

GardenTalk

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

July 2014

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President's Thoughts

For many, many years I have wanted to visit Charlottesville, Virginia and see the home and gardens of our third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson. I never could find anyone who wanted to visit this historical site. I didn't want to only tour Monticello, but experience Jefferson and feel his passion for horticulture. On June 14th, I made my journey!

Experiencing and touring Jefferson's home was beyond my expectations. He was an accomplished architect and when you approach the house, it feels small; but once inside, you see how he created the illusion as the house is actually three stories. I had always heard of his seven-day clock, and there it was! But I was just a tourist until the next day.

When speaking to a fellow MGDC, I took advantage of their "special connections" with the staff at Monticello. I had a way to learn about Jefferson's gardens and not just "tour." The next morning was spent with Eleanor who is responsible for the gardens at Monticello.

She was so knowledgeable and was delighted to answer my many questions about the plants that circle the back of the house (Jefferson planted 20 oval-shaped flower beds at the four corners of the house and a flower border along a gravel walk encircling the West Lawn) as well as the massive vegetable garden (just below Mulberry Row), vineyard, and orchard.

No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden... But though an old man, I am but a young gardener.

~ Thomas Jefferson

In addition to Monticello's gardens, I met Brian Hartsock, operating manager of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants. Brian is very passionate about his job and you can see why. I had so much fun learning about the center and his involvement with historic plants, seed starting and saving. Best of all, I purchased plants that came from the center and brought home Prairie Flax, Maltese Cross, Wild Bergamot and Woodland Phlox along with two plants as gifts to Grassmere.

Thanks to all of my new friends and my travel connection for fulfilling my dreams. What a way to spend a summer trip!

We had a very successful Junior Master Gardeners Camp last month (see page 4). This month is our trip to Jackson, so **remember there is no monthly meeting**; and our second "Meet Me at the Market" at the Nashville Farmers' Market where we'll host a mini-workshop on "Growing and Using Herbs." Finally, congratulations to new grandmother **Pam Swoner**, whose grandson, Samuel Vanburen Swoner, was born last month! I hope you are enjoying your gardens! 🌱

~ Robert Mather (2000), President

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Congratulations to some of our newly certified Master Gardeners who received their certificates and name badges at the June meeting, including (l to r) Anjou Gerhardt, Faye Dorman, Nancy West, and Alice Warner.

Mentoring Program

Even with soaring temperatures and hectic summer schedules, everyone is busy volunteering and earning hours. Thank you for generously giving of your time!

If you're looking to earn more hours, please note the summer hours for Grassmere Historic Farm at the Nashville Zoo are 8am-12 noon Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday each week. Contact Cathie Long at (615) 661-4771 or email her at cathielong@comcast.net.

Summer hours in our Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center are 9am-12 noon every Sunday, and with higher temperatures evenings may be an option. Check with Alisa Huntsman at (615) 415-5939 or ahuntsman@bellsouth.net. If interested in volunteering at our other gardens, please call:

- ➡ Harding Garden at Belle Meade, Muff Cline, (615) 773-2593
- ➡ Historic Nashville City Cemetery, Bob Mather, (615) 525-5293
- ➡ Kitchen Gardens at The Hermitage, Laura Kraft, (504) 905-9165

David Cook continues to receive emails alerting him of hours earned for certification. If you should have questions regarding hours and you are unable to reach your Mentor, please do not hesitate to call Bob Mather at (615) 525-5293. 🐸

~ Carol Marrero (2009)

Jackson Summer Celebration

Our annual bus trip to Jackson, Tennessee, to enjoy the Madison County Master Gardeners' Summer Celebration is nearly upon us!

This year's event is Thursday, July 10th. Loading the bus will begin promptly at 6am in the parking lot of the UT Central Region building at Ellington Agricultural Center. The bus will depart at 6:30am sharp and we expect to return that evening by 9pm.

