

# GardenTalk

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

June 2014

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 6



## President's Thoughts

People are still taking about our Urban Gardening Festival!

I get emails, calls and even stopped in the food market. Thanks to you Master Gardeners of Davidson County, we did it. Sure, it was a LOT of hard work, but this event will lead to so many other opportunities for Master Gardeners and helping the Nashville area. We received several great suggestions for next year's event and everybody that participated last month wants to return next year. In fact, it's already time to begin planning for next year's festival on May 16, 2015!

A special thanks is owed to the many members of the Class of 2014 who volunteered during the festival. It was nice having you work along side our members and getting to know one another. Everyone has something they can contribute - how can you help?!

Our Junior Master Gardener Camp will be soon be here before you know it. If you have never attended, consider doing so this year. Let Doris Weakley know you want to help in some way during this year's camp. It might be just one day or two, but you will enjoy seeing the reactions of the kids! Email Doris at [dorisgweakley@bellsouth.net](mailto:dorisgweakley@bellsouth.net) or call (615) 353-1816 to lend a hand.

Remember: There is NO meeting for July; instead, we will be traveling to the Master Gardeners of Madison County for their annual Summer Celebration on Thursday, July 10th. If you've not been, we encourage you to go to Jackson, Tennessee and the West Tennessee Agricultural Research & Education Center. We will be taking a bus to the Celebration which is always a treat! The Master Gardeners Plant Sale begins at 9am and the Garden Talks start at 10am (both indoor and out). Check their website for a list of speakers. Admission is only \$5.00.

## MASTER GARDENERS OF DAVIDSON COUNTY

### May Meeting

Thursday, June 12, 2014  
at 6:30pm

in the

Ed Jones Auditorium,  
Ellington Agricultural Center

featuring

**Andy Sudbrock**

presenting

**"Sedums & Succulents for  
Sunny Gardens"**

The Garden Talks are very interesting and also count as educational hours. You'll find more about the Bus Trip within the newsletter on **page 10**.

I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy working in your gardens as much as I have over the past weeks. There's nothing quite like the garden in the morning. I got my tomato plants in the ground and began working on pulling weeds so I can get my collection of Coral Bells out of pots and into the ground... and I'm still working on my herbs. I have most of my containers finished and placed around the yard. Now, if it would just rain!

I hope you have been enjoying this spring time in your garden! 🌸

*~ Robert Mather (2000), President*

## Executive Committee

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## June Program: "Sedum & Succulents for Sunny Gardens"



Andy Sudbrock has a contagious enthusiasm for all things botanical and loves to share the beauty and wonder of the plant world with fellow plant lovers and gardeners. Already known as the owner of Nashville Natives, located in Fairview, Tennessee, Andy has expanded into online offerings of beautiful succulents via his new website, Sedum Garden ([www.sedumgarden.net](http://www.sedumgarden.net)). During his presentation, Andy will highlight the incredible diversity, history and amazing attributes of Sedum and other succulents for Middle Tennessee gardeners.

In addition to Nashville Natives, Andy also owns Southeast Green Roofs specializing in growing and maintaining sustainable green roofs in Tennessee and Kentucky. It was his in-depth involvement with green roof plants that led him to become so interested and enamored with Sedum and succulents. Andy will be the first to tell you that is an expert on Sedum in Tennessee because he has killed more of them than just about anyone and, through that process, has learned what works and what doesn't in our Middle Tennessee climate.

Andy will also bring a selection of plants for sale to our monthly meeting so if you're a fan of Sedum or succulents, come prepared! You can learn more at [www.sedumgarden.net](http://www.sedumgarden.net) and also find him on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SedumGarden](https://www.facebook.com/SedumGarden). 🌱

~ Becky Fox Matthews (2005), First Vice President

## Mentoring Program

Congratulations Interns for completing the first phase of your quest to become Master Gardeners of Davidson County! Many of you were able to begin earning your eight CEUs and 40 volunteer hours while attending class. The Earn As You Learn Workshops provided many opportunities to earn hours as well as develop new friendships.

Your presence at our Urban Gardening Festival was absolutely phenomenal. Thank you so much for the many hours you contributed in making our festival such a great success!

