

Garden Talk

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County

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OF DAVIDSON COUNTY, TN

1986-2016

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Submissions

Readers are encouraged to submit articles and photographs for future issues to info@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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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: Jane McLaughlin ('16) and Kaye Gragg ('15) next to Grassmere's okra in July. Photo Andrea Pruijssers/MGDC.

Mather's Musings

by Robert Mather, President, Class of 2000

Fall is in the air. I can feel it! Fall is a wonderful time of the year for gardening. Besides cooler weather, it is a time to readjust our gardens for Fall and Winter, setting out transplants of cool-weather flowers (pansies, violas, sweet Williams, poppies, ornamental cabbage, and flowering kale) as well as cool-weather vegetables (kale, cabbage and bok choy). Don't forget it is a great time to grow lettuce, spinach and mustard greens as well.

You may be wanting to prune trees and shrubs, but wait. If you prune now, you will promote new growth that won't harden off in time for winter and killed by the cold temperatures. That is why I always tell you NOT to trim Boxwood until February or March. It's best to leave that chore until next year!

If you attended our August meeting, you were introduced to our slate of nominations for next year's officers. I was very happy that our Nominating Committee found someone for each of our positions, including the positions created during our last Bylaws revision in 2014. We can look forward to another great year in Davidson County.

The Tennessee State Fair is our main activity in September. This is a wonderful opportunity not only for those seeking hours to complete their Master Gardener certification but to also get to know many of our members. Barbara Allen ('00) is once again coordinating our volunteer staffing for our booth at the Fair this year. If you haven't already, please be sure to give her a call at (615) 309-6130 to schedule times you're able to volunteer. We get many visitors with questions about gardening and it's a great opportunity to learn more — we never stop learning!

As I write this, it is turning 6am. Time to gather my garden tools, camera and coffee to take a walk in my garden! I hope you are doing the same.

I know it is hot, but take time each morning in your gardens. 🌱

September 8th Monthly Meeting

Master Gardeners,

Unlike past years where we have held our September meetings at the Tennessee State Fair, please take note that *this year will be different*.

Please join us for our September monthly meeting at the Ed Jones Auditorium on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center on Thursday, September 8th at 6:30pm.

As always, visitors are welcome and you can expect good food, good fellowship, exciting door prizes, and great fun! You'll be in for a treat with our educational program for the evening as well.

Remember that ours is a meeting featuring a delicious covered dish meal. Master Gardeners, we'll once again host our friendly **MGDC Silver Spoon competition** this month. The two categories are **Best Savory Dish** and **Best Sweet Dish**.

See you there on Thursday, September 8th! 🌱

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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.

Become a Mentor in 2017!

by Maddy Berezov, Mentor Coordinator, Class of 2014

Do you enjoy teaching? Then the Mentor program is right for you. Mentors guide, teach and engage Master Gardener Interns as they complete their learning to become certified.

Mentors are the most important ingredient to Interns becoming lifelong Master Gardeners and if this sounds like fun, wait until you meet them!

For more information or if you have questions, email me at madbee177@gmail.com. 🐝



2017 Officer Nominations

by Barbara Drake, Nominations Committee Chair, Class of 2012

The below certified Master Gardeners have been reviewed and selected by our Nominating Committee for your consideration. Elections will be held during our November monthly meeting. Those nominated are:

Co-Presidents

Wayne Maddox ('15) & Mary Maddox ('00)

1st Vice President

Paul Martin ('98) & Bob Bryan ('15)

2nd Vice President

Faye Dorman ('15)

Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Christa Schneider ('16)

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Caroll Marrero ('09)

Events Chairperson

Virginia Casalone ('11)

Education Chairperson

Robert Mather ('00)



Tennessee State Fair

by Faye Dorman, Co-Chair, Class of 2014

Hi, everyone! The Tennessee State Fair is just around the corner — September 9th through the 18th! We are excited about the theme we have chosen for our booth this year: "Taking the Mystery out of Herbs", with a concentration on culinary herbs. Included in the booth will be examples of how to grow herbs, both indoors and out, as well as examples of how to preserve and use them!

