

Garden Talk

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County
Volume XXX, Issue No. 5 — May 2016



Fern
Glade

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE
Master Gardeners
OF DAVIDSON COUNTY, TN

1986-2016

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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](#).

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Cover Photo: Master Gardeners enjoying a stroll through the Fern Glade at Huntsville Botanical Garden. Photo Bob Mather / MGDC

Mather's Musings

by Robert Mather, President, Class of 2000

Now that we are in May, hopefully you have a handle on the weeds from winter and are now busy planting for the season. If you plant your tomatoes now, be sure and keep an eye on the night temps as the soil temperature may not be quite warm enough yet. I usually wait until the second week of May.

Our bus trip to the Huntsville Botanical Garden was great fun for all that participated. We received a guided tour of the many gardens, especially the demonstration garden of the North Alabama Master Gardeners. Many in the group were already turning ideas in their minds of what they could do once back in Nashville. I was most interested in the herb gardens. I knew the names of most of the herbs but found a few I had not seen. I've already been looking back at my seed catalogs and seeing what I can order!

This is somewhere you can go back to and spend the entire day. They were also having their annual plant sale, and you know we cannot resist a good plant sale! I received a nice note from the Wilson County Master Gardeners that joined us on the trip. It's great to get to know your fellow gardeners!

Speaking of plant sales, ours at the Urban Garden Festival is only weeks away. I have been growing seeds in my house and repotting them and placing them in my sunroom. It's almost looks like I have my own garden center! I hope you have been repotting plants as you prepare your summer gardens. Our visitors to the festival love the Master Gardener plants.

Judy Burger is already getting plants together for this year's sale. Once again, all plants must be inspected by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture as they continue to control for fire ants. If you're donating plants for the sale, please be certain that they are potted, labeled, and at the Demo Gardens before 12 noon on Friday, May 20th. When labeling your plants, remember to include information on sun/shade or other care requirements.

This year we have an [online signup for festival volunteers](#). I urge ALL Master Gardeners and 2016 Interns to participate however they are able. This is a significant opportunity for us to show our community who we are, what we do, and promote home horticulture education. If you've never been, it's a very fun and casual festival.

Natalie Bumgarner, Tennessee Extension State Master Gardener coordinator, was in Middle Tennessee and attended our April Meeting. It's always nice to visit with Natalie and find out future plans for the Master Gardener program. I got to visit with her about the recent conference in Knoxville and help with ideas for the upcoming Central Region conference at Ellington on June 30th. All of the Middle Tennessee associations will be participating and you will also have opportunities to help and learn.

As we go through May, I hope you will get to enjoy some of the many activities we have planned, but most important: Enjoy your gardens! 🌱

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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 info@mgofdc.org.

30th Anniversary Cookbook

by Faye Dorman, Class of 2014

Many thanks to everyone who contributed recipes for the 30th Anniversary edition of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County Cookbook!

Although we were unable to include all of the recipes submitted because of space and time constraints, we appreciate so much your support for this project. To show our gratitude, we have entered your name in a drawing for one of three \$25 gift certificates to be given away at our monthly meeting on Thursday, May 12th. We hope to see you there!

The cookbook is now in production and we are expecting delivery in time for our Urban Gardening Festival on Saturday, May 21st. It is now available for preorder at our [MGDC Online Store](#) or you can wait to buy it at the festival when it will be first be available.

On behalf of the Cookbook Committee, I want to thank you again for sharing your favorite recipes with us! 🌻



Speakers Bureau Update

by Joan Clayton-Davis, Class of 2004

Grow where you are with what you have!

The Master Gardeners of Davidson County Speakers Bureau will provide local residents with learning opportunities on creating beauty and value in small spaces, residential landscapes, and vegetable gardens at library workshops in Edgehill and Goodlettsville branches on Saturday, May 7th, and at the Bordeaux branch on Saturday, May 14th.

