

GardenTalk

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

May 2014

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 5



President's Thoughts

As we get closer to the May 17th date of our Urban Gardening Festival, I look back at all of the planning sessions and people involved in putting this event together.

Our first meeting was on January 20th and there have been several since. Many volunteer hours have been spent securing artisans and exhibitors, inviting the various garden-related societies in Davidson County, planning publicity via print and social media, and making personal visits to many of our participants.

It has been great to see our Master Gardeners and Interns working together. We have a wonderful sponsorship package to defray costs for hosting such a large-scale event. We have a beautiful participants directory and are getting ready to make available posters to display where needed around the county. It won't be long until it's time to greet our many visitors.

This will be a big event for the Master Gardeners of Davidson County. I hope each and everyone one of you will be able to join us on Saturday, May 17th from 9am to 4pm. Even if you can only stay for part of the event, please stay long enough to take in the enjoyment that comes from what we do: Education, Environmental Stewardship, and Volunteerism.

We have also undertaken the major job of updating our Member Directory. Please note our new mailing address, descriptions of our major projects, and monthly meeting dates, including our bus trip to Jackson, Tennessee for the Summer Celebration in July as well as our meeting at the State Fair prior to its opening.

The Membership Directory also lists helpful contacts for our officers, project chairs, and Mentors who began helping our Interns during their classes this year. Questions about hours? You will find help in your directory as well as information for Recertification and Lifetime Status. While updating our di-

MASTER GARDENERS OF DAVIDSON COUNTY

May Meeting

Thursday, May 8, 2014

at 6:30pm

in the

Ed Jones Auditorium,
Ellington Agricultural Center

featuring

Alyce Dobyns

presenting

"Gardening with Backyard Chickens"

rectory, we have been trying to correct our information as needed. We hope it is completely up-to-date; however, if your information is incorrect, please let us know. This has been a massive operation, going through nearly 30 years of files. Please note that Lifetime Status as a Master Gardener requires ten years of continuous active volunteer service.

It is amazing to walk around your yard each morning during the spring, taking note of plants peeking out of the ground. Some times I am surprised and other times delighted that I did not lose them during the colder temperatures we had this past winter.

Get out and enjoy your gardens! 🌻

~ Robert Mather (2000), President

Executive Committee

President

Robert Mather, rmather321@aol.com

First Vice President

Becky Fox Matthews, becky@lostfrogs.com

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Recording Secretary

Doris Painter, painrace@bellsouth.net

Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Jason Goodrich, jason.goodrich@gmail.com

Treasurer

Ed Taylor, ed.taylor09@comcast.net

Officers

Extension Office Liaison

Judy Burnette, judyrburnette@gmail.com

Historians

Joy Kosarsky, sambeam@aol.com

Gwen McKinney, gwenmil2@att.net

Parliamentarian

Vacant

Webmaster

Don Hover, hoeverd@charter.net

ACT Hours

Lois Francis, mghourslogging@gmail.com
or (615) 361-1926

UT Extension

1417 Murfreesboro Pk, 2nd Floor
P. O. Box 196300
Nashville, TN 37219
Tel: (615) 862-5995
Fax: (615) 862-5998

Extension Agent & Sponsor

David Cook, dcook5@utk.edu

Extension Agent & County Director

George Killgore, gkillgo1@utk.edu

State Master Gardener Program Coordinator

Christopher M. Cooper, Ph.D.

2431 Joe Johnson Dr
Knoxville, TN 37996
(865) 974-7324

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May Program

At the May 8th Master Gardener monthly meeting, Master Gardener Alyce Dobbins will present “Gardening with Backyard Chickens.” Now that backyard-laying hens are legal in Nashville, it’s time to start planning your flock! Alyce will discuss the basics of backyard hen care, composting with hen poo, and hens as assistant gardeners with emphasis on the role of hens as pest reducers and compost helpers. Find out how hens can reduce your workload in the garden, become a part of your family, and become a valued pet at the breakfast table.

Alyce Dobyns is an artist by training, an urban gardener by inheritance, a hen-keeper by accident, an attempted-beekeeper while maintaining an amateur home remodeler position for the last 4 years. Her family includes a micro-flock of laying hens as a part of her 1/5-acre garden in Inglewood, three cats, transient people living upstairs, and a son who resides as far away as East Nashville.