I'm delighted to announce that we are once again holding a competition! You are invited to submit a plant(s) in a "repurposed" kitchen container, such as an old pot, teakettle, teacup, etc. **At least one of the plants in your container must be an herb.** Use your imagination! Make it colorful; make it whimsical, if you like. The more interesting, the better!

Containers will be on display for the duration of the fair and will be judged by visitors to the booth, as follows: 1) **Most colorful!**, 2) **Most creative!**, and 3) **Best all-around!**

Please drop off your plants at our booth, located in the Agricultural Building at the State Fairgrounds on Wedgewood Avenue, between 10am and 4pm on either Wednesday, September 7th or Thursday, September 8th. And don't forget to label your plants, being sure to include your name and Master Gardener class year.

We will also need to have some fall color to brighten the booth, so if you have any squash, gourds, pumpkins, peppers, etc. that we could use, we would love to have them.

Our next planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 31st, at 1pm in the Davidson County Extension office at 1417 Murfreesboro Road and, of course, you are invited to participate. In addition, **setup for the Fair will be September 6th, 7th, and 8th from 10am to 4pm daily.** If you would like to help, come on by!

We also need volunteers to work in our booth. It's a great opportunity to earn hours! If interested, please contact Barbara Allen at (615) 309-6130.

If you have questions, you may call or text me at (615) 945-3037 or email me at faye.dorman@gmail.com. Thanks! Hope to see you at the Fair! 🐝

Welcome Our Newest Master Gardeners!

by Tom Coulter, Membership Chairperson, Class of 2015

Congratulations to our classmates who have certified so far this year! From the Class of 2015 are Kristin Coode, David Hobson, Ginger-Rose Krueck, Wendy Wilson, and Judy Wright. From the class of 2016: Patty Ghertner, Alyssa Leonard, Jane McLaughlin, and Susan Prosch.

We also had three transfers from other organizations. Vickie Woods ('16) who transferred from Purdue University Master Gardeners, Jayme Story ('14) who transferred from Shelby County, and Joann Anderson from the Dickson County Gardening Partners and who actively works with native plants at the Montgomery Bell State Park greenhouse.

We still have plenty of time to earn your volunteer and education hours in 2016. Opportunities abound! Please let me know when you have made your hours and I'll pass the information to David Cook so you can be certified. Any questions? Please email me at membership@mgofdc.org or see me at the monthly MGDC meetings where all are welcome and encouraged to attend. 🐝

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<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>				1 Hermitage, 8:30am-11am	2	3 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm Hermitage, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 9am-12pm City Cemetery, 9am-12p
4	5 Grassmere, 8am-12pm	6 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm	7 Belle Meade, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 8am-12pm	8 Hermitage, 8:30am-11am Monthly Meeting Ed Jones Auditorium, Ellington Ag Center, 6:30pm	9 Tennessee State Fair begins	10 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm Hermitage, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 9am-12pm
11	12 Grassmere, 8am-12pm	13 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm	14 Belle Meade, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 8am-12pm Meet Me at the Market, Nashville Farmers' Market, 10am-2pm	15 Hermitage, 8:30am-11am	16	17 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm Hermitage, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 9am-12pm
18 Tennessee State Fair ends	19 Grassmere, 8am-12pm	20 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm	21 Belle Meade, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 8am-12pm	22 Hermitage, 8:30am-11am	23	24 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm Hermitage, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 9am-12pm
25	26 Grassmere, 8am-12pm	27 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm 8th Annual Fall Gardeners' Festival, Crossville 9am-3pm	28 Belle Meade, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 8am-12pm	29 Hermitage, 8:30am-11am	30	

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

by Mariwyn Evans, Class of 2011

The Dog Days of summer may be winding down, but the veggies are still going strong at Belle Meade. Limas have now joined the bumper crop of Kentucky Wonder green beans in the weekly basket on the porch of the Harding Cabin. The new lean-to frame for the cukes has kept most of the mildew at bay so we are still harvesting a few. Next year, we'll have to try the same technique for the squash — another mildew-prone crop.



