

GardenTalk



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

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 11 — November 2014

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Vacant

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Mather's Musings

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

A busy October has now passed—can you believe we are already well into Fall?! I love waking up to a crisp foggy morning with heavy dew.

Music & Molasses is truly one of the most fun and enjoyable events we participate in every year and, as you always see, Master Gardeners always turn out to help and share their knowledge with the community.

A big, big “thank you” is owed to Tyann Chappell (2013) for chairing Music & Molasses again this year along with her co-chairs: Dan and Rene’ Colehour (2014); Shirley Lee (2001); and Georgeann McCoy (1998). I was very happy to see Dan and Rene’ as well as others who only just certified this year active and involved once again.

Thanks also to all who helped at the festival, especially during setup and teardown. It was truly an “Enchanted Forest”! What a beautiful booth this year—I’ve heard nothing but rave comments!

The Living History Tour at the Historic Nashville City Cemetery was one of our best ever and certainly since 2000 when I first became involved. Mary Maddox (2000) did an wonderful job portraying Septima Sexta Middleton Rutledge, and looked outstanding in her period attire!

Thank you to all Master Gardeners who volunteered as tour guides as they are an important part of keeping the tour progressing. Each has done this the past several years and enjoys the history of our Nashville. The City Cemetery board is always appreciative of the contributions made by the Master Gardeners of Davidson County.

One part of the November meeting will be to act upon two proposed amendments to the Bylaws. The purpose of the proposed amendments is to take advantage of the diversity of our membership and better spread some of the work around among the Board.

If you haven’t already, I encourage you to read the Bylaws as published in our Directory. If you need copy, please email me at rmather321@aol.com and I will email you one. Please study the proposed amendments and ask any questions you might have during our meeting before we vote as a membership. Then, take a hard look at your capabilities and talents and help us fill these positions, if the membership so votes.

Our Nominating Committee has fulfilled a truly difficult job of nominating candidates for office for 2015. It’s always been a difficult job as we have several people who could easily be apart of our Board but decline because they don’t think they can fill a position. You do have to be “qualified” and it does not have to take up a lot of your time. Remember: This is your organization and you get out of it what you put into it.

Collection of annual membership dues for 2015 will begin at our meeting on November 13th. Dues are \$20 per member but couples need only pay one fee; lifetime members are welcome, but not required, to pay dues. You may bring your payment to Treasurer Ed Taylor or mail it to us at P.O. Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204. Dues will be collected through January 31st.

Our activities are now slowing down as we head toward the close of the year in November and December. Catherine Atwell and I will be joining our fellow Master Gardener and Extension Agent advisor, David Cook, for another “Meet Me at the Market” event on Wednesday, November 12th from 10am to 2pm. It is always fun meeting people who are interested in gardening—if you’d like to come out and help, email me!

Your garden may be slowing down for the winter, but there are still many things to do in your yard to prepare for winter.

Take a walk about you yard/gardens and enjoy! 🍂

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Cover photo: *The White House Rose Garden taken during the White House Garden Tour 2014. Jason Goodrich's (2013) sister-in-law, Kelsey Morgan, a sophomore at Georgetown University, accompanied her roommate who was invited to the annual garden tour in October. Photo: Anna O'Neil.*

SAVE THE DATE

Our November Meeting and Potluck Meal will begin on Thursday, November 13th at 6:30pm in the Ed Jones Auditorium on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center. Feel free to bring a guest or casserole dish!

November Meeting

Join us at our November 13th meeting to welcome Justin Stelter, Head Gardener of the Garden at Carnton Plantation, as he presents **"The History of the Garden at Carnton Plantation, 1840-69"**.

[Carnton Plantation](#) served as a field hospital for Confederate forces during the [Battle of Franklin](#) on November 30, 1864. A reenactment of the battle will be held the weekend following this presentation November 15th and 16th in commemoration of its 150th anniversary.

As Head Gardener since 2003, Justin has installed a historic daffodil display garden, species hostas, and an heirloom peony collection—all consisting of varieties available in Middle Tennessee prior to 1869. The garden is reconstructed from the bones of the original 1847 kitchen/ornamental garden and its evolution through 1869.

In 2006, he was one of about two dozen applicants selected to attend the Historic Landscape Institute at Monticello where he studied under Peter Hatch, director of garden and grounds of Monticello, and Mary Hughes, landscape architect at the University of Virginia.

