



Garden Talk

MGOFDC OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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You can help Master Gardeners bank account (and make our treasurer a blue-nosed gopher) every time you shop on Amazon. See page 12 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
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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

Chicken Scratch

A Note From Our President, Alisa Huntsman

Can you believe it is September - how quickly this year is flying by! Even so, I am a little sad to see summer come to an end. Honestly, I do not care for the cold, dark days of winter and as much as I like the cooler days, the possibility of ice and snow does not thrill me.

It has been a busy summer in our garden. So far, I have canned at least 200 pounds of tomatoes in various forms and I am looking forward to using them as I cook meals this winter. We have also had a good crop of cucumbers which I turned into Bread and Butter pickles and a fair amount of okra and yes, I pickled them too - but I did save some for gumbo. Our little chest freezer is full of things like green beans and noodle beans, zucchini noodles, peas and rhubarb that we will feast on as well.

Was it a good year for squash in your garden? It sure was in ours! We planted Eight Ball zucchini and Zephyr squashes and gave away about as many as we ate. For the first time, we tried some Waltham Butternuts

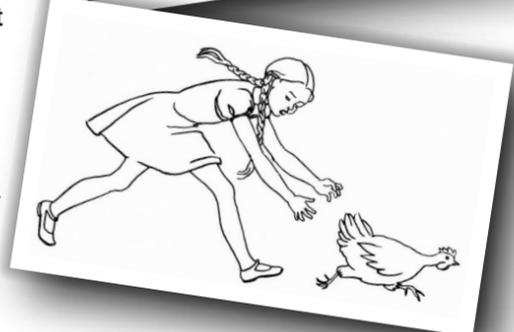
and they were solid producers; we picked 24 of them when we pulled the vines out. And now that summer is coming to its end, we are picking watermelon and watching the fig trees to catch them as they ripen.

Canning food for later use has been a fun experience but when you have as much to can as I have, it can also be a bit expensive and it was a lesson learned quickly. The one good thing I did learn was to hit the thrift stores on a regular basis. On my last trip out, I returned home with 30 jars, all priced at 50 cents each, which is much cheaper than buying them brand new!

As we are pulling out the spent plants of summer, we are putting in cold weather vegetables and we are looking forward to picking greens of all kinds, broccoli and cabbage and the carrots we planted in the late spring. It will be a busy fall here as well and if Mother Nature cooperates, a

busy winter because we hoop the beds so we can have fresh greens through the season.

Happy Fall everyone, if you need me, I'll be chasing chickens in the garden! 🐔



Master Gardeners of Davidson County

PO Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT

November Nominations

Time to get ready for 2019

Executive Board position descriptions are found below. Think you know someone who would be good in that position? Then join the nominating committee! Our bylaws require us to hold elections for Board of Director positions each November. The first step is to appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three members in good standing who appoint people they think would be a good fit for the executive board (So far no one has volunteered to nominate).

President: The president shall preside over association membership meetings, advise officers of executive board meeting dates and locations and shall preside over those meetings and shall appoint the chairman and members of all standing committees.

First Vice President: The first vice president shall perform the duties of the president in his or her absence and plan programs for the association monthly membership meetings.

Second Vice President: The second vice president shall perform the duties of the president and first vice president if their absences occur at the same time, is responsible for the supervision of projects and coordinate orientation of the new class interns to all the projects and events.

Recording Secretary: The recording secretary shall be responsible for recording and keeping the minutes of the association membership meeting and making those minutes available to the membership and shall be responsible for keeping minutes of the executive board meetings.

Corresponding Secretary: The corresponding secretary shall be responsible for handling the correspondence of the association and will help write, edit and send out a newsletter on a periodical basis as may be determined by the officers of the association. He or she shall handle media matters.

Treasurer: The treasurer shall be responsible for the collection, receiving, holding, managing, investing and expending of monies of the association and pay all legitimate obligations of the association in a timely manner.

Education Chairperson: The education chairperson shall be responsible for supporting coordination of continuing education activities and community education outreach.

Events Chairperson: The events chairperson shall be responsible for supporting events and the organization of all annual and special events.