Limited space in an urban setting is an opportunity not a barrier to growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers in small spaces like a sunny window, decks, patios, backyards, front yards, or plots in community gardens. Old cast iron pots, small wagons, a wooden box, small raised bed, large plastic container, bushel basket, cement blocks, or an old bathtub are vessels where vegetables and herbs can be grown and enjoyed throughout the year. 🌻

May 12th Monthly Meeting

by Paul Martin, First Vice President, Class of 1998

Join us for food, fellowship, and fun at our monthly meeting on **Thursday, May 12th at 6:30pm** in the Ed Jones Auditorium on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center!

Our very own Paul Martin (hey, that's me!) will speak on and demonstrate the basics of setting up a Red Wiggler Worm Farm that will compost your kitchen scraps and turn them into worm castings and powerful compost tea. I'll bring my operation and share the experiences of my own personal journey into the world of Vermiculture. After the short presentation and demonstration, we'll assemble a short Question & Answer panel staffed by some very knowledgeable Master Gardeners, including Carol Freund-Taylor and Karen Shaw!

If you haven't come to a meeting recently, c'mon out and enjoy the evening with your fellow gardeners! Meetings are open to the public and bringing a friend is always encouraged. We'll have a terrific evening, enjoy our potluck meal, and hopefully have a few more door prizes to give away. See you there! 🌻

Kickoff of our 2016 Garden Tours!

by Sylvia Wahl, Class of 2003

As May arrives so too do our seasonal garden tours where Master Gardeners and members of local plant societies open their gardens and lawns for annual garden tours. It's always wonderful to see the beautiful splendor and creativity of these home gardens — and we hope you're able to visit some of these garden tours this season.

The first on our calendar will be to visit the gardens of Master Gardener Doris Weakley ('99) at her home at **5928 Long Meadow Rd, Nashville, TN 37205** on **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8th from 2pm-4pm**.

Doris had 24 Leyland Cypress trees removed netting her garden both more sun and space to plan another garden planting area. The result was a garden "makeover" for most of her backyard gardening space. Recycling played a part in the makeover, too. Smaller tree trunks were used to outline a larger path through her long border along with concrete pavers, collected rock and river pebbles. Many plants were dug out to make room for the 3-foot path. Her long border primarily consists of plants from her youth, including plants her grandmother grew. She continues to enjoy the Peony roots passed down to her from her great grandmother and grandmother. She appropriately refers to this long border as "Grandma's Garden" because of it's peonies, day lilies, and iris as well as dogwoods, red-buds, crape myrtle, Hydrangeas, daffodils, and other old fashioned plants.

Her new Abbey Garden is planted with sun plants with room for herb raised beds and vegetable gardening space. Paths in this area are also outlined with Leyland Cypress and Magnolia logs — yes, the ice collected on the magnolia leaves and a large truck fell. These large logs were cut into rounds to use as stepping features. A rustic arbor, build by her husband and son leads to the herb/vegetable area.

We hope to see you there! If you've like to host a tour of your garden to share your hard work with fellow Master Gardeners, please contact me at wahlhs@bellsouth.net or at (615) 227-0633. 🌻

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8  Mother's Day	9	10	11	12 Monthly Meeting Ed Jones Auditorium, Ellington Ag Center, 6:30pm	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Urban Gardening Festival Setup, 3:30-7pm	21 Urban Gardening Festival Setup, 6-8:30am Event, 9am-4pm Takedown, 5pm-
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30  Memorial Day	31	<p>Remember to check the calendar for new events and activities at our www.mgofdc.org website. You'll also find garden project work days, workshops, and more — so bookmark it and check back often!</p> <p>Be certain to also follow us on Facebook where we try to post last minute items we learn about at www.facebook.com/mgofdc.</p>			

Urban Gardening Festival 2016

a **free** community event

hosted by the
Master Gardeners of Davidson County

- ★ Enjoy exploring over 8,800 square-feet of green space
- ★ Ask *your* questions and learn how to grow what *you* enjoy from certified Master Gardeners
- ★ Shop among more than 50 local artists, growers, & suppliers
- ★ Listen to select short topics throughout the day at our programs tent
- ★ Picnic with tasty treats from Nashville's favorite food trucks
- ★ Find flowers & veggies for your garden
- ★ Bring the family and have fun...



