

GardenTalk

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County and UT Extension

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 10 — October 2015



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Mather's Musings

News, wit and wisdom from Master Gardener Bob Mather, Class of 2000.

The Tennessee State Fair was a tremendous success this year. Master Gardeners enjoyed speaking with many inquisitive gardeners and answering questions from visitors. Our booth was full of information and interaction for young and old alike. It was fun watching adults touch, look, and smell the plants at our kid's table — they had as much fun as the kids! I am very proud of all of our Master Gardeners who gave their time and energy to support our mission as community ambassadors and sharing their passion and knowledge of gardening.

Working at the State Fair is a great time for our members to become acquainted with other members, whether from the class of 2015 or longtime members you've only just met. Thank you for participating. I heard many say they had not been to the State Fair in previous years but had a great time, especially interacting with the public!

Now that the fair is over, it's time to have some fun at Music and Molasses, happening October 17th-18th at Ellington Agriculture Center. Setup will be conducted on Friday, October 16th beginning at 10am. Teardown will start at 4pm on Sunday, October 18th.

Be sure to read the article on Music and Molasses (page 4) as it contains additional information on some of the things we will need for our booth. This is one of my favorite events as it is another wonderful time to earn

hours and make new friends among your fellow Master Gardeners.

Elections are upon us and it is VERY IMPORTANT that you seriously consider holding an office in your organization. After four terms as your President, it is time to pass this position to someone else. It does not require a lot of time as you will have good people in other positions to help with the operations of this organization.

You give what you can. Our team has made it possible to easily transition into a board position and will be very supportive with passing on information vital to your office. Please consider running for the board, as we will have nominations at the October meeting.

Another reminder: Get your hours logged into the UT system. If you have questions regarding your hours, feel free to contact me or any other board member. It is important to enter hours to show how important the Master Gardener program is to all of Tennessee. Our state coordinator, Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, is working very hard for the Master Gardener program in Tennessee and is also helping to make some very much-needed upgrades to our program. Please do your part.

Fall is a great time to work in your garden. I have my French white radishes planted and can't wait to try them. Take a walk in your garden today! 🌱

Proposed Bylaws Amendment

A proposal to amend the Bylaws has been unanimously recommended for adoption by the Executive Committee and is referred to the membership for consideration. The amendment will be voted upon during the November monthly meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1

Deletes language of Article X Dues and replaces with:

Members shall remain in good standing by paying dues as determined by a vote of the membership and completing recertification requirements as determined by the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Program. Members in good standing shall be eligible to vote and hold elected or appointed office in the Association.

1. Members shall be assessed dues at a rate of \$20.00 per annum that shall be payable to the Association on the first day of January annually.

2. Members of the same household shall be subject to a single dues assessment annually.
3. Lifetime members shall be exempt from the assessment of dues.
4. The fiscal year of the Association shall be concurrent with the calendar year.

Rationale: This amendment seeks to define and conspicuously articulate the role of dues, recertification of hours, and define membership in good standing. It further articulates in written form previously adopted board policies for the collection of dues, and defines the fiscal year.

The procedure for amending the Bylaws is provided in Article XI of the Bylaws.

[Read the MGDC Bylaws online](#) or in your membership directory. 📖

Inside this issue: **October Program**

by *Karen Shaw, First Vice President, Class of 2014*

Due to a cancelled meeting in June, we were all disappointed that we didn't get to hear one of our own Master Gardeners of Davidson County, Georgeann McCoy. However, she's graciously consented to share her expertise with us at our October meeting.

Georgeann McCoy (1998) and her husband, John O'Connor (2000), have been working their garden, *Coillte Beag*, (Irish for Little Woods), for 17 years. It's a shade garden, so at first Hosta was their main choice in plants. Gradually, they have added companion plants and lots of native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs to their garden. Hydrangeas are such a wonderful plant that does well in both sun and shade. Georgeann and John have over 30 different cultivars.

