

# Garden Talk

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County  
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*Master Gardeners*  
OF DAVIDSON COUNTY, TN  
1986-2016

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*Garden Talk* is the monthly publication of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County, Tennessee.

### Submissions

Readers are encouraged to submit articles and photographs for future issues to [newsletter@mgofdc.org](mailto:newsletter@mgofdc.org) that will be featured as space allows.

The **deadline for submissions is the 19th of every month**, including items for the forthcoming calendar.

### Dues

Payment of annual dues of \$20 may be made to the above address, at a monthly meeting, or [securely online with a debit/credit card](#).

**NOTICE:** Trade and brand names are used only for information. Tennessee Extension does not guarantee nor warrant the standard of any product mentioned; neither does it imply approval of any product to the exclusion of others which also may be suitable.

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. Tennessee Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

**Cover Photo:** Boxwood trimming workshop at Historic Nashville City Cemetery. Courtesy Bob Mather/MGDC.

# Mather's Musings

by Robert Mather, President, Class of 2000

Where is the the time going? It seems I was just looking at seed catalogs and placing my orders, and now it's time to get those seeds in the trays and under the grow lights so they will be ready for planting in late April and early May.

What's more exciting is that several generous seed companies have donated seeds to the Master Gardeners of Davidson County this season — so many that we'll be starting our own seed bank! These seeds will have many beneficial uses, not only at our project sites and for hands-on learning workshops, but also in the greenhouse that UT Extension has given us access to use at Ellington Agricultural Center. It will be such a treat to visit the projects and see the progress of seeds, and we'll be able to grow plants for the Urban Gardening Festival, too. The community does love the plants grown by Master Gardeners!

This is such a busy time of the year. The Class of 2016 is so excited about learning as much as they can learn from the course and are eagerly looking forward to working with the Master Gardeners at our upcoming Earn & Learn workshops. I hope the new class and our certified Master Gardeners have many opportunities to meet and make new friends who share a passion for gardening. In fact, several from the Class of 2016 were able to attend our February meeting and we were so glad to have see them! You are always welcome — and, in fact, your class schedule offers another opportunity to visit with us during our March meeting on Thursday, March 10th — we hope to see you there!

Now that we have booked our first field trip of the year to the Huntsville Botanical Garden and as the date approaches, so does the excitement. I have not visited Huntsville in quite a while and am looking forward to our trip. What plants will I purchase? Better yet, will there be enough room on the bus to bring everyone's purchases home to Nashville?

I was thinking about how times have changed since we were children. We've put a man on the moon and portable phones are small enough to put in our shirt pockets! Social media has even changed our lives. MGDC have had our share of being influenced by new technologies! Bookings for our bus trip were by computer, as was volunteer scheduling for the 2016 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show. We even harnessed technology for recipe submissions for our 30th Anniversary Cookbook! We had one or two hiccups, but learned from them to make improvements for the future. I know it must seem too much at times, but as Bob Dylan sang: "Times, they are a changin'!"

I hope you are taking time to enjoy your gardens! 🌱

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Submissions to our newsletter by members are always welcome!

While there is plenty to share about our projects and programs, we always enjoy sharing stories about Master Gardeners, their experiences, and their gardens.

If you would like to submit an item to the newsletter, please email [info@mgofdc.org](mailto:info@mgofdc.org).

# Herb Society Plant Sale 2016

by Rhonda Galligan, Herb Society of Nashville

The Herb Society of Nashville will hold its **Annual Herb Sale** on **Saturday, April 16, 2016**, from 9am until 2pm at the Fairgrounds Nashville sports arena building.

The sale is open to the public and admission is free (except for a \$5 fairgrounds parking fee), and will feature the sale of rare varieties of annual and perennial herbs as well as all culinary herbs.

Credit and debit cards will be accepted. A local Boy Scout troop will also be on hand to help you check out.

Four free mini-seminars will also be offered beginning at 8:15am lasting 15 minutes each and be repeated one again at 8:30am. The topics of the seminars will include:

- ✓ Landscaping with Herbs can be both beautiful and useful
- ✓ Preserving Herbs: Techniques to ensure a supply of herbs all year
- ✓ Companion Planting: How matching plants will enhance outcomes
- ✓ Unheralded herbs you need to know about

We hope to see you at the plant sale!

If you have questions, please contact me by email at [rhonda.galligan@gmail.com](mailto:rhonda.galligan@gmail.com) or at (931) 224-8947.

To learn more, please visit our website: [www.herbsocietynashville.org](http://www.herbsocietynashville.org).

