

# GardenTalk

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

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## Executive Committee

### **PRESIDENT**

Robert Mather  
[rmather321@aol.com](mailto:rmather321@aol.com)

### **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Karen Shaw  
[krnshaw@aol.com](mailto:krnshaw@aol.com)

### **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Catherine Atwell  
(615) 297-0600

### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

Laura Boatwright  
[laluboaie@gmail.com](mailto:laluboaie@gmail.com)

### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Jason Goodrich  
[jason.goodrich@gmail.com](mailto:jason.goodrich@gmail.com)

### **TREASURER**

Marilee Jacobs  
[mljacobs25@hotmail.com](mailto:mljacobs25@hotmail.com)

### **MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON**

Caroll Marrero  
[bmarrero@comcas.net](mailto:bmarrero@comcas.net)

## Volunteer Team

### **EXTENSION OFFICE LIAISON**

Judy Burnette  
[judyrburnette@gmail.com](mailto:judyrburnette@gmail.com)

### **HISTORIANS**

Joy Kosarsky  
[sambeem@aol.com](mailto:sambeem@aol.com)

Gwen McKinney  
[gwenmil2@att.net](mailto:gwenmil2@att.net)

### **MASTER GARDENER CLASS LIAISON**

Barbara Allen  
(615) 309-6130

### **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Vacant



### **VOLUNTEER SERVICE LIAISON**

Lois Francis, (615) 361-1926  
[francis4966@bellsouth.net](mailto:francis4966@bellsouth.net)

### **WEBMASTERS**

Jason Goodrich, [jason.goodrich@gmail.com](mailto:jason.goodrich@gmail.com)  
Alisa Huntsman, [info@alisahuntsman.com](mailto:info@alisahuntsman.com)

## Event and Project Chairpersons

### **DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AT ELLINGTON AGRICULTURAL CENTER**

Vacant

### **EDUCATION**

David Cook  
[dcook5@utk.edu](mailto:dcook5@utk.edu)

### **GARDEN TOURS**

Vacant

### **GRASSMERE HISTORIC FARM AT THE NASHVILLE ZOO**

Cathie Long  
[cathielong@comcast.net](mailto:cathielong@comcast.net)

### **HARDING GARDEN AT BELLE MEADE**

Muff Cline  
[muffcline@yahoo.com](mailto:muffcline@yahoo.com)

Catherine Atwell  
(615) 297-0600

### **HISTORIC NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY**

Catherine Atwell  
(615) 297-0600  
Robert Mather  
[rmather321@aol.com](mailto:rmather321@aol.com)

### **JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS**

Doris Weakley  
[dorisgweakley@comcast.net](mailto:dorisgweakley@comcast.net)

### **KITCHEN GARDENS AT THE HERMITAGE**

Laura Kraft  
[lkraft1212@gmail.com](mailto:lkraft1212@gmail.com)  
Mary Langford  
[langfordlaw@hotmail.com](mailto:langfordlaw@hotmail.com)

### **MENTORING PROGRAM**

Caroll Marrero  
[bmarrero@comcast.net](mailto:bmarrero@comcast.net)

### **MERCHANDISE**

Barbara Adams  
[babstn@bellsouth.net](mailto:babstn@bellsouth.net)  
Ethel-Lonniell Williams  
[elmwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:elmwilliams@yahoo.com)

### **MUSIC & MOLASSES FESTIVAL**

Vacant

### **NASHVILLE LAWN & GARDEN SHOW**

Cindy Martin  
[cfmnbw@gmail.com](mailto:cfmnbw@gmail.com)

### **SPEAKERS BUREAU**

Natalie Manor  
[coachnatalie@nataliemanager.com](mailto:coachnatalie@nataliemanager.com)

### **TENNESSEE STATE FAIR**

Vacant

### **URBAN GARDENING FESTIVAL**

Nancy Wilcenski  
[nancy.wilcenski@comcast.net](mailto:nancy.wilcenski@comcast.net)