Mentors, the success of this new program really belongs to you collectively as well as individually. Thank you for not only attending class when your schedules permitted but also for volunteering at the many Earn As You Learn Workshops. Thank you for embracing this new endeavor to assist Interns in their desire to become Certified Master Gardeners.

David Cook has already received completed hours from several of you. Please remember to log your hours as soon as you are able. If you should have questions, please call your Mentor. If you are unable to reach your Mentor, contact Bob Mather at [rmather321@aol.com](mailto:rmather321@aol.com) or (615) 525-5293. For those completing your required hours, David will order your certificate and badge and Bob will present those to you at our June meeting! 🍷

~ Carol Marrero (2009)

## Speakers Bureau

With such a wealth of knowledge and rich diversity of both passions and experience, we are looking for Certified Master Gardeners and Interns to help us deliver community education workshops to the Nashville area.

Beginning with our Summer Lecture Series in partnership with the Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange running between June and August at five different branch locations, our goal is to offer a wide variety of free learning opportunities to the public that promote gardening and home horticulture.

Each workshop will have at least two Master Gardeners helping one another delivering the program. This is not only an opportunity to earn volunteer hours through teaching but also a terrific method to share what you're passionate over in the garden and perhaps attract some participants for next year's Master Gardener class!

If this sounds like something you would like to do, contact David Cook at [dcook5@utk.edu](mailto:dcook5@utk.edu) or (615) 862-5995 and let him know what subject(s) you're comfortable teaching and sharing! We'll schedule another teacher orientation to prepare you with the materials you'll need to deliver the workshops you're most interested in! 🍷

## 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

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### Grassmere Historic Farm at the Nashville Zoo

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### 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)

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### Kitchen Gardens at The Hermitage

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

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### Mentoring Program

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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)



# May Meeting Minutes

*The Master Gardeners of Davidson County monthly meeting was held at 6:30pm on May 8, 2014 in the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural Center with 63 members attending.*

The May monthly meeting was called to order by President Bob Mather who led the Pledge of Allegiance following an invocation delivered by Don Hover. Bob welcomed the Class of 2014 along with visitors Patty Jumbo and her father, Luis, visiting her from Peru.

After our dinner, Master Gardener Alyce Dobyns presented an interesting (and humorously delivered) program entitled "Gardening with Backyard Chickens." The founder of Urban Chicken Advocates of Nashville (UCAN), Alyce discussed reasons for keeping backyard chickens, their advantages, and how to care for them.

**Treasurer's Report** Ed Taylor reported our account balance at the beginning of 2014 as \$6,057.05 and that our current balance is \$9,896.85. He has begun collecting fees of \$28 for bus seat reservations to the Summer Celebration in Jackson. To reserve your space, make your check payable to 'MGDC' and remit to P.O. Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204-1055.

**Newsletter** The newsletter for May has been sent. If you have not received it, please contact Jason Goodrich at [jason.goodrich@gmail.com](mailto:jason.goodrich@gmail.com) or (615) 403-5766.

**Merchandise** Ethel-Lonniell Williams reported various Master Gardener items are for sale, including T-shirts, bags, aprons and mugs.

**Urban Gardening Festival** Bob announced this is the festival's fifth year and that it's already received great publicity and media coverage, including posters distributed all over the area as well as across social media. The attendance goal is 3,000. Setup will begin at 3pm Friday, May 16th and volunteers are needed. Alisa Huntsman stated that we need everyone to help with detail work. Caroll Marrero mentioned that Marilee Jacobs would be filming at the festival for her NECAT program, "A Walk with Marilee." There are nearly 60 booths and food trucks attending along with bilingual students from Glenclyff High School and demonstrations led by Master Gardeners. Judy Burger asked that those donating plants have them at the festival after 3:30pm on Friday, May 16th and that they will also be selling crafts for which donations are appreciated.

As a founding member of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County and its first president, Michelle Carratu (1986) thanked all Master Gardeners who mentored the Class of 2014. She mentioned that we would celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2016.

