

Garden Talk

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County
Volume XXX, Issue No. 2 — February 2016



*Celebrating 30 years of service
1986-2016*

Executive Committee

PRESIDENT

Vacant

president@mgofdc.org

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Martin

1vp@mgofdc.org

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Virginia Casalone

2vp@mgofdc.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Karen Shaw

records@mgofdc.org

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Vacant

newsletter@mgofdc.org

TREASURER

Laura Cooper

treasurer@mgofdc.org

EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

Vacant

education@mgofdc.org

EVENT CHAIRPERSON

Vacant

events@mgofdc.org

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Vacant

membership@mgofdc.org



EXTENSION OFFICE LIAISON

Judy Burnette

judyburnette@gmail.com

GARDEN TOURS

Sylvia Wahl

tours@mgofdc.org

HISTORIANS

Joy Kosarsky

Gwen McKinney

historian@mgofdc.org

GRASSMERE HISTORIC FARM AT THE NASHVILLE ZOO

Andrea Pruijssers

Rich Schiavi

grassmere@mgofdc.org

HARDING GARDEN AT BELLE MEADE

Muff Cline

bellemeade@mgofdc.org

HISTORIC NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY

Catherine Atwell

Robert Mather

citycemetery@mgofdc.org

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS

Pam Swoner

Doris Weakley

jrmg@mgofdc.org

KITCHEN GARDENS AT

ANDREW JACKSON'S HERMITAGE

Laura Kraft

Mary Langford

hermitage@mgofdc.org

MASTER GARDENER CLASS LIAISON

Barbara Allen

(615) 309-6130

MENTORING PROGRAM

Maddy Berezov

mentors@mgofdc.org

MERCHANDISE

Vacant

merchandise@mgofdc.org

MUSIC & MOLASSES FESTIVAL

Lynn Ashford

mmf@mgofdc.org

NASHVILLE LAWN & GARDEN SHOW

Vacant

lg@mgofdc.org

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Joan Clayton-Davis

speakers@mgofdc.org

TENNESSEE STATE FAIR

Vacant

statefair@mgofdc.org

URBAN GARDENING FESTIVAL

Nancy Wilcenski

ugf@mgofdc.org

VOLUNTEER SERVICE LIAISON

Lois Francis, (615) 361-1926

francis4966@bellsouth.net

WEBMASTERS

Laura Kraft

webmaster@mgofdc.org

Event and Project Chairpersons

DEMONSTRATION GARDENS AT ELLINGTON AGRICULTURAL CENTER

Jeanine Atkinson

Tyann Chappell

Shirley Lee

demogarden@mgofdc.org

UT Extension Davidson County

1417 Murfreesboro Pike, 2nd Floor

P. O. Box 196300

Nashville, TN 37219

Tel: (615) 862-5995

<http://davidson.tennessee.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

© 2016 Master Gardeners of Davidson County All Rights Reserved

Garden Talk is the monthly publication of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County, Tennessee.

Submissions

Readers are encouraged to submit articles and photographs for future issues to newsletter@mgofdc.org that will be featured as space allows.

The **deadline for submissions is the 19th of every month**, including items for the forthcoming calendar.

Dues

Payment of annual dues of \$20 may be made to the above address, at a monthly meeting, or [securely online with a debit/credit card](#).

NOTICE: Trade and brand names are used only for information. Tennessee Extension does not guarantee nor warrant the standard of any product mentioned; neither does it imply approval of any product to the exclusion of others which also may be suitable.

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. Tennessee Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Cover Photo: Master Gardeners visiting a garden tour in 2007. Courtesy MGDC Archive.

This month's meeting

by Paul Martin, First Vice President, Class of 1998

Join us for our monthly meeting **Thursday, February 11th at 6:30pm** in the Ed Jones Auditorium on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center!

Aside from fellowship and fun (come prepared to win a door prize), we will be voting on our new logo commemorating our 30th anniversary this year!

Our meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to bring visitors as well as a dish for our potluck meal. I also wish to extend a special invitation to our new Class of 2016 interns.

The program for evening will be presented by Greg Phillipy, executive director of the [Tennessee Agricultural Museum](#) who grew up in the Crieve Hall community. Greg holds an undergraduate degree in Sculpture and Art History and a graduate degree in Public History/Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. He will be discussing proposals for future development of museum.

A cultural repository for valuable and rare agricultural artifacts, the Tennessee Agricultural Museum is managed by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture which offers year-round, hands-on educational and special programs for more than 25,000 youth and adult visitors every year. 🌱

Board members sought!

by Paul Martin, First Vice President

The search is still on! We still have a few roles on the board. Are they what you imagine them to be? Maybe. Then again, maybe not. They aren't full-time jobs and they don't consume hours and hours of your week. Do you have to go to meetings after meetings like at your day (or former) job? Nope.

The biggest role of our board members isn't to chair anything but provide support to our growing projects and programs.

Of course, the most important thing you do as a board member is provide leadership and good stewardship for our organization over the course of the year.

Not as daunting as you first thought, is it?

I can't overstate the truly wonderful and talented people who are Master Gardeners of Davidson County.