When

Saturday, May 21st

Time

9am-4pm

Where

Demonstration Gardens @
Ellington Agricultural Center
5201 Marchant Dr
Nashville, TN 37211

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/mgofdc

Learn more by visiting:

www.mgofdc.org

RAIN OR SHINE, y'all come!

Urban Gardening Festival Volunteers

by Nancy Wilcenski, Class of 2014

If you've never been to the Urban Gardening Festival, then prepare yourself for a real treat. If you've been before, get ready to be delighted once again!

Our seventh annual **Urban Gardening Festival** will be held rain or shine on **Saturday, May 21st from 9am-4pm**. Held amid our Demonstration Gardens at Ellington Agricultural Center, we host this free community event for the benefit of visitors, exhibitors, and vendors — and what fun it is!

You may not realize but unlike the Lawn & Garden Show and other events we participate in, the Urban Gardening Festival is unique because it is the one event each year that is truly "our" event.

This year, about half of our exhibitors and vendors are new and the others friendly faces you'll remember from years passed. Returning for its second year will be our Programs Tent, featuring a variety of topics and speakers throughout the day.

With **nearly 60 participating exhibitors and vendors** (as well as food trucks), we're looking forward to setting a record and we need your help.

Volunteers are needed to assist with event space and vendor setup on **Friday, May 20th from 3:30-7pm** and again on **Saturday, May 21st from 6-8:30am**. During the festival, we are looking to staff our booths and gardens with volunteers in **two-hour blocks**. And to wrap up the day, we will need volunteers to assist with takedown and policing the grounds **beginning promptly at 4pm**.

Certified Master Gardeners and Interns are both encouraged to volunteer and help make this a banner year for us! To make life a little easier for everyone, we have an [Online Volunteer Signup](#) form you can complete and choose which hours are most convenient for you.

Of course, you'll have to find time to enjoy the festival too! If you're not online, please call Bob Mather at (615) 525-5293 to signup. If you have any questions, please email us at ugf@mgofdc.org. Thank you! 🌱

Junior Camp White Elephant Sale

by Doris Weakley, Class of 1999

The Junior Master Gardeners Camp committee is now collecting gardening and gardening-related items to sell at this year's Urban Gardening Festival.

All donated gardening items can be brought to our monthly Master Gardener meeting on Thursday, May 12th or on the day of festival. Clean out your unwanted and gently used items and please donate to the Junior Camp.

Proceeds from our White Elephant Sale will be used to further enhance our Junior Master Gardener Camp and help control costs of camp. Thank you! 🌱

Urban Gardening Festival Plant Sale

by Judy Burger, Class of 2004

Every year during our Urban Gardening Festival, the Master Gardeners of Davidson County host our annual plant sale and preparations continue for this year's event.

Ours is a unique plant sale because all plants are grown by our Master Gardeners, and I encourage you to consider donating some of your plants for the sale. **Please consider donating perennials, annuals, herbs, and vegetable plants.**

Because all plants must be inspected and certified by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture as part of their ongoing effort to prevent the proliferation of fire ants, please use clean containers and clean potting soil.

Please label plants with the common name (and any other information you wish to provide) and **drop you plants off during our monthly meeting on Thursday, May 12th** or during setup of the Urban Gardening Festival on Friday, May 20 **before 12 noon**.

If you have any questions or if you're interested in volunteering to help with the sale, please contact me at (615) 424-8425 or judyburger@rocketmail.com. 🌱

Craft Sale Needs Your Help

by Lynn Ashford, Class of 2011

Craft booths cry for help!

We need all you crafty and not-so-crafty Master Gardeners to donate your treasures to sell at our Craft Booth during the Urban Gardening Festival!

