

GardenTalk

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

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Executive Committee

PRESIDENT

Robert Mather
rmather321@aol.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Becky Fox Matthews
becky@lostfrogs.com

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Catherine Atwell
(615) 297-0600

RECORDING SECRETARY

Doris Painter
painrace@bellsouth.net

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jason Goodrich
jason.goodrich@gmail.com

TREASURER

Ed Taylor
ed.taylor09@comcast.net

Volunteer Staff

EXTENSION OFFICE LIAISON

Judy Burnette
judyrburnette@gmail.com

HISTORIANS

Joy Kosarsky
sambeem@aol.com
Gwen McKinney
gwenmil2@att.net

MASTER GARDENER CLASS LIAISON

Barbara Allen
(615) 309-6130

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Vacant

VOLUNTEER SERVICE LIAISON

Lois Francis, (615) 361-1926

WEBMASTERS

Don Hover, hoverdj@charter.net
Alisa Huntsman, info@alisahuntsman.com



Event and Project Chairpersons

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AT ELLINGTON AGRICULTURAL CENTER

Tyann Chappell
tyann.chappell@comcast.net
Shirley Lee
mamajanlee@yahoo.com

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

HARDING GARDEN AT BELLE MEADE

Muff Cline
muffcline@yahoo.com

Catherine Atwell
(615) 297-0600

HISTORIC NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY

Catherine Atwell
(615) 297-0600
Robert Mather
rmather321@aol.com

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS

Pam Swoner
connectingtngardeners@gmail.com

Doris Weakley

dorisgweakley@comcast.net

KITCHEN GARDENS AT THE HERMITAGE

Laura Kraft
lkraft1212@gmail.com
Mary Langford
langfordlaw@hotmail.com

MENTORING PROGRAM

Caroll Marrero
bmarrero@comcast.net

MERCHANDISE

Barbara Adams
babstn@bellsouth.net
Ethel-Lonniell Williams
elmwilliams@yahoo.com

MUSIC & MOLASSES FESTIVAL

Vacant

NASHVILLE LAWN & GARDEN SHOW

Vacant

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Natalie Manor
coachnatalie@nataliemanor.com

TENNESSEE STATE FAIR

Russell Kirchner
mucking52580@yahoo.com

URBAN GARDENING FESTIVAL

Vacant

UT Extension Davidson County

1417 Murfreesboro Pike, 2nd Floor
P. O. Box 196300
Nashville, TN 37219
Tel: (615) 862-5995
Fax: (615) 862-5998
<http://davidson.tennessee.edu>

EXTENSION AGENT AND SPONSOR

David Cook
dcook5@utk.edu

DIRECTOR, DAVIDSON COUNTY EXTENSION

George Killgore
gkillgo1@utk.edu

Master Gardeners of Davidson County

P. O. Box 41055
Nashville, TN 37204-1055
www.mgofdc.org
www.facebook.com/mgofdc
www.twitter.com/mgofdc

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Master Gardeners of Davidson County

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Mather's Musings

News, wit and wisdom from Master Gardener Bob Mather, Class of 2000.

Attendance this year was much better than last, and I think it will continue to grow more each year. The Fair Board expressed how happy they were that the Master Gardeners of Davidson County continue to be part of the Fair. It was also good to see Sumner County at the Fair this year—maybe we can encourage other Master Gardener organizations in Middle Tennessee to participate next year!

I know I say this nearly every month...but...October is a very busy time of the year.

- ★ **Fall Fest at The Hermitage** will be held on Saturday, October 4th, from 10am to 6pm and Sunday, October 5th, from 10am to 5pm
- ★ Master Gardeners will be serving as tour guides at this year's **Living History Tour at the Nashville City Cemetery** on October 18th
- ★ **Music & Molasses** is on Saturday and Sunday of that same weekend, October 18th-19th

Just a few of our hardworking and dedicated Master Gardeners volunteering at the Tennessee State Fair in September.



The Tennessee State Fair has come and gone, and a very big "thank you" is due Russell Kirchner and all of our Master Gardeners that helped with our booth and presentations!