We're particularly interested in identifying newly certified Master Gardeners who may be interested in helping. You provide a fresh perspective that can help some of us who've been around long enough to become life members!

Share your recommendations or your interest by contacting me at 1vp@mgofdc.org or at (615) 331-9271. 🌱

Last call for dues

by Laura Cooper, Treasurer, Class of 2014

So that we can all enjoy the fun we're looking forward to the rest of the year, this is my final reminder that if you have not yet paid your dues for the 2016 calendar year, please do so at your soonest convenience.

If you do not to pay your dues, please be aware that this will be your last newsletter.

I will collect dues at the February meeting. You may pay [online](#) at any time with a debit/credit card using our Square store, or remit a check made payable to "MGDC" to P.O. Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204.

Please Note: Lifetime members are exempt from dues and only one payment need be paid by couples. 🌱

Come vote for new logo

by Jason Goodrich, Corresponding Secretary

As the oldest Master Gardener association in Tennessee, this year marks our 30th anniversary. In celebration of this milestone, we will be adopting a new and distinct logo!

Working with a professional graphic designer (in fact, you may know Russell Kirchner's wife Jami!), three different and wonderfully eye-catching designs will be presented at our February meeting for members to choose from among.

The most popular design will be adopted for use over the next several years, and also be featured on new merchandise commemorating our 30th anniversary.

So come out to the February meeting and have your voice heard! 🌱

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>This month's meeting</i>	3
<i>Board members sought</i>	3
<i>Last call for dues</i>	3
<i>Come vote for new logo</i>	3
<i>January meeting minutes</i>	4
<i>Herb Society Sale</i>	4
<i>February Calendar</i>	5
<i>2015 ACT Awards</i>	6
<i>Project Update:</i> <i>Nashville City Cemetery</i>	7
<i>Speakers Bureau</i>	7
<i>Project Update: Kitchen</i> <i>Gardens at The Hermitage</i>	7
<i>Event: Nashville</i> <i>Lawn & Garden Show</i>	8
<i>Perennial Plant Society</i> <i>Plant Sale</i>	8
<i>2016 Master Gardener</i> <i>State Conference</i>	8
<i>Project Update:</i> <i>Historic Grassmere Gardens</i>	9
<i>Special Project: 30th</i> <i>Anniversary Committee</i>	9
<i>Event: 2016 Urban</i> <i>Gardening Festival</i>	9
<i>Bus Field Trip: Huntsville</i> <i>Botanical Garden</i>	10
<i>Project Update: Junior</i> <i>Master Gardener Camp</i>	10
<i>Special Project: 30th</i> <i>Anniversary Cookbook</i>	10
<i>Seed Catalogs</i>	11
<i>Project Update: Harding</i> <i>Garden at Belle Meade</i>	12



Submissions to our newsletter by members are always welcome!

While there is plenty to share about our projects and programs, we always enjoy sharing stories about Master Gardeners, their experiences, and their gardens.

If you would like to submit an item to the newsletter, please email newsletter@mgofdc.org.

Herb Society Plant Sale 2016

by Rhonda Galligan,
Herb Society of Nashville

The Herb Society of Nashville will hold its **Annual Herb Sale** on **Saturday, April 16, 2016**, from 9am until 2pm at the Fairgrounds Nashville sports arena building.

The sale is open to the public and admission is free (except for a \$5 fairgrounds parking fee), and will feature the sale of rare varieties of annual and perennial herbs as well as all culinary herbs.

Credit and debit cards will be accepted. A local Boy Scout troop will also be on hand to help you check out.

Four free mini-seminars will also be offered beginning at 8:15am lasting 15 minutes each and be repeated one again at 8:30am. The topics of the seminars will be:

- Landscaping with Herbs can be both beautiful and useful
- Preserving Herbs: Techniques to ensure a supply of herbs all year
- Companion Planting: How matching plants will enhance outcomes
- Unheralded herbs you need to know about

To learn more, visit our website: www.herbsocietynashville.org.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me by email at rhonda.galligan@gmail.com or at (931) 224-8947.

We hope to see you at the plant sale! 🌱

January Meeting Minutes

The January meeting was held Thursday, January 14th in the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural Center. First vice president Paul Martin ('98) called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. A total of 67 members were in attendance.

After welcoming guests and members, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed before our meal.

David Cook ('00), our sponsoring extension agent announced the UT Extension Central Region administration building has begun planning for future renovations of both building and grounds. Plans now include a larger meeting room, a state-certified kitchen, building upgrades, and a 150-capacity auditorium. The building greenhouse is to be turned over to the Master Gardeners of Davidson County.

He also announced the schedule for the 2016 Master Gardener course and its new location at the MNPD Southeast Precinct, 5101 Harding Place in Nashville.

Master Gardeners were recognized for their contributions to projects and our association during the 2015 ACT Awards.

David announced that the Master Gardeners of Davidson County recorded a total of 10,783 volunteer service hours and 1,478 continuing education hours in 2015.

Paul announced Mr. Gregory Phillipy, executive director of the Tennessee Agricultural Museum, will visit present our February 11th meeting program.