Georgeann says, "At first it was a little confusing to get a handle on the different groups, when to prune, and what kind of fertilizer to use. I think I have it figured out and want to share that with you. There are so many new varieties being introduced every year and all of us should be growing a few." Georgeann and John are longtime members of both the Middle Tennessee Hosta Society, the Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee, and the Master Gardeners of Davidson County, so they bring us a wealth of knowledge you won't want to miss. 🌱

Music and Molasses Festival, Oct. 16-18

by *Lynn Ashford, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2011*

This year's theme is "Pollination". This wonderful event is one of the last chances to earn volunteer hours in this year, so sign on up! Our booth will cater to kids, so we'll have tables set up for decorating butterflies, caterpillars, etc., and help them learn more about what sort of critters are out there that are useful for pollination.

Any contributions along this line will be greatly appreciated. Fall decorations of any sort will certainly add interest to our booth, for example: Dried corn stalks, fall floral arrangements, dried okra pods, hay bales, or scarecrows. If you don't have such items then come dressed as a field hand — we'll put ya to work! Setup will begin on Friday, October 16th at 10am; takedown on Sunday, October 18th at 4pm. Many thanks for your efforts. 🌱

Mentoring Program

by *Caroll Marrero, Membership Chairperson, Class of 2009*

A **tremendous "thank you"** goes out to all Mentors for assisting our Interns! We congratulate several Interns recently certifying and thank you for your many volunteer hours. The impact you make working with our MGDC projects, as well as other opportunities within Davidson County, is truly appreciated.

Music and Molasses Festival will be held October 16th-18th at Ellington Agricultural Center. Please contact co-chairs Lynn Ashford and Jill Meese for volunteer information at mmf@mgofdc.org; or call Lynn at (615) 957-1310. This is such a wonderful celebration to be a part of!

Education and volunteer hours are available at our projects. The Hermitage, Grassmere and Demonstration Gardens will always welcome your assistance. Other opportunities are also available:

- "Meet Me At The Market", held monthly at the downtown Nashville Farmers' Market and hosted by David Cook, Bob Mather and Catherine Atwell. This is held on the second Wednesday each month from 10am to 2pm.
- NPT's "Volunteer Gardener" is a great continuing education resource. You may earn a ½ hour of education for each segment watched. [Find them on YouTube.](#)
- The Ag Museum at Ellington also remains a great resource for volunteering. Many opportunities will be available during the Music and Molasses Festival as well.

Please remember to enter your hours. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call your Mentor, Bob Mather at (615) 525-5293 or me (615) 554-3344. 🌱

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Cover: Recently certified Master Gardener Tom Coulter (2015) and the memorial bench he refurbished for Steve Draper that sits amid the Demonstration Garden. Photo: Tyann Chappell/MGDC.

October 2015

For a complete calendar of events, visit our website at www.mgofdc.org.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please be reminded that scheduled project workdays may be subject to weather conditions.				1	2	3 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere and The Hermitage City Cemetery Living History Tour
4	5 Workday: Grassmere, 8am-12pm	6	7 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere 8:30-10:30am at Belle Meade Board Meeting, 6pm at UT Central Region	8 October Monthly Meeting, 6pm Ellington Ag Ctr	9	10 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere and The Hermitage
11	12 Workday: Grassmere, 8am-12pm	13	14 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere 8:30-10:30am at Belle Meade Meet Me at the Market, 10am-2pm	15	16 MUSIC AND MOLASSES Setup, 10am	17 MUSIC AND MOLASSES Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere and The Hermitage
18 MUSIC AND MOLASSES Takedown, 4pm	19 Workday: Grassmere, 8am-12pm	20	21 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere 8:30-10:30am at Belle Meade	22	23	24 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere and The Hermitage
25	26 Workday: Grassmere, 8am-12pm	27	28 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere 8:30-10:30am at Belle Meade	29	30	31 Workdays: 8am-12pm at Grassmere and The Hermitage

Officer Elections in November

by Jason Goodrich, *Corresponding Secretary, Class of 2013*

As was mentioned in last month's issue and again in this issue's notes from the president, our annual election of officers will take place at our November 12th meeting. Nominations remain open and you are invited to make yours! Email our Nominations Committee at nominations@mgofdc.org to either nominate yourself or another Master Gardener.