Membership Chairperson: The membership chairperson shall serve as chairperson of the membership committee and shall be responsible for assisting in the coordination of member services.

Besides the Board of Directors, we also have several appointed positions as follows:

Hospitality Team -5 vacant positions

Merchandise Sales - 1 vacant position

Mentoring Team Leader - 1 vacant position

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU, ASAP (EMAIL PRESIDENT@MGOFDC.ORG)! 📧



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 \$15.
Tan baseball caps available for \$10.
FOR SALE AT MEETINGS.

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Help Spread the Word through Social Media

By Margaret Littman (MG of DC Intern)

Need another way you can help Master Gardens of Davidson County grow? Engage with us on social media. We're on Facebook, Instagram and (sometimes) Twitter. These platforms are great ways to let the next generation of gardeners understand what we do and how we can help them. Social media shouldn't replace phone calls, newsletters and in-person classes, but it can complement them. If folks are Googling for advice, we want them to come across our trusted resources. Social media helps make that happen.

Here's how you can help.

If you are a social media user:

- Follow MGofDC on the platform of your choice.
- Like and share our posts with your friends and followers. This kind of engagement is how more people will see our posts.
- Post on your own feeds about gardening using the hashtags: #mgofdc and #learnlovegarden.
- When you post on your own feed about your gardening, tag us in your post. That makes sure we see it and then we can interact with you.

If you are not a social media user:

- Send us videos (short, 30 second or less) or photos that you think would be worth including to info@mgofdc.org
- Suggest ideas of things to post, even if you don't have a photo. Consistency is part of the key to social media success, so if we have some "evergreen" ideas stored away, we can plant them and let them bloom when the time is right. 🌱



On the Cover

Photo by a MG of DC member of Catherine Atwell teaching school children on how plants grow at the 2018 State Fair. Watch for details on our exhibit in our December edition.

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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.

Planting a Row for the Hungry

By Mark A. Mayer, MGofDC Intern

It's October already. This is my favorite time of year. Why, you ask? It is cooling off; harvest and canning season is over, for the most part; my non-gardening neighbors & friends can start looking at me again without me pushing extra veggies on them, and I can start planning next year's gardens. Besides overwintering onions and garlic, the only major things I have left is take notes for the year (I will do that better next year), clean the tools, and service the engines.

So, while I am planning next year's garden, I am going to do something that I mentioned in the last newsletter (charity and feeding the hungry). I will be "Planting a Row for the Hungry" - <http://www.garden->

writers.org/PAR. Can you add a row to your garden to donate to the less fortunate in our city? Can you plant another raised bed? I hope you can help me. If you can, let me know how much you are planting, what you harvested, and to whom you gave. My goal is to donate 1,000 lbs of food to those in need.

If you would like to participate in planting a row for the hungry, please email me and I will put you on a separate list for this project. I am also working on adding a small area in the Demo garden for Planting a Row for the Hungry.

If you need ideas

of places to donate your extra food to, I will have published a list of places that will accept it and what specifically they are looking for in my next article.

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



Mark Mayer



Belle Meade Plantation Garden circa 2012



Urban Gardening Festival

By Nancy Wilcenski

Mark your calendars for the Urban Gardening Festival 2019 on Saturday, May 18. We are having an initial planning meeting Oct 3 and will identify areas where we need help. Yes, this is a long way off and there are many other projects before then, but we need to be ready for the media promotion necessary for this type of event and to seek sponsorships to ease the financial burden. It also takes a lot of volunteer participation and we want to identify areas you can help out along the way when it is convenient in your schedules. If you would like to get more involved with the festival, please contact Nancy Wilcenski at nancy.wilcenski@gmail.com or 615-881-4707. ☞

Junior Gardener Camp

By Pam Swoner & Susan Bryant

Yes, I know it's early to think about what you want to plant in your gardens next spring. Most of us are still trying to clean up from this year, but Jr. Camp is asking for your input. What would you like to grow that is different and/or the same in 2019?

We would like you to share the traditional plant that goes into your garden each year and what you would love to grow but can't find anywhere. That special tomato, pepper, or herb that no one carries. Something you saw this year and want to try in 2019. If I can find seeds, we will let you know.

