



Garden Talk

MGOFDC OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Read About the State Fair
See page 11 for details.



Who Do I Contact?

2018 Executive Committee

Nominated and voted in by members every year

PRESIDENT

Leads the organization
Alisa Huntsman
president@mgofdc.org

CO-FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Coordinates monthly member meetings
Paul Martin & Bob Bryan
1vp@mgofdc.org

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Supervises the project gardens
Anne Underhill
2vp@mgofdc.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Records board & member meeting minutes
Carolyn Turner
records@mgofdc.org

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Sends information to members & public on behalf of organization
Kalli Lipke
Info@mgofdc.org

TREASURER

Accounts for organization's monies
Tom Coulter
treasurer@mgofdc.org

EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

Coordinates CE and community education outreach
Robert (Bob) Mather
education@mgofdc.org

EVENT CHAIRPERSON

Supports annual and special events
Marilee Jacobs
Events@mgofdc.org

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Manages member database & services
Karen Brown
membership@mgofdc.org

2018 Project-Garden Chairs

Nominated by board

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

At Ellington Agricultural Center
Trish Scudder & Gene Gallagher
DemoGarden@mgofdc.org

GRASSMERE HISTORIC GARDEN

At the Nashville Zoo
Rich Shiavi & Chuck Vehorn
Grassmere@mgofdc.org

HARDING GARDEN

At Belle Meade
Muff Cline
HardingGarden@mgofdc.org

KITCHEN GARDEN

At Andrew Jackson's Hermitage
Mary Langford
HermitageGarden@mgofdc.org

CITY CEMETERY GARDEN

Catherine Atwell & Robert (Bob) Mather
citycemetery@mgofdc.org

2018 Program Chairs

Nominated by board
EXTENSION OFFICE LIAISON
Barbara Hoffman
Calendar@mgofdc.org

MEMBER GARDEN TOURS

Gloria Ballard
gardentours@mgofdc.org

JUNIOR GARDENER CAMP

Pam Swoner
jrmg@mgofdc.org

INTERN LIAISON

Pam Swoner
mentors@mgofdc.org

INTERN MENTORING

Vacant
mentors@mgofdc.org

MERCHANDISE

Jean Buffer
merchandise@mgofdc.org

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Joan Clayton-Davis
speakers@mgofdc.org

2018 Event Chairs

Nominated by board
2018 LAWN & GARDEN SHOW
Barbara Drake & Mariwyn Evans
LawnandGarden@mgofdc.org

URBAN GARDENING FESTIVAL

Nancy Wilcenski & Rebecca DePriest
UGF@mgofdc.org

TENNESSEE STATE FAIR

Catherine Atwell & Bren Letson
StateFair@mgofdc.org

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Waneta Strickert (class of 1986)

By Bob Mather

One of our founding members from the 1st Master Gardeners of Davidson County class, Waneta Strickert, passed away on Friday, November 9th at age 91. Waneta grew up in Iowa and moved to Nashville in 1952 with her husband Roland. Waneta was deeply involved in her church, where she served as church organist and taught Sunday School. Waneta designed the Prayer Garden at her church.

Waneta was an avid gardener and a renowned expert on herbs. She designed herb gardens in Nashville's Centennial Park and at the James K Polk home in Columbia. She was a member of the Herb Society of America and the Herb Society of Nashville, serving on the Board of Directors of each. She also served as President of the Master Gardeners and taught Master Gardener classes on Herbs. She is remembered by many Davidson County Master Gardeners for her Herb classes, where she would open her gardens in May so members of her class could view her extensive gardens. She always shared herbs with her students and with fellow Master Gardeners. She will be sadly missed.



Member's Garden Tours

Did you know that any member (or intern) can host a garden tour? This is a great way to share what we're learning with each other. Also, both the member hosting and the members attending a garden tour earn hours. Even if your garden is a "work in progress," Master Gardener colleagues enjoy and learn from it. Plan your garden tour today and contact Gloria Ballard (gardentours@mgofdc.org; 615-297-6686 or 615-351-7111) to get the information on the calendar.



Member Merchandise

Light blue member t-shirts available in S, M, L, XL, or 2XL for \$10.
Tan baseball caps available for \$10.
FOR SALE AT MEETINGS.



On the Cover

Photo of Waneta Strickert teaching her infamous herb class.

Chicken Scratch

A Note From Our President, Alisa Huntsman

Having served as President for the year, I could take this opportunity to look back and talk about all I have been able to do for this organization, but I won't. Instead, I am looking forward to all I can still do and I hope that you will join me. Some of my plans may sound ambitious but they are rooted in the needs of our community and I think that we, as an organization, can find a way to create positive impact in all we do in the garden. So let's start with the basics, by minding our P's and Q's first, or in this case, the 5 W's and an H.