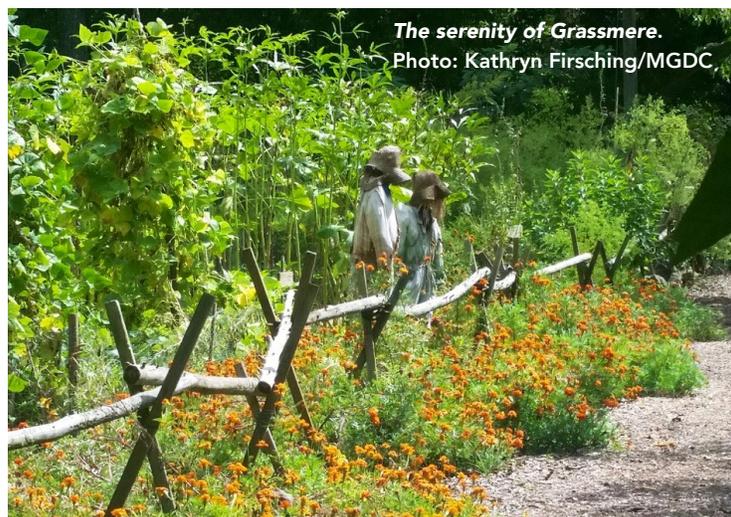
We have made many great strides to make the roles of our board members much simpler and easier, and we encourage you to lead our organization during our 30th anniversary year!

For your convenience, here are the roles and responsibilities for each elected office as described by our Bylaws:

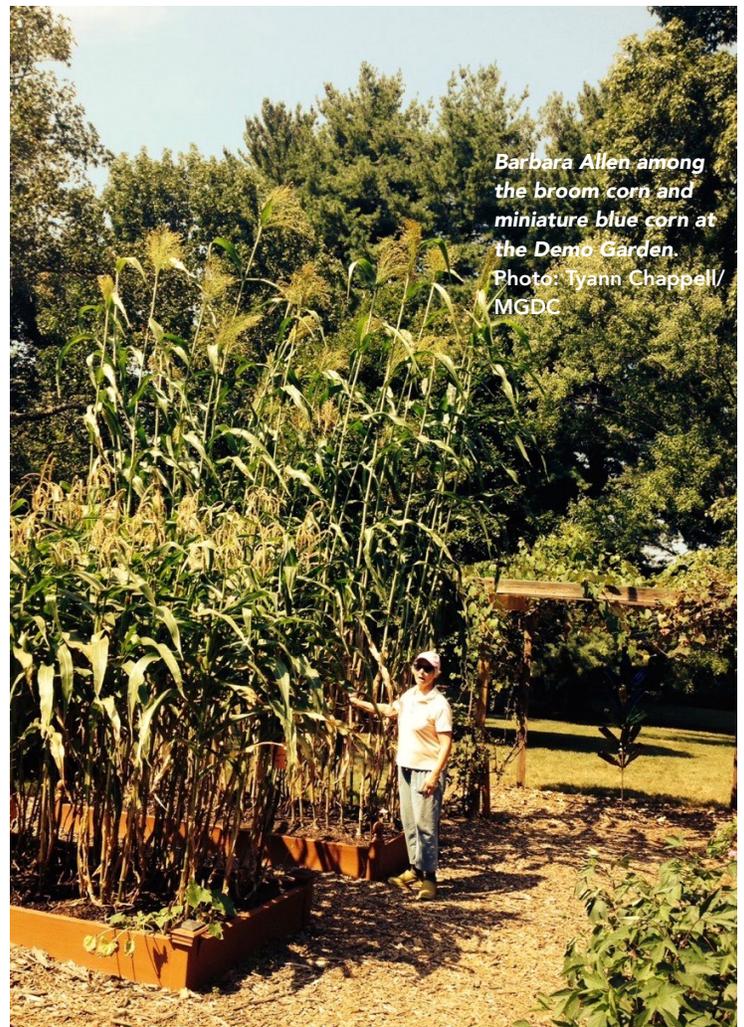
- President — the presiding officer of board and monthly meetings with responsibility for appointing project and committee chairpersons.
- First Vice President — performs the duties of the president in his/her absence; coordinates programs for monthly meetings.
- Second Vice President — provides supervision and coordination of all projects in collaboration with project chairpersons.
- Corresponding Secretary — conducts all correspondence, media, and announcements; edits the monthly newsletter.
- Recording Secretary — manages all recordkeeping, including the keeping of board and monthly meeting minutes.
- Treasurer — conducts financial transactions and management.
- Education Chairperson — provides supervision and coordination of continuing education.
- Events Chairperson — provides supervision and coordination of all annual and special events.
- Membership Chairperson — provides supervision and coordination of all member-relates services and serves as chairperson of the Membership Committee.

