



Garden Talk

MGOFDC OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Garden SOS

What to do when spring
blooms pop up in winter
page 3



Hey MG's, Meet Your Chairs

From bartering for perennial flowers to pink hair, she's done it all! Meet your Membership Chair, Karen Brown, page 8.



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
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

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
Rich Schiavi & Chuck Vehorn
Grassmere@mgofdc.org

HARDING GARDEN

At Belle Meade
Muff Cline
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

Carol 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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Garden SOS

When Winter Feels Like Spring

by Kalli Lipke

Our winter has had an identity crisis.

With temperatures in the 60's and 70's dropping to freezing in less than 24 hours, you need to enact your damage control protocol. Like most damage control in the garden, protection comes from our preparation in advance of threats rather than our reaction to them. The best way to protect new shoots is by mulching before the temps drop. Covering your new growth will help insulate and as it warms up the ice will melt and water the earth beneath.

But, what if you didn't mulch and you have damage? A hard frost causes the water in plant cells to freeze and dehydrate (believe it or not). Injury is more likely to occur as the sun comes up because the plant will defrost too quickly. The University of Florida recommends watering the plants to defrost the soil and add a source of moisture for your dehydrated plants. They also recommend to NOT fertilize (this will cause new growth before winter temps are gone) or prune (damaged plant insulates healthy plant). However, you can and should prune herbaceous plants that are damaged from the cold to prevent bacterial or fungal problems. ☘



Photo credit: Karen Brown
Left to right: Hydrangea, Clematis, Lenten Rose, Daffodil and Crocus



On the Cover

Photo of Margaret Littman's daffodils in Inglewood. Tag us on instagram @mgofdc or email newsletter@mgofdc.org to be featured.

New Year - New Focus

A Note From Our President, Alisa Huntsman

Have you finally caught your breath? I know the pace of the holiday season leaves me winded for weeks! Now that things have quieted, I am ready for a new year of gardening, aren't you?

We have big plans for this year and a new focus on education for our members. As our plans shape up, we will be sharing them with you and I think you will be excited too. For our first meeting in the new format, we will be covering a seemingly generic topic, Soil, but when you think about it, it really is the single most important component in a healthy garden. If anyone can explain it, Debbie Joines can; she ran the soil-testing lab at the Central Region Office for several years.

With our new focus on education comes a new format for the meetings. We will be putting our

speaker up first and giving them as long as 45 minutes to introduce a topic followed by a question and answer session. As the discussion ends, we will take a short break to organize the potluck and give folks a chance to use the rest room. After the meal, we will have a short business meeting and make any necessary announcements.

As I have mentioned at the last two meetings, we are experimenting with the format; if necessary, we will continue making changes until we get it right! For more information on the upcoming speakers, be sure to visit the website and check the calendar, we will list events as they are finalized.

Happy New Year to all of you and may you have a successful year of gardening! 🌱



URBAN GARDENING FESTIVAL HELP

This year's Urban Gardening Festival will be the largest one yet. We need all Master Gardeners and interns to help out. Plan ahead and let us know how you will help out this year. The festival will be held Saturday, May 18, 2019 on the grounds at Ellington Agricultural Center around the Demonstration Gardens. 🌱

Master Gardeners of Davidson County

PO Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204

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

Membership Announcements

2019 DUES REMINDER

Your 2019 dues may be past due. If you aren't sure whether you've paid or not, you can send an email to treasurer@mgofdc.org or membership@mgofdc.org to double check. If you haven't paid your 2019 dues by the end of March, you will no longer receive email communications from MGofDC. And, a reminder to Interns – you also need to pay 2019 dues, as only Year 1 is waived.

You can bring your \$20 to our February meeting (cash, check or charge). Or, you can 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

REPORTING HOURS

Please finish reporting your 2018 volunteer and continuing education hours so David Cook can finalize 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. You also need to pay your 2019 dues, as only Year 1 is waived.

SHOP ON AMAZON

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!

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! 🌱

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.

Updates on Our Members

By Carol Marrero

Update on our friend and fellow Master Gardener--**Cecil Ward** (1997):

Update Jan 19: Cecil Ward (1997), has been released from Williamson Medical last night (Jan. 18) and moved to Somerfield at the Hermitage. Please call before visiting. One may send Cecil cards to 201 Cornerstone Lane, Franklin, TN 37064.