In 2011, Justin obtained a grant through Farm Bureau to aid in the ongoing planting of the vegetable garden.

Most recently, Justin guided an Eagle Scout candidate through the process of installing a representative slave garden.

In February 2014, Justin joined the board of the Southern Garden History Society. As a member of the board, Justin studies garden and landscape history and helps promote garden restoration. He will be chairing the 2015 Annual Meeting in Nashville. This annual meeting will bring together approximately 200 of the most renowned professionals related to southern garden history.

Battle Scarred, an exhibit commemorating the Battle of Franklin's sesquicentennial, is open at Carnton now through April 26, 2015.

Carnton Plantation and its historic garden are open to the public except for New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. 🌿



November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please make note of the following calendar changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ Regular work days at the Demonstration Garden are suspended until spring following the Fall Bulb Planting on November 1st. ➡ Regular work days at Belle Meade are suspended until spring. ➡ Save the Date: The first day of class for the 2015 Master Gardener class series will be January 15, 2015. 						1 Work Days Grassmere 8am-12 noon Demo Garden Fall Bulb Planting Starting 10am
2	3 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon	4	5 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon	6	7	8 Work Days Grassmere 8am-12 noon The Hermitage 8am-11am
9	10 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon	11	12 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon Meet Me at the Market, 10am-2pm	13 Monthly Meeting: November 6:30pm	14	15 Work Days Grassmere 8am-12 noon The Hermitage 8am-11am
16	17 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon	18	19 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon	20	21	22 Work Days Grassmere 8am-12 noon The Hermitage 8am-11am
23	24 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon	25	26 Work Day Grassmere 9am-12 noon	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29 Work Days Grassmere 8am-12 noon The Hermitage 8am-11am
30	<p>If you didn't have an opportunity to pickup some of our discounted merchandise items, never fear: Barbara Adams and Ethel-Lonniell Williams will once again be ready for you in November! They've still got a few items remaining, so come prepared take some home.</p> <p>All sweatshirts, tank tops, short- and long-sleeved t-shirts will be available at half price. Also, don't forget to pickup an apron — great for the kitchen or the garden. 🍷</p>					

Annual Business

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

The procedure for amending the Bylaws is provided in Article XI of the Bylaws. Two amendments to the Bylaws have been proposed for which a vote will be taken during the November meeting. The proposed amendments have been recommended for adoption by the Executive Committee, and read as follows:

Proposed Amendment No. 1

Amend Article IX Officers and their Duties by adding:

- Section 7: Education Chairperson. The Education Chairperson shall be responsible for supporting coordination of continuing education activities and community education outreach.
- Section 8: Events Chairperson. The Events Chairperson shall be responsible for supporting events and the organization of all annual and special events.
- Section 9: Membership Chairperson. The Membership Chairperson shall serve as chairperson of the Membership Committee and shall be responsible for assisting in the coordination of member services.

Rationale: The addition of three seats to the Executive Committee will increase member representation and distribute responsibility more equitably to prevent “burnout” of board members.

Proposed Amendment No. 2

Amend Article XII Executive Committee:

- Retitle from “Executive Committee” to “Standing Committees”. Existing Article becomes Section 1: “The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Association.”
- Add: Section 2: Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall be a standing committee having responsibility for providing oversight for financial management of the Association and shall review and approve annual financial statements, and prepare and recommend annual budgets for

adoption by the Executive Committee. The Finance Committee shall be composed of not less than three (3) members, including the Treasurer who shall not serve as chairperson. The remaining members of the Finance Committee, including the chairperson, shall be appointed annually by the president and subject to majority approval by the Executive Committee.

- Add: Section 3: Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall be a standing committee with responsibility for assisting with the coordination of member services, that may include class liaisons, hospitality, hours support, mentoring, and merchandise. This committee shall consist of not less than three (3) members appointed at the discretion of the Membership Chairperson, and may include the coordinators for hospitality, mentoring, merchandise, and new class liaisons.
- Add: Section 4: Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be a standing committee and shall have responsibility for soliciting and presenting nominations for the annual election of officers at the November annual meeting. The Nominating Committee shall consist of not less than three (3) members, including the chairperson, annually elected for a term of one year by the membership during the November annual meeting. Members of the Executive Committee shall be ineligible to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Rationale: Standing committees are made permanent committees of the organization and promote greater financial oversight in keeping with best practices; emphasize focus on our members; and ensure transparent election of officers.