Next year will be a very special celebratory year — please consider serving a one-year term of leadership and continuing to make the Master Gardeners of Davidson County the great organization that it is for the community and members alike.

Bring an infusion of new energy and new ideas with you! Again, you can email your nominations to nominations@mgofdc.org. 🐞



The serenity of Grassmere.
Photo: Kathryn Firsching/MGDC



Barbara Allen among the broom corn and miniature blue corn at the Demo Garden.
Photo: Tyann Chappell/MGDC

More Bus Trips in 2016?

by Jason Goodrich, *Corresponding Secretary, Class of 2013*

So much fun is had during our bus trips to Summer Celebration in Jackson every July that there's been some discussion recently about offering a few more day trips to other events and botanical gardens during 2016.

These trips would be open, like our bus trip to Jackson, to other Master Gardener associations and plant societies.

What do *you* think? Email us at info@mgofdc.org and let us know whether or not you like the idea? Have suggestions? Send those, too! Some cities that have been mentioned include Chattanooga, Memphis, Louisville, and Huntsville.

Share your opinion with us! 🐞

TEMG State Conference

by Carol Burdett, *Editor of the Taking Root newsletter*

Mark your calendars for March 17-19, 2016!

The Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Program invites you to join them in Knoxville on the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture campus for a great conference that will include a pre-day training on the Junior Master Gardener program (March 17th) as well as a two-day conference filled with horticultural and educational sessions and workshops and a focus on the UT Gardens. Formerly referred to as Winter School, registration at the TEMG website will be available soon. 🐞

Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center

by Tyann Chappell, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2013

In last month's newsletter we highlighted some of the wonderful work that several 2015 Interns (now Certified Master Gardeners) accomplished this year at our Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center. We shared with you the contributions of Jeanine Atkinson, Bill Haley, and Bob Bryan. In this issue we wanted to complete the list of folks, so here we go.

Katy Brantley (2015) came to the garden early to lend a hand. You know, in early spring when most of the plants that have popped up in the gardens are the weeds. When she asked what she could do we were hesitant to answer WEEDING. It's the lowest and most tedious of jobs on the long list of tasks, but we asked her, and with her infectious smile and abounding energy she began the task of removing all those unwelcome residents. Throughout the months she has helped in so many areas and is quite a talented gardener.



Katy Brantley in the Demo Garden.
Photo: Tyann Chappell/MGDC

Tom Coulter (2015) first arrived to the garden on a cold February morning an hour before everyone else. Did he sit in his car sipping on hot coffee until everyone arrived? No. He walked around the garden and picked up debris that had fallen during the winter. Tom's skills shared in the garden are leaving a legacy for all of us to enjoy. He completely disassembled Steve Draper's memorial bench and refurbished it to better-than-new condition (see cover page). He has refinished the cedar topped work table.