Our dear member **Doris Weakley**, (1999) just gave us the following update:

Her husband, Terry, is currently undergoing his last test before Heart Valve Replacement Surgery, which is scheduled for Monday, January 21. Doris will keep us updated. Please keep Doris and her family in our hearts and prayers. 🙏

2019 Mentor Program

By Carol Merraro & Bob Mather

Our MGofDC Mentor Program is off to a great start! Twenty volunteers are ready to meet the 2019 Interns!

If you are interested in joining us, we would be delighted to have you. Please see our contact information below.

David Cook, our Extension Agent and MG Coordinator, will be holding a daytime class this year; 9:00 am to Noon. There has been a very high interest in this daytime slot. He is expecting the class size to be near 90! Yes. 90.

Classes will start Thursday, February 7th, at Andrew Price Memorial United Methodist Church, 2846 Lebanon Pike, Donelson TN 37214. (When traveling I-40 east bound, exit at Stewarts Ferry Pike, turn North towards Lebanon Pike, in 2 miles turn left onto Lebanon Pike and the church is immediately on your right.)

We are asking all Mentors to attend this first class. David will introduce the Mentor Program and we will also introduce ourselves. 🙏

Meeting Etiquette

By Alisa Huntsman

As we move to our new meeting format, I feel I need to make a few suggestions and pass on some observations:

If you arrive to the meeting late, you will need to be considerate of our speaker and enter as quietly as possible. Please take any available seat as quickly and quietly as you can-you can always change seats after the lecture.

While our guest is speaking, you shouldn't be! Hard to believe I have to say this but it is very obvious at times that people are talking amongst themselves and not paying attention to the lecture and that can make it difficult for others to hear.

For many of us, the monthly meetings are a social event and it is always fun to catch up with gardening friends. Please consider coming early to have time to chat so that we aren't causing a disruption during the lecture. The doors open at 5:45pm and you are welcome to arrive early. The hospitality crew can always use a few hands setting up too!

The new format means we will not be eating until about 7:30. If this will not work for you, please consider having a light meal before you leave home. As far as the food goes, you may want to think about bringing something that can be eaten at room temperature. If the dish you are hoping to share must be hot, please consider bringing it in a crockpot or on a warming plate-we can easily bring an extension cord and a few powerstrips.

Finally, we will be keeping a close track on the timing. If you would like to make announcements, you must email me in advance so that I can put you on the agenda. Our new tighter schedule means that most likely, you will not be able to make random announcements without prior notice. 🙏

2019 Schedule of Meeting Topics

5:45 PM @ Creivewood United Methodist Church

February - Debbie Joines, Soil Specialist, "Soil"

March - Sylvia Ganier, Owner, Green Door Gourmet, "Large Scale Gardening"

April - David Cook, "Pollinators"

May - Pam Swoner, "Square Foot Gardening" Interactive

June - David Cook, "Tree ID" Interactive

July - Jackson Trip

August - Dr. Frank Hale, "Spotted Laternfly"

August - Dr. Alan Windham, "Boxwood Blight"

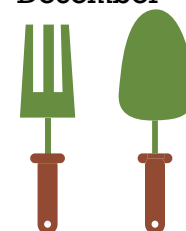
September - Katie Quine, "Slow Food Middle Tennessee"

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!**



Meet Your Membership Chair, Karen Brown



My name is Karen Brown. I'm currently the Membership Chairperson for the Master Gardeners of Davidson County.

I spent 20+ years as a media professional in the advertising industry in Chicago, reaching the level of Senior Vice President at J Walter Thompson during that time.

At my Chicago home, I had several flower gardens – filled up with perennials that I bartered for by working at a local garden center each year during the month of May. I even made a day-by-day video of my garden coming out of hibernation in April until it was time to cut it down in late September. I love showing off my video so don't hesitate to ask to see it!

Once my husband and I retired, we moved to Nashville and I immediately started classes with MGofDC. I'd always wanted to take the MG class in Chicago, but work left little time for gardening classes.

I love to work in the Demo Garden. I helped Caroll Marrero reinvigorate the Rain Garden. And this past year, Tom Coulter and I created the Pants Planter in the garden. I've also been involved in the Urban Gardening Festival for several years and love showing off the Demo Garden to the visitors at our festival.