Paul also introduced the new 2016 Executive Board, including himself, first vice president Virginia Casalone ('11), recording secretary Karen Shaw ('14), and treasurer Laura Cooper ('13). He encouraged members to step-up to fill the five remaining vacant positions of president, corresponding secretary, education chairperson, events chairperson, and membership chairperson.

Virginia Casalone encouraged project chairs to submit their seed orders for donation requests as soon as practicable.

Laura Cooper gave the Treasurer's Report: the beginning balance December 1, 2015 was \$9,088.01; deposits totaled \$160.00 and

expenses amounted to \$291.25. The balance at the close of 2015 was \$8,892.06.

Bob Mather shared that the theme for the 2016 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show is "Small Spaces/Grand Gardens". The first planning meeting is scheduled for January 27th at 1pm at the UT Extension conference room, 1417 Murfreesboro Pike.

He also announced that the 2016 Urban Gardening Festival will be held Saturday, May 21st in our Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center. An planning meeting is set for January 20th at 6pm at the UT Central Region administration building.

Jason Goodrich ('13) announced that, in addition to Summer Celebration, three additional bus field trips are planned for 2016. The first will visit Huntsville Botanical Garden on Saturday, April 16th. The cost including admission is \$36. More details will be included in next month's newsletter. The second will be to Yew Dell Botanical Gardens in Louisville, Kentucky on June 4th. A trip to Chattanooga is planned for late October. Members and new interns will be given first opportunity to register before other Master Gardener associations are invited. Seating for all trips is limited to 55 people.

Joan Clayton-Davis ('14), our Speakers Bureau chair, delivered an update that their first presentation was delivered for the Friends & Flowers Garden Club on January 12th, and that their new workshop series with the Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange would begin January 30th.

Maddy Berezov ('14), chair of our Mentoring Program, encouraged mentors to submit a brief bio and photo of themselves for the Class of 2016 intern packets. She also shared that she wishes to work closely with project chairs to pass along project needs to encourage involvement by the new class.

Door prizes were given out by Paul Martin who encouraged members to bring items for door prizes to future meetings.

Bob Mather reported that a committee for our 30th Anniversary Celebration is being formed and that details would be included in the next newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm. 🌱

Karen Shaw, Recording Secretary, Class of 2014

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Urban Garden- ing Festival Planning Mtg UT Extension Central Region Bldg, 6pm	3 Board Meeting, UT Extension Central Region Bldg, 6pm	4 2016 Course: Class 3 MNPDP South Precinct, 6pm	5	6
7	8	9 2016 Course: Class 4 MNPDP South Precinct, 6pm	10	11 Monthly Meeting Ed Jones Audito- rium, Ellington Ag Center, 6:30pm	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 2016 Course: Class 5 MNPDP South Precinct, 6pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 2016 Course: Class 6 MNPDP South Precinct, 6pm	26	27 Boxwood Trim- ming Demo Nashville City Cemetery, 9am CSA Fair , Nash- ville Farmers' Market, 10am
28	29	Upcoming Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nashville Lawn & Garden Show, Fairgrounds Nashville: Mar 03 - Mar 06 2016 Tennessee Extension Master Gardener State Conference, Knoxville: Mar 17 - Mar 19 For a complete calendar of upcoming events, visit our website at www.mgofdc.org .				



2015 ACT Awards

by Karen Shaw,
Recording Secretary, Class of 2014

(l to r): Bob Mather, Barbara Allen,
Judy Burnette, Catherine Atwell, Joan
Clayton-Davis, Jill Meese,
Lynn Ashford, Ethel-
Lonniel Williams,
and Barbara Adams.

Our 2015 ACT Awards ceremony was held during our January meeting. Master Gardener and UT Extension Davidson County agent David Cook handed out awards along with MGDC president, Bob Mather, and our project chairs.



Lynn Ashford and Jill Meese recognized the contributions of **Bob Bryan** ('15), **Pattie Waller** ('04), **Georgeann McCoy** ('98), **Jeanine Atkinson** ('15), **Tyann Chappell** ('13), and **Shirley Lee** ('01) with

"Busy Bees" for their contributions to Music and Molasses.

Bob Mather recognized last year's project and program chairs, including: **Judy Burnette** ('04), **Barbara Allen** ('00), **Lois Francis** ('04), **Joy Kosarsky** ('10), **Gwen McKinney** ('10), **Nancy Wilcenski** ('14), **Catherine Atwell** ('04), **Barbara Drake** ('12), **Joan-Clayton-Davis** ('14), **Cindy Martin** ('14), **Lynn Ashford** ('11), **Jill Meese** ('15), **Barbara Adams** ('90), **Ethel-Lonniel Williams** ('11), and **Carol Marrero** ('09).

The Chairpersons Awards are awarded by the chairperson(s) of projects and programs in recognition of the contributions, hard work, and dedication shown by recipients.

Doris Weakley awarded the Chairpersons Award for the Junior Master Gardeners Camp to **Pattie Waller**. The Kitchen Gardens at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage awarded their Chairpersons Award to **Clif Gunter** ('15).