Music & Molasses is no different than our other events—we're looking for Master Gardener volunteers to come out and help with our booth. Signups will be held during our October meeting.

We will be setting up on Friday, October 17th beginning at 10am. Plus, the Tennessee State Forestry Service is celebrating 100 years and will have a variety of demonstrations and displays that you won't want to miss. And, it's Smokey the Bear's 70th Birthday!

We're looking forward to another

Meet Me at the Market event at the **Nashville Farmers' Market on October 8th.**

Our Speakers Bureau also continues to grow as more of our Master Gardeners are signing up to give presentations on topics that interest them.

This is the newest of our programs we recently started and it's already expanding our community outreach in Nashville! They're doing a fantastic job. If you're passionate about certain veggies or flowers, or specific gardening techniques, I hope you will consider signing up as well.

Lastly, the year is drawing to a close and we will soon be thinking about our upcoming elections in November for next year's officers. Please consider how you can be involved next year in your organization.

As we grow, it takes more people to accomplish our goals. To those who completed our MGDC survey: "Thank you." This information will help plan for our future!

The weather is nice now that fall has arrived. Be sure and visit your garden each and every day! 🍂

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Cover photo: *Hyacinth bean blooms providing late-season nourishment to the honeybees of the Belle Meade garden. Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC.*

SAVE THE DATE

Our October Meeting and Potluck Meal will begin at 6:30pm in the Ed Jones Auditorium on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center. Feel free to bring a guest!



October Meeting

*Master Gardeners returning to
Ed Jones Auditorium this month*

Todd Breyer will be our speaker for the October 9th meeting at Ellington Agricultural Center, with a presentation on **"Bulbous Beauties!"**

He will discuss all types of bulbs for the garden, both spring bulbs whose planting season is coming up quickly, as well as summer favorites.

A registered landscape architect specializing primarily in residential and estate gardens, Todd is an honors graduate from the University of Georgia and has studied abroad in Tuscany, Italy. His first job out of school was for an award-winning design build firm in San Francisco before returning to his native Tennessee where he grew up spending summers at his family home in Beersheba.

Todd has been extensively involved with Cheekwood for many years and currently serves as their Chairman of Plant Collections as well as on the Botanic Garden Committee.

In addition, he is also Davidson County Chairman for the Metro Beautification and Environment Commission, District 24 Commissioner, on the Board of Keep Nashville Beautiful, and was recently asked to join both the board of the historic Nashville



City Cemetery and the Herb Society of Nashville.

Todd has worked with several local schools, Richland Park and Library, and Hands On Nashville. He has designed and implemented the Entrance Garden for the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show every year since its inception.

Todd loves to grow and cook things of all kinds, and is passionate about his job working closely with and listening to the needs of his clients' hopes and dreams in creating their home. He designed gardens for the historic West Meade Mansion, Tennessee Tech University, and the Opryland Hotel, among others. Todd is also the proud father of two teenagers, Brianna and Jackson, one Golden Retriever, and two chickens called Silkies. 🐔

October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Events ★ October 04-05 — Fall Fest at The Hermitage ★ October 17 — Music & Molasses Setup, 9am ★ October 18-19 — Music & Molasses Festival hosted by the Tennessee Agricultural Museum ★ October 18, 2014 — Living History Tour, Historic Nashville City Cemetery			1 Executive Board Meeting 6pm	2	3	4 Fall Fest at The Hermitage 10am-6pm Work Days Grassmere 8am-12 noon Demo Garden 9am-12pm City Cemetery 9am-1pm
5 Fall Fest at The Hermitage 10am-5pm	6 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon	7	8 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 9am Meet Me at the Market, 10am-2pm	9 Monthly Meeting: October 6:30pm	10	11 Work Days Grassmere 8am-12 noon The Hermitage 8am-11am Demo Garden 9am-12pm
12	13 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon	14	15 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	16	17 Music & Molasses Setup 9am	18 Music & Molasses Festival 9am-4pm Living History Tour City Cemetery 2pm-5pm Work Days Grassmere 8am-12 noon The Hermitage 8am-11am
19 Music & Molasses Festival 10am-4pm	20 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon	21	22 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 9am	23	24	25 Work Days Grassmere 8am-12 noon The Hermitage 8am-11am Demo Garden 9am-12pm
26	27 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon	28	29 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN	