**Speakers Bureau** Bob announced that David Cook will be conducting a "Teach You How to Teach" orientation on Thursday, May 29th at 3pm at UT Extension. This will prepare Master Gardeners to present programs and workshops to the community.

## PROJECT REPORTS

**Catherine Atwell** thanked all Master Gardeners who brought food throughout the 2014 classes.

**Belle Meade** Muff Cline reported that the Weedin' Women have begun planting seeds and invited all to come and visit the Harding Garden.

**City Cemetery** Bob announced the Master Gardener tour of the cemetery will be from 10am-11:30am on Saturday, May 10th.

**Grassmere** Rich Shiavi said that some of the roses in the gardens grew, but some had died, and that the herbs were coming back. Work days this season are on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings.

**The Hermitage** No report.

**Junior Master Gardeners** Doris Weakley reported the camp, begun in 2003, has been full the past five years but is not yet full. All teachers are lined-up for the camp and Doris encouraged interns to volunteer and signup in rear of the auditorium. They are also having a white elephant sale and need donations.

**Announcements** Michelle Carratu spoke about 100 acres of property on Whites Creek for sale and which she sought ideas on how to preserve.

The African Violet Show will be held on May 30th and 31st at the Music City Sheraton.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ed Taylor and seconded by Laura Boatwright. 🌸

~ Doris Painter (2013), Recording Secretary

## Historic Nashville City Cemetery

The day started overcast with a threat of rain, but by the time our Master Gardener tour of Nashville City Cemetery was to start, the sun had started to show itself through the clouds.

As time to begin the tour approached, cars began entering the cemetery from 4th Avenue. By the time the tour started, 25 people gathered in the Keeble Building ready to walk and learn about the cemetery.

We started with the four flower beds we maintain and continued to walk the grounds. One of the first questions asked is usually, “*Can people still be interred at the Cemetery?*” The crowd intently listened as Catherine related the legend of the big rock near the flagpole.

This was a great tour group. Many had never been to Nashville City Cemetery before the tour, and one couple had never heard about the tour and traveled several miles to attend.

This is why we work at the City Cemetery project: Informing people about the Master Gardeners and relating interesting bits of Nashville history. 🌱

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

## Harding Garden at Belle Meade

The sun is shining. Seeds are sprouting. And the Weedin’ Women are set for another season of visitors to Belle Meade Plantation. We’ve been thinning seedlings of such old favorites as Scarlett Runner beans and red okra.



*Catherine Atwell (2004) hoes out a few remaining weeds so the beans can thrive. (Photo courtesy Mariwyn Evans / MGDC)*

We’re also experimenting with a few new plants this year. Instead of our usual corn, we’re planting popcorn. Native Americans grew these petite ears long before today’s hybrid varieties existed. Plus we figure the school kids that visit us in the fall will think it’s cool.

Another new addition is the Cherokee Trail of Tears beans, a glossy black bean that can be eaten fresh or dried. The variety gets its name because the Cherokee Nation carried the seeds on its long forced march from Tennessee to Oklahoma in the 1800s. So it’s a plant and a history lesson in one.



*We lost quite a few herbs to the cold but the catmint is alive and blooming like crazy. (Photo courtesy Mariwyn Evans / MGDC)*

Come join on Wednesdays at 9am, weather permitting, and enjoy seeing the first shoots of summer. 🌱

~ Mariwyn Evans (2011)

## Fasha Urban Garden

The Fasha Urban Garden is a new community garden created for new Americans on Paragon Mills Road in South Nashville. Sisters Alice and Beatrice Gatebuke, both born in Rwanda, have worked tirelessly for more than a year to turn this dream into a reality.



*The Davidson County Sheriff's Department tilled the garden area for the first 15 raised beds. (Photo courtesy Jason Goodrich / MGDC)*

David Cook and Dan Harrell from UT Extension, along with Carroll Marrero (2009), have helped organize and get the garden ready and they’ve just celebrated their grand opening on May 31st! 🌱

## Volunteers Needed

We’re looking for volunteers to help staff two different booths on Saturday, June 7th!