My husband Tim and I live in The Nations with our two rescue kitties, Sophie and Jake. 🐾

HELP WANTED

We are looking for the following. If this applies to you, please email info@mgofdc.org:

1. Someone who can use InDesign for newsletter design back-up.
2. Multiple individuals to post to social media who can follow the brand guidelines and figure out what to say, while adhering to UT Extension Master Gardener Program guidelines, with little to no supervision required.
3. Individuals who can code websites, specifically Wordpress and Wild Apricot. 🐾

Project Garden

Demonstration Garden's "Giving Garden" Updates

By Mark Mayer

By the time you read this, I will have started plants for my gardens, including the "Giving Garden" in the demo gardens, on my new starter shelf. I have 6 types of tomatoes, 7 different peppers from mild to SMOKIN', 2 types of okra, 4 types of cucumbers, and plenty of different squashes. Come late February, I will direct sow some plants in my garden and hope some of the micro climates I create will start the abundance early.

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

Project Garden

Andrew Jackson's Hermitage Kitchen Garden

By Mary Langford (2009)

Greetings from Andrew Jackson's Hermitage Kitchen Garden! The garden is resting now, getting ready for spring. We have a little head start with the garlic and horseradish already growing.

Last year, our good friend and garden manager, Michael Grantham, left The Hermitage. Although we were sad to see him go, we look forward to working with the new garden manager, Sarah Edmonds. We are already talking with Sarah about our problems with deer, and hope she has some ideas that will keep them away from our tender plants.

If you have worked at the Kitchen Garden before or think that you might want to work there, please join us for an organizational meeting on the grounds on February 23, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. We will meet in the Café, located in the Visitor Center. After the meeting, you may take a look at the gardens. 🐾

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.

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

By Mariwyn Evans (2011)

The year is just beginning and already the Weedin' Women are powering over seed catalogs and plant websites to pick the perfect plants for this year's vegetable and perennial flower gardens. We hope to grow a Cherokee Trail of Tears beans, Cherokee Purple Tomatoes, and the seven-foot sorghum plant that wowed visitors last year. In the flower garden, we will be adding day lilies, more dahlias, and some new coneflower and sunflower varieties to span the summer ahead.

We'll be making the final decisions at our Feb planning meeting. If you're a Master Gardener or student who might want to learn more about Belle Meade, we'd be happy to have you as a guest. Please contact Mariwyn Evans (mariwynevans@att.net) for meeting details. 🌱



The Weedin' Women celebrate a successful year in the garden and the holiday season.

Nashville City Cemetery

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



January is behind us, February is here and that means we are getting closer to spring. It also means that it is Boxwood Trimming time at the Historic Nashville City Cemetery. This year will mark our 9th year of offering our hands-on Boxwood trimming workshop, designed to give our members, new class of interns, and the public to learn the proper way to trim your Boxwood.

The end of February and the first of March are the right times for trimming. We will offer our session on Saturday February 28 th from 9 am to noon at the City Cemetery located at 4 th Avenue

South and Oak Street in Nashville. Be sure and bring your gloves, sharp hand clippers, and hedge shears. If you have a leaf rake, bring that as well. Parking will be in the rear of the Cemetery. Please contact me with any questions at citycemetery@mgofdc.org. •

Did you know?!

You have access to hundreds of publications by the UT Agriculture Extension? You can even search for keywords to find publications about something you want to learn more about. In fact, there is a publication on the best management practices for pruning found here: <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1619.pdf>

Historic Grassmere Gardens

By Melanie Davis (2018)

Preparing a garden to lay fallow is just as important as preparing it to grow things. It allows the soil to rest, cover crops can be used to restore nutrients, lines and beds can be reclaimed, and, most importantly, it keeps the weeds from getting a foothold in early Spring.

As Autumn turned to winter, the team at Grassmere worked hard to prepare the garden to rest. There was an extra bit of motivation with the creation of a children's garden overlooking the prep area of the vegetable garden. To improve the view from the children's garden, the rose bed was cleaned up and five Black-eyed Susans were planted to create more continuous seasonal color.

Speaking of roses, the historical roses were under siege by Creeping Charlie (*Glechoma hederacea*), and several rounds of weeding cleared the path and the beds.

As Chuck Vehorn says, "We want it to look like people have been here." Clearing out the paths and laying down cardboard and chopped leaves re-establishes some order. As plants like milkweed go to seed, a layer of pine straw is added on top to maintain moisture and discourage weeds. There's a bed of buckwheat that's doing nicely as a cover crop. The buckwheat will be tilled in when warmer weather comes, and the decomposition of the plants will further add nutrients to the soil.