Alyce works for the Fisk/Vanderbilt Masters-to-Ph.D. Program and is the backbone of the Physics and Astronomy summer research program. She retired from Master Gardeners in 2010 when her mother was ill. In early 2011 she co-founded UCAN (Urban Chicken Advocates of Nashville) to legitimize her then illegal flock. She has been a participant in the Nashville Crop Swap and Grow Inglewood which are informal neighborhood gardening networks. 🐔

~ Becky Fox Matthews (2005), First Vice President

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

Finally! Spring! Like every gardener who lived through this single-digit Tennessee winter, we have been worrying about which of our many beloved plants survived the cold. Amazingly, the lavender is sprouting new growth, and the kale and lettuce from last winter are thriving. The rosemary wasn't so lucky. So we bought a new Hill's Hardy, already bright with blue blooms, at the Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee sale to fill the vacant spot.



Photos courtesy Mariwyn Evans / MGDC



(From left): Lyn James (2004), Barbara Allen (2000), and Tyann Chappell (2013) take a break from garden cleanup duties.

Barbara Drake (2012) roots-out unwanted weeds before planting summer squash.

We also took advantage of the warm weather to clean up the last of winter's debris and remove any overgrown items from our beds. The native Tennessee asters provide a lovely cloud of cobalt blue in the fall, but they have multiplied so fast that they didn't leave any room for the beans we want to plant. The solution: We potted up more than two dozen plants to sell at the upcoming Urban Gardening event at Ellington. Don't miss the chance to buy these beauties at the May event. Lean soil and a lot of sun will yield you some great blooms next fall. We are now working every Wednesday, weather permitting, at 9am. Hope to see you there. 🍷

~ Mariwyn Evans (2011)

Host a Garden Tour

Earn 5 teaching hours, the "T" of your ACT hours, for preparing and hosting a tour of *your* garden for other Master Gardeners! *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 and all Master Gardeners and Interns are invited to visit the garden during posted times.

Email me at becky@lostfrogs.com, call me at (615) 838-1359, or see me at the meetings for more information. Sign up soon to host a Master Gardener Garden Tour! Remember: Any Master Gardener attending a garden tour may report their time as continuing education hours (CEUs). 🍷

~ Becky Fox Matthews

Project Chairs

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

Education

David Cook, dcook5@utk.edu

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 Buffer, jean.buffer@comcast.net

Gwen Day, gwenmartindale@yahoo.com

Mary Duncan, duncanemary@aol.com

Bill MacLennan, bmacc4@comcast.net

Rich Shiavi, shiavi2@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

Pam Swoner, connectingtngardeners@gmail.com

Doris Weakley, dorisweakley@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

Carroll Marrero, bmarrero@comcast.net (Chair)

Jason Goodrich, jason.goodrich@gmail.com (Co-Chair)

Merchandise

Barbara Adams, babstn@bellsouth.net

Ethel-Lonniell Williams, elmwilliams@yahoo.com

Music & Molasses Festival

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

Don & Jean Hover, hoverdj@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)



The Hermitage Kitchen Gardens

by Laura Kraft (2010)

Mary Langford (2009) demonstrating seed starting in the greenhouse at The Hermitage during an Earn As You Learn Workshop. (Photo courtesy Laura Kraft / MGDC)

We had fun last month with the 2014 Interns and our Earn As You Learn Workshop! We toured the gardens, planted seeds indoors, and Mary Langford talked about soil preparation and demonstrated soil blocking techniques.

We planted basil, cucumber, and beans to start in the greenhouse. (Two weeks later, they're looking great and are almost ready to plant in the garden!) We prepared the Kitchen Garden beds and planted winter season plants. We also thinned the sundrops in the Café Gardens, transplanting them to containers for the Urban Gardening Festival plant sale.



Seed starting in the greenhouse at The Hermitage. (Photo courtesy Laura Kraft / MGDC)

Marilee Jacobs (2013) filmed a segment of her show, "A Walk With Marilee" during the Earn As You Learn Workshop throughout the three gardens MGDC cares for at The Hermitage.