The Davidson Farmers Co-Op will host a Customer Appreciation Day 9am-1pm and our friends at Community Food Advocates will host their annual Family Farm Day at Buffalo Valley Farms from 3pm to 7pm. We’ll be sharing about our many projects as well as the Master Gardener program at both.

If you would like to help at either event (or both), please let Bob Mather know at either (615) 525-5293 or [rmather321@aol.com](mailto:rmather321@aol.com). 🌱



# A Day in the Historic Gardens at Grassmere

After checking in at the Zoo offices a little before 8am, I follow the path that will take me to the historic home and gardens. The zoo is quieter than usual this morning. It rained last night and perhaps, like me, the animals are slow to wake up. Or, perhaps they're waiting to show off for the children! I walk past the meerkats and linger for a moment to watch not one, but three of them standing sentry! Taking a sip from my coffee mug, I continue on, past the gibbons' island, past the jungle gym and carousel, and up the hill to the historic home and the heirloom gardens out back.

As soon as I enter the main garden through the far right gate, my senses come alive. The irises are in full bloom and the roses are budding. The peas are climbing their trellises, the tomatoes are thriving; the potatoes have grown a foot or more and need soil pulled over them. And, is that a bean sprout? Or a weed? By now, I should be able to tell the difference. In the last month alone, I have pulled out or dug up more creeping Charlie, Star of Bethlehem, henbit, wild geranium, and "sticky" weed than I have in my entire life!

As I walk back toward the tool shed, I look around for my mentor, Cathie Long, and am told that she's chasing a rabbit out of the garden! Someone must have left the gate open again!



*A lovely rose in bloom near the Croft House. (Photo courtesy Cathie Long / MGDC)*

We spend the morning preparing the soil for planting Country Gentleman white corn. We take time to greet the visitors, who are always curious to know what we're doing. I enjoy the "garden talk." On a hot day like today, it feels good to take a break, cool off with a drink of water, lean on the rake, and chat! I had not thought of Grassmere as an "outreach" program, but am finding that to be an important part of the work we do here.

A young elementary school teacher tells me that this is the first time some of her students have ever been to a zoo. She has been teaching them about nutrition and wanted to visit the garden while they were here. One young boy proudly reads aloud each plant label; another emphatically declares that he "hates carrots!"

I grow more confident with each day that I spend working alongside the more tenured master gardeners, so much so that I invite a young dad, pushing his baby in a stroller, to ask me questions.

Without hesitation, he points to a row of plants nearby. "What is this?" he asks. Of course, I have no idea! I turn to Cathie, who keeps both a mental and physical list of the hundreds of plants that grow here.

*One of the beautiful irises blooming at Grassmere. (Photo courtesy Cathie Long / MGDC)*



The noon sun lets us know that, even though we did not get to everything on our task list, it's time to quit for the day. We empty the wheelbarrow, clean and put away the tools, and lock the back gate and sheds. I retrace my steps through the zoo, now alive with the sounds of animals and children.

For someone who is tired, dirty, and a bit hungry, I feel pretty good! 🍷

*~ Faye Dorman (2014)*

## Junior Master Gardeners

The 2014 Junior Master Gardener Camp begins soon, running from June 9th to 13th! The Camp will be ongoing before and during the Master Gardener monthly June meeting. I wish to thank all volunteers for signing-up to help during the Camp as well as those participating in workshops to prepare supplies for our hands-on learning activities and our white elephant sale at the Urban Gardening Festival. It takes many volunteers to help make the Junior Camp a success, and both Pam Swoner and myself wish to express a very sincere "THANK YOU" to everyone that's volunteered! 🍷

*~ Doris Weakley (1999)*



*Doris Weakley, Pam Swoner, Pattie Waller, Donna Freeman, & Catherine Atwell*

# June Calendar

## Upcoming Events

- ★ June 7, 2014 — Family Farm Day at Buffalo Valley Farms hosted by Community Food Advocates
- ★ June 9-13, 2014 — Junior Master Gardener Camp, Master Gardeners of Davidson County
- ★ June 14, 2014 — Sumner County Master Gardening Association hosts Dave Walters and Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters at Historic Mansker's Station as they discuss trees in Tennessee
- ★ July 10, 2014 — Summer Celebration Bus Trip to Jackson, Tennessee