Catherine Atwell was recognized with the Chairpersons Award for Historic Nashville City Cemetery. Muff Cline ('07) presented the Chairpersons Award for Harding Garden at Belle Meade to **Barbara Drake** ('12).



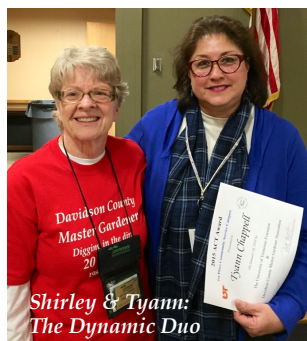
(l to r): Muff Cline, Shirley
Lee, Catherine Atwell, Tyann
Chappell, and Tom Coulter.

Rich Shiavi ('09) presented the Chairpersons Awards on behalf of the Grassmere Historic Farm at the Nashville Zoo to **Susan Brown** (2012). Tyann Chappell and Shirley Lee presented the Chairpersons Award for the Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center to **Tom Coulter** ('15).



Susan Brown and
Rich Shiavi.

"Busy Bees" for teaching were given to **Andrea Pruijssers** ('13), **Ann Lovell** ('14), **Bill MacLennan** ('03), **Susan Brown**, **Katherine Firsching** ('14), **Rich Shiavi**, **Paul Martin**, **Cathie Long** ('99), **Mary Duncan** ('04), **Catherine Atwell**, **Maureen May** ('12), **Debb Wilcox** ('13), and **Faye Dorman** ('14).



Shirley & Tyann:
The Dynamic Duo

Retiring officers were recognized for their service, including Bob Mather as president, Catherine Atwell as second vice president, Marilee Jacobs as treasurer, and Jason Goodrich as corresponding secretary.

The 2015 President's Award was given to **Jason Goodrich** ('13).

David Cook presented the ACT service awards for volunteer and continuing education hours:

In the **Administration** category, 1st place was awarded to **Bob Mather**, 2nd place to **Jason Goodrich**, and 3rd place to **Cindy Martin**.

In the **Community** category, 1st place was awarded to **Tyann Chappell**, 2nd place to **Nancy Goodrich** ('10), and 3rd place to **Shirley Lee**.

In the **Teaching** category, 1st place was awarded to **Georgeann McCoy**, 2nd place to **Catherine Atwell**, and 3rd place to **Doris Weakley**.

Recognizing the importance of learning, in the category of **Continuing Education**, 1st place was awarded to **Becky Fox Matthews** ('05), 2nd place to **Lyn James** ('04), and 3rd place to **Pattie Waller**.

Historic Nashville City Cemetery

by Bob Mather, Class of 2000

The first month of 2016 is already behind us and activity at the Historic Nashville City Cemetery is gearing-up for the year. In addition to the Master Gardeners, I also serve as the secretary for the Nashville City Cemetery Association and jumped right into my duties as we held our annual workshop for newly-elected board members.

It's quite a diverse board with many knowledgeable members who are passionate about the history of Nashville. I always learn something new about the city and its past leaders at every meeting.

Activities for Master Gardeners begin this month with our annual **Boxwood trimming workshops** designed to give our members, new class of interns, and the public an opportunity for hands-on learning about pruning Boxwood.

Our first workshop will be held on **Saturday, February 27th from 9am to 12 noon** at the Nashville City Cemetery located at 4th Avenue South and Oak Street. A second workshop will be conducted at the same times on Saturday, March 5th.

The workshops will be rescheduled in the event of rain. Bring your gloves, sharp hand clippers, and hedge shears. If you have a leaf rake, bring that as well for bagging our clippings.

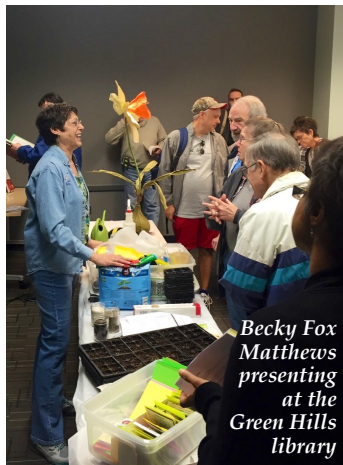
Hot coffee and snacks will be provided. Parking will be in the rear of the cemetery. Please contact me with any questions at citycemetery@mgofdc.org or (615) 525-5293. 🌱



Speakers Bureau 2016 series launched

by Joan Clayton-Davis, Class of 2004

Our 2016 educational season launched on January 12th with a presentation to the Friends & Flowers Garden Club on "Flower Gardening and the Color Wheel" at its meeting at Cheekwood Botanical Gardens. The presentation highlighted how to use the color wheel, perception of color, color value, color intensity, and how to plan for constant color and interest in lawns and gardens.



In partnership with the Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange, we began our third year-long series of exciting educational workshops on January 30th with two events: a work-

shop at the Green Hills branch on "Starting Seeds for Spring Planting", led by Becky Fox Matthews ('05) and a workshop on "The Science Behind Composting" I presented at the Bordeaux branch.

