

Garden Talk

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County
Volume XXX, Issue No. 10 — October 2016

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

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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 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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Cover Photo: Poppies in the cottage garden at our Demonstration Gardens at Ellington Agricultural Center. Photo Marsha Burton/MGDC.

Mather's Musings

by Robert Mather, President, Class of 2000

Although it is still hot, fall is finally here and Master Gardeners are quite busy!

Even though she had never been to our State Fair, **Faye Dorman** ('14) co-chaired the annual 10-day event with **Catherine Atwell** ('04) and did an outstanding job. At our pre-fair planning meetings, we kept telling Faye that everything would come together. The theme, "Taking The Mystery Out of Herbs", was decided and plans just fell into place. Setup went great with help from several Master Gardeners, including some from the Class of 2016. It was interesting to watch as everyone had ideas about where to place tables, plants, and the square-foot herb garden. Everyone finally concluded on tables at the outer edges the herb garden as the center point. This worked very well as we got several great comments from the head of the fair board, head of the fair, our county extension director, **Michael Barry**, and our own advisor/Master Gardener **David Cook** ('00), who added another show-stopper display with Hydroponics! And the fair booth would not be complete without Michael Lennon's Carnivorous Plants — always a hit with young and old!

Tuesday was kids day at the fair, a time where schoolchildren can attend the fair during the day. I don't know who had more fun, the kids or our own **Lynn Ashford** ('11) and **Doris Weakley** ('99)! They provided some fun ways to introduce kids to herbs and their uses in our everyday life. Thanks to all who were involved this year from planning, setup, booth duty throughout the Fair and take down. 2016 was another great success.

Despite a very wet day, the Nashville Zoo held their first annual Heritage Music Festival at the Grassmere Historic Farm and Croft House lawn. Our Grassmere farm crew had the gardens and flower/herb beds looking very good. Just wish the weather had been better! Plans are finalized for their fall gardening lecture series to be held each Saturday in October. The public can learn about seed saving, canning your garden bounty, Saving the Monarchs, and fall preparations for spring planting.

A reminder that our November meeting will be a time to reminisce about the past 30 years of Davidson County Master Gardeners from 1986 to 2016. We are inviting past members and some of those involved with the program over the past 30 years. Enjoy the fall weather and take a walk in your garden! 🌿

October Meeting

by Paul Martin, 1st Vice President, Class of 1999

Join us **Thursday, October 13th at 6:30pm** for our monthly meeting at Ed Jones Auditorium. This month's program will be presented by **Vera Vollbrecht**, director of the Warner Park Nature Center.

She will be speaking about Hill Forest, a 225-acre state designated Natural Area, called the "largest tract of old growth forest in an urban area east of the Mississippi River" and its contiguous property, the 275+ acre Burch Reserve, soon opening to the public. We can't wait to see you! 🌿

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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

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Virginia Casalone ('11)

Education Chairperson

Robert Mather ('00)



2016 Member Survey

We last surveyed our certified members in 2014 and that input has since been used by the executive board to guide us to and beyond our 30th anniversary. It's now time to assess our progress and again ask your opinion on the next couple of years.

[Please take our 2016 online survey by clicking here!](#) 🐝

Membership: Fall Reminders and Tips!

by Tom Coulter, Membership Chairperson, Class of 2015

Where did the Summer go? It's still **HOT** as I write this article for the October newsletter! We Master Gardeners and Interns have two more months to complete our Continuing Education and Volunteer hours. But...it's sure to be busy with Fall gardening activities and the holidays coming up. It would be smart to think of completing your certification requirements.

Certified Master Gardeners need to complete 8 Education hours and 25 Service hours annually. Interns, in order to achieve certification, need to complete 8 Education hours and 40 Service hours within 12 months of completing their course. Service hours can be either administrative hours (like writing an article for the newsletter), teaching hours (like presenting a workshop with our Speakers Bureau or teaching at Junior Camp), or volunteer hours (like helping out in a Project Garden).

