



# Garden Talk

MGOFDC OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

**Lawn &  
Garden**  
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## Who Do I Contact?

### 2019 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  
lvp@mgofdc.org

#### **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

*Supervises the project gardens*  
Vacant  
(apply to president@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*  
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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

### 2019 Project-Garden Chairs

*Nominated by board*

#### **DEMONSTRATION GARDEN**

*At Ellington Agricultural Center*  
Vacant  
(apply to president@mgofdc.org)

#### **GRASSMERE HISTORIC GARDEN**

*At the Nashville Zoo*  
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#### **HARDING GARDEN**

*At Belle Meade*  
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HardingGarden@mgofdc.org

#### **KITCHEN GARDEN**

*At Andrew Jackson's Hermitage*  
Mary Langford & Laura Kraft  
HermitageGarden@mgofdc.org

#### **CITY CEMETERY GARDEN**

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

### 2019 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

#### **INTERN MENTORING**

Caroll Marrero & Bob Mather

#### **MERCHANDISE**

Barbara Hoffman

#### **SPEAKER'S BUREAU**

Joan Clayton-Davis

### 2019 Event Chairs

*Nominated by board*

#### **2019 LAWN & GARDEN SHOW**

Faye Dorman & Catherine Atwell

#### **URBAN GARDENING FESTIVAL**

Nancy Wilcenski  
UGF@mgofdc.org

#### **TENNESSEE STATE FAIR**

Vacant  
(apply to president@mgofdc.org)

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## HELP WANTED

This year's Urban Gardening Festival will be held Saturday, May 18 on the grounds at Ellington Agricultural Center around the Demonstration Gardens. Invite neighbors, co-workers, and friends to the festival! This is a big opportunity to raise funds for and bring awareness to our organization.

Please volunteer with us! We need your help getting the gardens in top shape the weeks/months leading up to the festival, and we also need your help on the day of the festival. Plan ahead and let us know how you will help out this year.

Email [nancywilcenski@gmail.com](mailto:nancywilcenski@gmail.com) for more information on volunteering in the demo garden and [mgofdcvolunteers@mgofdc.org](mailto:mgofdcvolunteers@mgofdc.org) to sign up to volunteer on the day of.



### On the Cover

Photo by Andrea Pruijssers. Tag us on instagram @mgofdc or email [newsletter@mgofdc.org](mailto:newsletter@mgofdc.org) to be featured.

# Welcome Spring!

## A Note From Our President, Alisa Huntsman

Are you as happy as I am that spring has arrived? Of course, we are still getting plenty of rain and while that has been good, I am ready for some sunny days. At home, we are slowly transitioning from a winter garden to a spring garden. Peas have sprouted, broccoli and cauliflower are in the beds and we are working on putting in onions and greens of all kinds.

As we move into the new season, we have so many things to look forward to. Longer days and warmer weather are at the top of my favorites list, how about yours. With May on the horizon, it is time to think about the Urban Gardening Festival. The Demonstration Garden will need a bit of a spring makeover so if you are looking for ways to earn volunteer hours, think about lend-

ing a hand getting the garden ready for the festival. From weeding to applying mulch and everything in between, the garden will need as many volunteers as possible so be on the look out for the emails with dates and times.

New to the festival this year will be vegetable and herb plants that our new Greenhouse team has raised from seeds. Early in February, we began making soil blocks and planting seeds. There are 20 varieties of tomatoes, 20 varieties of peppers, 20 varieties of herbs, celery, eggplants and sweet potatoes growing in the greenhouse now. We will be transplanting these into larger pots soon so if you are interested in getting involved, let me know-we'd love the help! 🌱



## Master Gardeners of Davidson County

PO Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204

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### UT EXTENSION DAVIDSON COUNTY CONTACTS

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STATE COORDINATOR: Natalie Bumgarner, Ph.D. | [nbumgarn@utk.edu](mailto:nbumgarn@utk.edu)

# Cecil E. Ward, Jr.

August 10, 1924 to February 20, 2019

Cecil saw many changes over his 94 years. His first job was as an usher at the movie theater. He played high school football but was sidelined in his junior year when he broke his collar bone during a game. He graduated from West End High School, Nashville in 1943, and was immediately drafted into the Army. Cecil served as a Medium Tank Commander in the C738th Tank Battalion during World War II. He received specialized artillery training which was implemented in every major battle in Central Europe: Battle of the Bulge where they guarded a mountain pass during the coldest winter on record and his team apprehended over 100 German soldiers; Remagen Bridge where he led the first tank across the bridge with a pin light after the Germans' failed attempt to blow up the bridge; Normandy Beach which lists his name on the memorial plaque; and in Paris on D Day. Following the war he was stationed at a German concentration camp to protect the Jews who were freed but were too weak to leave.