## UT Extension Davidson County

1417 Murfreesboro Pike, 2nd Floor  
P. O. Box 196300  
Nashville, TN 37219  
Tel: (615) 862-5995  
Fax: (615) 862-5998  
<http://davidson.tennessee.edu>

### **EXTENSION AGENT AND SPONSOR**

David Cook  
[dcook5@utk.edu](mailto:dcook5@utk.edu)

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## Master Gardeners of Davidson County

P. O. Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204-1055

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[www.facebook.com/mgofdc](https://www.facebook.com/mgofdc)  
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# Mather's Musings

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

If you haven't already ordered your seeds for spring, don't be surprised if you find supplies to be limited. Now is the time to start your seeds so that they're ready for transplanting as winter turns to spring! I marked pages of several seed catalogs before finally deciding my selections for 2015. It's hard not to order all that you like but have to remember there is only so much space to plant. Don't forget to leave room in your garden for those plants shared by your friends and fellow Master Gardeners, and those you find at nurseries this spring.

Despite the cold temperatures of mid-winter, 2015 started at full speed for the Master Gardeners of Davidson County! Speaking of the cold, and because we cancelled our January meeting with short notice due to low temperatures, I would like to remind you of our **Weather Policy: If Metro Nashville Public Schools close, MGDC meetings scheduled that day will be cancelled.** We want to ensure the safety and well-being of our Master Gardeners, so when in doubt — check the Snowbird Report!

[UT Extension's Winter School](#) (Feb. 26-27) will be here before we know it and I can't wait. Once again, it looks like another great lineup of opportunities to learn from other Master Gardener organizations throughout Tennessee and share our hard work and successes. Catherine Atwell is putting together donation items from Davidson County for the Winter School Silent Auction that helps defray some of the costs borne by our hosts, the [Master Gardeners of Rutherford County](#). If you have an item to donate, please contact Catherine at (615) 297-0600.

Equally exciting is that our Master Gardener course for 2015 is now well underway. I would like to thank all who are bringing food during the course for our new interns during their class breaks — it's also a terrific opportunity to introduce yourself to them as well. Certified Master Gardeners are always welcome to audit the classes, and the complete sched-

ule of course topics may be found on our website calendar at [www.mgofdc.org](http://www.mgofdc.org).

Enrollment this year is the largest in several years and we would benefit by having more Mentors to support them. Mentoring has been very successful and I hope you will consider becoming a Mentor to someone from our 2015 class. If you are interested, please contact Caroll Marrero at (615) 554-3344 or [bmarrero@comcast.net](mailto:bmarrero@comcast.net).

Plans for our participation at the 2015 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show (March 05-08) are progressing. Chair Cindy Martin (2014) has created a plan for preparing and staffing our booth this year, and will be giving details at our February meeting where signup sheets for setup, booth duty, and take down.

This is a terrific opportunity to earn volunteer hours and also receive free admission to the show! Make certain to signup at the February meeting (or during the classes for our new interns). If you're wanting to visit the show, now is a great time to make your plans with us! You earn "C" hours for your volunteer time at the show, and "A" hours during setup and teardown. You can even earn continuing education hours for attending any of the many presentations during the show.

We have a unique opportunity at our February meeting to learn more about permaculture and urban agriculture (see page 4 for details). We will also be holding our annual ACT Awards this month as well.

I look forward to working along side you during the many activities we will engage in this year educating and giving back to our community! 🌱

**Dues** We are extending the deadline for dues payments for the 2015 calendar year to February 28, 2015. Please remit your dues either at the February meeting or by mail (see page 4). 📬

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**Cover photo:** *The Hermitage's small greenhouse overwintering plants for use around the historic property.*  
Photo: Laura Kraft/MGDC.

## Reminder

### Dues

Now through February 28th we will be collecting dues for the 2015 calendar year. Dues are **\$20** for certified members and couples; lifetime members are welcome but not required to pay dues. You may pay at our February meeting or by mail to: MGDC, P.O. Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204.

## February Monthly Meeting

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

Our meeting this month will be held on **February 12th** beginning promptly at **6:30pm** in the **Ed Jones Auditorium on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center**. We will also recognize the achievement of our Master Gardeners in 2014 as we hold our annual **ACT Awards**!