Proposed Amendments 1 & 2 submitted by Jason Goodrich (2013) on behalf of the Planning Committee: Jason Goodrich, Laura Kraft (2010), Caroll Marrero (2009), Paul Martin (1998), Bob Mather (2000), Karen Shaw (2014), and Debb Wilcox (2013).

Officer Elections

The procedure for the election of officers is provided in Article VIII of the Bylaws requiring elections at our annual meeting in November.

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following candidates for office for the 2015 calendar year to serve on the Executive Committee:

- ▶ President — Robert Mather (2000)
- ▶ First Vice President — Faye Dorman (2014)
- ▶ Second Vice President — Catherine Atwell (2004)
- ▶ Recording Secretary — Laura Boatwright (2014)
- ▶ Corresponding Secretary — Jason Goodrich (2013)
- ▶ Treasurer — *Not considered*

Nominations for these offices remain open to the membership until closed by the presiding officer at the November meeting.

Should Proposed Amendment 1 be adopted thereby expanding the Executive Committee, nominations will be accepted from the floor for the immediate election of the following:

- ▶ Education Chairperson
- ▶ Events Chairperson
- ▶ Membership Chairperson

Members elected to office will assume their roles and responsibilities on January 1, 2015. 🍷

Speakers Bureau

by Natalie Manor, Class of 2009

Joan Clayton-Davis (2014), Katherine Bryant of the [Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange](#), and I presented **the very first presentation written and produced by the Speakers Bureau** to the Inglewood Public Library called “Beginners Guide to Growing and Enjoying Herbs”.

We are extremely proud to note that Bob Mather wrote the PowerPoint presentation later edited by Becky Fox Matthews and approved by David Cook.

It is a beautiful and simple presentation that the attendees loved because it was interactive; provided them with samples of herbs to grow; and shared stories of how anyone can grow herbs.

If you're interested in joining the Speakers Bureau, we'd love to have you! Contact Natalie Manor at (603) 493-1435 or coachnatalie@nataliemanor.com. 🍷



Mentoring Program

by Caroll Marrero, Class of 2009

A big “thank you” to Interns and Mentors alike for the many volunteer hours given last month! (Additionally, I keep hearing how much fun everyone had working together!) “Congratulations” goes out to everyone achieving their certification!

As we wind down our hectic summer days spent tending our beautiful community projects and events, **new opportunities have been approved for earning CEUs**, suitable for when we're stuck indoors in the cold season—**Webinars** and **Volunteer Gardener programs**! When recording your CEUs, please include the title of the program and the date watched.

Gardening-related **webinars** count for time watched/listened. Here is one I suggest scheduled for 2pm, November 7th: “Where Have All the Honeybees Gone? Hope For the Future”, presented by Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Visit learn.extension.org/events1375#.VBco3DmNXFI.

Half a CEU can be earned for every ½-hour episode of **Volunteer Gardener** watched—every episode will be approved! Visit their [YouTube channel](#) online to view previous episodes, including several featuring Master Gardeners:

- ✓ David Cook on Raised Beds (filmed in the Demonstration Garden)
- ✓ Shirley Lee on Square Foot Gardening
- ✓ Bob Mather and Catherine Atwell at City Cemetery
- ✓ Caroll Marrero on Hillside Garden and Stormwater Mitigation
- ✓ Jim Semmens on Composting and Gardening. 🍷

Historic Gardens at Grassmere

by Cathie Long, Class of 1999



We are still reflecting on this year's fun and success at Harvest Days. First, there were Friday's activities with the raising of the tents and preparing the veggie animals even as we welcomed the schoolchildren. The attendance, reported by Tori Mason, historic site manager, was 1,172 for Friday; on Saturday, 2,673 visitors came to the farm; and Sunday afternoon another 1,185 visited for **a total of 5,030** or 43 percent of the total Zoo attendance for this special weekend.

Faye Dorman (2014) suggested and provided the okra art activity that was a big hit with our young visitors on both Saturday and Sunday. Cut okra were used as a stamp on ink pads for the imagination of the youngsters. Who knew that okra made such beautiful flower

designs?! Special plants to look for in the gardens are the corkscrew blooms and seed pods of Hearts-a-bursting as well as *Violas*.