Returning home, Cecil attended Vanderbilt University and graduated from Sparta College of Aeronautics in Tulsa, OK. He had a short career in the airline industry, returned to Nashville to join his father in the grocery business. Cecil retired from the TN state government in 1993. Following retirement Cecil became heavily involved in the Nashville Rose Society. He became a Certified Master Gardener in 1997, receiving Volunteer of the Month recognition in



2000 and 2001. He was involved in many horticulture projects around Middle TN including Cheekwood and Grassmere. In 1995 TN Governor Phil Bredesen recognized Cecil for making a difference in his community. Between 1993 and 2010, he served on the Brentwood TN Park Board and Tree Committee. In 2012 he was presented with a Bronze Honor Medal for Outstanding Service by the American Rose Society.

Cecil was always kind, thoughtful, loving, and helpful to everyone. When we needed a place to hold our monthly meetings, due to remodeling of the Ed Jones Auditorium, he immediately reached out to his church leadership, Crieve-wood Baptist Church, and made arrangements for us to meet there.

Cecil will be missed. 🌹



## Psst!!

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

# 2019 Schedule of Meeting Topics

5:45 PM @ Creivewood United Methodist Church

Members should mark their calendars for our field trip to Trevecca on April 17th from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM (not 2:00 pm as stated elsewhere). There is a \$5.00 fee which will go to Trevecca.

April - David Cook, "Pollinators"

May - Pam Swoner, "Square Foot Gardening" Interactive

June - David Cook, "Tree ID" Interactive

July - Our July meeting will be a trip to the UT Summer Celebration at the West Tennessee Ag Research Center in Jackson, TN on July 11th. We hope to have enough members going to be able to take a bus again this year.

August - Dr. Frank Hale, "Spotted Laternfly"

August - Dr. Alan Windham, "Boxwood Blight"

September - Katie Quine, "Slow Food Middle Tennessee"

October - Georgeann McCoy, "Dried Flowers"

November - David Cook, "Putting beds, hand tools and machines to bed for the season"

December - Christmas - Special Program 🎄

**Second Thursday  
of the month!**

## Jr Camp Update: SOIL: Where Life Begins.

Jr Camp is scheduled for June 10th – 14th this year with the same hours 9am to 3pm.

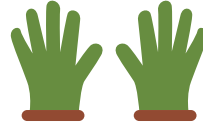
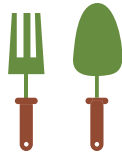
We have scheduled some new presenters. Cumberland River Compact is bringing their Creek Critter program and soil demonstration (which I hear is awesome). We have Lisa Spencer (Channel 4 Weather) coming to talk about how weather impacts our soil and plants. Kris is bringing her dairy goats and the campers will experience milking them while learning ways animals help keep our soil healthy.

Buzz Evans is returning for his presentation, walk to the apiary and honey taste testing program. This year we will taste honey from all over the world and explore why it looks and tastes different.

David Cook has some surprises planned for camp (worms and bears). Yes, I typed that correctly.

If you are interested in participating at camp let me know. Come and share your knowledge. It's going to be lots of FUN!!

Susan Bryant & Pam Swoner – Jr Camp Coordinator 615-397-5114



# Spring Frenzy for Gardeners

by Carolyn Turner (1997)

April is the time of year when Spring Fever really hits those who dig in the dirt. Although it's not always the best time of the year to plant many plants, there's nothing like seeing what's new on the market or some old faithfuls.

Organizational sales are one of the ways to find new plants. I have compiled a list of several those that have upcoming sales. If I have omitted a sale/event, I apologize.

April 6, 9am-12pm, State Fairgrounds – Perennial Plant Society of Middle TN Plant Sale. (promised to be bigger & better).

April 6, 8:30am-1:30pm, Cheekwood Gardens - The Garden Club of Nashville Native Plant Sale.

April 13, 9am-3pm, 1st Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville, 1808 Woodmont Blvd - Herb & Craft Fair. Lots of herbs and heirloom tomatoes. Link to website.

April 13, 9 am-2pm, State Fairgrounds – Herb Society of Nashville Herb and Plant Sale.

April 26-27, 8am-5pm, Gro-Wild Nursery, 7190 Hill Hughes Rd., Fairfield TN – Native Plant Festival. Wild Ones, Middle TN Chapter will have a sale table at this event.