The program will be presented by **Jason Adkins**, director of the **Trevecca Urban Farm** at Trevecca Nazarene University. Through photographs and descriptions, he will share about the amazing permaculture that has been created in one of Nashville's "food deserts".

In addition to his work in the garden and farmyard, Jason is also an instructor teaching environmental justice to the university's students. He is also the president and a founding member of the Tennessee Organic Growers Association and has traveled to Asia and Africa to consult on practices of sustainable agriculture with communities in poverty.

Through a degree program and with neighboring schools, young people are learning the particulars of growing all kinds of food and the big picture of how good farming sustains the poor and the planet alike.

The farm operates as a constellation of growing works (including goats, pigs, chickens, worms, tilapia, orchards, gardens, mushrooms, and composting) on the Trevecca University campus and in the surrounding neighborhood—an area that faces challenges to food access.

Learn more about this hidden jewel, congratulate everyone on a terrific 2014, and join us on February 12th! 🍷

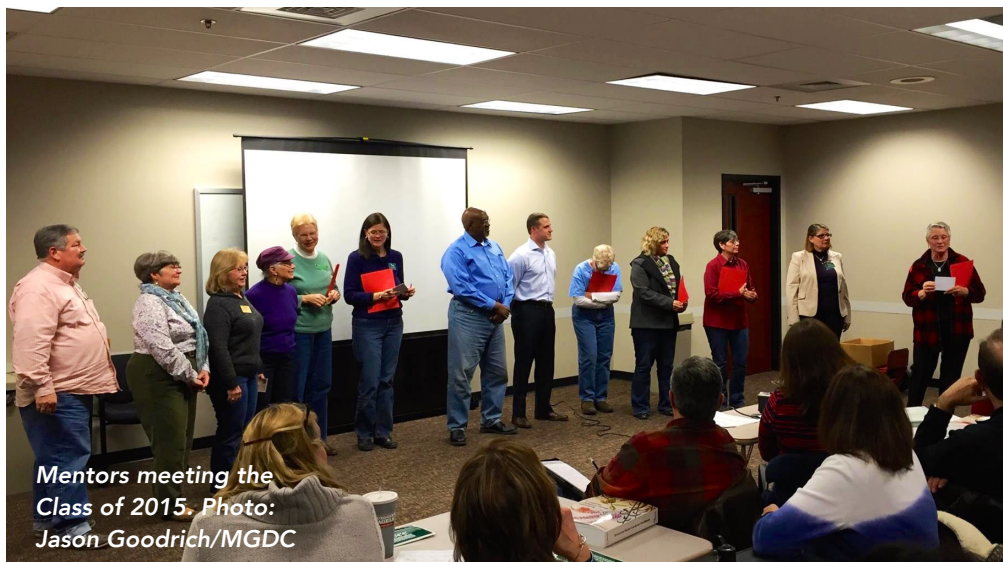
## Mentoring Program

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

We could hardly wait for 2015 to arrive so we could welcome a new class of

gardeners eager to learn and become certified Master Gardeners of Davidson County! Well that day finally arrived on Thursday, January 8th Wow!, what an eager and happy group — all 70 of them. The Interns were delighted to be in class, but I believe the Mentors were a tad more "over-the-top" with their excitement to "meet and greet" everyone. If the noise level was any indication of our collective success, we will all enjoy a banner year!