It will air to Davidson County on NECAT Nashville Education, Communication, Arts Television Comcast Channel 19. A special thank you to all who attended, and to Marilee for bringing the world of Master Gardeners into the homes of our neighbors!

The kitchen garden is planted (or seeded indoors) with radish, chard, beets, rhubarb, carrots, beets, basil, peas, sweet potatoes, and beans.

We've started replacing our herb border that didn't survive the past winter. It looks good; hopefully it'll help deter the deer. More to come in the next few weeks!

Saturdays starting at 8am: join the fun or just come visit at The Hermitage share your knowledge of heirloom gardening or learn more about it. Contact Mary Langford at langfordlaw@hotmail.com or Laura Kraft at lkraft1212@gmail.com for details. 🍷

May Calendar

Upcoming Events

- ★ May 03, 2014 — Iris Show, presented by the [Middle Tennessee Iris Society](#)
- ★ May 10, 2014 — Hosta Sale, presented by the [Middle Tennessee Hosta Society](#)
- ★ 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
- ★ May 30-31, 2014 — African Violet Society of America National Convention -- Nashville, Tennessee
- ★ 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"> Work at Belle Meade is subject to weather conditions. Earn As You Learn Workshops will be held rain or shine unless otherwise noted. 				1	2	3 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Earn As You Learn Demo Garden 9am-1pm
4 Work Day Demo Garden 10am Earn As You Learn Demo Garden 9am-1pm	5 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	6	7 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 9am	8 Urban Gardening Festival Training and Demo Garden Tour 5pm May Monthly Meeting 6:30pm	9	10 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Garden Tour City Cemetery 10am-11:30am
11 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	12 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	13	14 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 9am	15	16 Urban Gardening Festival Setup 3:30pm-7pm	17 Urban Gardening Festival 9am-4pm Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon
18 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	19 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	20 TSU Extension Third Tuesday Field Day and Workshop 11am-1pm	21 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 9am	22	23	24 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon
25 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	26 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	27	28 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 9am	29 Speakers Bureau Orientation with David Cook at UT Extension 3pm-5pm	30	31



Urban Gardening Festival 2014

a **free** community event hosted by
Master Gardeners of Davidson County

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#MGofDC and #UGFEST2014

Where

UT Extension Demonstration Garden
Ellington Agricultural Center
5201 Marchant Drive
Nashville, TN 37211

Meet local artisans, exhibitors and suppliers:

- ★ **Artisans** Concrete Cousins, Glass Gardens by Ruth E, Gourds & Baskets by Sharon Ralph, Overcast Pottery, Stitching Sisters, and weaver Wanda Shotwell
- ★ **Exhibitors** Community Food Advocates, Cumberland River Compact, Davidson Farmers Co-Op, Fasha Urban Garden, Glenciff High School, Grow Inglewood, Hopewell Gardens, Local Living Farm, Metro Public Works, Metro Water Services, Middle Tennessee Day-lily Society, Middle Tennessee Hosta Society, Middle Tennessee Iris Society, The Nashville Food Project, Nashville Foodscapes, Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange, Nashville Rose Society, Nashville School Gardens Coalition, Nashville Urban Food Forests, Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee, Plant The Seed, Root 53 Foundation, Team Green Adventures/ Lightning 100, Tennessee Urban Forestry Council, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, TSU Extension, University of Tennessee Department of Agriculture Soil, Plant and Pest Center, UT Extension Diagnostics, Urban

When

Saturday, May 17th

Time

9am to 4pm — **Rain or Shine**

Chicken Advocates of Nashville, Urban Green Lab, & Whites Creek Community Center and Community Garden

- ★ **Suppliers** Aeroponic Tower Gardening, All Seasons Gardening & Brewing Supply Co., Chubby Bunny Foods, Delvin Farms, Flowers' Greenhouse, Little Seed Farm, Nashville Area Beekeepers Association, Somewhere Place Else Farm, Tennessee Gardener Magazine, Thistle Farms and The Turf Doctor

Demonstrations will include:

- ★ Composting & Fermentation
- ★ Container & Raised Bed Gardening
- ★ Key Hole Gardening
- ★ Mushroom Gardening
- ★ Organic Gardening & Pest Control
- ★ Square Foot & Vertical Gardening
- ★ Water Harvesting & Conservation
- ★ Worms and Vermiculture

...and don't forget:

- ★ Master Gardener Plant & Craft Sale
- ★ Junior Master Gardener White Elephant Sale

Urban Gardening Festival

It's hard to believe but this year is our fifth hosting the Urban Gardening Festival! Over the years, the event has transformed from an intimate series of lectures and demonstrations to a broad community event that features artisans, exhibitors, vendors and food trucks. Better still is the addition of a small group of sponsors whose generous support has made the expansion of the event a reality.