All these hours don't count unless they have been entered into the University of Tennessee Extension's Online System! Posting hours are also very important to demonstrate our value to the community. Your volunteer service directly affects state and county funding levels for the UT Extension and the Tennessee Master Gardener Program. So it is very important to record your service to the community! The value of mileage and donations when providing volunteer service are also critical data points in measuring the Tennessee Master Gardener Program.

Tips:

- Use our website <http://www.mgofdc.org/> to record your hours with UT. Select "Resources" from the top of the main page, then select "Record Hours" from the drop-down list.
- Use our website <http://www.mgofdc.org/> to find interesting MG projects and events for obtaining your hours, and the contact info for your questions.
- Note that at least one-half of the service hours must be related to supporting a Master Gardener of Davidson County related project. There are also many service opportunities with other organizations. Ask Extension Agent David Cook to pre-approve your hours if you are not sure if your volunteer efforts will qualify.
- Travel time to and from a volunteer site is considered part of the volunteer service and may be counted.
- A great source for Education hours is the Volunteer Gardener, produced by Nashville Public Television. This series can be found on YouTube with 159 videos featuring local experts who share gardening tips.
- If you need detailed instructions on recording your hours, please contact me at membership@mgofdc.org. I have some PDFs from David Cook that I will be happy to share.

Have a great October! 🐝

October 2016

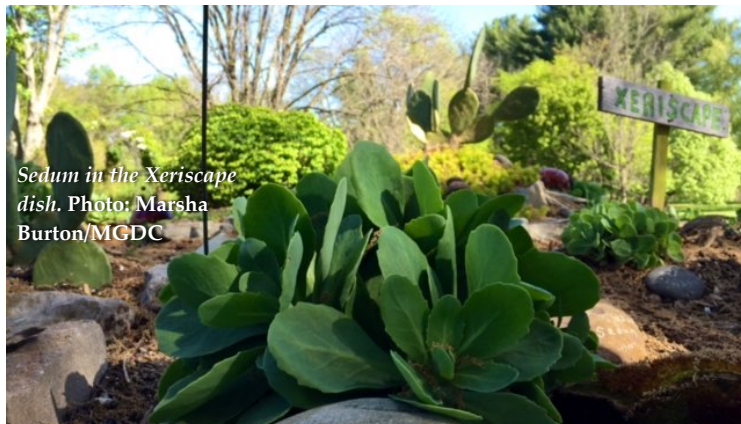
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Remember to check the calendar for new events and activities at our www.mgofdc.org website. You'll also find garden project work days, workshops, and more — so bookmark it and check back often!</p> <p>Be certain to also follow us on Facebook where we try to post last minute items we learn about at www.facebook.com/mgofdc.</p>						<p>1</p> <p>Demo Garden, 9am-12pm</p> <p>Hermitage, 8:30am-11am</p> <p>Grassmere, 9am-12pm</p>
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<p>16</p> <p>Tennessee State Fair ends</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Grassmere, 8am-12pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Demo Garden, 9am-12pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Belle Meade, 8:30am-11am</p> <p>Grassmere, 8am-12pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Hermitage, 8:30am-11am</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>Demo Garden, 9am-12pm</p> <p>Hermitage, 8:30am-11am</p> <p>Grassmere, 9am-12pm</p>
23	<p>24</p> <p>Grassmere, 8am-12pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Demo Garden, 9am-12pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Belle Meade, 8:30am-11am</p> <p>Grassmere, 8am-12pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Hermitage, 8:30am-11am</p>	28	29
30	<p>31</p> <p>Grassmere, 8am-12pm</p>	<p>2017 Annual Dues</p> <p>Please remember that annual membership dues of \$20 will be due beginning January 01 for the 2017 calendar year. You are welcome to pay in advance beginning at our November monthly meeting — please see Treasurer Laura Cooper.</p> <p><i>Please remember that Lifetime members are not required to pay dues. Couples need only pay for a single membership. 🌱</i></p>				

Demonstration Gardens at Ellington Agricultural Center

by Marsha Burton, Class of 2016

Like it or not, fall is in the air. For some this may mean catching a college or pro football game or taking a weekend drive as the leaves begin to change color. But for many Master Gardeners and interns, it means a trip out to the Demonstration Gardens at Ellington Agricultural Center most weekends.