Cost is \$28 per person for the bus trip and a \$5 entry fee to the event will be collected en route. You still have time to send in your fee, or you can pay before taking your seat on the bus just email Sheila Whitlock at range1320@aol.com to confirm seat availability. Payments may be made payable to 'MGDC' and mailed to:

MGDC
Attn: Summer Celebration 2014
P.O. Box 41055
Nashville, TN 37204-1055

Remember: There will be no monthly meeting in July.

Master Gardener Merchandise

Does visiting with friends, enjoying delicious food, and listening to terrific speakers during our monthly meetings distract you from seeing Barbara Adams and Ethel-Lonniell Williams to get your very own Master Gardener swag?

You're in luck: because in August we're going to have a 'Katy Bar the Door' sale to make room for some merchandise featuring our new logo! So mark your calendar for August 14th and pick up some extra t-shirts to wear to one of our events or for a few spares to use in the garden at home. Here's the current price list:

- ★ Long-sleeved T-shirts\$12
- ★ Short-sleeved T-shirts\$10
- ★ Tank tops\$8
- ★ Sweatshirts\$15
- ★ Mugs\$6
- ★ Canvas bags\$15
- ★ Apron\$15

Got questions? Email Barbara Adams at babstn@bellsouth.net or Ethel-Lonniell Williams at elmwilliams@yahoo.com! 🐸

Project Chairs

Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center
Alisa Huntsman, ahuntsman@bellsouth.net

Education
David Cook, dcook5@utk.edu

Garden Tours
Becky Fox Matthews, becky@lostfrogs.com

Grassmere Historic Farm at the Nashville Zoo
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Music & Molasses Festival
Tyann Chappell, tyann.chappell@comcast.net (Chair)
Don & Jean Hover, hoeverdj@charter.net (Co-Chairs)

Nashville Lawn & Garden Show
Barbara Drake, bsd Drake@comcast.net (Chair)
Anne Carpenter, hapcarpenter@comcast.net (Co-Chair)

Speakers Bureau
Natalie Manor, coachnatalie@nataliemanor.com

Tennessee State Fair
Russell Kirchner, mudking52580@yahoo.com

Urban Gardening Festival
Alisa Huntsman, ahuntsman@bellsouth.net (Chair)
Robert Mather, rmather321@aol.com (Co-Chair)

Junior Master Gardeners Camp 2014



Intake for our Junior Master Gardeners Camp 2014 began with a slow start but by the beginning of camp on Monday, June 9th, we had 23 campers, one Junior Camp Leader and one Community Junior Camp Leader.

2014 were on hand to learn about camp, including Maddy Berezov, Nancy West, Sharon Pressley, Constance Swett, Joan Clayton-Davis and Whitney Pinkston. Allison, a graduate student at TSU, came and taught Organic Sprays, and Whitney taught Nutrition.



Master Gardener Arden Schlesinger (2004) explaining to campers about birds common to Tennessee.

It rained all five days of camp! Topics were held inside while our gardening and other hands-on projects were held outside. Needless to say, the door kept swinging due to going out only to rush back inside to get out of the rain! All in all, it was a good camp.

The five days of camp had an average of 15 Master Gardeners volunteering per day. Interns from 2013 and



Master Gardener Pam Swoner (2009) and campers in their "pie garden"!

Thanks to all of the Interns for their attendance and participation, and a "Special Thanks" to all the Master Gardeners who show up year after year and take a special interest in teaching gardening topics and directing hands-on projects. 🌱

~ Doris Weakley (1999)

Upcoming Events

- ★ July 09, 2014 — Meet Me at the Market, hosted by the Nashville Farmers' Market and AARP
- ★ July 10, 2014 — Summer Celebration Bus Trip to Jackson, Tennessee

July Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 8:30am	3	4 Independence Day	5 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon
6 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	7 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	8	9 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 8:30am Meet Me at the Market, 9am-1pm	10 No Monthly Meeting in July Summer Celebration Bus Trip	11	12 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon
13 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	14 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	15	16 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 8:30am	17	18	19 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon
20 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	21 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	22	23 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 8:30am	24	25	26 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon
27 Work Day Demo Garden 10am	28 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon	29	30 Work Day Grassmere 8am-12 noon Work Day Belle Meade 8:30am	31		

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

It seems like the Weedin' Women are morphing from a gardening group to a construction crew. As the Scarlet Runner and Cherokee beans and the limas begin to twine, we've been putting up trellises to handle the bounty. Given past disasters with the very heavy Scarlett Runners, we've bought wood and screws to construct a sturdier structure. Cross your fingers.