We began organizing the event late last year, perhaps one of the wisest decisions we could have ever made. From the very first meeting it was obvious that this event was going to be different. The small group of people that crowded around my dining room table was determined to make this event something we could all be proud of – it's amazing what the power of freshly baked cake can do!

When I look back, I can easily see that this is just the beginning for the Urban Gardening Festival. The potential to turn this into a major community event as well as fundraiser for our organization is real and cannot be ignored. Not only can we see a future that includes funding budgets for each of our projects, something long overdue, we also can see the opportunity to fulfill our mission which is to teach gardening techniques to people throughout the community.

The exhibitors attending the event come from all over Middle Tennessee but mostly from the Greater Nashville area. Some represent small farms and agricultural businesses. Others will sell products that relate to gardening or provide information about plants and gardening. But the group of participants that excites me the most are the exhibitors that focus on community gardening, environmental education and public health. Just think about the possibilities for a moment: Consider the reach we will have that day, the potential to help the members of our community grow in so many ways.

With the date for the event fast approaching, we need all of our members to join us and lend a hand. There are many things still needing to be done if we are to be successful on May 17th. While some of the work is physical, there are plenty of tasks that do not require a shovel or knee pads!

As you know, we will be hosting a plant and craft sale during the event, and both donated crafts and plants

are needed. To donate crafts, contact Lynn Ashford at (615) 957-1310 or lbashford23@yahoo.com. To donate plants, contact Judy Burger at (615) 244-4533 or judyburger@rocketmail.com.

Our theme for 2014 is “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.” That said, we have a list of recycled/repurposed crafts to be assembled or, if you have a craft that you enjoy (such as making decorative items for the home or garden), consider making a few to donate to our sale. Have you ever heard of seed bombs or made seed paper? Let me know! We would like to offer some for sale. For many of the recycled/repurposed items, I have the necessary parts – just let me know if you need bottles or containers.

The plan for this year's event is exciting and, hopefully, you are excited too! Come on out and join us in what we hope will be a long tradition of community support and growth. 🌱

~ Alisa Huntsman (2008)

Plant Sale Donations

Consider donating some of your perennials, annuals, vegetables and herbs to this year's Master Gardener Plant Sale! We're hoping to have between 5-10 plants from each member to offer a wide variety to visitors at the Urban Gardening Festival.

Pot them up and bring them to the May 8th monthly meeting or to the event, either during setup after 3:30pm on Friday, May 16th or before 9am Saturday, May 17th.

Please remember to use containers that have been cleaned and remove any old labels. When identifying the plant, please use:

- ✓ both common and botanical names
- ✓ sun/shade preferences
- ✓ a brief description, including color, height, width, and when it blooms
- ✓ any soil conditions

Plants prices will be \$4 for 1-gallon, \$2 for 1-quart, and \$1 for all other small sizes. For questions, please email Judy Burger at judyburger@rocketmail.com. 🌱

~ Judy Burger (2004)

April Meeting Minutes

The Master Gardeners of Davidson County monthly meeting was held at 6:30pm on April 10, 2014 in the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural Center with 50 members attending.

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Mather who led the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer followed by asking about our sick members. Muff Cline reported that Roxie Harwell was improving and feeling better each day. Attendees then sang Happy Birthday to Mary Maddox.

Our guest speaker was Alan Powell who delivered a very informative presentation entitled "Rediscovering Eden," about edible plants and flowers, among which were dandelions, plantains, violets and watercress.

Bob Mather reported that our Mentoring Program is progressing very well and that the 2014 Interns have two remaining classes and hopes they will join us at the monthly meeting on May 8th. Bob also mentioned our new Speakers Bureau and that he will be calling on members to help present workshops. David Cook will hold an orientation in May.