Music & Molasses Festival 2014

by Tyann Chappell, Class of 2013

The wait is over! The Music & Molasses Festival is just around the corner. **The 22nd annual festival will be held Saturday, October 18th from 9am-5pm and Sunday, October 19th from 10am-4pm. Setup is scheduled for October 17th beginning at 9am.** This year, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Tennessee's Division of Forestry and Smokey the Bear's 70th birthday. In fact, Smokey the Bear will be at the festival so be on the lookout for him.

In keeping with the celebration, the theme for our booth will be "An Enchanted Forest" at our usual location in the horse barn. Our booth will be setup for easy access, information about various gardens including our growing community gardens, examples of native and non-native Tennessee trees with their accompanying information, and samples of nuts, cones, flowers, etc.

Co-chairs Dan and Rene' Colehour (2014) along with Shirley Lee (2001) and Arden Schlesinger (2004) are taking the lead for this endeavor. Of course all who know Shirley know that she is involved with everything! We are also going to have a fairy garden display, but later on that...

Georgeann McCoy (1998), is setting up a fun and creative children's activity center. I won't be surprised if it doesn't attract a few adults too! So as not to spoil her creative genius, you'll just have to come and see it for yourself. **She is in need of a children's table made of one big tree slab (36" dia., 2"-3" thick) or 5-6 smaller slabs that can be assembled as a table along with 4-5 tree stumps (15"-18" tall) for chairs.** If you can help her out please contact her.

To help craft the Enchanted Forest, we are asking you to bring a Fairy Garden Container. It can be as simple or as elaborate as you would like and all sizes are welcome, **but do please include a tag with the name of the plant(s) and your name either on the tag or on the bottom of the container.** We want to ensure gardens are returned to the right gardener.

We are making several forest trees that will need ready-to-hang woodland decorations such as pine cones, nuts, moss, small fairies, etc. **To create the forest floor, please bring potted ferns, succulents, woodland fungi, logs or branches with mushrooms/lichen. Any greenery you feel would add to a woodland look would be fantastic. Garden floor decorations, such as woodland garden fairies, mushrooms, toad houses, toads, etc. will fit right in!**

For general decorations, you can bring potted mums or other flowers and as many colors and sizes of pumpkins/gourds that you would like to see in the booth. I've learned that a booth can never have too many pumpkins or gourds! *If you want them returned please sign your pumpkin on the bottom.*

Barbara Allen's (2000) nephew is going to supply amazing cornstalks and she is bringing more "Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate" plants that were such a hit last year.

Also, we always enjoy sharing our garden seeds so if you have some for the booth please label them bring them. We are also in need of 17-20 bales of hay. We will have a special signup to "adopt" a bale at the October meeting.

Well, that's about it in a nutshell! Barbara Allen will have the signup sheets available at our next meeting and we would all appreciate your help in making this year's festival a fun event.

Please label and bring your items to either the October monthly meeting or during setup on the 17th.

Here's how to contact us in the mean time:

- Tyann Chappell, tyann.chappell@comcast.net or (615) 457-4397
- Dan Colehour, dancolehour@gmail.com, (615) 305-4233
- Rene' Colehour, rene.colehour@vanderbilt.edu, (615) 578-1318
- Shirley Lee, mamajanlee@yahoo.com, (615) 423-9366
- Georgeann McCoy, mccjoc995@comcast.net or (615) 373-8472. 🍄

Speakers Bureau *by Natalie Manor, Class of 2009*

Our Speakers Bureau now has 13 trained speakers—woo hoo!— and isn't that terrific?! Our presentation topic for August was Fall Vegetable Gardening, and the topic for September was Beginning Seed Saving. The feedback from the teams that are presenting and from the audiences has been terrific, and we are now getting invitations.

