

Garden Talk

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 11 — November 2015



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Mather's Musings

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

Who was having the most fun at Music and Molasses this year...the kids entering the horse barn with beaming smiles on their faces as they saw what they could make or the Master Gardeners that volunteered their time to make butterflies out of paper rolls, using glitter, pipe cleaners and other craft items?

Thank you, Lynn Ashford (2011) and Jill Meese (2015) for agreeing to co-chair this fun event after turning me down twice — I knew both of you would work so well together and I was determined not to take no from either of you! As a result of your dedicated work on this project, we received a very nice letter of thanks from Tirri Parker, Chairperson of the Tennessee Agricultural Museum's Music and Molasses festival. She also thanked MGDC volunteers who also helped to fill-in at other festival locations. Thank you one and all — you always make me proud to be your president.

Elections for next year's officers will be held during our annual meeting on November 12, 2015.

I was **very disappointed** that no one volunteered for most offices, including those of the President, 1st Vice President, and Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter Editor) as well as the newly created board positions for Education Chairperson, Events Chairperson and Membership Chairperson. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that you give

serious consideration to holding an office in your organization and attend this meeting. If you have any questions regarding the responsibilities of any position, please call me at (615) 525-5293 or email president@mgofdc.org as we need to have all of our board positions filled. I do not accept the excuse "I don't have the time"; these roles only require the time a person is able to put into serving on the board.

Jason Goodrich (2013) has been working with the IT department at UT on problems we have discovered with logging hours and reports good progress. Forgot your password? Email David Cook at dcook5@utk.edu and he will resend your password so you can log your hours. If you have other problems with logging hours, call or e-mail any of your officers.

I would like to commend all of the workers at Grassmere who have stepped up and continued the fine work that has been accomplished over the past years in the gardens. Many Master Gardener volunteers felt they did not possess the gardening knowledge that Cathie Long (1999) possessed, but have shown us that Cathie taught them well! Cathie recently moved back to Alabama to be closer to her family.

Fall is here and you have many things to do in your garden. Don't forget to take a walk in your garden today! 🍂

Proposed Bylaws Amendment

A proposal to amend the Bylaws has been unanimously recommended for adoption by the Executive Committee and is referred to the membership for consideration. The amendment will be voted upon during the November meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1

Deletes language of Article X Dues and replaces with:

Members shall remain in good standing by paying dues as determined by a vote of the membership and completing recertification requirements as determined by the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Program. Members in good standing shall be eligible to vote and hold elected or appointed office in the Association.

1. Members shall be assessed dues at a rate of \$20.00 per annum that shall be payable to the Association on the first day of January annually.

2. Members of the same household shall be subject to a single dues assessment annually.
3. Lifetime members shall be exempt from the assessment of dues.
4. The fiscal year of the Association shall be concurrent with the calendar year.

Rationale: This amendment seeks to define and conspicuously articulate the role of dues, recertification of hours, and define membership in good standing.

It further articulates in written form previously adopted board policies for the collection of dues, and defines the fiscal year.

The procedure for amending the Bylaws is provided in Article XI of the Bylaws.

Read the MGDC Bylaws online or in your membership directory. 📖

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Cover: A collage of photos from the 2015 Music and Molasses festival.
Photos: Robert Mather/MGDC.

November Program

by Karen Shaw, First Vice President, Class of 2014

Don't miss our November speaker, James Newburn, Assistant Director of the UT Gardens – the University of Tennessee's research, demonstration and teaching gardens located on the Agriculture Campus of UT in Knoxville. James oversees day-to-day operations of the gardens as well as the production, planting, and maintenance of all herbaceous and woody plants grown in the gardens.

He started working for UT as a student in 1992 and became the floriculture research greenhouse manager after receiving a B.S. in Horticulture in 1995. In 1999, he became curator of the UT Gardens and, after receiving an M.S. in Public Horticulture in 2005, became assistant director in 2009.