Our Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange presentations are scheduled February to October 2016 on a wide range of gardening topics at the following library locations: Bellevue, Bordeaux, Edgehill, Edmondson Pike, Goodlettsville, Green Hills, and Southeast branches and downtown Main Library.

The Bellevue Library will host a workshop on February 20th in preparation for spring gardens called "Spring/Cool Season Vegetable Gardening" led by Catherine Atwell ('04).



A schedule for our other presentations, dates, times, and locations may be found on the [Speakers Bureau](#) page of our website as well as the [MGDC website calendar](#).

Topics will include: Spring/Cool Season Vegetable Gardening, Fall Vegetable Gardening, Container Vegetable Gardening, Native Tennessee Plants, Beginners Guides to Growing and Enjoying Herbs, and Seed Saving, and Herbaceous Ornamentals. 🌱

Kitchen Gardens at The Hermitage

by Laura Kraft, Class of 2010

Are you wondering how the winter weather worked on your garden? So are we! We spent the end of last season prepping the beds and putting them to sleep for a time. We are looking forward to a prosperous 2016 season and continuing to see our gardens flourish.

This year, we're doing another push to feed our soil — with amendments and tweaks on our techniques. Thanks to our volunteers who join in the fun!

Join us on Saturday, February 20th at 9am for our spring planning meeting at the Hermitage's Café (to the left of the entrance). We'll be reviewing this year's planting seasons, planning our "Earn & Learn" workshops, and more.

The Hermitage Kitchen Gardens reflect heirloom vegetable and herb varieties of the 19th century that would have been planted at the time of Andrew Jackson's residency. We have projects with different volunteer activity levels and interests: gardening, seed propagation, greenhouse tending, public speaking, and more! Please contact Mary Langford or Laura Kraft for more information at hermitage@mgofdc.org. 🌱

2016 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

by Bob Mather, Class of 2000

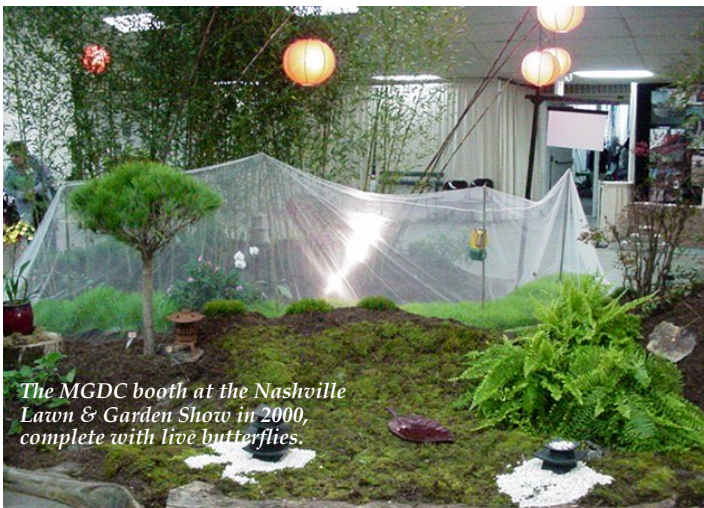
It's February and that means the Nashville Lawn & Garden Show is just around the corner. This will be the 27th year of the show, and Master Gardeners have seen how this yearly event has grown into one of the largest garden shows in the South. This year's show runs from Thursday, March 3rd to Sunday, March 6th, and will once again include many beautiful gardens, over 20 award-winning Middle Tennessee floral designers, a free lecture series each day, a vendor marketplace, and, again this year on Saturday from 12-7pm, a Wine Festival featuring a complimentary wine tasting from vineyards across the Volunteer State.

This year's theme: "Small Spaces, Grand Gardens". Put on those thinking caps as we come up with the theme for our space. As always, MCDC will also feature our very popular lectures by certified Master Gardeners on a variety of garden subjects, a garden display, information about gardening, and our volunteer work.

Class of 2016 interns can get an early start to earning both volunteer and continuing education hours in several ways at the show. You can earn hours (and receive free admission) by distributing programs as attendees arrive each day at the entrance. You can also earn hours by helping at our booth setup prior to the show opening. Also during the show, you can earn continuing education hours by attending any of the lectures. It's a good time to visit the show with your mentors! You can also help with teardown on Sunday, starting at 6pm.

Setup will begin Monday, February 29th as we move props from our storage unit to our show space (this will require only 3 or 4 volunteers with a few trucks). Setup continues Tuesday, March 1st and Wednesday, March 2nd from 10am-5pm. The show begins Thursday, March 3rd from 10am until 8pm daily through Sunday, March 6th when hours are 10am-5pm.

The [Lawn & Garden Show page](#) of our website will have a sign-up form in the next several days where you can sign up to volunteer for different times during the show. Remember to let us know what hours you are able to work! Again, It's a



The MGDC booth at the Nashville Lawn & Garden Show in 2000, complete with live butterflies.

2016 Perennial Plant Society Sale

by Mariwyn Evans, PPS Plant Sale Chair, Class of 2011

The [Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee](#) (PPS) will host its annual plant sale at the Fairgrounds Nashville on Saturday, April 09 from 9am-12 noon.