The topic for presenting in October will be Herbs. Bob Mather and Monika McCurdy (2014) are working on PowerPoint slides and have the next speakers' teleconference training on Herbs before the end of September. Here are highlights for what presenters can expect:

- ▶ All presentations are delivered with at least two presenters.
- ▶ Each presenter receives training in the topic *before* they present.
- ▶ All information needed for the audience *is provided*, along with flash drives, handouts and MGDC business cards for the audience.
- ▶ We encourage workshop hosts to take photos so we can share them in the newsletter, at our website, and on our Facebook page so that the community can see how and what we're doing.

- ▶ We conduct our training for presenters via conference call — no need to make a special trip. Easy and convenient!
- ▶ We meet in-person as a group once per quarter. Our next meeting will be this month with dinner and training combined.
- ▶ Each Speakers Bureau member is asked to commit to presenting at least once a month.

I am hopeful we will have at least 20 members on our team by January 01, 2015, while offering 10 presentations a month to the area. We look forward to having interested certified Master Gardeners sign up. The three Speakers Bureau teams presenting in the next two weeks are:

- ▶ Gary and Candice Bagwell (2013), at Bellevue Library
- ▶ Bob Mather and Monika McCurdy, at Inglewood Library
- ▶ Cathie Long (1999) and Barbara Devaney (2014), at Edmondson Library

Thanks to one and all! 🍷

Mentoring Program

by Caroll Marrero, Class of 2009

The Master Gardeners of Davidson County — interns and certified members alike — demonstrated our volunteer spirit to both our local community and visitors from across the state last month.

Thank you for your energy and volunteerism supporting our activities at the Tennessee State Fair and Harvest Days at Grassmere!

Hearing the laughter and watching friendships being forged is always a wonderful benefit that I enjoy so much — and hope you do as well.

I trust everyone is eagerly looking forward to the Music & Molasses Festival on October 18th and 19th at Ellington! It promises to be the most expansive in its history! 🍷





Meet Me at the MARKET

by Bob Mather, Class of 2000

In September we completed our fourth of six "Meet Me at the Market" programs in partnership with AARP and the Nashville Farmers' Market downtown.

These events are held on the second Wednesday of each month through November. The topic of last month's presentation was seed saving, which was quite a success. Interested gardeners stopped at our booth and display to talk with Catherine

Atwell, David Cook, and me to learn more about saving seeds, and we enjoyed hearing about their gardens.

Several expressed interest in the Master Gardener program and received information about our upcoming classes beginning in January. Partnering with the Nashville Farmers' Market has helped to increase community awareness about the Master Gardeners of Davidson County,

and we hope to see a full class next year!

Our next event is on Wednesday, October 8th, from 10am to 2 pm. If you'd like to earn some hours and share your experiences in the garden...Meet me at the Market! 🌱

Merchandise: Out with the old...

Bring a few extra dollars with you to the October meeting. All of us value having that extra shirt once we've made a mess playing in the garden.

It's been decided that our entire inventory of clothing has to go in order to make room for newer items. Out with the old and in with the new!

Short-sleeved and long-sleeved t-shirts as well as our sweatshirts and tank tops will be available at half-price:

- ➡ Long-sleeve tees, \$6
- ➡ Short-sleeve tees, \$5
- ➡ Tank tops, \$4
- ➡ Sweatshirts, \$8

Coffee mugs will be now be priced at \$5, so remember to pick one up — one can't have too many mugs during fall and winter.

We're hoping to debut some new designs for t-shirts and both men's and women's polos featuring our logo in the near future, so stay tuned! 🌱



Historic Gardens at Grassmere

by Cathie Long, Class of 1999

Produce from our heirloom, organic garden is very colorful. The tomatoes are green, yellow and red, and the okra was red burgundy and green, and silver queen. Both summer and winter squash gave us white and butter cream colors. The Black Beauty eggplant was a beautifully deep purple.