In the flower garden, dried annuals denote the beds, allowing guests to see the potential for planting in warm seasons, as well as helping our team plan for the coming spring by acting as markers for new plantings.

While the gardens rest, so do we. While the physical tasks of the garden aren't in full swing, we do spend time reflecting and planning. This dark time of year allows us to plan crop rotation and assess our tool needs. One of the missions of Grassmere's Historic Gardens is staying true to practices used in the 1880s. Coming up with pest deterrents becomes an entirely new challenge when modern solutions aren't available, and the down-time of winter gives us the space we need to brainstorm and research.

Every season is important in a garden, and the short days of winter are no exception. 🌱



UGF Garden Center & Donations

Our goal for the Garden Center is to make it look just like a real garden center. What this means is that we need things that you might find in a garden center. Repurposed items that are now planters (remember the tires from last year?), garden art, seeds, gardening equipment in good condition or any arts and crafts that have a gardening theme are all things that could work. If you have any doubts, send a photo or an email to Alisa, president@mgofdc.org.

We really need your plant donations to make our annual plant sale at the Urban Gardening Festival a success. There is no restriction on what type of plants but we do ask that you not bring anything that is considered invasive like monkey grass or bamboo. What we would like is a selection of plants favored by pollinators, native plants, vegetables, herbs and succulents and they can be splits or those started from seeds.

Please keep these guidelines in mind as you collect your donations:

- All plants must be in plain pots without any advertising on them.
- You cannot pot them in soil from your garden; you must use purchased soil.
- We cannot come to your house and dig up plants or pot them up! Getting them out of the ground and into pots is a way for you to earn volunteer hours; keep track of the time it took you to dig, pot and deliver them to the greenhouse-it is all eligible for volunteer hours.
- If you are planning to thin out or split plants, do it now not later. Each year, we are left trying to make plants that have just been dug up and split look like healthy plants. While we MGs may know they are healthy, the average visitor to the plant sale does not and all they see are a bunch of scraggly half dead plants. If you dig and pot them now, you can bring them to the greenhouse and we will give them all the TLC they need to be big and beautiful in May!
- If you have donations, email Alisa, president@mgofdc.org to arrange a time to drop them at the greenhouse 🌱

Speaker's Bureau

Visit the calendar on MGOFDC.ORG to see the Speaker's Bureau list of events (presentations) at Libraries, Farmer's Co-op, and Urban Garden Festival scheduled for the first few months of 2019.

The photo below was an October 13, 2018 interactive workshop on "Plant Propagation" at Hermitage Branch Library in conjunction with the NPL Seed Exchange Program. Participants learned how to make new plants through division, layering, and cuttings (e.g., coleus, day lilies, irises, sweet potatoes, pineapple).



January Celebration

We spend our January meeting celebrating our accomplishments and the people who made them possible from the prior year. Check out just a few of the pics from the event below!



2018 Executive Committee



The Hermitage Garden



2018 Speaker's Bureau



Demo Garden



2018 Lawn & Garden Show



Grassmere Zoo Garden



2018 Urban Gardening Festival



Correspondence Committee

Granola Bar Recipe

This easy granola bar recipe can be personalized to your own preferences. Put in as much or as little sugar and sugary ingredients as you want.

INGREDIENTS:

2, 1/4 cups quick-cooking oats
1/3 cup dried fruit (I like dried plums and cranberries), chopped
1/3 cup nuts or seeds (or some of both!)
1/3 cup chocolate chips (optional)
1/3 cup peanut or almond butter
1/4 cup good quality honey
1 tbs brown sugar (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

Lightly grease muffin tin or 8x8" pan
Preheat the oven to at 350° F
Combine oats, fruit, nuts, and chocolate chips into large bowl
Combine nut butter, honey, and sugar in small pot on stove and warm on low heat until combined.
Mix wet ingredients into dry ingredients and mix thoroughly, kneading with hands a bit if necessary
Press into lightly greased muffin tin or 8x8" pan
Bake for 15 minutes at 350 until browned
Cool, cut if needed, wrap in saran wrap or aluminum foil, and store in fridge.

Virtually any combination of nuts and fruits can be used. You can also substitute one cup of oats with Rice Krispies or Cheerios. 🍯

Master Gardeners of Davidson County
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