He works directly with Dr. Susan Hamilton, Associate Professor in Plant Sciences and Director of the Gardens, and supervises and trains the UT graduate and undergraduate public horticulture student interns, employees and volunteers that make up the UT Gardens staff. James will be sharing "What's Hot — Gardening Trends in 2016." 🌱



Elections

by Bob Mather, President, Class of 2000

At our October meeting, 3 nominations were made for 9 officer positions.

Virginia Casalone (2011) was nominated for 2nd Vice President, **Karen Shaw** (2014) for Recording Secretary, and **Laura Cooper** (2014) for Treasurer.

Nominations will be accepted during the November meeting elections for officers. The roles and responsibilities for these positions include:

- ♦ President — the presiding officer of board and monthly meetings with responsibility for appointing project and committee chairpersons.
- ♦ First Vice President — performs the duties of the president in his/her absence; coordinates programs for monthly meetings.
- ♦ Second Vice President — provides supervision and coordination of all projects in collaboration with project chairpersons.
- ♦ Corresponding Secretary — conducts all correspondence, media, and announcements; edits the monthly newsletter.
- ♦ Recording Secretary — manages all recordkeeping, including the keeping of board and monthly meeting minutes.
- ♦ Treasurer — conducts financial transactions and management.

♦ Education Chairperson — provides supervision and coordination of continuing education.

♦ Events Chairperson — provides supervision and coordination of all annual and special events.

♦ Membership Chairperson — provides supervision and coordination of all member-relates services and serves as chairperson of the Membership Committee.

Next year will be a very special year as we celebrate our 30th anniversary. Please consider serving a one-year term of leadership and continuing to make the Master Gardeners of Davidson County the great organization that it is. 🌱

Silent Auction

by Bob Mather, President, Class of 2000

Don't forget to please bring your contributions to our annual Silent Auction to our meeting on November 12th!

Bring garden books you no longer need, garden tools, photographs of any items you would like to donate, etc. Highest bidder wins the item! 🌱

2015 Dues

by Bob Mather, President, Class of 2000

If you have not paid dues for 2015, you can do so at our November meeting. If you can't remember, please see Jason Goodrich during the meeting who will check our records for you. 🌱

November 2015

For a complete calendar of events, visit our website at www.mgofdc.org.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Board Meeting, 6pm at UT Central Region	5	6	7 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere and The Hermitage
8	9 Workday: Grassmere, 8am-12pm	10	11 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere 8:30-10:30am at Belle Meade Meet Me at the Market, 10am-2pm	12 Monthly Meeting, 6pm Ellington Ag Ctr	13	14 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere and The Hermitage
15	16 Workday: Grassmere, 8am-12pm	17	18 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere 8:30-10:30am at Belle Meade	19	20	21 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere and The Hermitage
22	23 Workday: Grassmere, 8am-12pm	24	25 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere 8:30-10:30am at Belle Meade	26	27	28 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere and The Hermitage
29	30 Workday: Grassmere, 8am-12pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Please be reminded that scheduled project workdays may be subject to weather conditions. ✓ Check with project chairs about seasonal schedule changes. Find their contact information at our website. ✓ <u>Save the Date</u>: The TSU College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Sciences will be hosting the fifth annual Tennessee Local Food Summit with TSU Extension and Barefoot Farmer, LLC on December 04-06, 2015. The event will feature farm-fresh meals, networking, workshops, trade shows, and farm tours. For details, visit www.tnlocalfood.com. 				

Historic Grassmere Gardens

by Rich Shiavi, Class of 2009

The coming of fall has two aspects for a garden. One is the reaping of harvest that has been so vitally nourished through months of planning, work, sweat, and picking. This year's harvest has been very bounteous and the yields have been very good on a variety of vegetables.

Just to mention a few, the garden yielded 38 lb. of okra, 63 lb. of tomatoes, and 8 lb. of turnips. The biggest shoe this year have been the several plots of zinnias. The plants were strong and colorful and attracted what seemed to be hundreds of butterflies. Not only did the Master Gardeners marvel at the butterflies seemingly endless movement and search for nectar, but so too did our many visitors to the gardens.