We can start seeds so you have plants earlier than the end of May. We will grow enough to sell at the Urban Festival too. When all is said and done, we want to sell everything we start.

Thanks in advance for your suggestions. ☞



Photo courtesy of Pam Swoner & Susan Bryant

The Awesome Aster

By Robert Mather (2000)

Asters are one of the few plants that bloom this time of year, September – October (or longer depending on the frost). Asters are the quintessential herbaceous fall color plants of North America, with robust upright smooth gray-green leaves crowned with sprays of starry purple daisies. Plants are adaptable to most moist, sunny sites. Asters form a sturdy clump perennial with lance-shaped leaves that clasp the stem. Large flower heads are arranged in showy panicles, with heads consisting of a ring of 20 or more purple, pink or occasionally white ray florets that surround a central cluster of yellow disc florets. Monarchs and other butterflies, as well as skippers and bees, are frequent visitors. Most varieties grow 3 to 4 feet tall with a 3 foot spread and should be divided every three or so years. If you don't have Asters in your garden, you might want to consider them next year.

Editor's Note: Chrysanthemums, sometimes called mums or chrysanths, are flowering plants of the genus Chrysanthemum in the family Asteraceae (Aster). ☞



Photo courtesy of "Garden Weasel" - gardenweasel.com

Going Bananas in the Demonstration Garden

By Alisa Huntsman (2008)

What a surprise it was to look up to see the banana tree in bloom with fruit that has begun to form! Each year, the banana tree blooms and begins to set fruit, but usually a little later in the season and just in time for the frost. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the frost is late this year; we want to be able to say that we picked bananas here in Nashville!

The garden continues to thrive and so do the weeds! We will be out on Saturdays from 9-11 or so, join us if you can. There are plenty of tasks to complete to earn those last few hours you may need to certify. From cutting back dead and dying plants, spreading wood chips, mulching beds, and of course, weeding. We need to get the garden in shape before we put it to bed for the winter! ♪



Banana tree in the Demo Garden.

Nashville City Cemetery

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

We are preparing for the annual Living History Tour to be held on October 27. We have had a hot summer, and at times, a lot of rain. This has made it difficult to visit the City Cemetery to weed, but now that the weather is getting cooler, we can take care of the weeds. Watch your e-blasts for dates and times!

Plans for our 19th annual Living History Tour are now being finalized. The tour will be Saturday October 27 from 4 pm - 7 pm, with parking available at the Adventure Science Center, 800 Fort Negley Blvd. (Shuttles will run from 3:30 to 8:00 pm) Tickets are available through eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-living-history-tour-stepping-into-nashvilles-past-tickets-50227526885>

As in the past, Master Gardeners have been tour guides at this event. If you are interested, please contact me at citycemetery@mgofdc.org and I will get you information. It is always a fun and interesting event. Information is on our website calendar and at www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org

Editor's Note: The Living History Tour is a guided tour among live actors portraying real people of the past. Tour guides do not have to act, only read provided information between stops to the guests. ♪



Actors portraying real people from the past. Photo courtesy of Nashville City Cemetery Association.

Historic Grassmere Gardens

By Chuck Vehorn (2014)