WELCOME class of 2015! 🍷



*Mentors meeting the Class of 2015. Photo: Jason Goodrich/MGDC*

# February 2015

For a complete calendar of events,  
visit our website at [www.mgofdc.org](http://www.mgofdc.org).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Class 4 of 2015 Master Gardener Course	6	7 Earn & Learn: Lawn and Garden Show Prep 9am-12pm
8	9	10	11	12 February Month- ly Meeting 6:30pm Class 5 of 2015 Master Gardener Course	13 NABA: Introduc- tion to Beekeep- ing Beginners course, 6-9pm	14 NABA: Introduc- tion to Beekeep- ing Beginners course, 9am-3pm
15	16	17 TSU Extension Third Tuesday Field Day: Prun- ing & Grafting Fruit Crops (615) 963-4929	18	19 Class 6 of 2015 Master Gardener Course	20	21 Earn & Learn: The Hermitage Greenhouse Seed Starting & Soil Prep, 9am-12pm  Earn & Learn: City Cemetery Boxwood Trim- ming, 9am-1pm
22	23	24	25	26 Class 7 of 2015 Master Gardener Course	27	28 Earn & Learn: Belle Meade Fruit Tree Pruning, 9am-1pm

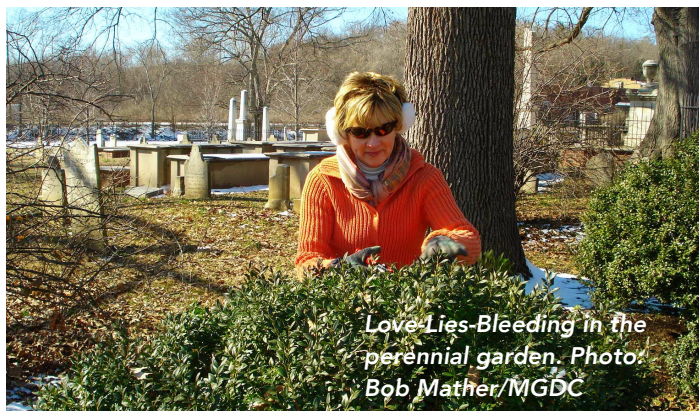
## Save the Date:

- ★ NABA Introduction to Beekeeping — Feb 13-14, 2015
- ★ Tennessee Master Gardener Winter School — Feb 26-27, 2015
- ★ Earn & Learn at Grassmere — “Seed Starting Indoors” — March 01, 2015 from 2pm-4pm
- ★ Nashville Lawn & Garden Show — March 5-8, 2015
- ★ “Master Your Garden” Garden Expo hosted by the Master Gardeners of Hamilton County — April 11-12, 2015 (East Ridge, TN)
- ★ Urban Gardening Festival — May 16, 2015



# Nashville City Cemetery

by Bob Mather, Co-Chair, Class of 2000



Love-Lies-Bleeding in the perennial garden. Photo: Bob Mather/MGDC

Now is a great time to get your tools ready for the upcoming garden season. Make sure your tools are washed and a light coating of 3-in-1 oil or WD-40 is applied to help prevent rusting. If you do have some rust on your tools, brush them with a wire brush before applying the oil. Also, check your pruners to make sure they are sharp.

You'll see them when you attend our **Earn & Learn Workshop on Boxwood Trimming at the Historic Nashville City Cemetery on February 5th from 9am-1pm!** Make certain to dress warmly and bring your gloves and hand pruners. This is a "hands-on" workshop where you will learn all you need to know about maintaining Boxwood. We will have coffee and snacks for you and information about the cemetery as well. 🍷

## Historic Gardens at Grassmere

by Susan Brown, Co-Chair, Class of 2012

Would you like to earn volunteer hours, learn about organic gardening, and make new friends? Come join the Master Gardeners of Davidson County as we work in the Historic Gardens at Grassmere at the Nashville Zoo.

Beginning in February we will be in the garden on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday when temperatures are above freezing and it is not raining. Our normal workday hours are 8am until 12pm.

There is lots of work to be done to prepare the garden for spring planting. In addition to our regular work schedule during March and April, we also host gardening classes on Saturday mornings for the public that certified and intern Master Gardeners are invited to attend and earn continuing education hours. You will find our schedule in our newsletter and at the [www.mgofdc.org](http://www.mgofdc.org) website calendar.

Come work with us and discover one of Nashville's hidden treasures! Please note that all volunteers must go through an orientation with Amy Walter, the Nashville Zoo volunteer program manager, to learn the expectations of volunteers who work at the zoo and interact with visitors. You may contact Amy directly at [awalter@nashvillezoo.org](mailto:awalter@nashvillezoo.org).