Corresponding Secretary Jason Goodrich sought feedback on the recently issued 2014 Membership Directory. Suggestions to enlarge the text size will be featured in the updated directory on May 2nd.

Treasurer Ed Taylor reported a balance of **\$8,384.73** as of May 10, 2014.

Program and Project Reports

Urban Gardening Festival Bob reported the event has a total of 50 participating organizations and vendors. A number of demonstration workshops will be conducted during the festival and the Junior Master Gardeners will hold their annual White Elephant sale.

Jason Goodrich reported this year that the Urban Gardening Festival has secured sponsors, including **UT Extension** (\$500), **Davidson Farmers Co-Op** (\$500), **Belle Meade Plantation** (\$250), **Mary Boyd "The Plant Manager"** (\$100) and one anonymous benefactor (\$100).

Bob stressed the importance that Master Gardeners are needed to help the day of the event. Metro Mounted Police units will be on-hand during the festival and picnic tables from Metro Parks and Recreation

will be placed throughout the festival area for everyone to relax and enjoy food from five of Nashville's favorite food trucks.

Judy Burger requested that each member donate 5 to 10 plants for our plant sale at the festival. They may be annuals, perennials, vegetable plants, or herbs. She asked that members place plants in nondescript and clean pots, and identify the plant before bringing them to either the May 8th meeting, event setup on May 16th, or before 9am the day of the festival on May 17th. Email questions to Judy Burger at (615) 424-8425 or judyburger@rocketmail.com.

Belle Meade Muff Cline reported they have been working in the Garden for the last two Wednesdays. She asked members to help by donating small pots to be used to pot the plants they are sharing from the garden that will be used for the Urban Gardening Festival. Muff invited any member who is interested in the Garden to come out on Wednesdays at 9am.

City Cemetery Bob Mather reported there will be workdays on April 19th and May 3rd at the Nashville City Cemetery as well as Earn As You Learn Workshop on Saturday, April 26th. The annual cemetery tour will be held on Saturday, May 10th from 10am to 11:30am.

Demonstration Garden Alisa Huntsman reported the entire garden is being prepared to host the Urban Gardening Festival and all volunteer help will be appreciated to finish the work in time. She also reported the split rail fencing received from The Hermitage has been installed and that **another Earn As You Learn Workshop has been scheduled for the weekend of May 3rd and 4th from 9am to 1pm.** Alisa also reiterated a request by Lynn Ashford, who is in charge of crafts for our Plant and Craft Sale, for crafts to be donated for the sale at the Urban Gardening Festival.

Grassmere Cathie Long reported the first Earn As You Learn Workshop at Grassmere was a success despite rain. She informed members that the Nashville Zoo now requires completion of a new volunteer form by everyone volunteering at the Zoo. Cathie presented 'Busy Bees' to those teaching classes this year, including **Mary Duncan** (2004), **Andrea Pruijssers** (2013), **Rich Shiavi** (2009), **Paul Martin** (1998), **Bill MacLennan** (2003), **Susan Brown** (2012), **Sheila Whitlock** (2005), **Debb Wilcox** (2013), and **Catherine Atwell** (2004).



Grassmere project chair Cathie Long (center) with recently recognized 'Busy Bees' recognized for their hard work teaching at Grassmere, from left: Rich Shiavi, Paul Martin, Sheila Whitlock, and Bill MacLennan.

Junior Master Gardener Camp Doris Weakley announced the date for the 2014 camp as June 9th to 13th. The committee has collected metal bottle caps to make 'snakes', but they need help assembling them. Doris will have a Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose workshop at her home on Monday, April 21st at 10am for those interested. She also announced that registration for the camp is still open.

Speakers Bureau Jason Goodrich announced a new Master Gardeners of Davidson County summer lecture series in partnership with the Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange. A dozen workshops have been scheduled from June to August at five branch libraries and a schedule will be released shortly. He asked any Master Gardeners interested in teaching or assisting to email him at jason.goodrich@gmail.com.

Announcements

Summer Celebration in Jackson Sheila Whitlock announced that she will be sending an email soon with details about the bus trip to Jackson, Tennessee for the Madison County Master Gardeners annual Summer Celebration.