Anything pertaining to outdoor or indoor gardening, for example: yard art, unique, or just plain "stuff" you might like to contribute to sell. Odd planters like wagons, colanders, or vases; glass or plastic bottles we can cut in half to make vases.

Woodworkers! Birdhouses, carpenter bee traps, bird feeders and baths would also be wonderful additions. Old terra cotta pots, tomato cages, stepping stones, trellises, etc. The more stuff we have to sell the better.

We can freshen up old stuff, slap a coat of paint on it and *voila!* it's been renewed to sell. Thanks for any contributions you can make.

I'll have some boxes at our May 12th monthly meeting to put your contributions in and I'll even take last minute, morning of items. (As long as last minute stuff doesn't need repair.) Tons of thanks!! If you have any questions, please contact me at (615) 957-1310 or lbashford23@yahoo.com! 🌱

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

by Mariwyn Evans, Class of 2011

It may smell a little strong at Belle Meade's Harding Garden these days, but soon the odors of compost will be drowned out by the fresh green scent of sprouting carrots, strawberries, beans, and okra.



Joy Kosarsky ('10), Gwen McKimney ('10), and Barbara Drake ('12) bend their backs enriching the soil of the Harding Garden. Photo Mariwyn Evans/MGDC

After doing battle with a winter's worth of weeds, the Belle Meade crew spread and spaded manure courtesy of **Bill MacLennan** ('03) and the police horses at Ellington. We also added blood meal to the beds for extra nitrogen, based on this year's soil test from the Extension office. (It's not too late to do yours now, before you plant.)



A wealth of seeds await the warm of soil and sun to begin growing. Photo Mariwyn Evans/MGDC

Next came the fun stuff—planting those seeds. In addition to seeds from the new Master Gardener seed bank, we've planted heirloom varieties of corn, limas, green beans and more from both Seed Saver's Exchange and Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co. As soon as the soil is a little warmer, we'll add heirloom tomatoes carefully grown by our own **Barbara Ann Drake** ('12). Then it's time to water and hope.

Join us any Wednesday, weather permitting, at 9:30am. Or just stop by and enjoy the glories of a garden in spring. 🌱

Kitchen Gardens at The Hermitage

by Laura Kraft, Class of 2010

"The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May." — Edwin Way Teale

There's no question, spring is here to stay in our gardens. The veggies are getting kicked out of their greenhouses and finding homes out in the elements. Last month's beautiful weather

tried to tempt us into forgetting all we've learned about how to make a successful transition!

Our volunteers have been hard at work: The café and herb gardens are welcoming visitors, the kitchen garden's new paths are mulched, and the rectangle beds are turned over. We have worked out the winter kinks in muscles that were hibernating! Michael Grantham and The Hermitage crew have brought in truckloads of tree mulch to line our new paths.

A special thank you to **Pam Swoner** ('09) for donating tomato and pepper plants. Each spring, we look forward to her healthy and vibrant heirloom transplants. These plants are 'at home' at the Hermitage.



Visiting The Hermitage greenhouse to receive some of Pam Swoner's donated vegetable plants.
Photo Laura Kraft/MGDC

Why yes, Mr. Teale, all things seem possible in May!

Don't forget to check out the [MGDC Calendar](#) for our upcoming Earn & Learn workshops as well as the website of [The Hermitage](#) for special events.

Saturday mornings starting at 8:30am: Join in the fun or just come visit — share your knowledge of heirloom gardening or learn more about it. Contact us at hermitage@mgofdc.org for details. We look forward to growing with you! 🌱



A money plant on full display in the Kitchen Gardens at The Hermitage. Photo Clif Gunter/MGDC

Grassmere Classes in the Garden

by Andrea Pruijssers, Class of 2013

The Earn and Learn hosted by the Master Gardeners at Grassmere Historic Gardens in April was a great success. As many as eight enthusiastic Master Gardener Interns showed up with the intent to get down and dirty!

The original plan was to turn the soil and sow seeds for cool weather plants, but all the rain had made the soil too wet to work. Fortunately, the Interns were good sports about it and pulled many of the plentiful weeds instead.