If I can be of any assistance or answer any questions, please contact me at [susanbrown1@yahoo.com](mailto:susanbrown1@yahoo.com), or you may also contact Cathie Long at [cathielong@comcast.net](mailto:cathielong@comcast.net) or (615) 661-4771. 🍷

## Junior Master Gardeners

by Doris Weakley, Chair, Class of 1999

Mark your calendars on June 22-26, 2015 for our annual Junior Master Gardener Camp!

**Enrollment is now open and limited to 25 children, ages 9 to 14.** Applications will be made available on the Junior Master Gardener page at our website, [www.mgofdc.org](http://www.mgofdc.org). The camp fee is \$50 per child.

Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis and will not be considered complete if fee payment is not included. Please remit completed applications and fee payment (made payable to "UT Extension") to:

UT Extension Davidson County  
Attn: Junior Master Gardeners  
P.O. Box 196300  
Nashville, TN 37219-6300 🍷

## Speakers Bureau

by Natalie Manor, Chair, Class of 2009

The Speakers Bureau is excited to announce that it will present "Spring Vegetable Gardening=Delicious!" at 10am, March 28th at the Davidson Farmers Co-Op. The program will discuss what to plant, how to plant, when to plant, and how to care for your new spring garden. Save the date!

We will also soon be announcing upcoming presentations with our partners at the Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange, so stay tuned — these will be posted at the MGDC website calendar and announced in upcoming e-blasts.

Don't forget that we're always eager to welcome new presenters to our Speakers Bureau! If you're passionate about a topic and would like to share that by engaging with our community through educational outreach, please contact me at [coachnatalie@nataliemanor.com](mailto:coachnatalie@nataliemanor.com). 🍷

# Kitchen Gardens at The Hermitage

by Laura Kraft, Co-Chair, Class of 2010

February's birth flower is symbolized by violets, which represent loyalty, watchfulness, and faithfulness. You may also see it represented by Irises, representing faith, hope, and wisdom. These words have special meaning for our gardeners; faith that spring will come, hope that the season will be prosperous, and wisdom for a better garden!

Our January meeting embraced the symbolism of February's beauties. We are looking forward to a prosperous 2015 season, gaining on the growth of our gardeners' knowledge. Many thanks to our volunteers who joined in the fun!

**Join us at The Hermitage for our spring Earn & Learn workshop on Saturday, February 21st from 9am to 12pm.** We will lead you through several spring planting activities, including:

- Seed starting, soil blocking techniques, and warm season seed planting;
- Preparing the Kitchen Garden beds; and
- Transplanting container seedlings for our MGDC Urban Gardening Festival Plant Sale

The Hermitage Kitchen Gardens reflect heirloom vegetable and herb varieties that would have been planted at the time of President Andrew Jackson's residency during the 19th century. We have projects for Master Gardeners and volunteers across different activity levels and interests: gardening, seed propagation, greenhouse tending, public speaking, and more! Please contact Mary Langford at [langfordlaw@hotmail.com](mailto:langfordlaw@hotmail.com) or Laura Kraft at [lkraft1212@gmail.com](mailto:lkraft1212@gmail.com) for more details. 🌱

## Lawn & Garden Show

by Cindy Martin, Chair, Class of 2014

The 2015 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show is March 5-8, 2015!

*The time for talk is past! It is time to get things done!*

*Watch for our email blasts to ask!...*

*We need some things...OLD;*

*some things...BORROWED, and some things...NEW!*

*You can help us see this through!*

*(Sorry for the very bad use of rhyme)*

It's launch time...10—9—8—7— yada, yada, yada. *Plants, materials, and volunteers are needed.* Our theme, "Magical Backyard Paradise", requires us to borrow your special large

ferns or tropicals. We have a few already committed, and need 15 additional plants.