If you stop to consider who we are as Master Gardeners, one thing should jump out at you; first and foremost, we are not a gardening club! Although we may have some activities that are social in nature, we truly are an all-volunteer service organization with a responsibility to serve the community in a capacity that coincides with our Master Gardener training.

While we may all do some sort of gardening work, whether at home or in one of our official Master Gardener projects, what we all have in common is a commitment to both the members of our community and the environment. Whether we are teaching classes to the public or working in our project gardens, using our Master Gardener training, we can assist and advise people and have an impact on both the community and protect the environment.

Making the time to volunteer can be a challenge, especially if you think of it in terms of the total hours needed to certify. A better way to approach this is to break it down and set aside time each month. Scheduling 2-3 hours

a month seems so much more manageable than 25 or 40 hours. Rather than trying to schedule your life around that large block of time, add a small amount of volunteer time to your schedule, and it becomes easier. In other words, volunteer when it is best for you. If participating causes stress, it isn't enjoyable and in the end, you will be less likely to come back and we want you to keep coming back to the garden!

The Master Gardeners of Davidson County maintain multiple gardens but that is not all that we are involved with. Every week, dozens of phone calls come into the Extension Office from homeowners looking for information. Whether you answer the phone or relay the information needed, you can still make a difference in the community. Join the Speakers Bureau, teach a class in a garden, spend a couple hours in the booth at The Lawn and Garden Show or become a Hospitality Team member for our monthly meetings, whatever appeals to you. The Urban Gardening Festival takes a large team of volunteers to succeed and whether you are potting plants, starting seeds, working a booth or crafting items to be sold, there are volunteer opportunities for the festival all year long. Where you spend your volunteer hours is not the focus, getting involved in one of our many projects is!

The reason that each of us chooses to get involved and continue volunteering vary but there are some common threads. Whether you love to be outdoors, enjoy sharing your knowledge and skills or just the time spent sharing a slice of cake with friends, that love of gardening is why we stay involved.



As an all-volunteer organization, we count on every member to get involved because we cannot do this without you! If everyone agrees to volunteer 2-3 hours a month, we could collectively work as many as 600 hours each month towards achieving our goals. Imagine all that we could accomplish in that time, and the impact we could have on our community. Getting involved is easier than you think and which project you choose to earn your hours in is up to you. Simply stated, WE NEED YOU to paint signs, plant seeds, bake cookies, make phone calls, talk to strangers (as they visit the garden), pass out flyers, trim boxwoods, spread mulch, be a garden docent, write newsletter articles, direct parking, set-up the potluck dinner and so much more, these ideas are just a few ways of how you can get involved.

Here's to a Happy Holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year, I hope to see you in the garden soon! 🌿

Support MG of DC by SHOPPING!

By Tom Coulter, Treasurer

SHOP ON AMAZON

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization - MGofDC - every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Master Gardeners of Davidson County.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, smile.amazon.com, you need to select Master Gardeners of Davidson County to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. To read more about AmazonSmile, click on the link below:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/pd/ref=smi_se_saas_lpd_spd

SHOP AT KROGER

We now are a participant in Kroger's Community Rewards program! Simply visit <http://www.kroger.com> and log in to your account. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card.

Once logged into your Kroger account, select the Savings and Rewards menu. Under that, click on Kroger Community Rewards. You then designate Master Gardeners of Davidson County either by name or AU549 and then click Enroll. Easy as that! You'll earn rewards for Master Gardeners of Davidson County every time you shop and use your Plus Card! 🌿

Master Gardeners of Davidson County

PO Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204

MGOFDC.ORG | facebook.com/mgofdc | instagram.com/mgofdc

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STATE COORDINATOR: Natalie Bumgarner, Ph.D. | nbumgarn@utk.edu

Psst!!

Do you have something to say? Are you an expert on a garden topic? Submit an article to info@mgofdc.org to be featured in our newsletter! Submissions due by the 15th of the following month of this publication.

Gardening for Life in the Demonstration Garden

By Alisa Huntsman

Planting a Row for the Hungry

By Mark A. Mayer

Man, where has the year gone. Here we are in the middle of the Holiday season and looking upon a new year in a few weeks.

I have another question for you: How have you been blessed this year? For me, the blessings are too many to list, but here are a few; Angela and I purchased 26 acres for our retirement, we are getting ready to spend a week with my father, brother, sister and their families over Christmas, and I have had plenty to eat.