Okra and corn stalks have already been given to the elephants. Looking ahead, we have greens to weed and harvest. We clean up and prepare all the gardens for the winter months so that they continue to look presentable for the visitors. Please take note of our new work hours: 9:00am until 12 noon every Monday and Wednesday; and 8:00am until 12 noon every Saturday.

Join us and enjoy fall mornings as we observe the changing colors of the leaves that will make future compost food for the gardens. (All photos Cathie Long/MGDC.) 🍂

Master Gardeners Susan Brown (2012) & Shirley Breece (2012).



Master Gardener Faye Dorman (2014) next to the heirloom seed display.



Master Gardener Nancy Wilcenski (2014) wrestling a corn stalk.



Music & Molasses

by Tyann Chappell, Class of 2013

It was a great weekend for Music & Molasses, cooler weather and all! I want to express a BIG THANKS to everyone who helped with setup on Friday, the break-down on Sunday, and that worked in our booth on both days. **So many of you made thoughtful contributions to the booth—and it showed.**

Rene' and Dan Colehour (2014) were great co-chairs and I hope their "baptism by fire" will not deter them from the festival next year! It's always noteworthy when the same year's Master Gardener intern(s), now certified, jump right in and help in such significant ways. Another new intern that helped was Cindy Martin (2014), and her husband Dave. Did you notice the enchanted trees twinkling? Well, give them a big round of applause because they made that happen.

A wonderful addition to the booth was Georgeann McCoy's (1998) delightful children's activity corner. Between alluring animal puppets, charming butterfly vignette, and the inviting cherry table and tree stump chairs, **over 250 children** made crayon leaf imprints on bags or card stock and burr oak bird nests. I think one could find nestled throughout the booth a creation from Georgeann! Every year, with all of the Master Gardeners events, Shirley Lee (2001) and Barbara Allen (2000) can be found helping with all aspects of an event. They are key to the success of any event we take on.

A special thanks, too, to everyone who brought a fairy garden. They were all so unique and captivating. Booth visitors noticed and made numerous compliments about the talent and creativity of our Master Gardeners.

It was great fun and I hope you will participate in the event next year! 🍷



Our amazing booth.



Tree information on display.



Shirley Lee and Rene' Colehour.



Tyann Chappell, Dan Colehour, Shirley Lee, & Bella.

Photos: Tyann Chappell/MGDC.





Mae (left) and Chester (right).
Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

by Mariwyn Evans, Class of 2011

The scarecrows have arrived at Belle Meade, so it's really and truly fall in the garden. After some delays caused by weather—and a few missing body parts—Chester and Mae are once again welcoming visitors.

Chester is a little thinner this year—hard work and perhaps not enough newspapers, but Mae looks country chic in a new denim skirt and crisp white shirt—compliments of Belle Meade Chair Muff Cline (2007). Rain forced us to construct the pair on the porch of the Harding Cabin, but it didn't dim our enthusiasm.

Drizzle also kept us from cutting down the okra, peppers, and eggplants after one last harvest. So we'll be back in the garden one last time Oct 29th to harvest the last of the mustard greens, clean up debris, and put our scarecrows to bed for another year. See you next spring! 🍁



Margaret Devine (2007) and Barbara Ann Drake (2012) get the garden ship shape for winter. Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC

Dues

Collection for next year's dues will begin November 13th.

It's that time of year once again! Every year we ask our members to pay annual dues (or newsletter fees) of \$20. This helps us as an organization to support our many projects and events, newsletter, and other activities that periodically come up. The rate for dues is \$20 per certified member as well as per couple. New Interns for the approaching year and Lifetime members are exempted from dues, if they choose.

This year, dues may be paid by mail or at monthly meetings beginning November 13th and through January 31st. See our Treasurer at any meeting to pay yours and help us to sort out the administrative duties while it's cold before we're all anxious to garden in the warmth of the sun! 🍁

October Minutes

by Recording Secretary Doris Painter (2013)

Minutes of October 09, 2014 monthly meeting of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County held at Ellington Agricultural Center with 61 members attending.

President Bob Mather called the meeting to order. Calling our attention to the video presentation displayed overhead, he indicated that photos from recent events, project reports, and calendar items will now be shared during the meal in order to save time in response to member feedback from our recent survey.