Funding Appeal Bob Mather shared an appeal being made to repair and restore the headstone and gravesite of Abraham Louis DeMoss, American Revolutionary War veteran and founder of Bellevue. A brochure was provided in the rear of the auditorium.

Thanks from Nashville Lawn & Garden Show Bob Mather summarized a letter received from Randall Lance, head of the Nashville Lawn & Garden Show, in which he complimented the Master Gardeners and praised our booth and decorations with this year's theme and the speakers for delivering presentations. A

check for our participation was also enclosed and given to Treasurer Ed Taylor.

Upcoming Iris Show Master Gardener Ginny Russell, president of the Middle Tennessee Iris Society, announced their Iris Show on Saturday, May 3rd in the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural Center. The show is open to the public from 1:30pm to 4pm. For more, visit www.middletnirisociety.org.

~ Doris Painter (2013), Recording Secretary

Jr. MG White Elephant Sale

Items are needed for the 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. Please contact me at dorisgweakley@bellsouth.net or (615) 353-1816 if you would like to help at our workshop or at the sale!

~ Doris Weakley (1999)

Master Gardener Merchandise

Can you think of a better time than spring to get a new colorful shirt or tank top to wear while you garden?

Get yours today in time to enjoy the wonderful May weather!



Master Gardeners of Davidson County has you covered. Tank tops and T-shirts come in a variety of sizes and colors. Pricing for long-sleeved T-shirts is \$12 and short-sleeved T-shirts are \$10; tank tops are \$8.

Contact Ethel-Lonniell Williams at (615) 646-4670 or elmwilliams@yahoo.com to make arrangements to purchase yours, or come to the next monthly meeting where they will be on display!

Grassmere Gardens at The Nashville Zoo

It's been a busy month at Grassmere with the activities in the gardens and the classes. We had many interested visitors to attend classes and one special guest from Australia: Diane Norris, editor for the magazine *Good Organic Gardening*.

Diane was interested in seeing our organic gardens at Grassmere and visited on three different occasions, even helping out with the watering of our transplanted chamomile. She brought a couple of magazine issues for us to share and they are a beautiful presentation of growing fruits and vegetables and delicious recipes with such articles as, "How to reduce your footprint." She promises to write a report on Grassmere and we can't wait to read it.

It was a pleasant surprise to hear that the very same methods for organics are practiced down under the only difference being that the seasons are reversed. As we are enjoying spring and looking forward to summer, they are appreciating the cool temperatures of fall.



Sharon Bogard (2012) weeding in preparation for spring plantings. (Photo courtesy Cathie Long / MGDC)

The class, "Organic Home Remedies for Bug and Weed Control" will be repeated on May 3rd for the public as well as any Master Gardeners who want to come join us.

On an administrative note, the Zoo is asking all volunteers, not just Master Gardeners, to fill out an "Adult Volunteer Corp Profile" form. This will enable them to set each person up in an electronic system for signing in and out when working at the Zoo. For security and safety reasons, and to make it easier to track volunteer hours, this procedure will benefit this valuable non-

profit organization. The volunteer hours enable them to seek grant money just as the UT Extension office can benefit from your reported hours. In other words, your efforts can serve double duty.

The beauty of spring has something special blooming each week. The crabapple was really spectacular Saturday and the little silver bells or snowdrop tree, *Halesia carolina*, a member of the *Styracaceae* family, is in full bloom now. You need to see it before the leaves pop out.



Master Gardeners hard at work "planting" poles for tomatoes and pole beans at Grassmere. (Photo courtesy Cathie Long / MGDC)

On Saturday, April 12th we had another day of preparation for the summer growing season of vegetables and ten poles were "planted" in the ground in anticipation of pole beans and tomatoes. We have four more to go, paths to refurbish, and seeds to plant. It's all good, especially if you are there. 🍅

~ Cathie Long (1999)

New Summer Lecture Series

In partnership with the Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange, Master Gardeners of Davidson County will present a summer lecture series beginning in June. Using teaching materials provided by UT Extension and David Cook, we are looking for additional teachers and assistants to conduct the workshops scheduled below:

June

- June 9th, 6pm Bordeaux "Container Gardening"
- June 14th, 10am Goodlettsville "Herbs and Starting Herbs from Seeds"
- June 21st, 10am Inglewood "Diagnosing Plant Diseases"
- June 28th, 10:30am Edmondson Pike "Seed Saving"