Alas, fall came with its own colors and beauty as seen in this photo, above, of the spent corn plants. This is also time for cool weather crops and so mustard greens, photo below, and turnip greens, etc., were planted and germinated quite quickly and are now growing beautifully.



Some of the larger summer perennials are still growing, such as the castor beans, goldenrod, and aromatic Sweet Annie. The Sweet Annie has spread to several areas and is still strongly aromatic, but its color has turned to a golden brown. In spite of a good year, we'll be putting the garden to "rest" soon. 🌿

Want to submit an article?

Our monthly *Garden Talk* newsletter isn't just about project reports and volunteer requests — we would love to share your stories and interests as well!

If you enjoy writing or sharing your passions, consider submitting an article for the newsletter. We welcome submissions written by our Master Gardeners and the refreshing perspectives they offer.

All submissions are due on the 19th of every month. You are invited to include your photos that we will include as space allows. Don't forget to provide a caption and photo credit.

Email your submissions to newsletter@mgofdc.org!

Historic Nashville City Cemetery

by Bob Mather, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2000

Despite the rain, our Living History Tour this year was once again a great success. Our focus was on the Steamboat Era in Nashville and the people whose lives it shaped. Included were Governor William Carroll, original owner of the General Jackson steamboat.

Thanks to the Master Gardeners who once again volunteered to serve as tour guides, telling visitors about the rich history of Nashville and also how the Master Gardeners of Davidson County help to maintain our Historic Nashville City Cemetery. 🌿



Prepaying your 2016 dues

by Jason Goodrich, Corresponding Secretary, Class of 2013

Next year, we Master Gardeners of Davidson County will celebrate our 30th anniversary! That, in addition to all of the fun and activities a new year holds, ought to make 2016 one of our best years yet.

We will begin accepting payments for 2016 dues at the November meeting. Remember that dues are \$20 and may be paid with cash or check at that meeting or mailed to us at: MGDC, P.O. Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37205-1055.

Don't forget that couples need only pay one fee and lifetime members are not required to pay dues. 🌿

Junior Master Gardeners

by Doris Weakley, Chairperson, Class of 1999

The Junior Master Gardeners Camp is transitioning to a leader and committee structure. An organizational meeting was held during September for Master Gardeners interested in being among the leadership and development for this transition. Also at this meeting, a month-by-month outline of what takes place leading up to camp was discussed as were determining how many chairs were needed for each aspect of the camp and filling those roles.

There are many ways a Master Gardener can help and have full responsibility for a section of camp as outlined. These are the chairs needed that make up the committees:

- Leader: Go-to-person concerning anything to do with camp; scheduling Camp Week at UTE District 11.
- Camp Chair and Co-Chair: Responsible for the week event of keeping schedule on time and handling all inquiries during camp.
- Chair, Handbook: Editing and printing.
- Chair, Camp Schedule: Making the daily schedule of topics and Hands-On Projects (HOPs).
- Chair, Teachers: Schedule all teachers for the camp per topic.
- Chair, Crafts: Crafts and teaching hands-on projects.
- Chair, Hands-On Projects: Buying, counting and making kits for HOPs.
- Chair, Outside Gardening: Raised bed, square foot, and pie gardening.
- Chair, Food and Snacks: Buying and serving snacks.
- Chair, Name Tags and Certificates: Campers names are applied to the saved logos at UTE.
- Chair, T-Shirts: Ordering and sizing of shirts.
- Chair, Publicity and Photos: Newsletter articles, newspaper, Facebook, and website updates.
- Chair, Intern Representative: Sharing information about Junior Camp at MG Classes.
- Chair, Urban Gardening Festival: Receiving donations for Junior Camp Booth, setting up, and selling.

Please volunteer for any assignment or position. More than one person can work on any area listed. I will talk with any Master Gardener about details concerning what each chair will do. Master Gardeners volunteering at camp for several years can continue to have the same duties as always. Names will be passed on to chairs. **Save the date! Junior Master Gardeners Camp will be held June 13-17, 2016.** For more, contact Doris Weakley at (615) 353-1816 or email jrmg@mgofdc.org. 🐼

Verify your address, phone, email

Have you moved or changed your phone or internet service?