If you walked through the demonstration garden you will see that it was a busy summer. The beds are free of weeds and you will notice several new enclosures to protect the precious plants from greedy deer and bunnies delighted in the daily bounty the gardens had to offer. Let me share with you some of the photos from the summer. Even with all that work there is still much to do in the demonstration garden this fall and get it ready for winter.



Sedum in the Xeriscape dish. Photo: Marsha Burton/MGDC

To take advantage of cool-weather temperatures and less humidity, the Master Gardeners are busy tending cool-weather vegetables (collards, kale, arugula, beets, beans, potatoes). And if they can keep out the wildlife, they might have a pretty



tasty crop this October. The vegetables are planted in two places: a new fenced-in area — good to keep the deer out, but sadly not the bunnies — and the keyhole garden.

Don't forget it's also a great time to grow lettuce, spinach and mustard greens. A great tip for carrots is put them in the ground now, cover them with mulch, they will start coming up in the spring start and by June



Weedin' Women Chair Muff Cline ('07) welcomes the scarecrows back to the Garden. Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC

you will have all kind of carrots.

In addition, volunteers are concentrating on the kitchen herb garden, which is still producing aromatic plants. Show stoppers in the herb area are onions and garlic which were also favorites of the

many bees and wasp in the garden. Yellow yarrow, lemon-grass and two different types of Artemisia provide a colorful landscape to view. One of the coolest herbs in the space is horsetail, an ancient plant used for wounds and to treat a variety of kidney and bladder problems.

As always, feel welcome to come out on any of our workdays listed on the calendar. We can always use your help! 🌱

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

by Mariwyn Evans, Class of 2011

They're Back!!! After a long summer's nap, the Belle Meade Scarecrows — Chester and Mae — have returned to the garden. Chester is sporting a sharp new black hat (real citified), and Mae has added new pink kerchief for a jaunty air. Chester's face has also received a touch up, courtesy of Judy Wright ('15). Now the pair are ready to welcome fall back to Belle Meade.



The scarecrows aren't the only sign of the changing seasons. Cucumbers and beans have given way to a new crop of mustard, beets, carrots, and kale. (How's that for citified!) The Weedin' Women are also experimenting with growing garlic. Barbara Ann Drake ('12) says it's as easy as just sticking individual cloves in the ground. We've got our fingers crossed.

Last month, we also added some Log ferns (*Dryopteris celsa*) to the Belle Meade Herb Garden. These mostly evergreen ferns will grow to three feet wide and help provide some winter interest for Plantation visitors. We're also making a list of herbs we want to add in next year's plantings. Like all gardeners, the Weedin' Women are already dreaming of a coming spring. Come join us for a tour any Wednesday morning at 8:30am, weather permitting. 🌱

Historic Grassmere Garden

by Andrea Pruijssers, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2013

The zoo put on its first annual Heritage Music Festival this past Saturday. It featured a blacksmith, the old timers baseball league, an Abe Lincoln impersonator, an old-timey-looking man on a high-wheeler, and, of course, great live music. We were all set up and ready to go when, at around 10am and after a solid week of no rain, the sky opened up and rain came down...and did not let up for the majority of the rest of day.



Master Gardeners welcoming fall at the Heritage Music Festival. Photo: Andrea Pruijssers/MGDC

Despite the rain, quite a number of visitors stopped by our booth set up just inside the garden throughout the day. The children were eager to take part in our okra stamp art activity, we handed out marigold and zinnia seeds, and we had several unusually colored and shaped gourds on display. The adults were relieved to be shielded from the rain for a bit and interested to learn more about our project. I lost track of the number of people asking us for the name of that shrub with the purple berries (the beautyberry). All in all it was a wet but fun day.