## Huntsville Field Trip

Our April 16, 2016 field trip to Huntsville Botanical Garden is now full!

You may still register for our waitlist should anyone cancel. The cancellation deadline is one week before the trip, and we will fill any vacancies from the waitlist.

Questions? Please contact Jason Goodrich at [info@mgofdc.org](mailto:info@mgofdc.org) or (615) 403-5766.

## March meeting

by Paul Martin, First Vice President, Class of 1998

Join us for food, fellowship, and fun at our monthly meeting on **Thursday, March 10th at 6:30pm** in the Ed Jones Auditorium on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center!

We had a great crowd at last month's meeting and we hope to see you all again this month! If it's your first time or even if it's been a few years since you were last able to visit with us, I encourage you to come out and enjoy an evening with the Master Gardeners of Davidson County!

I'd like to extend a special invitation to the Class of 2016 to join us — we'd love the opportunity to meet and get to know you — but be warned: You may walk away with a door prize to take home!

MGDC alumnus **Julie Berbiglia**, presenter for NPT's *Volunteer Gardener*, and education specialist with Metro Water Services will present a program on rain barrels, rain gardening, and the importance of clean water.

Our meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to bring visitors as well as a dish for our potluck meal. See you there! 🌱

## 2016 Membership Directory Photos

by Jason Goodrich, Corresponding Secretary, Class of 2013

If you have the same problem I do when trying to match a name with a face, you'll appreciate this year's Membership Directory.

**Master Gardener Mickey Salomon will be returning to take photographs of our members for the 2016 Membership Directory at our monthly meeting on March 10th.**

Those who took photos last year have the option to take new ones, but **this is your only opportunity** before we publish the directory in April. If you haven't had your photo taken, please come so that your photo is included!

Also, and most importantly, if you've recently moved, changed your phone number or email address, please make certain to let us know so that your Master Gardener friends can keep in touch with you.

To make certain your contact information is accurate, please email me at [info@mgofdc.org](mailto:info@mgofdc.org) or call (615) 403-5766. 🌱

## Spring Silent Auction

by Bob Mather, President, Class of 2000

During our March 10th monthly meeting we'll be holding a Spring Silent Auction! **Please consider bringing any gardening books, tools, pots, etc. you're ready to part with!**

We'll also have several interesting items donated to us by local businesses, including a free night's stay at the Pickwick State Park Inn, gift certificate to Paris Wintery, a pair of tickets to the Belcourt Theater, and a pair of tickets for the Tennessee Central Railway Wine Excursion Train visiting DelMonaco Wintery in Baxter, Tennessee.

Make certain to bring your items for our Spring Silent Auction with you to our meeting on Thursday, May 10th. All you need to do is tell us the suggesting starting bid — and the highest bidder wins the auction! 🌱

# March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Boxwood Trimming workshop at Nashville City Cemetery on Saturday, March 5th from 9am-12pm.</p> <p>Work days at The Hermitage will resume on Saturdays from 8am-11am beginning on March 5th.</p> <p>The Hermitage will also host an Earn &amp; Learn workshop on Saturday, March 12th from 9am-12pm.</p>		1	2 Board Meeting, UT Extension Central Region Bldg, 6pm	3 2016 Course: Class 7 MNPDP South Precinct, 6pm  Nashville Lawn & Garden Show 10am-8pm	4 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show 10am-8pm	5 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show 10am-8pm  Speakers Bureau workshop on Herbaceous Ornaments, Southeast library, 2pm
6 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show 10am-5pm	7	8 2016 Course: Class 8 MNPDP South Precinct, 6pm	9	10 Monthly Meeting Ed Jones Auditorium, Ellington Ag Center, 6:30pm	11	12 Speakers Bureau workshop on Spring/Cool Season Veggies, Goodlettsville library, 10am
13	14	15	16	17 Tennessee Master Gardener State Conference, Knoxville	18 Tennessee Master Gardener State Conference, Knoxville	19 Tennessee Master Gardener State Conference, Knoxville
20	21	22 Junior MG Camp Planning Meeting, UT Extension conference room (airport), 10am	23	24 2016 Course: Class 9 MNPDP South Precinct, 6pm	25	26 Work Day: Nashville City Cemetery, 9am  <b>CSA Fair</b> , Nashville Farmers' Market, 10am
27	28	29	30	31 2016 Course: Class 10 MNPDP South Precinct, 6pm	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>For a complete calendar of upcoming events, visit our website at <a href="http://www.mgofdc.org">www.mgofdc.org</a>.</p>	



## Kitchen Gardens at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage

by Laura Kraft, Class of 2010

(l to r) Sylvia Hix, Clif Gunter, Carol Freund-Taylor, Phil Arnold, Mark Muhlenkort, Anne Bush, Donna Haggitt, Mary Langford, Terry Torre, Pam Swoner, & Sue Prosch.