As in the past, we plan to purchase a limited number of plants, trees, and shrubs at wholesale. If you are interested in purchasing any of these following or after the show, please contact Cindy Martin at (615) 948-0544 or [cfmnbw@gmail.com](mailto:cfmnbw@gmail.com). These go fast, so first on the list will be first served:

- Dogwood, *Cornus sanguinea* (bark: orange, red, yellow)
- Witch-hazel, *Hamamelis vernalis* (blooms January to March)
- Camellia, multiple varieties
- Creeping Phlox, early spring series

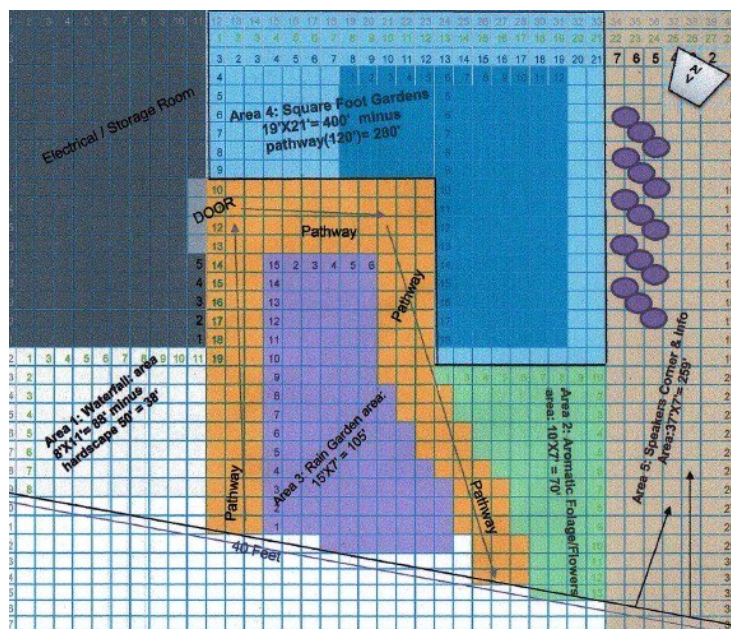
Other booth needs include:

- 4 small humidifiers for use during the show. (Please let Cindy know if you can loan yours during the event.)
- Several terra cotta-colored pots, plastic or clay, of any size. Do you have old clay pots taking up space? Contact Tyann Chappell at [tyann.chappell@comcast.net](mailto:tyann.chappell@comcast.net).

Special thanks to the core of our Lawn & Garden Committee: Tyann Chappell, Shirley Lee, and Carol Marrero. But shouts of thanks are also due to Catherine Atwell, Maddy Berezov, Ann Carpenter, Barbara Drake, Georgeann McCoy, Mary Maddox, and Bob Mather.

Please let Cindy Martin know if can join in some prefabricating of booth props, scheduled for February. Call or email her at (615) 948-0544 or [cfmnbw@gmail.com](mailto:cfmnbw@gmail.com).

Don't forget!: The 2015 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show runs from March 5th at 10am thru March 8th at 5pm. Please help! It takes about 1,000 hours to prepare, setup, staff, and tear-down! 🌱



Lawn & Garden Show Booth Plan. Image: Cindy Martin/MGDC



Master Gardeners of Davidson County

P.O. Box 41055

Nashville, TN 37204-1055

[www.mgofdc.org](http://www.mgofdc.org)

## Red Raspberry Chocolate Bars

### Ingredients:

- ▶ 2½ c all-purpose flour
- ▶ 1 c sugar
- ▶ ¾ c pecans, finely chopped
- ▶ 1 egg, beaten
- ▶ 1 c cold butter or margarine
- ▶ 1 12-oz. jar red raspberry jam
- ▶ 1⅔ c chocolate chips

### Instructions:

Heat oven to 350°F. Grease 13x9x2-inch baking pan.

Stir together flour, sugar, pecans, and egg in a large bowl. Cut in butter with fork until mixture resembles coarse crumbs; set aside 1½ c crumb mixture. Press remaining crumb mixture on bottom of prepared pan. Stir jam to soften; carefully spread over crumb mixture in pan. Sprinkle with chocolate chips. Crumble reserved crumb mixture evenly over top.

Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool completely in pan on wire rack, then cut into bars.

Makes 36 bars.