That last one is not true of everyone. As large as Nashville is, there are food deserts and hungry everywhere. Here is how I will help with that prob-

lem this year I am "Planting a Garden for the Hungry". I am adding several rows to my gardens this year strictly for the hungry and I have approval to use the fenced-in garden in the Demo Garden.

Here is a list of a few food banks that accept fresh food for use in their soup kitchens or distribution to the needy:

The Nashville Food Project, 3605 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215

2 nd Harvest Food Bank, 331 Great Circle Rd, Nashville, TN 37228

Salvation Army, 526 Paragon Mills Rd, Nashville, TN 37211

Room in the Inn, 705 Drexel St, Nashville, TN 37203

Nashville Rescue Mission, 616 7 th Ave South, Nashville, TN 37023

I am sure that there are others, just as worthy, feel free to donate to them as well. Please let me know what and how much you are donating and to whom. I would like to keep a record of how we are helping the community.

Mark
markmayer8354@gmail.com
(615) 944-7943 ☺



As Master Gardeners, we get a lot of requests for help from people. Most of the time, they come from non-profits in need of assistance with a garden and more often than not, they want us to take over the care and maintenance of their project. So, it was a pleasant surprise to be contacted by Dr. Brent Rexer, an oncologist with Vanderbilt, who was hoping to find a Master Gardener interested in teaching a class on gardening to breast cancer survivors.

Dr. Rexer had learned of a program in Birmingham that paired patients with Master Gardeners so that they could learn how to grow some of their own vegetables and in the process, improve their diets and health and possibly lessen the chance for a recurrence of the disease. The results of that program have been positive and quite a few of the participants were still gardening and growing vegetables two years later. After a few conversations and a meeting out in the garden with Dr. Rexer, we put a plan together to offer classes to patients that visit the Breast Cancer Clinic. Starting in late September, I began teaching a series of 6 classes related to growing vegetables on Saturday mornings out in the Demonstration Gardens.

Because most of the participants were not experienced in gardening, we started the process by learning how to analyze the light in your garden space. From determining the direction with a compass to estimating the amount of light, they learned how to choose the best spot to build a garden. Each week we covered a different aspect of gardening on subjects ranging from soil building techniques, raised beds, starting seeds, square foot gardening, harvesting rainwater, pollinators and extending the season with hoop houses. We finished the series of classes by planting a garden in the keyhole bed and believe it or not, despite the frigid rain we have had recently, the seeds are beginning to germinate!

While the participants assured me that they learned a lot, enjoyed spending time in the garden and the classes were well worth the time spent, I think that I came out ahead on the deal! This was such a wonderful experience for me and I truly enjoyed getting to know everyone who came out to the classes. Actually, my goal is to offer this series each fall to coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. Many thanks to my assistants, Mark Mayer, Barbara Erk and Barbara Hoffman; they showed up each week to help me with the classes.☺

MG of DC in the News!



Harding Garden at Belle Meade

By Mariwyn Evans

The garden is putting on a great, final show in early fall—a last hurrah before the cold. Green beans, okra, and the 10-foot tall sorghum plant are thriving right next to the new collard, lettuce, and radish seedlings. Chrysanthemums and pumpkins from the farmer’s market give the garden a festive fall air. Unfortunately, we won’t be having our fall home-schooled day this year. Instead, we’ll welcome families next spring with a whole new set of plants.

Up at the cutting garden, dahlias in brights and darks shine against the fading sunflowers and cleome. As a final late-summer task, we’ve moved several tall perennials such as *Artemisia* ‘Limelight’ and *Veronicastrum* to give a more balanced high-to-low structure for next year. Now is the self-seeders will just cooperate. ♪

Lots of greenery, but not many beans! Oh well, there’s always next year.



The last flower of summer. We plan to mulch this beautiful bi-color dahlia with the hopes of overwintering it.

Historic Grassmere Gardens

By Andrea Pruijssers

From late summer into mid fall, the American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) is a showstopper in the historic garden at Grassmere. The fresh green leaves of this native shrub remain relatively unaffected by disease, insect damage, and drought, while the bright purple berries, stacked in clusters, catch the attention of many visitors. Before we placed a name tag below our largest specimen, just about every other visitor would come find one of us and ask: “What is that bush with the purple berries? They generally had a look of slight disbelief on their face when we answered. Somehow the name “Beautyberry” seems too simple to be real.