July

- July 8th, 6pm Bellevue “Seed Saving”
- July 12th, 10am Goodlettsville “Beneficial Insects”
- July 14th, 6pm Bordeaux “Fall Vegetable Gardening”
- July 19th, 10am Inglewood “Seed Saving”

August

- August 2nd, 10am Inglewood “Fall Vegetable Gardening”
- August 4th, 6pm Bordeaux “Vermiculture”
- August 5th, 6pm Bellevue “Fall Vegetable Gardening”
- August 9th, 10am “Fall Vegetable Gardening”

David Cook will lead a teacher orientation on Thursday, May 29th at 3pm at the UT Extension conference room at 1417 Murfreesboro Pike. If you are interested in teaching or assisting with at workshop, contact me at jason.goodrich@gmail.com or at (615) 403-5766. 🌱

~ Jason Goodrich (2013)

Junior Master Gardeners Camp

This is the last month before Junior Master Gardener Camp which will be held June 9th to 13th! Camp may only last for one week but planning is ever going, not to mention time to be made for the upcoming Urban Gardening Festival where we will hold our White Elephant Sale to raise extra funds to supplement camper fees.

The Junior Master Gardener Handbook is being edited for printing and preparations are underway to conduct a final count of campers so that T-shirts and all other supplies can be ordered.

This year, the Junior Master Gardener Camp will be co-chaired with one coordinating outside gardening activities and the other for HOP crafts. Our wonderful Master Gardener volunteers help as teachers and aides for all 25 campers whose ages range from 9 to 14. Registration is still open and campers must submit their application and \$50 fee before registration is complete. For questions or to request registration materials, contact UT Extension at (615) 862-5995. See you in a few weeks! 🌱

~ Doris Weakley (1999)

Historic Nashville City Cemetery

Now that spring is here, work has begun at the Historic Nashville City Cemetery. As with all Master Gardener projects, there is a lot of planning and research every year! We've spent several winter nights researching for our new garden that we are preparing this year. In our research, we have discovered a wonderful herb that you might or might not be familiar, *Calendula*, sometimes known as ‘pot marigold’, though not of the same genus as the common marigold.

‘Pot marigold’ refers to its golden flowers that bloom in late spring and summer and also its use in cooking, or pots. Gardeners have grown this plant for centuries because of their cheery bright orange flowers and profuse blooming. Its Latin name is *Calendula officinalis* and it is in the same family as daisies and chrysanthemums, blooming throughout the season. An annual in most zones, it needs full sun to partial shade. The plant matures to 8 to 18 inches high.

In addition to culinary uses, *Calendula* is used as an herbal medicine, a dye plant, and even a cut flower. As a healing wash for skin wounds, infused oil was made to add to a salve or balm. Physicians during the Civil War always had the salve in their medical bags to put on small wounds. Many soldiers were familiar with the plant and would pick some of the leaves and apply them to small wounds received while moving through forests. Many farm herb gardens of the era included *Calendula*.

Join us for our annual Master Gardeners Tour of the Nashville City Cemetery on Saturday, May 10th from 10am to 11:30am. You can learn more about the cemetery at www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org. 🌱

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



Master Gardeners thinning plants in the Café Garden at The Hermitage. (Photo courtesy Laura Kraft / MGDC)



Master Gardeners of Davidson County

P.O. Box 41055

Nashville, TN 37204-1055

www.mgofdc.org

Recipe of the Month

Vegetable Pizza

From the kitchen of Shirley Lee

Ingredients:

- ▶ 2 cans crescent rolls
- ▶ 1 pkg dry Ranch dressing mix
- ▶ 2 (8-oz.) pkgs cream cheese, softened
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ c mayonnaise
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ c broccoli, chopped
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ c cauliflower, chopped
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ c mushroom pieces
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ c carrots, grated
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ c yellow squash, chopped
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ c onions, chopped
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ c red or green pepper, chopped
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ c sharp cheddar cheese, grated

Instructions:

Spread rolls into jelly roll pan. Press seams together. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool. Mix cream cheese, dressing mix, and mayonnaise together. Spread over crust. Top with vegetables of your choice. Top with grated cheese. Cut into bars or squares to serve.