353-1816 if you would like to help at our workshop or at the sale! 🌱

~ Doris Weakley (1999)



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## Recipe of the Month

### Party Roll-Ups

*From the kitchen of Barbara Allen.*

#### Ingredients:

- ▶ 2 (8-oz.) packages cream cheese
- ▶ 1 package Ranch dressing
- ▶ 2-3 green onions (use the whole onion, chopped and diced)
- ▶ ½ c red pepper, diced
- ▶ 1 can black olives, diced (jumbo olives packed in water are easiest to dice)
- ▶ 12-inch tortilla (soft flour)

#### Instructions:

Combine softened cream cheese, Ranch dressing and green onions. Spread on tortilla shells. Sprinkle other ingredients. Roll up. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight, or at least 2 hours before slicing. These slice best when cold. Cut in about 1½-inch sections to serve.