C. americana is native to the Southeastern part of the United States and is adaptable to many different sites. It can handle part shade and full sun, moist and dry soil, and grows to about 4-8 feet in both height and width. Depending on the variety, the berries are purple, pink, or white. The Grassmere garden has both purple and white specimen (see photos). The berries are an important food source for mockingbirds, thrashers, robins, towhees, woodpeckers, finches, and many other birds. They spread the seed efficiently as is evidenced by the appearance of little volunteer seedlings in all corners of our fertile garden throughout the summer. The berries are edible for us humans, too, although they are not very flavorful straight off the plant. The Native Americans used the berries to make tea, and they can also be made into a jelly. Early 20th-century farmers put freshly crushed Beautyberry leaves beneath horse and mule harnesses to repel insects. Inspired by this folklore, scientists have isolated the active repellent compounds. Callicarpinal stood out in its activity, which was as effective as DEET in repelling mosquitoes. Current studies focus on synthesizing the Callicarpinal in the laboratory, as the natural leaves contain too little to make extracting a viable option. Next time you find yourself in our beautiful garden, feel free to pinch a few leaves off one of our bushes and rub them on your skin. Although cases of mosquito-borne diseases are still rare in Davidson County, West Nile virus infections are on the rise, and it’s better to protect than treat.



Photo credit: Andrea Pruijssers (purple) Jennifer Cox (white) ♪

Nashville City Cemetery

By Robert Mather (2000) & Catherine Atwell (2004)



The day started out with misty rain, but got better as the time for the Living History Tour at 3:00 PM. Thanks to the Master Gardener tour guides among many volunteers, we had a successful tour. As the sun started to fade, the tour changed, with the addition of lighting on the actors and the addition of candle light marking the graves. It was a spectacular effect for those who chose to come the last hour. A BIG THANKS to the Master Gardeners who helped this year and those who shared our web site.

Thinking about trimming those box wood in your yard. DON'T YOU DARE! Do not trim until February.

In fact, wait until our annual boxwood trimming “Earn and Learn” at the City Cemetery in late February. Learn the proper method and additional information on pests. This will be open to all Master Gardeners as well as our new class of 2019.

Watch the calendar on the Master Gardener web page for upcoming events and important dates. ♪

Project Gardens

As part of the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Program, we design demonstration gardens to educate citizens on sustainable lawn, garden and landscape practices. Our project gardens are our place to show off our skills and the techniques we’ve learned from the extension office and CEU - and is a great way to earn volunteer hours. Our Master Gardener division operates **five** educational garden sites through collaborative partnerships around Nashville: Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center, Harding Garden at Belle Meade, Hermitage Kitchen Garden, Grassmere Gardens at the zoo and the City Cemetery.

Strickert's Herb Bread Recipe

This bread is good with any fowl dishes and especially for cold turkey sandwiches.

INGREDIENTS:

2 pkg. yeast
½ c. warm water
¼ c. sugar
1 ½ c milk
½ c. shortening
1 Tbsp. salt
2 eggs, beaten
2 c. bread flour
4-5 c. unbleached flour
1 Tbsp. fresh minced thyme
1 Tbsp. fresh minced marjoram
1 Tbsp. fresh minced sage

PREPARATIONS:

Dissolve yeast in warm water along with 1 table-spoon of the sugar. Combine milk, remaining sugar, shortening, and salt in a saucepan and

heat until shortening is melted. Cool. Add beaten eggs. Add all to the yeast mixture along with 2 cups of bread flour. Mix well. Cover and let rise in a warm place until bubbly, about 1 hour.

Add freshly minced herbs to the yeast mixture. Stir in enough of the remaining flour to make a stiff dough. Knead until satiny and elastic. Place in a greased bowl, cover and let stand in a warm place until double in bulk. Punch down the dough and let it rest 10 minutes.

Shape into loaves and place in four 3 1/2 " x 7 1/2 " pans. Let rise until double in bulk. Brush with milk just before removing from the oven if you wish a glossy crust, or omit this optional step if you prefer matte.

Waneta Strickert, MG 1986
(from page 46 of the *Master Gardeners of Davidson County 30 th Anniversary Cookbook*)

Tennessee State Fair 2018: Earth Wind and Fire!

By Bren Letson, Co-Chair

Little did I know what was ahead of me, that night in the parking lot outside Crieve Hall United Methodist Church. My wife and I were walking toward the monthly meeting when I was approached by two people whose names I will not mention but whose initials are Bob Mather and Carroll Marrero, two of my favorite people. They exerted their considerable charms as they presented a surprising proposition: Would I co-chair the annual MGofDC state fair committee? Despite my rationalizations, they assured me that their support would mitigate my short-comings. Bob and Carrol's prediction that I would receive a great response from my fellow master gardeners underestimated the actual response.