We had great weather and great information sharing at our 2016 planning meeting on Saturday, February 20th. New and veteran Master Gardener volunteers collaborated on our seasonal planning for the three gardens, mapped out workshop days, and shared educational resources. Master Gardeners never disappoint—the information was flowing! What a great start to our year.

## 2016 Tennessee Extension Master Gardener State Conference

The Sevier County Master Gardeners will host this year's state conference (formerly Winter School) March 17-19, 2016 at the UT Institute of Agriculture campus in Knoxville, Tennessee. A workshop on Junior Master Gardener programs and youth education on March 17th will precede the two-day conference.

The state conference will feature several sessions March 18th-19th. Learn more about the conference, find a detailed itinerary, and register online at [Tennessee Master Gardener program](http://Tennessee Master Gardener program). 🌱

Join us for our annual **Seed Starting Earn & Learn Workshop**, Saturday March 12th, from 9:00am to 12 noon. Interns from the Class of 2016 are especially welcome! We'll lead you through several topics and hands-on spring planting activities:

- ▶ Seed Starting Activities: Seed choice, germination factors;
- ▶ Growing mediums for starting seeds indoors, including soil blocking techniques;
- ▶ Lighting requirements, including demonstrations for how to build a grow-light stand;
- ▶ Participants will plant vegetable, herb and/or flower seeds in their take-home seed pots.
- ▶ Transplanting seedlings in containers for the MGDC Urban Gardening Festival plant sale.

The Hermitage Gardens have different projects with different volunteer needs: Gardening, seed propagation, greenhouse tending, public speaking, and more! Contact Mary Langford or Laura Kraft for more at [hermitage@mgofdc.org](mailto:hermitage@mgofdc.org)! 🌱

## 2016 Perennial Plant Society Sale

by Mariwyn Evans, PPS Plant Sale Chair, Class of 2011

The [Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee](http://Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee) (PPS) will host its annual plant sale at the Fairgrounds Nashville on Saturday, April 09 from 9am-12 noon.

Admission is free but parking at Fairgrounds Nashville is \$5. Your purchases support the educational activities and scholarships for horticultural students sponsored by PPS.

This year the sale will be better than ever, with more plants, more new varieties, as well as plenty of old favorites. Over 450 varieties of shrubs, roses, vines, perennials, and annuals will be for sale and all plants are purchased from Middle Tennessee growers and are already acclimatized to our challenging climate.

Doors open at 9am but shoppers are encouraged to arrive early by 8:15am when you can also enter the "early bird" drawing for sale gift certificates. PPS volunteers will be on hand to offer advice on choosing the best fit for your yard and gardening experience.

A partial list of plants at the sale will be posted to the PPS website, [www.ppsmt.org](http://www.ppsmt.org), by March 1st and updated as more are added. For more information, visit our website or contact me by email at [mariwynevens@att.net](mailto:mariwynevens@att.net). 🌱



(l to r) Jeanmarie Karazin, Patricia VornDick, Paula Yelverton, Rich Shiavi, Jean Buffler, Maureen May, Susan Brown, Jennifer Cox, Mary Duncan, Chuck Vehorn, Kay Gragg, and Andrea Pruijssers.

classes in April are: Soil preparation; tools & pruning; culinary herbs; and a seed planting class for children. It was envisaged that children would plant seeds in a special area of the garden, and would be encouraged to come back to the zoo over the summer to see how their seeds are growing. The September class will be decided at a later date.

Be on the lookout for an announcement and a calendar update once we decide on the dates and topics of this year's classes later this month. 🌱

## Historic Grassmere Gardens

*by Chuck Vehorn, Class of 2014*

The Grassmere Group met at Maureen May's charming home on Sunday, February 21, 2016 to enjoy a wonderful potluck lunch and make plans for the Nashville Zoo gardens. The first order of business was to determine leadership. We decided that a leadership team model would be the best approach at this point in time. Four key activities were defined and volunteers stepped forward to be responsible for those activities:

- Special Events Coordinator, Jeanmarie Karazin
- Volunteer Coordinator, Chuck Vehorn
- Visitor Interactions Reports Coordinator, Rich Shiavi
- Supply Purchases Coordinator, Andrea Pruijssers

Next we discussed seed ordering and seed starting. A smaller group had met earlier to determine the specific seeds to order. It turned out, as Jennifer Cox reported, that most of the seeds selected had been donated by Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co. Also, Mary Duncan (2004) informed us that she won a prize of 64 seed packets. So when Mary's seed packets arrive, Jennifer will meet with Mary to compare those packets with the remaining vegetables and flowers on our list.