After reading "The Oath" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bob spoke about the new classes of 2013 and 2014, and to those still earning their certification encouraging them in ways they might accomplish this, including two upcoming opportunities: the Music & Molasses Festival and the guided tour of the Historic Nashville City Cemetery.

He welcomed Erica Shannon, a graduate student enrolling in the 2014 Master Gardener class.

Becky Fox Matthews (2005) introduced Todd Breyer from Cheekwood who presented a program entitled "Bulbous Beauties."

Tennessee State Fair—Russell Kirchner (2011) gave a post-event report and thanked everyone who volunteered. He announced he will not chair the event next year.

Treasurer's Report—Treasurer Ed Taylor (2004) reported a balance of \$10,025.06 as of October 09, 2014.

Nominating Committee—Caroll Marrero (2009) presented the recommendations of the committee as follows:

- ▶ President: Robert Mather (2000)
- ▶ First Vice President: Faye Dorman (2014)
- ▶ Second Vice President: Catherine Atwell (2004)
- ▶ Recording Secretary: Laura Boatwright (2014)
- ▶ Corresponding Secretary: Jason Goodrich (2013)

The floor was then opened for nominations until the November meeting.

Planning Committee—Bob reported that the committee recommended changes to the Bylaws which will be published in the next newsletter. Members were encouraged to read them and that discussion would be held before voting at the November meeting. Bob stated these changes would expand the executive committee and spread responsibility to avoid burning-out our active members.

Program—Becky Fox Matthews informed us that the program for November will be presented by Justin Stelter, horticulturalist at Carnton Plantation in Franklin.

Music & Molasses—Co-chairs for the event are Rene' and Dan Colehour (2014), Shirley Lee (2001), Georgeann McCoy (1998), and Tyann Chappell (2013). Tyann announced the event will be held October 18-19 and that setup will be on the 17th. This year's theme is "An Enchanted Forest." Tyann asked for trees, limbs, cones, etc. for tree decoration and fairy gardens. Additionally, pumpkins and gourds are also needed. She mentioned Jennifer Watson is on the board of the festival and that she needs volunteers for help in other areas. She may be contacted directly at the Tennessee Agricultural Museum. When coming to work at the festival, members are asked to park in the UT Research Center parking lot. Bob called attention to the attendance and sign-up sheets for the festival and asked members to check them out.

General Announcements—Individuals not receiving their newsletter should contact Jason Goodrich at (615) 403-5766 or jason.goodrich@gmail.com.

Members interested in serving as a mentor for the coming year are asked to contact Caroll Marrero at (615) 554-3344 or bmarrero@comcast.net.

The 2015 Master Gardener class will begin January 15th and run for 14 weeks. Members are welcome to audit the classes. Classes will be held at the Metro Southeast campus, 1417 Murfreesboro Pike, and the cost for new interns is \$125. Auditing the class is free.

The Silent Auction will be held at our November meeting. Bob asked that members bring gardening books, old tools, or anything else they would like to provide for the auction.

Collection of annual membership dues of \$20 for the 2015 calendar year will begin in November and be collected through the end of January. Dues help to pay for newsletter costs as well as help support our many projects, events, and activities throughout the year.

Barbara Allen requested volunteers who are good with children to sign up and assist Georgeann McCoy with the children's crafts at Music & Molasses.

Russell Kirchner announced that he was holding plants from the Tennessee State Fair that belonged to members and that tonight was the last chance to claim them.

Bob once again urged members to read the upcoming newsletter concerning changes in the Bylaws.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ed Taylor and unanimously seconded. 🍷



Master Gardeners of Davidson County

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Recipe of the Month

Apple Cheese Casserole

Ingredients:

- ▶ ½ c all-purpose flour
- ▶ ½ c sugar
- ▶ ¼ tsp salt
- ▶ ¼ c butter or margarine
- ▶ 7 medium apples, peeled, cored, and sliced
- ▶ ¼ c plus 2 tbsp water
- ▶ 1 tbsp lemon
- ▶ ¼ c (or 4 oz.) shredded sharp cheddar cheese

Instructions:

Combine flour, sugar, and salt; mix well. Cut in butter with pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal. Toss apples with water and lemon juice. Spoon into a slightly greased 8-inch square baking dish. Sprinkle flour mixture over apples. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Top with cheese and bake an additional 5 minutes.

Yield: 8 servings