Master Gardeners Mariwyn Evans (2011) and Margaret Devine (2007) construct the (hopefully) solid trellis for the Scarlet Runner Beans.

We're relying on bamboo, some courtesy of Georgeann McCoy, to do the trellising job for the other beans. However, we are using a new four-pole structure with crossbeams, which we hope will be more wind and weight resistant this summer.

We've also finished out our planting, adding favorites such as gourds, hyacinth beans, and coneflowers to the garden.

Last, but certainly not least, Joy Kosarsky has finished revising our Summer 2014 brochure for Belle Meade. The brochure not only educates visitors about the history and culture of the garden but also helps us keep a yearly planting record to aid in crop rotation and other gardening best practices.



The finished product! In addition to these, the Weedin' Women at Belle Meade continue using the same four-pole structure made of bamboo, which will soon holds vines of Cherokee Trail of Tears beans, carried by Native Americans on their long trek from North Carolina and Tennessee to Oklahoma.



Catherine Atwell (2004) weeds amid the blooms of catmint, lavender, and poppies.

We've move up our start time on Wednesday to 8:30, weather permitting. Hope to see you in the garden. 🌻

~ Mariwyn Evans (2011)

Historic Grassmere Gardens at The Nashville Zoo

The rabbit saga goes on.

Those rascally rabbits are *still* in our gardens and having delectable breakfasts at our expense. First, it was the tender greens of the beets, then it was the Swiss chard and now their favorite, fresh bean sprouts, pole beans that is. We have relocated two nests, one with five babies and the second one with two “teenagers.” In spite of this, the vegetable terrace is looking beautiful with potatoes and eight varieties of heirloom tomatoes and corn. The squash and cucumbers are coming along nicely. The greens are producing purple top roots and the zoo animals get the benefit. I have enjoyed one meal of turnips and greens and they were delicious.

Bill MacLennan procured an additional pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*, to go with the one we had on hand. Two are needed in order for this understory tree to produce. The fruit, the largest indigenous to the United States, is yellow-brown and sometimes called a wild banana. Another benefit of the pawpaw is that it provides a home for the zebra swallowtail butterfly. The larvae feed on tender young leaves and the trace amounts of acetogenins make the butterflies unpalatable to birds and other predators.



Master Gardener Andrea Pruijssers (2013) wielding loppers in front of the Croft House.



Master Gardeners Jean Buffler (2012), Rich Shiavi (2009), Bill MacLennan (2003), Andrea Pruijssers (2013), and Susan Brown (2012) stopping to enjoy some cool shade and refreshment.

The gooseberries are getting ripe. Blueberries, black currant and red raspberries are showing real promise. The Aunt Molly ground cherries are also setting fruit.

Next on the “to-do” list is more work in the beautiful flower terrace which is all ablaze with daylilies. We will continue to plant seed and transplant seedlings to get the maximum color for this summer going into fall and Harvest Days.

At break time, we have been known to sip green tea and eat cookies under the shade trees with laughter and sharing of garden stories. Come and see what all is growing at Grassmere. 🍵

~ Cathie Long (1999)



Butterfly weed in the Grassmere gardens.



Garden Tours

A very gracious THANK YOU to Master Gardeners Lois Francis, Connie McGhee, Mary Maddox, and Caroll Marrero for opening-up their gardens to us! Here are some photos shared with us of some of the gardens!



June Meeting Minutes

The Master Gardeners of Davidson County monthly meeting was held at 6:30pm on June 12, 2014 in the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural Center with 59 members attending.

The June monthly meeting was called to order by President Bob Mather who led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation.