April 28-29, 9am-2pm – Nashville Natives, 7443 Liberty Rd, Fairview TN. Spring plant sale. Shop plants for pollinators.

May 18, 9am–4pm – Ellington Ag Center, 5201 Marchant Drive. MGofDC Urban Garden Festival. Many plants for sale!

June 15 – Middle TN Hosta Society, Show & Sale, Location TBD.

July 12, 9am-5pm, UT regional office, Jackson, TN – Master Gardener Summer Celebration. 🌻

## THANK YOU

All of the MG Volunteer Greeters at the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show did an outstanding job. You were enthusiastic and did everything you could to help all the visitors enjoy their experience, and it wasn't always easy. I truly thank all of you. I received many compliments on your behalf for a job well done.

Barbara Hoffman

# Lawn & Garden 2019

by Barbara Hoffman

Visitors left cabin fever behind and experienced spring fever at the 30th Annual Nashville Lawn and Garden Show.

The theme of “Changing Times, Changing Gardens” was designed to focus on the changing realities and interest in cityscapes, container and waterwise gardens, organic gardening, sustainability, pollinators and more. The Show featured live gardens, floral designs, vendor/exhibit booths, lectures and interactive demonstrations, and children’s activities.

In the Marketplace you could find plants, seeds, home décor, gardening equipment and free advice on every gardening subject.

The Nashville Lawn and Garden Show is produced by the Nashville Lawn and Garden Foundation 501(c)(3) non-profit, whose mission is to support community horticulture and gardening initiatives throughout our region and bolster education and the sharing of information with affiliated groups in the Middle Tennessee Region and beyond. The main beneficiary of proceeds from this year’s show will benefit Libby’s Legacy Pink Ribbon Garden Project for growing food and promoting health for breast cancer survivors.

The theme of our MGofDC booth was “growingUP”. Featured were vertical garden designs, a mannequin, REAL grass, a bunny, and lots of flowering plants. We won a Plant Awareness and Education Award for best use of clear and accurate labeling.

Congratulations to everybody involved! 🐰





# Artemisia Absinthium, AKA Wormwood

by Lauren Ellis

*Artemisia absinthium* is a quicksilver herb with feathery, deeply lobed leaves sporting a grey-green top and white belly.

Commonly known as wormwood, it is likely named after the goddess Artemis- god of the hunt and of childbirth. Indeed, common uses for wormwood are as an emmenagogue, as an internal parasite cleanser and for topical pain relief; the latter two any ancient or modern-day hunter could appreciate. It can also be used as a digestive bitter. While wormwood has many uses, this is an herb with which to use caution. Before use, consult your PCP or community herbalist. We use caution when using wormwood medicinally because it contains a chemical called thujone which can cause seizures and other symptoms in large doses.

Thujone is purported to be the source of absinthe's believed psychoactive properties- we can't talk about wormwood without talking about absinthe, can we?

In 2007, the FDA changed their legality regarding absinthe ruling that while absinthe may be sold, all absinthe must be thujone "free" meaning it contain less than 10 mg/l, leading to statements claiming absinthe is "no longer" psychoactive.

Yet absinthe, a high proof alcohol who's mental image conjures visions of artists gone mad and psychedelic encounters with green fairies, may not have ever been what you thought it was in the first place.

Absinthe originated in Switzerland in the late 18th century and rose to popularity during the late 19th - early 20th century France, particularly among the bohemian class. Around this time prohibitionists began to oppose the drink, insisting it was a dangerous, highly addictive psychoactive drug. By 1915, absinthe had been banned in the United States as well as several other countries. In the 1970's, an unscientific letter was released claiming thujone connected to the same receptors in the human brain as THC, causing the same psychoactive reactions as cannabis.

While eventually debunked, the damage had still been done, securing the nail in absinthe's coffin. Thanks to modern scientific research, we now know that despite thujone's toxic potential there is no evidence it can cause hallucinations, even in high doses. If you have some absinthe lying around you've been curious about, know the only "effect" you'll get is drunkenness- sorry to disappoint!

If you would like to grow wormwood, prepare a bed of nitrogen rich soil in full to partial sun. Plants can be started from cuttings, root division in autumn or from sown seed- plant some in the fall and it will come up for you in the spring! Many gardeners enjoy adding wormwood to their moon gardens or planting around the edges of their garden, at least 2-3 feet from other plants, to discourage weeds and insect larvae. Wormwood has pest deterrent properties, but remember there are many beneficial insects to be invited into your garden. Make sure to follow spacing guidelines so as to not discourage their habitation. Wormwood also produces a growth-inhibiting chemical that washes off the leaves into the soil, so it is wise to not keep wormwood in the same areas as young plants and other seedlings. 🌱



## Harding Garden at Belle Meade

By Mariwyn Evans (2011)

Winter weather doesn't stop the Weedin' Women from dreaming about the garden. At our February planning meeting at the home of Margaret Devine, we all pitched in to order new plants and seeds to make 2019 our best garden year ever.