Host Plants → Tiny Eggs → Growing Caterpillars → Butterflies

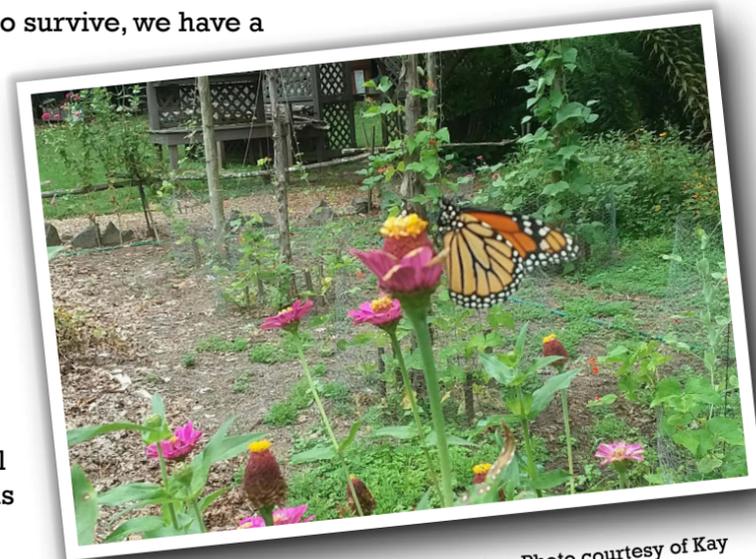
What a sight to see at this time of year and a rare treat of nature for the many Grassmere Garden visitors. The Pipevine (host for Black Swallowtail), the Passionfruit vine (host for Gulf Fritillary), and the Milkweed plant (host for Monarchs) have provided food for the caterpillars and are showing bountiful provision indeed with a display their holey leaves.

The Grassmere Garden not only supplements the zoo animals' diets (along with the diets of pesky animals such as squirrels, rabbits, deer); but also feeds leaves to caterpillars and nectar from our flowers to butterflies.

As you may know, the land for the Nashville Zoo came from the estate of the Croft sisters, who had no living heirs. On September 29, the zoo sponsored a birthday party for the Croft sisters – who had September 29 and October 5 birthdays. The zoo provided games and crafts, demonstrated fiber arts (tinting and wool spinning), created special displays inside the historic home, and held a ceremony followed by a birthday cake. Several of our regular Grassmere gardeners were in attendance.

Finally, as a demonstration of a plant's will to survive, we have a story.

In 2014, we planted a fig cutting from one of Thomas Jefferson's fig trees at Monticello. (Bob Mather brought it back after a trip there.) The tree grew and produced some figs. However, the robust leaves all turned black this Spring after a warming and then a late cold spell. Rich Shiavi cut the tree back severely and we hoped that it might survive and maybe produce fruit in future years. Well, the tree has grown back and we now have little figs forming all over the fresh new branches. Nature's way is amazing to behold. ♪



Monarch butterfly in the Grassmere Garden. Photo courtesy of Kay Gragg.

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.

Stuffed Pumpkin Cooking Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 to 2 pound pie pumpkin
- 1 cup brown rice
- 2 cups chicken broth
- ¼ pound cheese cut into ½ inch chunks
- ¼ cup chopped spring onions, chives, or sweet onions
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2-4 garlic cloves coarsely chopped
- Thyme (1 tsp dried or 1 tbl fresh minced)
- Pinch of grated nutmeg
- 4 slices Applewood smoked bacon cooked and cut into small pieces
- About 1/3 cup heavy cream

PREPARATIONS:

Wash pumpkin. Cut top off in a neat small circle and save for baking with the pumpkin. Remove the seeds and loose pumpkin fibers. Rub olive oil and salt and pepper inside of the pumpkin. Set aside.

Cook rice in chicken broth until done.

Cook bacon (I bake on cookie sheet in oven at 350 degrees), drain, then cut into pieces.

Chop onions or chives.

Cut cheeses into small cubes.

Mix rice, cheeses, onions, bacon, thyme, garlic, salt, pepper.

Stuff rice mixture into pumpkin. Mix nutmeg with cream and pour into pumpkin.

Place pumpkin on baking sheet lined with a silicone baking mat or parchment paper and put the top on the pumpkin.

Bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees for 90 minutes. (The original recipe says 2 hours checking after 90 minutes, but it used a 3 pound pumpkin. I find 60 to 90 to be plenty of time for a 1 pound pumpkin. It may take less time so start checking at one hour. For about the last 15 to 20 minutes of baking, take the pumpkin top off and set to side on baking sheet and continue baking to brown the top).

Remove from oven and let cool a few minutes.

Place pumpkin on serving plate.

SERVING:

Slice each piece like a piece of cake. Peel off the pumpkin skin.

Serve as the meal with a salad or fresh bread or serve as a side vegetable.

SUGGESTIONS:

You can use any rice. I prefer brown or wild rice for the nutty flavors. I always make more rice just to be sure I have enough to fill the pumpkin. I only mix what I think I need with the cheeses. Use any cheese combination. Choose cheeses that go with the spice you use and use a melting cheese along with a salty one.