Now Tom and Erica Shannon (2015) are working together to update and refurbish the Master Gardener's Memorial Board. Erica has painstakingly cleaned and reconditioned the original plaques. Shirley Lee (2001) is procuring plaques for our Master Gardeners who have recently passed. We hope to have a rededication for the completed board soon.

Erica Shannon has been another wonderful thread in our demo garden tapestry. She comes in often when her "real" job allows and has been a big help with composting and mulching. Wait until you see her work with the memorial board!

As a group, they have helped to elevate the gardens to new heights. As individuals, they have made their own unique and lasting imprint in every nook and corner. If you see them in the garden or at one of our events or monthly meetings, please extend your thanks and congratulations for becoming certified. 🌱

Want to submit an article?

Our monthly *Garden Talk* newsletter isn't just about project reports and volunteer requests — we would love to share your stories and interests as well!

If you enjoy writing or sharing your passions, consider submitting an article for the newsletter. We welcome submissions written by our Master Gardeners and the refreshing perspectives they offer.

All submissions are due on the 19th of every month. You are invited to include your photos that we will include as space allows. Don't forget to provide a caption and photo credit.

Email your submissions to newsletter@mgofdc.org!

Historic Grassmere Gardens

by Kathryn Firsching, Class of 2014

I recently worked in the Grassmere Garden on a crisp, perfect fall day. Several zoo visitors wandered by that morning. One mother was explaining to her energetic son that the food he ate and was accustomed to seeing on his plate at home could also be found still attached to the plant in our garden. After this revelation, the little guy asked if he could go off the path to check out our fall pumpkin patch. I saw him hold up a butternut squash and then gingerly lift up a pumpkin. "EEEEW! It's got red ants and worms on it!", I heard him shriek.

This got me to musing about a class I took at the TSU agriculture graduate school where the professor explained the consumer will not buy produce that does not look perfect. Tomatoes must be perfectly round, red with no blemishes, certainly bug free, and are most times covered with a sheen of shiny wax in order to display well enough to sell. Since the tomatoes usually come from far away, they probably get picked before they are ripe, and have to be durable enough to ship and store well for long periods of time. These needs took us far away from the heirlooms grown in the Grassmere garden, which are irregularly shaped, often with cracks, and come in the most amazing array of colors and shapes. These tomatoes aren't just red, but can be purple and green, bright persimmon orange, yellow, green and red striped, and my personal favorite — a sunset panorama of yellow, orange, red and green all in one beautiful big tomato. Not to mention the taste of these old fashioned beauties. It makes a person look forward to the two month peak of tomato season all year.

Thank goodness for gardens like Grassmere that preserve the seeds and growing know-how as well as the delicious tastiness and abundant variety of heirloom vegetables. Grassmere is a living, breathing outdoor museum of how America used to eat, live, and produce food in the 1800's. It even comes complete with its own Master Gardeners actively working the garden, and ready to answer questions from the public. When I sat down with my own teenage son last night to eat our tasty locally-grown salad of arugula, sweet fresh corn, sweet red peppers and strip steak, I mentally thanked the lovely counterculture farmers that allow us eat this way instead of the supermarket iceberg lettuce and pink mealy tomato salads of my 1970's youth. 🌱

Kitchen Gardens at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage

by Mary Langford, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2009

At Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, we have harvested our peanuts. One year, when we were harvesting them, a visitor/tourist, after learning what they were, asked, "What do you use them for?" Our answer: "Umm, peanut butter."