Jill Meese ('15) and Barbara Drake ('12) consult on how best to improve the yield of this year's squash crop. Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC

Thanks to all the great new additions to the Weedin' Women, including **Judy Wright** ('15), **Patty Ghertner** ('16), **Sherrie Arnold** ('10), and **Lynne Wells** ('16). Plus long-time Weedin' Woman **Lyn James** ('04) is once again going strong after knee surgery. With all this extra help, we have had time to weed and primp the new Belle Meade Herb Garden. The garden, right behind the winery, is both an attraction to plantation visitors and a source of culinary herbs for cooking demos.

Common herbs like thyme and oregano share the compact space with lesser known plants like southernwood and shishito. Clematis, a Lady Banks rose, and hydrangeas add some color. Next year, we hope to add some more native plants such as Mountain Mint and Horehound. If you have suggestions of native herbs we could add, please let us know. Or come join us for a tour any Wednesday morning at 8:30am, weather permitting. 🌿

Cedar-Quince Rust Appearing Everywhere on Bradford Pears

by David Cook, UT Extension Agent, Class of 2000

Bradford pear trees are being infected with cedar-quince rust this year due to the cool and wet spring we've experienced. These conditions were favorable to the development of the fungal disease over a wide geographical area. Since the rust is not fatal to the trees and they do not produce a crop of agricultural value, chemical treatments are not recommended.

Cedar-quince rust is not life threatening to Bradford pear trees, but the fungal disease has created quite an alarm with both homeowners and commercial businesses. Upon careful examination, the small round pear fruits will have white spiny projections coming out of the fruit that are covered with bright orange powdery spores.

Cedar-quince rust (*Gymnosporangium clavipes*), cedar-apple rust (*G. juniperivirginianae*), and cedar-hawthorn rust (*G. globosum*), are closely related rust diseases that require two hosts to complete their life cycle. All three rusts can infect most varieties of eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) as well as many other junipers and an alternate host. Cedar-quince rust has the broadest host range and can affect many genera in the rose family including apple, crabapple, pears, quince, hawthorn, serviceberry, mountain-ash, flowering quince, cotoneaster, chokecherry, and photinia.

Cedar-quince rust spends part of its time on juniper and part on the rosaceous host as it completes its annual life cycle. Along the way the cedar quince rust fungus develops four different fruiting structures and spore stages. In the spring, red-orange, slit-like fruiting structures emerge through fissures in the bark of infected juniper. When the fruiting structures are wet, they are gelatinous and the spores that they form germinate in place. These spores grow into another type of fruiting structure that releases its spores, which blow to rosaceous hosts. These spores germinate and infect leaves, green shoots, and fruit if they are wet for several hours. The first fruiting structures that develop do not form infectious spores. However, in two to six weeks, the bristly fruiting structures develop and release orange spores that are windblown and infect wet foliage and green shoots of junipers from late summer into the fall.

Since there is concern over Bradford pears setting fruit and escaping into the landscape, it will be interesting to learn if infected fruit can produce normal seed and germinate. 🌿

Happening Next Month: Food Waste Reduction & Diversion

hosted by Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

The Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation in partnership with Metro Government, the Nashville Mayor's Office, Nashville Farmers' Market, Natural Resources Defense Council, Nashville Food Project, and Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee is sponsoring an upcoming Food Waste Reduction and Diversion event.

The event will be held downtown at the Nashville Farmers' Market on Thursday, October 6th from 5:30pm-8pm. The event is intended to promote state and local commitments to address and educate about food waste issues and foster partnerships with local community-based organizations. 🌿

Historic Grassmere Garden

by Andrea Puijssers, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2013

It's August at Grassmere. The okra plants stand tall and gorgeous, the bush and pole beans are plentiful, and the different tomato varieties provide a nice color accent in the corner of the garden where most visitors enter. And so do the Zinnias... the Zinnias are literally everywhere! I take full blame for that, because I took it upon myself to spread "a few extra" Zinnia seeds throughout the vegetable terrace earlier this spring. Against my urge to leave everything pretty in its place — even if it's out of place — we freed the climbing cucumbers, lima beans, and scarlet runner beans from suffocation by clearing a bunch of Zinnias left and right. Fortunately, the butterflies and bees don't need to worry; there are still plenty of flowers left to visit.