Use any meat combination or do not use any.

For an Italian version, brown Italian sausage (if in casing, remove casing) instead of bacon. Drain the grease before adding to the rice. Use oregano, basil, and garlic for spices. Add chopped peppers and onions. Cheeses to consider are provolone, parmesan, romano, asiago, and aged cheddar.

You can add spinach but I would saute a minute to wilt it before adding.

If you are a bread person, use ¼ pound stale bread thinly sliced and cut into ½ inch chunks instead of rice.

If your pumpkin is close to 3 pounds you may need more rice, cheese, etc. Do not use one larger.

You can substitute acorn squash for pie pumpkins just slice in half and stuff each half. Baking time may be less.

Some people just scoop it out and eat it like a soup.

For a sweeter version, add apples or pears.

You can add nuts or use ham or country sausage for the meat. Just use your imagination.



Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

Mark your calendars!

- October 1, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 3, 8:30 AM, [Workday at Belle Meade](#)
- October 3, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 6, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 6, 10:30 AM, Public Library Garden Program
- October 6, 9:30-11:00, Cheekwood Family Workshop
 - Imagine a Garden: Design your Outdoor Retreat
 - \$30 for one child & one guardian
 - each pair will create their dream garden using a variety of art materials
- October 8, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 10, 8:30 AM, [Workday at Harding Garden](#)
- October 10, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 11, 6:00 PM Member Meeting
- October 13, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 13, 10:00 AM, TN Agricultural Museum Grand Re-Opening

- October 13, 10:00 AM, Speaker's Bureau at Bells Bend Park Farm Day
- October 13, 2:00 PM, Public Library Garden Program
- October 15, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 16, 6:30 PM, Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee meeting
 - Growing Dwarf Conifers in Tennessee, Paul Schneider
- October 16, 11:00 - 12:00 PM, Nashville Farmers' Market
 - Lunch & Learn: Creating a Community Food System
 - Network & discuss how to work together to strengthen & improve our local food system. There will be a speaker
- October 17, 8:30 AM, [Workday at Harding Garden](#)
- October 17, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 20, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 22, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 24, 8:30 AM, [Workday at Harding Garden](#)
- October 24, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 27, Saturday, Living History at City Cemetery
- October 29, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)
- October 31, 9:00 AM, [Workday at Grassmere](#)

- November 8, Member Meeting
 - Tree Foundation & 2019 MG of DC Board Elections
- November 3, 9:00 AM (half day), Canoe trip - Float the Harpeth River
 - Montgomery Bell State Park
 - \$10.00 per person, must pre-register, be at least 10 years old & minors must have adult supervision
 - Park will provide canoes, life jackets, paddles, water & snacks
- November 15, Newsletter submissions due to info@mgofdc.org

NOVEMBER

Mark your calendars!

Smile, Amazon, It's a Blue Nosed Gopher

By Alisa Huntsman (2008)

Have you heard of Amazon Smile? Amazon.com allows non-profits to register as a charity and once registered, anyone who shops on smile.amazon.com can choose a charity to receive 0.5% of the sales.

Smile.Amazon.com is exactly the same as Amazon.com, but gives a portion of the profit from your purchase to your chosen charity. You can only select one charity per account, although you can change it whenever you like

With thanks to our Treasurer, Tom Coulter, The Master Gardeners of Davidson County are now registered as a charity and if you choose us as your preferred charity, we will receive 0.5% of the profits from your amazon purchases! If you are an Amazon Prime account holder, do not worry, it also works with Smile.

While .5% isn't much, those little bits do add up and it will cost you nothing to designate and donate. As you prepare to do holiday shopping or if you just prefer to shop from the comfort of your couch, please sign up and designate MG of DC as your preferred charity.

Even though it was Tom's idea to sign up, he was skeptical that we would earn much more than \$25 in a year. He stated that he would be a Blue Nosed Gopher if we did! Let's join together and make it a mission to prove him wrong and earn some funds for the projects we tend to! Smile Amazon. 🐾



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