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	2 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	3	4 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon  Work Day Belle Meade 9am	5	6	7 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon  Co-Op Customer Appreciation Day 9am-1pm  Family Farm Day 3pm-7pm
8 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	9 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon  NPL Workshop on Container Gardening Bordeaux Branch 6pm	10	11 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon  Work Day Belle Meade 9am	12 June Monthly Meeting 6:30pm	13	14 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon  NPL Workshop on Starting Herbs Goodlettsville Branch 10am
← Jr. Master Gardener Summer Camp at UT Extension Central Region Office Building, Ellington Ag Center →						
15 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	16 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	17 TSU Extension Third Tuesday Field Day and Workshop On-Farm Biodiesel Production 10am-1pm	18 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon  Work Day Belle Meade 9am	19	20	21 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon  NPL Workshop on Plant Diagnostics Inglewood Branch 10am
22 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	23 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	24	25 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon  Work Day Belle Meade 9am	26	27	28 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon  NPL Workshop on Seed Saving Edmondson Pk Branch 10:30am
29 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	30 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	<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>				





*Alisa Huntsman (2008) explaining the keyhole garden to meteorologist Lelan Statom of News Channel 5 as visitors pass through the Demonstration Garden. (Photo courtesy Jason Goodrich / MGDC)*

# Urban Gardening Festival

*by Alisa Huntsman (2008)*

Wow! What a success this year's festival was!!!

Everything from set up to tear down went smoothly and with very few bumps along the way. As participants respond to our evaluation survey, feedback has been very positive and we've even received a few suggestions for next year. The majority of comments include a desire to return next year. We can credit an early start to our planning meetings for much of the success, so you can be sure that we will repeat that for next year's festival.

While we always plan this event in advance, there were some significant changes to the process that greatly impacted the event. The implementation of our new Earn As You Learn Workshops, which were created to help interns achieve certification, gave us the jump-start we needed. In the past, we struggled to prepare the garden for the festival; there simply weren't enough regular volunteers coming out to get the job done. Historically, that last week and right up to the night before the festival, we would race to finish exhibits and the results were frequently less than what we had hoped.

Earlier this spring, for the first Earn As You Learn Weekend in the Demonstration Garden, Shirley and I put together a list of activities that we assumed would take several weeks to complete. Surprise! The group of interns

that arrived that first Saturday morning tackled everything on the list and a whole bunch of other tasks we hadn't even considered. It was the little miracle we needed. Even better was the small group of interns who kept coming out on the weekends to continue earning volunteer hours.



*Darry Huntsman (2008) signaling that he's ready for his mushroom demonstration. (Photo courtesy Pam Swoner / MGDC)*



*Donna Haggitt (2009) and Cindy Martin (2014) helping prepare our plant and craft booth. (Photo courtesy Pam Swoner / MGDC)*



Several weeks later, the Mentor program began to have an impact. With so many certified Master Gardeners making an effort to engage the new interns, we saw a few things happen. First, we saw more interns coming out to the garden, and then we noticed that friendships, a sense of camaraderie, was building amongst everyone. While I might like to think it was just a case of determination to become certified that drew them in, I am also prepared to blame it on the promise of freshly baked cake – bribery has its purpose!



*Shirley Lee (2001) chatting with a visitor about compost in the Demo Garden (Photo courtesy Jason Goodrich / MGDC)*

Either way, as both project chair and a fellow volunteer, I am thrilled to have had the chance to get to know the new volunteers and to share the garden and all that is part of maintaining it with everyone that came out. Hopefully, you have experienced the peace and serenity of the Demonstration Garden that continues to pull Shirley Lee, Tyann Chappell and myself out there day after day.