Cooler days bring many more people out to walk on the trails. Admiring visitors love to talk gardening and tell the conditions in their home areas. One Saturday brought a family from San Francisco who talked about the cool nights, and said our day temperatures in the 60's and evening lows in the 50's made them feel right at home.

Sharing this experience are this year's class of interns and I congratulate those who have earned their certification. I am proud that many have performed valuable hours in the Grassmere gardens and are experiencing the joys of talking to visitors as ambassadors for the Master Gardener Program.

After Harvest Days, we continue to maintain and produce with our fall gardens. With the two-foot fencing, we can enjoy the beauty and production of Scarlett Runner as well as Kentucky Wonder Pole and Turkey Crawl beans until frost comes to visit. To assist in the protection of our plants, Georgeann McCoy (1998) has donated bamboo cloches from the United Kingdom to cover some of our peas which were planted in desperation after so many attempts were eaten by the rabbits.

To fill in as we take out the summer veg-

etables, we have planted the greens: turnips, mustard, kale, collards, lettuce, beets, Swiss chard and carrots. Again, we have learned to enclose these beds with fencing to keep out our furry friends that keep raising young ones in the garden. These crops will require thinning, weeding, watering, and, of course, harvesting and sharing with the zoo animals.



Mary (2004) and Buddy Duncan came to work on Wednesday, September 10th to make certain the culinary herb bed had color and herbs to show off for the fall season and to take out the first crop of corn, Country Gentlemen, to bundle as decoration for Harvest Days. Afterward, if still healthy and not mildewed, we will give it to the elephants along with the okra stalks once it quits producing — they love the roughage.

We still have beautiful butterflies in the garden and are reminded that the Monarch is getting nourishment from the zinnias and beans to make that long journey south to Mexico. Our gardens serve both beneficial and aesthetic functions. All indications are that frost may be early this year. The average first frost is October 15th. Everything

has been blooming early including the fall native plants such as iron weed and golden rod.



It's an honor to be a part of this teaching demonstration garden, and we are glad to partner with The Nashville Zoo to carry out the wishes of Margaret and Elise Croft who wanted the land and home to be kept whole and to be used for the education of children and to express their love of animals. 🐾

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

by Mariwyn Evans, Class of 2011

As fall (sadly) follows summer, lettuce and radishes follow tomatoes and squash. We've planted Tennis Ball lettuce seeds from Monticello and a leaf lettuce mix to fill the beds lately occupied by zucchini and yellow crookneck squash. We've also added an heirloom radish called Philadelphia White to complement the more common red variety. Before the cold, we hope to get at least one harvest.

Speaking of harvest, Margaret Devine (2007) has harvested some of our gourds, castor bean pods, and fennel blooms for the Weedin' Women's contribution to the Master Gardener State Fair booth. As always, Margaret's skill at arranging made a few simple veggies look like a masterpiece.

We've also decided to harvest our popcorn ears now before they become a mid-fall snack for the Belle Meade squirrels. Unlike the problems we had with corn the last couple of years, the popcorn performed beautifully. It's hard to know whether to attribute the



Young mustard greens mean fall — and good eating. Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC

success to the mild summer or the variety. We hope to plant it again next year, but time will tell.

With planting mostly done, our next project is our scarecrow couple. Over the years, we've perfected our construction strategy. We use rolled bubble wrap and newspaper to create a manly chest for 'Chester', and a few curves in the appropriate places for 'Mae', then we dress our country couple in denim overalls and a gingham skirt and white apron. Finally, we secure our couple to rebar stakes as proof against the winds of autumn. Come join the celebration on October 15th and 29 at 9am, weather permitting. 🍂

The lovely raspberry-colored pods of the castor oil plant brighten the fall garden. Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC



Gourds, fennel, and a charming lady with a basket graced Belle Meade's contribution to the Master Gardeners' booth at the Tennessee State Fair. Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC



September Minutes

by Recording Secretary Doris Painter (2013)

Minutes of September 04, 2014 Monthly Meeting of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County held at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. 55 members attending.