The patch of cucumbers, beans, and Zinnias (this is the "after" pic!)
Photo: Andrea Puijssers/MGDC

With fall in sight, our group is preparing to teach another series of **Classes in the Gardens**. This series, free to zoo visitors, will be taught from **11am to 12 noon the first four Saturdays in October**. Topics include: "Monarch Butterflies", which will be starting to migrate south soon, and the popular "Yes, You Can, Can!" lesson on how to can vegetables from your garden. Keep your eyes peeled for additional topics and calendar updates during September.

Finally, and as always, feel welcome to come out on any of our workdays listed on the calendar. We can always use your help! We are also still looking for volunteers to help with our fence re-building effort.

Please email Andrea Puijssers at andreapuijssers@gmail.com or Rich Shiavi at shiavi@bellsouth.net for more information, or you can reach out to us at grassmere@mgofdc.org! 🐝

Junior Master Gardeners Camp

by Doris Weakley, Co-Chairperson, Class of 1999

Our annual Junior Master Gardeners Camp was once again successful. Many Master Gardener volunteers attended the full week of camp. Volunteers presented with *Busy Bees* at the

August Master Gardener meeting were: Barbara Allen ('00), Maddy Berezov ('14), Mary Dickerson ('00), Shirley Lee ('01), Doris Painter ('13), Sharon Pressley ('13), Sandy Seidel ('15), Jayme Story ('14), Pam Swoner ('09), Carol Freund-Taylor ('16), Pattie Waller ('04), and Ethel-Lonniell Williams ('11).

Also during the meeting, we announced that the Junior Camp was **awarded a Team HCA grant** with help from Laura Kraft ('10), Laura Cooper ('14), Pam, Maddy, and myself to get all the paperwork in for the grant. The grant funds will be used to offset such costs as handbook printing, T-shirts, and supplies for hands-on projects.

Junior Camp has a \$50 fee per camper that was put in place in 2003 as a fee that any family can afford. Extra funds that help keep the camp as a "Class A" Gardening Youth Camp comes from sales at our White Elephant Sale during the Urban Gardening Festival, grants, and donations. On behalf of the co-chairs of Junior Camp, I want to thank you all very much for your support and volunteerism — it's greatly appreciated. 🌱

Nashville City Cemetery Tour

by Bob Mather, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2000

Master Gardeners, mark your calendars! In partnership with the Historic Nashville City Cemetery Association, our Master Gardener volunteers will host our **annual Living History Tour** next month! This is a wonderful walking tour combining the passions of gardening with local history.

The tour will be held from **3pm-6pm on Saturday, October 15th**. We hope to see you there! 🌱



Some of the bounty harvested from the Harding Garden at Belle Meade.
Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC



Master Gardeners of Davidson County

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Join us at our next meeting on Thursday, September 8th at 6:30pm in the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural Center!

Speakers Bureau

by Joan Clayton-Davis, Chairperson, Class of 2014

Master Gardener **Catherine Atwell** led a Fall Vegetable Gardening Workshop in conjunction with Nashville Public Library Main Library Seed Exchange Program on August 20th with an interactive session for first-time and experienced gardeners.

Lectures will be held at four Nashville Public Library locations during September and October, each starting at 10:30am:

- ❖ Sep 3rd, Edmondson Pike. Topic: *Composting.*
- ❖ Sep 17th, Main Library. Topic: *Seed Saving.*
- ❖ Oct 10th, Goodlettsville. Topic: *Bulbs/Fall Flowers*
- ❖ Oct 15, Bellevue. Topic: *Bulbs/Seed Saving*

Engaging Youth in Gardening and Preparing for Fall Gardening: Speakers Bureau presenters **Joan Clayton-Davis** and **Biars Davis** ('14) engaged in experiential learning in a garden plot at the Tennessee State University Community Garden where teens and preteens from the An Array of Charm for Girls and Men of Honor (AAOC/MOH) Summer Program participated in weekly urban gardening educational workshops during June and July to learn the basics of vegetable gardening (garden layout, soil preparation, selecting seeds and plants, planting and maintaining a garden). The program will continue its activities with a fall garden for after school program participants. 🌱



Joan Clayton-Davis and the Speakers Bureau in action. Photo: Biars Davis/MGDC



Catherine Atwell ('04) discussing Fall vegetables. Photo: Biars Davis/MGDC