Please remember to report any changes in contact information to our recording secretary at records@mgofdc.org. 🐼

Music and Molasses

by Lynn Ashford, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2011

We were a hit!

Our booth was swarmed with kids and their parents all day Saturday and Sunday. Our theme was Pollinators and catered to the youngsters. Crafts were made to help demonstrate pollinators such as egg crate caterpillars, toilet paper roll and paper plate butterflies, toilet paper rolls decorated with leaf and moss for leaf monsters, etc. They absolutely loved getting involved!

We couldn't have pulled this off without the many volunteers who helped with the booth as well as the donations made for our supplies. Flowers from our Demonstration Garden were used to make a huge fall wreath that took center stage in our colorful booth...bales of hay, mums, pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks, etc., added to it all. Most of all, we gained a lot of fans and future Master Gardeners — they had a blast and learned a lot! There are too many people to thank individually here in this write up but you know who you are and know how very much you are appreciated by co-chair Jill Meese and myself. It was truly a pleasure! 🐼

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

by Mariwyn Evans, Class of 2011

It's scarecrow time at Belle Meade! Our sturdy farm couple has risen from their summer rest in Muff Cline's attic to welcome the fall. The Weedin' Women got to show off their creativity and their skills with duct tape, newspaper, and plastic garbage bags as we molded waterproof bodies onto the PVC pipe frames. Then we lovingly dressed the pair in all their down-home finery and affixed them to their rebar holders. *Voila!*

The couple has ringside seats near beds filled lots of scrumptious fall greens that are coming up in the garden. Already we have mustard, kale, and lettuces to enjoy. If winter holds off a little longer, there will also be beets and turnips to add to the mix. For now, we're trying to keep everything in the ground so our school groups will see the excitement of gardening.

We are working, so please join us on Wednesdays at 8:30am. 🐼



L: Our favorite scarecrows, Chester and Mae. R: Gwen McKinney (2010) and Nancy West (2014) face a little struggle getting Chester's overalls over all those layers of plastic. Photos: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Chicken and Dumplings

from the kitchen of Bob Mather

Ingredients

- ✓ 1½ lb. boneless, skinless chicken thighs, trimmed and cut into 1- to 2-inch pieces
- ✓ ½ c all-purpose flour
- ✓ 1 Tbsp olive oil
- ✓ 2 Tbsp unsalted butter
- ✓ 2 medium carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces
- ✓ 2 stalks celery, diced
- ✓ 1½ c frozen pearl onions, thawed
- ✓ ½ tsp dried thyme
- ✓ ½ tsp sage
- ✓ ½ tsp salt
- ✓ ½ tsp freshly ground pepper
- ✓ 4 c low-sodium chicken broth

For the dumplings:

- ✓ 1¼ c all-purpose flour
- ✓ 1 Tbsp minced fresh chives or 2 tsp dried chives
- ✓ ½ tsp baking soda
- ✓ ¼ tsp salt
- ✓ ¾ c milk
- ✓ 1 c frozen baby peas

Instructions

1. In a medium bowl, toss the chicken with ½ cup all-purpose flour until well coated. In a Dutch oven over medium-high heat, heat the oil. Add the chicken to the pot and sauté, stirring frequently, until lightly browned, about 3 minutes. Set the chicken aside.
2. Reduce heat to medium and add the 2 tablespoons of butter to the Dutch oven. Stir in the carrots, celery, pearl onions, corn, thyme, sage and ½ teaspoon salt and pepper. Sauté, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are softened, about 7 minutes.
3. Make the dumplings: In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, chives, baking soda and ¼ teaspoon salt. Stir in the milk until just combined.
4. Stir the broth and the browned chicken into the vegetables. Bring the stew to a simmer then stir in the peas.
5. Drop the dumpling dough into the stew in 12 heaping tablespoons — spaced apart as much as possible as they tend to puff up. Reduce the heat to a low simmer, cover the pot and simmer until the dumplings are firm and the chicken is cooked through, about 15 to 20 minutes.