One of this spring's Classes in the Garden series of classes. Photo Andrea Pruijssers/MGDC

The central focus of the work this month will be finishing our spring Classes in the Gardens series, getting the rest of the cooler weather vegetables started, and revamping the perennial terrace. We can use all the help we can get this spring, so please come out! Beautiful scenery with exotic bird and gibbon vocalizations are included in the experience. For more information, please email either Rich Shiavi or myself at grassmere@mgofdc.org.

Field Trip Registrations

by Jason Goodrich, Corresponding Secretary, Class of 2013

I'm happy to announce that registration for our **next two** field trips is now open!

On **Saturday, June 4th**, the Master Gardeners of Davidson County will take our second field trip of 2016 to **Yew Dell Botanical Gardens** in **Louisville, Kentucky**. The per person cost of this trip is \$40, including transportation, driver gratuity, and admission fees. (Cheekwood members receive free admission.)

On **Thursday, July 14th**, we will be returning to **Summer Celebration** in **Jackson, Tennessee** for our third field trip. The per person cost for this trip is \$28 and does not include the \$5 admission.

Registration is on a first come, first seated basis and are not considered complete until payment is received. To register, click: [Field Trip Registration](#).

If you prefer, you may also register by mail or at the May monthly meeting for either of these trips.

Please remember that these trips are also open to the Master Gardener associations and local plant societies in surrounding counties, so be sure to register soon to get your seat!

Itineraries for these trips will soon be posted to our website and emailed to registrants. If you have questions, please contact me at info@mgofdc.org or (615) 403-5766.

Junior Master Gardener Camp

by Doris Weakley, Class of 1999

If you have children age 9 to 14, or perhaps know someone who does, I encourage you to enroll them in our 2016 Junior Master Gardener Camp!



Junior Camp outdoor classroom with Extension Agent David Cook. Photo Pam Swoner/MGDC

Filled with classroom and practical hands-on learning that adapts varied gardening subjects, methods and techniques, our week-long camp will be held **June 13th-17th** at the UT Extension Central Region administration building on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center, 5201 Marchant Dr, Nashville, TN 37211. The camp is held 9am to 3pm daily.

The camp is staffed by UT Extension agents and certified Master Gardener volunteers. Snacks and beverages are providing during morning and afternoon breaks. Lunch is not provided and campers should bring a lunch each day. Appropriate clothing should be worn by campers for outdoor activities and walking tours.

Enrollment is limited to 25 campers and the cost per camper is \$50. Complete and return our [Junior Camp Registration Form](#), available at our website, with payment to UT Extension, P.O. Box 196300, Nashville, TN 37219.

Please note that registration is not considered complete unless accompanied by the registration fee. Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis by UT Extension.

If you have yet signed-up to volunteer for the camp, we'd love to have you! Please express your interest to either myself, Maddy Berezov, or Pam Swoner by emailing us at jrmg@mgofdc.org or call me at (615) 353-1816!



Master Gardeners of Davidson County

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Join us at our May meeting on Thursday, May 12th at 6:30pm in the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural Center!

30th Anniversary T-Shirts

by Jason Goodrich, Corresponding Secretary, Class of 2013

Master Gardeners, the t-shirts are coming!

We are now accepting preorders for our 30th Anniversary Master Gardeners of Davidson County t-shirts! At cost of \$10 each, these 100% cotton, 6oz. t-shirts will be available for pickup or purchase during our May 12th monthly meeting.

We've a total of 75 shirts arriving ranging in size from Small to XX Large.

You can preorder yours today and bypass the line by visiting our website's secure online store where you can select the size and quantity you'd like to order.

Preorders will guarantee the sizes ordered will be available and set aside for you to pickup during our May meeting.

If you'd rather, you can also purchase yours at the meeting!

To preorder, click: MGDC Online Store.

If you have any questions, please contact me at info@mgofdc.org or at (615) 403-5766. 🌱