Certificates were presented to our newest Certified Master Gardeners: **Alice Warner** (2011), **Susan Wilson** (2012), **Gina Teague** (2013), **Laura Boatright** (2014), **Bears Davis** (2014), **Joan Clayton-Davis** (2014), **Faye Dorman** (2014), **Anjou Gerhardt** (2014), **Paul Mulloy** (2014), **Karen Shaw** (2014), and **Nancy West** (2014).

After our dinner, Andy Sudbrock presented an informative program on "Sedums & Succulents for Sunny Gardens." We learned that sedums are commonly called stonecrops and that all cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti. All the sedum and succulents Andy featured in his presentation are hardy in middle TN when planted in the ground. He brought plants for sale and you can find more of his offerings at www.sedumgarden.net.

Programs & Garden Tours Becky reported that there will be no July meeting or program because of our bus tour to the Summer Celebration in Jackson on Thursday, July 10. The August 14 meeting will be at the Nashville Zoo with garden tours beginning at 5:00pm followed by a potluck and program on Zoo Happenings. Becky thanked the following Master Gardeners for inviting us to their gardens: **Lois Francis**, **Connie McGhee**, **Mary Maddox**, and **Carroll Marrero**. For a plant list from Carroll's garden or to sign up to host a garden tour, email Becky at becky@lostfrogs.com.

Treasurer's Report Ed Taylor reported our current account as \$11,412.43. He is still collecting fees of \$28 for bus seat reservations to the Summer Celebration in Jackson.

Newsletter The newsletter for June has been sent. If you have not received it, please contact Jason Goodrich at jason.goodrich@gmail.com or (615) 403-5766.

Directory Bob has printed copies for those who receive their newsletters via mail.

Merchandise Ethel-Lonniell Williams has various Master Gardener items for sale, including T-shirts, bags, aprons and mugs.

Urban Gardening Festival Bob mentioned thanks are due to **Alisa Huntsman**, **Jason Goodrich**, and **Carroll Marrero**, and all the other Master Gardeners for their hard work planning the very successful 2014 festival and that planning has already begun for next year's event.

Speakers Bureau Bob announced that **Natalie Manor** is the new Project Chair for the Speakers Bureau. Before the meeting, Natalie shared tips, techniques, and strategies for providing interesting and content-rich presentations with those interested in joining the Speakers Bureau. Contact her at (603) 493-1435 or coachnatalie@nataliemanor.com to help our speakers bureau.

PROJECT REPORTS

City Cemetery Bob reported that they are working on a medicinal herb bed.

Belle Meade Muff Cline shared that the gardens are gorgeous and in bloom and two trellises are up for beans with one more to go.

Grassmere Cathie Long said that they need help with the ornamental border this Saturday.

Demo Garden Alisa said with all the rains there are plenty of weeds for volunteers to pull and that the Junior Master Gardeners planted their pie garden.

The Hermitage Needs more help at the regular work days because of all the rain.

Junior Master Gardeners The Junior Master Gardeners Day Camp was in progress this week.

Announcements Booths were recently hosted by MGDC at the Family Farm Day, sponsored by Community Good Advocates, and at the Davidson Farmers Co-Op customer appreciation day on June 7th. **David Cook** and **Bob Mather** hosted a booth during the first "Meet Me at the Market" on June 11th, an event hosted by AARP and the Nashville Farmers' Market.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Don Hover, seconded by Muff Cline. 🍷

~ Becky Fox Matthews, First Vice President (2005)



Master Gardeners of Davidson County

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Potluck Sweet Potato Salad

From the kitchen of Becky Fox Matthews

Ingredients:

- ▶ 3-lbs. sweet potatoes, cooked, peeled and cubed
- ▶ 1 c green pepper, chopped
- ▶ ½ c onion, finely chopped
- ▶ ¼ tsp pepper
- ▶ ¼ tsp salt (optional)
- ▶ 1½ c mayonnaise, light or regular (may substitute ½ with Greek yogurt)

Instructions:

In a large bowl, combine the first five ingredients. Stir in mayonnaise and pepper sauce. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.

Yield: 10 servings

Recipe of the Month