As a relatively new member, not having a lot of relationships in the organization, I had a series of conversations with the people I knew from volunteering at the demo garden. An initial presentation of what might be the theme of our exhibit, Earth (soil), Wind (weather), and Fire (sun), was shown at July's monthly meeting.

Catherine Atwell and I began a series of meetings. Soon, we were meeting every Saturday. What started as individuals and a suggested design grew into a team of motivated people, excited to share knowledge, and taking responsibility for display tables. The 11-foot tall "Earth Tunnel" was our scene-stealer: visitors entered the soil underneath a garden to find glowing representations of soil organisms that digest soil organic matter making nutrients available to the plant's roots and where, in exchange, plants provide sugars to feed those soil organisms much like they produce sugars to feed air-borne pollinators. The tunnel's dramatic entrance, size, and black light-led path was a crowd-pleaser.

All told, there were 13 interconnected display tables, the Earth Tunnel, and, of course, the table encouraging participants to get involved with MGofDC. We also had a kids' area with a felt model garden to plant and harvest vegetables and a place where kids could dig in the "dirt" (a delight for children and gardeners alike). Below is the alphabetical list of characters (excluded are the many invaluable volunteers who manned the exhibit during the event itself):



Any Anderson – Photosynthesis
Jane McLaughlin – Soil Testing, setup
Ann Carpenter – Setup Linda Spurlock – Planning, setup
Barbara Allen – Volunteer organizer
Patricia Vorndick – Graphics, signage
Becky Fox Mathews – Photosynthesis, setup
Pattie Waller – Planning, setup
Bob Mather – Guidance, coordinate with fair
Rebecca DePriest – Planning, setup
Catherine Atwell – Planning, Guidance, work with kids
Rene Colehour – Planning, Beneficials / Pollinators

(with David Cook)
Dan Colehour – Planning, Healthy Soil, Cover Crop, No-Till
Margaret Littman – Seasonal planting, planning, setup, social media
Deborah Thomas – Planning
Maggie Bracewell - setup
Faye Dorman – Soil Web of Life, setup
Bob Bryan – Construction, setup
Georgeann McCoy – Garden Placement, setup
Mark Mayer - Construction
Tom Coulter – Construction, setup

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday 12/13/2018

You are invited to join us for our December Monthly Pot Luck meeting. Bring one of your favorite foods for the Holiday season. Our program will be different this year, in that we have four of our very talented Master Gardeners demonstrating how you can create a Holiday decoration for your home from materials from your garden and lawn!

NASHVILLE LAWN AND GARDEN SHOW

February 28 - March 3, 2019

The Fairgrounds Nashville

This year's theme, Changing Times, Changing Gardens, will explore how gardening and garden interests have evolved over the years.

<http://nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com/>

CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE

hosted by Sumner County on June 27th, 2019

Dues & Hours

Your 2019 dues need to be paid by December 31st. You can bring your \$20 to our December 13th meeting (cash, check or charge). Or, you can also send a check made out to Master Gardeners of Davidson County via mail to:

Tom Coulter, Treasurer

MASTER GARDENERS OF DAVIDSON COUNTY

P. O. Box 41055

Nashville, TN 37204-1055

Please finish up reporting your 2018 volunteer and continuing education hours so David Cook can work on his year-end reports. If you need help, please send an email to Karen Brown, Membership Chair at membership@mgofdc.org
Interns: once you have completed all hours for certification, be sure to input them and send an email to membership@mgofdc.org (not David Cook) so we can order your badge and certificate.

Mentoring Program

By Carroll Marrero & Bob Mather

David Cook our Extension Agent and MGofDC Coordinator has set the date, time and location for the 2019 Intern classes!

Classes will be held at the Andrew Price Memorial United Methodist Church, 2846 Lebanon Pike, Donelson, TN 37214. David's classes will be held during the day. (9:00 am to Noon.) Classes will commence on Thursday, February 9, 2019.

Our goal is to have twenty (20) Mentors. We are pleased to announce that eight Master Gardeners signed up at our November monthly meeting!

Interns have always been relieved to learn that someone is available to assist them in achieving their certification by providing directions on garden locations, Earn and Learn opportunities, meeting times and locations, and how to enter hours. Simply put—they need a helping hand.

Please consider being a Mentor in 2019! Bob and I will assist you in **all ways** and **always!**

Mentoring Co-Chairs,

Bob Mather (2000) | (cell: 615-525-5293; e-mail: rmather321@aol.com)

Carroll Marrero (2009) (cell: 615-554-3344' e-mail: marrerocaroll1@gmail.com)

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