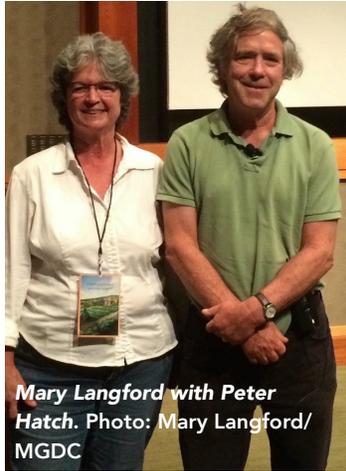
We are still planting cover crops of buckwheat and clover and are putting in our fall vegetables: Cauliflower, kale, cabbage and garlic, and still spraying the Deer Stopper on everything.

The grounds have more than 1,000 acres. One would think the deer could find plenty to eat but they seem to think of our garden as a buffet!

We were represented at the Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia on September 11-12, 2015. Peter Hatch, Director of Gardens and Grounds for 35 years, now retired, gave two presentations. The first was a tour of the Monticello vegetable garden. Peter began his work at Monticello in 1977. Serious work on the renovation of the vegetable garden began in 1978, so he was there to make it into the amazingly beautiful garden it is today. He told us that in the 1930s, much of the stone wall, which held the terrace vegetable garden, had been removed by the Civilian Conservation Corps to build a retaining wall for a road on the premises. After geologists determined that the rock in that wall was indeed the same as the wall for the terrace, the work began to return them to the terrace.

Peter's second presentation, Thomas Jefferson, Gardener, was more about President Jefferson himself than about the gardens. Thomas Jefferson is known for his meticulous records of the gardens. He held a contest every year among his neighbors to see who could bring the first pea to table. His friend, George Divers, won the contest every year. However, it is said that one year, Jefferson himself had the first peas of the season. He kept that to himself so that his good friend's record would not be broken.

Jefferson was also friend and neighbor to Meriwether Lewis, best known today for his role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. During the expedition, he sent plant specimens back to Thomas Jefferson. 🌱



Mary Langford with Peter Hatch. Photo: Mary Langford/MGDC

Are your dues paid?

With our approaching annual business meeting and election of officers in November, it's important to ensure your dues are paid in order to receive a ballot at the meeting.

If our records do not reflect a dues payment for 2015, you will soon be receiving an email from Jason Goodrich, our corresponding secretary.

You can pay your dues at any meeting or mail a check made payable to "MGDC" to P.O. Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204.

Tennessee State Fair

by Barbara Drake, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2009

The 2015 Tennessee State Fair has come and gone. There was a great turnout for the fair this year, which made for a great turnout to our Master Gardeners booth. Children and adults enjoyed our LOOK, TOUCH, AND SMELL area. Our little caterpillar became mascot for the booth.



Margaret Devine chatting with booth visitors. Photo: Barbara Drake/MGDC

Our visitors learned about THRILLER, FILLER and SPILLER. We had well over 300 ballots cast for our natural containers.



Visitors to our Tennessee State Fair booth. Photo: Barbara Drake/MGDC

The ballots will be tallied and winners will be announced during our October monthly meeting.

Thanks to everyone who participate and each who worked the booth! 🌱

Verify your address, phone, email!

Moved? Changed your phone or internet service?

Please remember to report any changes in contact information to our recording secretary at records@mgofdc.org.

You can also login to our website, www.mgofdc.org, to update your details. Forgot your password? No worries — you can request a new one!

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

by Mariwyn Evans, Class of 2011

At Belle Meade, September always brings two fun events — planting the fall vegetables and the Tennessee State Fair. The Weedin' Women are big into the fair, especially Barbara Ann Drake (2009), who co-chaired this year's effort, and Barbara Allen (2000), who once again herded the many Master Gardener volunteers needed to man the booth for 10 (yes, 10) days.



The creativity of the Belle Meade team was also on display with arrangements from Weedin' Women stalwarts Margaret Devine (2007) and Muff Cline (2007). Muff's handiwork, a delicate piece, includes hens and chicks and red okra from Belle Meade. Margaret's opus is the essence of fall — gourds, cornhusks, and hyacinth beans — all reimagined with her usual flair.