Admission is free but parking at Fairgrounds Nashville is \$5. Your purchases support the educational activities and scholarships for horticultural students sponsored by PPS.

This year the sale will be better than ever, with more plants, more new varieties, as well as plenty of old favorites. Over 450 varieties of shrubs, roses, vines, perennials, and annuals will be for sale and all plants are purchased from Middle Tennessee growers and are already acclimatized to our challenging climate.

Doors open at 9am but shoppers are encouraged to arrive early by 8:15am when you can also enter the "early bird" drawing for sale gift certificates. PPS volunteers will be on hand to offer advice on choosing the best fit for your yard and gardening experience.

A partial list of plants at the sale will be posted to the PPS website, www.ppsmt.org, by March 1st and updated as more are added. For more information, visit our website or contact me by email at mariwynevens@att.net.

great opportunity to earn hours before our gardens seek our attention...and you get to park and enter the show for free!

If you sign up for duty, please show up on time. If you find you after signing-up that you cannot help, contact us as soon as possible so we can find a replacement. Some have failed to show after making a commitment in the past and that means extra work for others if we cannot meet our needs.

This is always a fun event and a tremendous benefit for the Master Gardeners of Davidson County, and it could not happen without your help. We will add more information as we approach the start of the show! Contact me with questions at president@mgofdc.org or (615) 525-5293.

2016 Tennessee Extension Master Gardener State Conference

The Sevier County Master Gardeners will host this year's state conference (formerly Winter School) March 17-19, 2016 at the UT Institute of Agriculture campus in Knoxville, Tennessee. A workshop on Junior Master Gardener programs and youth education on March 17th will precede the two-day conference. The state conference will feature a number of sessions on March 18th-19th. You may learn more about the conference, find a detailed itinerary, and register at the website of the [Tennessee Extension Master Gardener program](#).

Historic Grassmere Gardens

by Andrea Pruijssers, Class of 2013

Winter time is a difficult season for gardeners. Many of us are itching to get out there and start digging. Some of us got together to scratch that itch in the beginning of January. While nibbling on crackers and cheese and sipping sparkling wine, we discussed what grew well this year, what the rabbits' favorite snack was (answer: the peas), and brainstormed about what else we would like to grow in the upcoming year.

It was inspiring to leaf through the Bakers Creek and Seed Savers catalogs and think about all the heirloom vegetables, flowers, and herbs we could plant and how best to create visual interests all year round.

The Grassmere Historic Gardens behind the Croft house at the Nashville Zoo produces lots of delicious organically-grown vegetables which zoo residents and volunteers get to enjoy. We invite butterflies and other pollinators into our garden by planting milkweed and encouraging the fallen seeds of last year's zinnia to grow up spontaneously; and we discourage pests by lining the vegetable beds with marigolds, lavender, and rosemary, and by performing a yearly crop rotation. The multitude of flowers and butterflies make the garden an oasis for visitors to stroll around in or rest their tired legs on a bench in the shade.

In addition to being beautiful and productive, it is also a place where people come to learn more about growing heirloom vegetables, fruit, antique roses, and culinary and medicinal herbs the old-fashioned, organic way. Master Gardeners and interns work amongst zoo visitors on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays during the gardening season.

There is always something interesting to point out and talk about to engage children and adults. One of this year's new additions is the Small Spoon

Gourd, which I think we will get a lot of comments on. We also look forward to teaching our spring classes in the garden series about gardening basics and organic methods. Be on the lookout for an announcement and a calendar update once we decide on the dates and topics of this year's classes later this month. 🌱

30th Anniversary Committee

by Bob Mather, Class of 2000

This is an historic time for the Master Gardeners of Davidson County as we commemorate 30 years since a small group of gardeners from Nashville and Williamson County gathered to form the first Master Gardener association in Tennessee.

Several other states had already formed programs and Tennessee's was modeled after several others. Today, it has evolved into an expansive statewide program enjoyed by many thousands.

Having been appointed to chair our 30th Anniversary Celebration, I need to call upon several members, both long-time members as well as those who recently enrolled in the Class of 2016.

I am working with our Historians to gather photographs from the past 30 years. We will assemble our 30 year history and begin to prepare for a big celebration in August where we'll invite those who have been involved with our projects and programs through the years as members and supporters. This will require each and every one of us to pull off such a celebration.

I am happy to announce that Faye Dorman ('14) has volunteered to chair our Cookbook Committee to publish a 30th anniversary edition. Yes, MGDC put together a cookbook and revised it in 2006, so we are once again revising it and adding YOUR recipes of the delicious dishes you have been bringing to our potluck meals over the years.

Please see Faye's article in the newsletter for more details and instructions on how to submit your recipes.

We aim to make the cookbook available for purchase in time for the Urban Gardening Festival on May 21st.

We would like for ALL Master Gardeners to participate. Be sure and put your name and year you were certified as a Master Gardener for each recipe you submit. And, by all means, submit several!

I will be contacting project chairs to submit a brief history of each of your projects as best as you are able. You might need to talk to some of the "Old Timers" and look through older copies of our *Garden Talk* newsletter (the newsletter page of our website goes back to 2013).