President Bob Mather called the meeting to order and led the invocation before the potluck meal. The program for the meeting was presented by Scott Jones, manager of the Tennessee State Fair. Explaining the theme for this year, "Let the Good Times Grow", he offered a history of the fair, this year's features, and introduced fair chairman John Rose.

Russell Kirchner (2011), chair of the the MGDC fair project, encouraged members to engage fair visitors at the booth and submit plants for the 'Most Beautiful' and 'Culinary' competitions.

Treasurer Ed Taylor gave the Treasurers Report, reporting a balance of \$10,616.22.

Announcements—Bob presented badges to Gerre White (2013) and Joan Clayton-Davis (2014). It was announced that Beth Babbitt was recently named coordinator for the Tennessee Master Gardener Program. Becky Fox Matthews (2005) announced Todd Breyer will deliver our October meeting program on bulbs.

Bob announced that collection of annual dues, which help to pay for the newsletter, postage, and administrative costs in support of our activities, will begin in November.

Members will receive an electronic survey through Survey-Monkey, soliciting input for planning for the years to come. Ideas, suggestions and thoughts are encouraged, and the survey is anonymous. Bob reported that the Nominating Committee consists of Caroll Marrero (2009), Paul Martin (1998), and Karen Shaw (2014). Members interested in serving were urged to speak with them.

Judy Burnette (2004), the Extension Office Liaison, was introduced and opportunities for earning hours by helping at the Extension Office mentioned.

Mentoring Program—Caroll Marrero thanked the Mentors for their work and the Interns who have completed their certification to become Master Gardeners.

Speakers Bureau—Natalie Manor (2009) recognized members of the Speakers Bureau. There are currently 13 members presenting topics. Natalie encouraged others to become a part of the Speakers Bureau saying they could receive their training on the phone. All presenters go out as a two person team to present. The Bureau has chosen a

"Top 10 Topics" and there will be new topics added—but you cannot present unless you are trained. Each member will be asked to present once a month during the year.

There will be a sale on merchandise at the October meeting to get rid of existing inventory. Samples of new items to see and pre-order will be available.

The Hermitage—Laura Kraft (2010) encouraged members to come help pull weeds Saturday, September 13th at 8am.

Demo Garden—Shirley Lee (2001) said they are working in the Demo Garden every Saturday from 9am until 12 noon and are often there many weekday evenings. She encouraged members to come and volunteer.

Grassmere—Work days are on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings. Cathie Long (1999) invited members to come plant mums and pansies before the Harvest Days Celebration September 26-28.

City Cemetery—A Living History Tour will be held on September 18, 2014, from 2-5pm. Andrew and Rachel Jackson will greet you when you arrive. A work day will be held on Saturday, October 4, from 9am to 1pm.

Belle Meade—Members are now working every other Wednesday in the gardens. The next work day will be September 17th.

Music & Molasses—Will be held on October 17-18. A chair and co-chair are needed for this event. Bob encouraged members to consider this project saying there would be lots of help getting the work done.

Announcements - Becky Fox Matthews announced that the Adventure Science Center is sponsoring a Mini Maker Faire on September 13, 2014, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. They are expecting 5-6 thousand visitors, and the event is free. There will be a Master Gardener booth and Jim Semmens (2013) will be demonstrating and talking about Bokashi Composting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ed Taylor and unanimously seconded. 🍷





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

Recipe of the Month

Banana Chai Bread

From the kitchen of Jason Goodrich

Ingredients:

- ▶ 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ c all-purpose flour
- ▶ 1 Tbsp baking powder
- ▶ $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ c sugar

- ▶ $\frac{1}{2}$ c low fat cream cheese
- ▶ 2 eggs
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ c bananas, mashed
- ▶ $\frac{1}{4}$ c brewed chai tea

Instructions:

In a medium bowl, mix together flour, baking powder, and salt. In a separate bowl, mix sugar, cream cheese, and eggs until light and fluffy. Mix mashed bananas and chai tea into cream cheese mixture. Add flour mixture and mix until smooth.

Pour mixture into a greased 9x5-inch loaf pan. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 60-minutes. Cool on rack. remove from pan after ten minutes.

Yield: 12 servings