Meanwhile, back at the Harding Garden, we've just about finished planting mustard greens, lettuce, radishes, chard, and spinach. Can a bounty of fall greens be far behind? Should be a cinch unless the rabbits eat it all. They already took out the beautiful hollyhock seedlings that Jill Meese (2015) had nurtured. Our next project — repair the fence!



Jill Meese uses her planting expertise on a bed of mustard greens.
Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC



Nancy West preps the soil before planting beets. Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC

Join us on Wednesdays at 8:30am, weather permitting. We plan on working until early November this year because we are getting lots of school children visiting in late October. 🌱

Of Service and Shovels

by Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, Tennessee Master Gardener Program Coordinator, UT Extension

As September nears its end and October approaches, I am enjoying my first full fall here in Tennessee. Others may disagree, but I would argue that the Volunteer State knows how to do fall better than anyone in the country. We have the mountains preparing for a fabulous colorful fall, crops being harvested, SEC football, several weeks of fresh leafy greens upcoming, and two or three months before we really have to contemplate the appearance of snowflakes! What else could really be asked of any state in autumn?



On top of all these benefits, Tennessee Master Gardeners have another fall advantage — the opportunity to recognize the outstanding projects and people who represent the heart of the Extension and Master Gardener mission. And, of course, we celebrate this excellent service at our state conference (March 18th, 2016 in Knoxville) with the Search for Excellence shovels. These are the only clean shovels that exist among any of our 2,500 active Master Gardeners, I dare say!

Over the past few weeks, our Search For Excellence (SFE) committee has been putting together applications, instruction sheets, example scoresheets and everything needed to submit nominations for the SFE awards. They are all currently linked on the state [TEMG website](#) front page. Also linked are previous award winning applications and information on writing impact statements.

In addition to the seven areas of outreach project awards, this year the SFE applications and judging process will include the individual Outstanding Master Gardener and Outstanding Contributing partner awards. As you likely are already aware, the Outstanding Master Gardener award recognizes individuals who exemplify the Extension mission through engaging local Master Gardener groups to impact the community.

Completely new for the 2015 award year is the Outstanding Contributing Partner award. This presents us with the opportunity to recognize non-volunteers who work with the Master Gardener program to provide service and outreach in communities, whether they be members of the local community, horticulture industry or Extension or university collaborators. I will leave you with those thoughts of shining shovels. Have a great fall! 🌱

- [2015 SFE Project Application Form](#)
- [2015 SFE Project Instructions](#)
- [2015 Outstanding Master Gardener Nomination Form](#)
- [2015 Outstanding Contributing Partner Nomination Form](#)

Note from the Board on SFE applications: Please be certain to send a copy of application or nomination forms to the board by emailing your submission(s) to: info@mgofdc.org. 🌱



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Apple Trio Salad with Bacon Vinaigrette *from the kitchen of Bob Mather*

Salad

- ✓ 4-6 cups mixed greens
- ✓ 1 Honey Crisp, 1 Granny Smith, and 1 Braeburn or Gala apple
- ✓ 1 Cup walnuts, chopped & lightly toasted
- ✓ 1/2 cup blue cheese, crumbled

Bacon Vinaigrette

- ✓ 1/4 pound bacon, cooked crisp & crumbled
- ✓ 1/3 cup olive oil
- ✓ 3 Tablespoons cider vinegar
- ✓ 2 Tablespoons sorghum
- ✓ 1/2 teaspoon salt
- ✓ 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

1. Place greens in individual serving bowls. Layer apples, then nuts and cheese.
2. Combine all vinaigrette ingredients in a container with a fitted lid. Slightly warm the dressing (lid off) in the microwave. Place lid back on and shake well. Pour over the salads and serve immediately.

Note: Use a pear in place of one apple. Salad is also great with quilled chicken or salmon as a main course. 🍷



Anne Carpenter (2012) and Barbara Drake (2012) examining the containers brought by Master Gardeners for our Tennessee State Fair booth. Photo: Bob Mather/MGDC