*Judy Burger (2004) organizing our plant sale. (Photo courtesy Pam Swoner / MGDC)*

Instead of going into panic mode that last week leading up to festival day, we were actively picking over each bed and walkway. For the first time since I started working in the Demonstration Garden, the only thing I worried about those last few days were the weeds that began popping up



*Farrar Mortiz (2014) painted the faces of children all day long! (Photo courtesy Pam Swoner / MGDC)*



*Anne Carpenter (2012) and Muff Cline (2007) greeting a visitor during the festival. (Photo courtesy Pam Swoner / MGDC)*



*Alisa Huntsman (2008) answering the questions of visitors in the Demonstration Garden as Mike Humeny (2014) and wife listen. (Photo courtesy Jason Goodrich / MGDC)*



*Sylvia Wahl (2003) and Jim Semmens (2013) demonstrating vermiculture and composting. (Photo courtesy Jason Goodrich / MGDC)*



thanks to the two-inches of rain that fell on Wednesday before the festival. While I wouldn't say it was completely relaxing, it wasn't nearly as stressful as it could have been.

Although we say this every year, this year especially, the garden was more beautiful than it has ever been! It was as if all of the beds had been styled by an artist. Every plant, every bed was a show stopper!

When I think back to last year and our concession to the weeds in the old perennial garden, I am almost ashamed. We were so overwhelmed with the workload and the old perennial garden was so overgrown with weeds that it seemed like a lost cause. Sadly, we made the decision to give up on that garden and dig out the plants and put them up for sale.

Thankfully, Tyann was able to quickly talk us out of that plan. She announced that she wanted to try to salvage the space and quickly devised a plan that began with simply contouring several large beds and eliminating the smaller beds. The plants played a game of musical beds and after settling in, they began to thrive.



*Tyann Chappell (2013) and Bella relaxing after some prep work at the Demo Garden. (Photo courtesy Alisa Huntsman / MGDC)*

With the addition of new plants, birdhouses and some garden whimsy this year, you will not believe it is the same garden. We cannot thank Tyann enough for all of the work she did in the last year.

The improvements did not stop there, something that is obvious if you have spent time in the herb garden lately. Returning Master Gardener Kent Bessee (2004) not only repaired all of the wood structures in the garden but also installed a beautiful split rail fence around the herb garden, made even better in the knowledge that the logs used to build the fence came to us from The Hermitage; when the fencing on the property was replaced, Kent salvaged the logs for use in gardens and displays.



*Saturday morning saw the smiling faces of Dan and Rene' Colehour (2014) greeting visitors and visitors to the festival. (Photo courtesy Pam Swoner / MGDC)*

We have also begun to redesign the entire herb garden to include new beds for herbal teas, culinary herbs, medicinal herbs of the Civil War, Asian herbs and, of course, the Hugelkultur mounds.

It is looking to be an exciting summer in the Demonstration Garden. We have many plans to improve the garden that include a native shade plant bed, the addition of native plants to

existing beds and repurposing of the satellite dish for rock gardening/xeriscaping as well as a continuance of the structure shuffle we have started.



*Artisan Wanda Shotwell demonstrating weaving techniques at her booth. (Photo courtesy Pam Swoner / MGDC)*

To reclaim our vegetable garden area, the nematodes remediation will continue and we will be exploring alternative methods for vegetable gardening all year. As always, we invite volunteers to help make it happen so come on out and join us! Everything we do now will be "gardening forward" for next year's festival and if a couple months made all of the difference this year, imagine what nearly a year could do! 🌱

## Summer Celebration in Jackson, Tenn.

It's once again time to signup for the much anticipated bus trip to the Summer Celebration in Jackson hosted by the Madison County Master Gardeners! This year's event is **Thursday, July 10th!**

The cost is \$28 per person for the bus trip and we will begin loading at 6am from Ellington Agricultural



Center and leave at 6:30am with plans to return by 9pm that evening.

There is also a \$5 entry fee to the event that will be collected on the bus. Reserve your seat soon by making your \$28 payment to 'MGDC' and mail to:

MGDC  
Attn: Summer Celebration 2014  
P.O. Box 41055  
Nashville, TN 37204-1055

## New Learning Area Opening at Crieve Hall Elementary School

Crieve Hall Elementary School opened its new Outdoor Learning Garden and Classroom on Wednesday, May 28th at 1:45pm. Appropriately named by students for the school's mascot, *The Cardinal's Nest* features approximately 1,500 square feet of learning space!