If you would like to help with our 30th Anniversary Celebration, please email me at president@mgofdc.org or at (615) 525-5293.

This is your organization, so please participate with your support. Any ideas are always welcome. 🌱

2016 Urban Gardening Festival

by Nancy Wilcenski, Class of 2014

The date is set, vendors are being invited to register, and we are getting ready for the 2016 Urban Gardening Festival! Now in its seventh year, this free community event will be held on Saturday, May 21st from 9am-4pm.

We are currently seeking sponsors whose generosity make it possible for visitors and vendors to enjoy the event for free. If you know of anyone or any businesses that may be interested, please have them contact us!

If you know of any local organizations, growers, artisans, or vendors that may be interested in being a vendor at this year's festival, please refer them to the Urban Gardening Festival page at our website, www.mgofdc.org, where they can [register online](#). Space is limited to 75 booths.

And if you'd like to volunteer to help make this year's event the best yet, please email us at info@mgofdc.org! 🌱

Bus Field Trip to Huntsville

by Jason Goodrich, Corresponding Secretary, Class of 2013

Just in case you missed our announcement, mark your calendars! This year we will be offering several bus field trips as part of our 30th anniversary celebrations. The first will be to **Huntsville Botanical Garden on Saturday, April 16th.**

During our visit, we will enjoy guided garden tours, shop the garden's annual plant sale, and visit the demonstration garden of the North Alabama Master Gardeners. Following lunch at Bridge Street Town Centre, we'll enjoy the afternoon touring and shopping Bennett Nurseries and Across The Pond.

The **cost is \$36 per person** including transportation and admission. The field trip will take place rain or shine.

To register, visit our online [Bus Field Trip Registration Form](#). Once registered, you'll receive an invoice that you can either pay securely online via our Square store or by mail to: MGDC, P.O. Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204.

Note: *If you are a member of Cheekwood, please let us know. The reciprocal membership provides free admission, so we will adjust your rate accordingly. If you're not a computer user, please mail payment for the total number of seats for which you are registering to the above address.*

Seating is limited to 55 and registration will not be considered complete until payment is received. Registrations will be processed in the order they are completed until the trip is full. Master Gardeners of Davidson County have until February 11th to register before Master Gardeners from surrounding counties and local plant societies will be invited to register, so reserve yours quickly! If you have questions regarding these field trips, please contact me at info@mgofdc.org or (615) 403-5766. 🌱

Junior Master Gardeners Camp

by Doris Weakley, Class of 1999

The **2016 Junior Master Gardeners Camp is scheduled for Monday, June 13th to Friday, June 17th** at the UT Extension Central Region administration building on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center. This week-long day camp adapts many gardening subjects, methods, and techniques for youth ages 9-14 in both classroom and hands-on learning demonstrations.

Registration is \$50 and **applications are now available** at the [Junior Master Gardener Camp webpage](#) at the MGDC website. Registrations will be accepted until the camp is full.

The chairperson of this year's camp is Pam Swoner ('09) and co-chairs include myself and Doris Painter ('13). Our second planning meeting had 10 in attendance where we reviewed our topics and teacher schedules, hands-on projects (HOPs) for new gardening topics, our booth at the Urban Gardening Festival, the Tennessee Extension Master Gardeners State Conference (formerly Winter School) in Knoxville, and a film

that all volunteers for youth projects need to view. Pam Swoner is working with David Cook to schedule a date and time. I encourage all Master Gardeners who work with you to see the film, which addresses issues volunteers may face when working with you and how to help with situations you might witness or encounter.

We plan to use money in reserve from past camps to send our chair and co-chairs to attend the Thursday, March 17th session of the Master Gardeners state conference on youth programs that will be delivered by Lisa Whittlesey, the Junior Master Gardener National Coordinator from Texas A&M University.

The Junior Camp committee will once again return to the Urban Gardening Festival with our White Elephant Sale along with some plants. Pam will again grow tomatoes, peppers, and some herbs for the event. We encourage Master Gardeners to donate gardening items to the Junior Camp for the sale. Proceeds are used to make our camp a wonderful learning experience for youth campers and also helps to keep registration fees down.

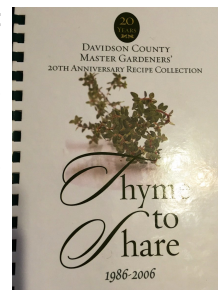
Pattie Waller ('04) is coordinating our White Elephant sale, and your item donations can be made to her or myself on the morning of the Urban Gardening Festival on Saturday, May 21st. For more information or if you have questions about this year's Junior Master Gardener Camp, please email Pam Swoner at jrmg@mgofdc.org. 🌱

30th Anniversary Cookbook

by Faye Dorman, Cookbook Committee Chair, Class of 2014

Attention Master Gardeners and Great Cooks! Send us your favorite recipes!

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County and to commemorate this milestone, we are updating our 2006 cookbook to publish a new edition in time to sell at our Urban Gardening Festival in May!