Next up is the fall edition of our Classes in the Gardens lecture series taught the **first four Saturdays in October at 11am**, with topics including seed saving, saving the Monarchs, canning and preserving, and fall preparations for spring planting. The classes are free with zoo admission and can be counted towards continuing education hours for Master Gardeners. Come on out! 🌱

Nashville City Cemetery Tour

by Bob Mather, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2000

It's October and time for the annual Living History Tour at the Nashville City Cemetery. As in the past, Master Gardeners can participate by being tour guides during this **October 15th** event. I ask only that you guide two tours during the tour hours of 3pm to 7pm. This year's event promises to be especially interesting as we explore some of Nashville past!

Signup sheets will be available at the October meeting and I will send more details. We will be preparing the flower beds and graves for the tour. I hope you can join us! 🌱

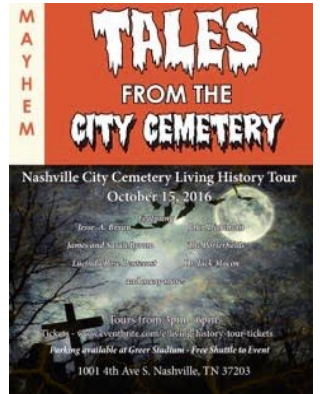
2017 Central Region Conference

by Bob Mather, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2000

It does not seem that it was just June that we held the first, Central Regional Conference at Ellington Ag Center. I was part of a teleconference recently and plans for the 2017 conference are well underway.

Mark this date on your calendar **Thursday June 22, 2017 at the Rutherford County Community Center in Murfreesboro**. This is the same great facility that Winter

School was held in the past. The one day event will start with registration at 8:30am and followed by the choice of one of two "field trips". After lunch we will have an educational session followed by a brief discuss meeting. If you attend the June conference at Ellington, I know you will want to attend the 2017 Central regional Conference. I will keep you updated as time progresses. 🌱



Tennessee State Fair

by Catherine Atwell ('04) and Faye Dorman ('14), Co-Chairs

Our exhibit at the State Fair this year, "Taking the Mystery out of Herbs," was a big success and brought us many compliments! Our booth was filled with the scent of herbs, from the soothing fragrance of lavender to the pungent scent of rosemary. It was both fun and informative for us, as well as our visitors. We showed them how they could easily grow the culinary herbs and provided examples of how to use, preserve, and store them.

We wish to thank everyone who contributed to the success of our exhibit. And to those who submitted the beautiful container plants for our competition, great job! Winners of the competition will be announced at our October meeting. 🌱

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. 🌱



Master Gardeners of Davidson County

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Join us at our next meeting on Thursday, October 13th
at 6:30pm in the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington
Agricultural Center!*

Kitchen Gardens at The Hermitage

by Mary Langford, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2009

The season is winding up at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage and we finally surrendered to the deer. We pulled up the remnants of the okra, cowpeas, bell peppers, sweet potatoes and peanuts. I'll just say, the grounds include 1,100 acres of vegetation, but the deer prefer our garden. It's just not right.

Last month, I visited Monticello for the Heritage Harvest Festival, and learned a couple of fun facts about their deer. If you take a look at their seed packets, you will notice that the beans in the background only have leaves at the top. The artist drew what was there, not realizing that deer had eaten all the lower leaves, leaving the poles exposed.

I also learned that Pat Brodowski, the specialty gardener at Monticello who plants and maintains the two acre kitchen garden, spends four hours every day protecting that garden from deer.

After Monticello closes for the day, Pat spends two hours erecting an electric fence. The next morning, she spends two hours before the grounds open taking the fence down. Four hours every day. Twenty-eight hours a week for the entire growing season. The woman is dedicated! 🌱