The garden design includes seven raised beds, seating for 24 students, bed irrigation, a fully stocked shed, composting, and bulk material storage areas (e.g., soil, mulch). The beds include two 3'x15' vegetable/fruit beds, a native Tennessee bed equipped with a working farm windmill, and beds for beneficial insects, butterflies, herbs, and sensory plantings. The garden was designed to be fully accessible using guidelines set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), from pathway sizing, slope, and ground material construction to bed heights set at the minimum of 2-feet. There is still more to come! Shade features for the classroom seating area and a gravity feed, rainwater collection system will be installed after the grand opening.

The mission for *The Cardinal's Nest* is to provide a dynamic, interactive, hands-on learning experience that supports the sciences and Common Core State Standards (CCSS; i.e., questioning, critical thinking) at every grade level. The garden allows time outside while conducting science experiments, planting and tasting, and discussing, writing or drawing observations. It also demonstrates healthy and sustainable food options to students under real world conditions.

Students will also harvest gourds and make them into musical instruments and cut flowers for still life art drawings. Those flowers will then be harvested for seeds as part of their life cycle and for the continued sustainability of the garden. *The Cardinal's Nest* will

also offer educational programs to the school's teachers and faculty, parents and surrounding community.

Funding from this project was provided primarily through \$8,800 in grants from Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Government (as part of a Federal Block Grant administered by UT Extension Davidson County), Home Depot Foundation, The Whole Kids Foundation (Whole Foods), Rogers Group Nashville, and the Lowe's Toolbox for Education Program. The school's PTA, Ensafe, school parents and Girl Scout troops donated the remaining funds. Finally, local companies such as Walker Lumber and Hardware and Nashville Landscape and Nursery Supplies provided significantly discounted materials.

When you have time, come visit *The Cardinal's Nest* at 498 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN 37220! 🍷

~ Anjou Gerhardt (2014)

## Master Gardener Merchandise

Whether you are newly certified or have thoroughly worn out your Master Gardener T-shirt in the garden, don't worry! At the June monthly meeting, you can find Barbara Adams and Ethel-Lonniell Williams in the rear of Ed Jones Auditorium with many of the wares available to members.

As our merchandise committee, they've a pretty tough job keeping track of our inventory of Master Gardener items – and they'd love to see you at their table to take (more than) a few items off their hands!

They have long- and short-sleeved T-shirts in various sizes and colors, as well as a few tank tops and sweat-shirts, aprons, tote bags, and mugs available. Here's the price list:

- ➡ Long-sleeved T-shirts .....\$12
- ➡ Short-sleeved T-shirts .....\$10
- ➡ Tank tops .....\$8
- ➡ Sweatshirts .....\$15
- ➡ Mugs .....\$6
- ➡ Canvas bags .....\$15
- ➡ Apron .....\$15

Contact Barbara Adams at [babstn@bellsouth.net](mailto:babstn@bellsouth.net) or Ethel-Lonniell Williams at [elmwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:elmwilliams@yahoo.com) to make arrangements for yours, or come to the next monthly meeting where they will be on display! 🍷



Master Gardeners of Davidson County

P.O. Box 41055

Nashville, TN 37204-1055

[www.mgofdc.org](http://www.mgofdc.org)

## Recipe of the Month

### Southern Pecan Cheese Dip

*From the kitchen of Carolyn Jones*

#### Ingredients:

- ▶ 1 8-oz. pkg cream cheese, softened
- ▶ 1 c cheddar cheese, finely shredded
- ▶ 1 c mayonnaise
- ▶ 3 green onions, chopped
- ▶ 6 Ritz crackers, crumbled
- ▶ ½ c bacon, cooked and crumbled (turkey bacon can be substituted, about 8 crisp slices)
- ▶ ½ c pecan pepper jelly (any kind of pepper jelly can be used; pecan pepper jelly is sold at Color in Green Hills)

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#### Instructions:

Mix together cheeses, mayonnaise, and green onions. Spread in a baking dish with the crumbled Ritz crackers. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes.

Top with bacon and drizzle with the pepper jelly. Serve with ritz crackers.