Leah Hawkins, Anne Underhill, and Lynne Wells are investigating new perennials and annuals to expand our cutting garden offerings. They plan to buy some of what we need at the Perennial Plant Society Sale on April 6 at the Fairgrounds. Meanwhile Judy Murray is scanning catalogs for colorful dahlias and spring bulbs.

We plan to be in the garden every Wed., beginning on March 27. Please come see us and lend a hand. ♫

## Nashville City Cemetery

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



Nashville City Cemetery - Because of all the rain in February, we had to cancel our Boxwood Demo. I hope to re-schedule for some time in April.

I did host Weed Wrangle Nashville 2019 at the City Cemetery on Saturday March 3rd.

Weed Wrangle Nashville is an annual one-day volunteer effort to help rescue our public parks and green spaces from invasive species through hands-on removal of especially harmful trees, vines and flowering plants and is a Partners for Plants joint habitat restoration program of the

Garden Club of America's Conservation and Horticulture Committees. The Garden Club of Nashville, is a member of the Garden Club of America.

Volunteering through Hands On Nashville, 4 volunteers helped remove Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and English Ivey (*Hedera helix*) from the back fence row of the Cemetery. A big thanks to my four helpers! Pictures were taken by a New York Times correspondent of the Nashville effort, including at the Cemetery. Three of those pictures were featured in a New York Times article entitled THE REAL ALIENS IN OUR BACKYARD <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/11/opinion/the-real-aliens-in-our-backyard.html>

Check the website calendar for updates on the Boxwood Demo and other activities of Earn and Learn at the Nashville City Cemetery! ♫

# Historic Grassmere Gardens

By Carolyn Turner, (1997)

Changes at Grassmere – 2016-2018

It's another spring and like all gardeners, eyes are assessing the garden and the hands are itching to start digging in the dirt. In the spring of 2016, Chuck Vehorn and I, both newer transplants to Nashville, decided to work together in establishing a much needed update of the Grassmere annual/perennial garden "terrace." On our 1st visit in March, we saw lots and lots of daffodils/jonquils, but many of them not in bloom. There were also several bunches of snowdrops and hundreds of Star of Bethlehem. This section had been neglected for some time and really needed an overhaul. Where to start?

We started by digging out lots of the daffodils and saved many of them to edge the garden. That created the popping up dozens of daylily groups. Out they went. We agreed that a garden should be accessible to guests, so began clearing out a semi-circle path as near the center of the approximately 20 x 50 ft. area. We used the Lasagna Garden method by clearing the path, laying down cardboard, covered with several sheets of newspaper. The Zoo staff then came in with wood chips to top off the path. First year completed.

What we first thought was going to be a 2 year project has become longer as we are now beginning our 4th year. As unwanted plants have been removed, new ones have popped up that weren't there the year before. And we have added many new plants each year, purchased at plant sales, started from seed and even moved from South Carolina.

Let the work continue for another year. It's exciting to see the change. 🌱



## 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.



# I Think I See a Blue-Nosed Gopher!

We announced in our October 2018 Newsletter that Master Gardeners of Davidson County registered with the Amazon Smile program. This is a program for non-profits to receive a percentage of the sales as a charity donation. When our members shop Amazon or use Amazon Prime and purchase through smile.amazon.com, MGOFDC receives a .5% donation when you chose us as your charity.

Our Treasurer, Tom Coulter, registered us with smile.amazon. Even though it was Tom's idea, he was skeptical that we would earn much more than \$25 in a year. And if this wasn't enough, he stated that he would be a Blue Nosed Gopher if we did!

Well, we just received a \$7.06 donation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2018. Let's join together and make it a mission to prove him wrong! We are on track to make him a Blue Nosed Gopher! Tom promised that he would have a Blue Nose at a General Meeting if we make it to the \$25 mark in a year.

Shopping Amazon? Go directly to our MGOFDC Link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0607959>  
Questions? Make Tom smile by contacting him at [treasurer@mgofdc.org](mailto:treasurer@mgofdc.org).

P.S. If you shop at Kroger, link your Rewards Card to MGOFDC. We participate there also!

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