To make this happen, we need to have your recipes before February 29th! You can submit yours online using our [Recipe Submission Form \(click here\)](#); and we will also have forms available at our February monthly meeting. These will make it really simple for you to submit your favorite recipes.

With your help, we can make our great cookbook even better. For example, we may have enough interest and recipes to add a section on canning, pickling, and fermentation! I notice there is also a section in the 2006 edition for "gardening recipes". If you have any gardening tips you would like to share, please also include them with your submissions.

We know that you will want to be a part of this great fundraising project! If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, let us know by emailing cookbook@mgofdc.org. Thank you in advance for sharing your favorite recipes! 🌱

Seed Catalogs

by Bob Mather, Class of 2000

Now that the activities of the Holiday Season have passed, I can finally sit down with a cup of hot chocolate and begin my "Wish List" for the 2016 gardens. The cold temperatures and snow-fall of January was a perfect opportunity — time to put on some nice music, relax, and begin.

One of my earliest memories of gardening was when my father would get his BURPEE catalog and make his order for spring planting time. We did not have a big garden, but enough for our family. I had a 10'x10' area at one end just for what I wanted to grow.

BURPEE has been around since 1876 so I'm sure my grandfather also would take his catalog and order seeds for the coming year's garden. His was much bigger and in Iowa instead of Tennessee where we lived.

One year, my father ordered Brussels sprouts. He told me he remembered his father planting them each year and we were going to try them in Tennessee. Well, we started them from seed, got them planted, but they don't quite perform as well as in Iowa and the northern states.

But we tried and that was part of the fun of starting plants from seeds and watching them mature to when you can harvest your bounty.

I seem to follow along with trying heirloom varieties I have seen at the Farmers Market or varieties I remember my father and grandfather grew in their gardens!

Do you find yourself saving your older seed catalogs? One of my favorites is **Plant Delights Nursery, Inc.** (www.plantdelights.com). Besides being full of unusual plants, each year's cover is a work of poster art coveted by many avid gardeners. They have been around since 1988 and are part of Juniper Level Botanic Gardens in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Vermont Bean Seed Company (www.vermontbean.com), is a great reference to many heirloom seeds. When I am asked about a particular bean that someone remembers growing but doesn't quite remember the name, I first refer to this catalog — even before the internet. Vermont Bean features an extensive collection of seed and great photographs.



There are many, many more great seed catalogs, including: **Seeds of Change** (www.seed-sofchange.com), **Select Seeds** (www.selectseed-s.com), and **Farmers Seed and Nursery** (www.-farmerseed.com) which has been around for over 125 years.

After a Master Gardener turned me on to *Heirloom Magazine*, I have enjoyed reading about heirloom plants from around the world and receiving the catalog of **Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds** (www.rareseeds.com).

There are so many rare seeds available from across the world. The photographs are stunning and articles in *Heirloom Magazine* are most interesting. They also feature recipes that are easy to cook and very healthy.

I'm sure I left out many, many fine garden seed catalogs, and I can only guess that you also have your favorite with stories similar to mine.

Please feel free to share them with us and email me your favorite at president@mgofdc.org.

As Master Gardeners, we tend to explore more than the average gardener and share our knowledge and diversity of experiences with others.

To the new Class of 2016 interns, there is far more to the Master Gardener course than the knowledge you learn in the classroom.

You will form lasting relationships with fellow gardeners if you choose to continue after your certification and become a part of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County. Welcome, and come grow with us! 🌱





Master Gardeners of Davidson County

P.O. Box 41055

Nashville, TN 37204-1055

www.mgofdc.org

Celebrating 30 years of service, 1986-2016

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Join us at our February meeting on Thursday, February 11th at 6:30pm in the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural Center!

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

by Mariwyn Evans, Class of 2011

Winter's snow and ice makes last summer at Belle Meade seem like a dream, but looking back helps take a little of the sting out of frozen temps. Highlights of our past year include our first successful planting of the historic Cherokee Trail of Tears beans. Legend has it that the native Cherokee on their forced relocation from Tennessee to Oklahoma carried these prolific black heirlooms. Good eating and an important history lesson.

Another fun project was a return of rabbit wars. After two bunny-free years, the rascals were back. Quick repairs to the fence by Barbara Drake ('12) and Joy Kosarsky ('10) preserved most of the harvest. We did have to replant lettuce, however. One challenge for the year was our tomatoes. Too many plants in the bed lead to a reduced yield and a lot of frustration. This year, we'll grow fewer but better plants of Cherokee Purple and Yellow Pear.

Another highlight was our fall visit of more than 300 school-children. The Weedin' Women and extra Master Gardeners let the youngsters plant seeds, smell herbs, and fill up on apples and sweet potatoes.

Finally, the Weedin' Women welcomed two new members

Anne Underhill ('15) and Jill Meese ('15). And with deep regret, we said goodbye to our hard working vice chair Catherine Atwell ('04). Her many other responsibilities including the Farmers Market and City Cemetery drew her away. We already miss her.

The Weedin' Women of Belle Meade will make a visit to the garden in March to assess winter damage, then start pulling weeds in earnest in April. Please come join! 🌱