Since most of the produce is given to the animals, an interesting idea was raised with respect to our identifying signage. Our signs just identify the vegetable, but why not identify both the vegetable and the animal(s) that eats it (perhaps with a picture of the animal on the sign). We hoped that this would heighten the interest of children in the garden. We also decided to meet at Grassmere on Saturday, March 12th to plant seeds in seed trays.

Finally we discussed our offering of classes. It was decided that we would offer four classes in April (9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th) and another set of four in September (3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th). Tentative titles for the four

## Harding Garden at Belle Meade

*by Mariwyn Evans, Class of 2011*

The Weedin' Women are Planning for Spring.

(from left to right) Ethel-Lonniell Williams, Margaret Devine, Nancy West, Jill Meese, Anne Underhill, Muff Cline (chair), and, behind the camera, Barbara Drake got together in February at Muff's to discuss what heirloom varieties to plant this spring and summer.



Winners include Tennis Ball lettuce, Cherokee Trail of Tears beans, and Dakota Black popcorn. The group also discussed the need to do a new soil test and add more compost to beds to up declining yields. And all agreed they can't wait for spring. 🌱

# Historic Nashville City Cemetery

*by Bob Mather, Class of 2000*

Can you believe how wonderful the weather was for the last week of February? We hosted the first of two Earn & Learn workshops at Historic Nashville City Cemetery to teach the proper techniques for Boxwood trimming and it was such a great day!

We were joined by several interns from the Class of 2016 who did a great job and learned the best methods for trimming a Boxwood. A few were so excited they were going home to trim their own that very afternoon!



Looking ahead to your calendars, please take note that our second Boxwood workshop will be held at Nashville City Cemetery on Saturday, March 5th from 9am-12 noon.

Please contact me with any questions at (615) 525-5293 or at [president@mgofdc.org](mailto:president@mgofdc.org).

## Speakers Bureau 2016 series launched

*by Joan Clayton-Davis, Class of 2004*

Get ready for spring gardening! Partners for our March events include the Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange Program and Davidson Farmers Co-Op. The Speakers Bureau has Davidson County covered with three exciting educational events in March:

- March 5th at 2:00pm—Nashville Southeast Public Library workshop will focus on flower gardening with **Herbaceous Ornamentals: A Guide to Common Annuals, Perennials, Biennials, and Bulbs**.
- March 12th at 10:00am—Goodlettsville Public Library workshop will focus on **Spring/Cool Season Vegetable Gardening**. UT Extension Factsheet SP291-O provides a summary of cool-season vegetables that may be grown in Tennessee.
- March 19 at 10:00am—Davidson Farmers Co-Op Annual Spring Gardening Workshop.

Thanks to Bellevue and Bordeaux Public Libraries display of gardening books and resources, and making seeds available for spring gardens along with presentations by Master Gar-

deners Catherine Atwell (2004) and Virginia Waddy (2013) in February; local residents are getting ready and showing enthusiasm to see things grow.

A schedule for our other presentations, dates, times, and locations may be found on the [Speakers Bureau](#) page of our website as well as the [MGDC website calendar](#).

## Photos needed!

*by Bob Mather, Class of 2000*

We continue to gather old photographs from throughout our 30 year history, and our historians need your help!

As we assemble a pictorial history of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County in preparation for our 30th Anniversary commemoration in August, we are seeking your photographs of our garden project sites and Master Gardeners.

Hunt through your old photos and share them with us — you can scan and send them to [historian@mgofdc.org](mailto:historian@mgofdc.org) or you can bring them with you to an upcoming monthly meeting.

If you'd like to help plan our 30th Anniversary commemoration, please contact Bob Mather at [president@mgofdc.org](mailto:president@mgofdc.org) or (615) 525-5293.

## Junior Master Gardeners Camp

*by Pam Swoner, Class of 2009*

Davidson County Master Gardeners, will be represented at the Winter Conference in Knoxville, by Maddy Berezov and Pam Swoner. They will attend a special day long training presented by the JMG National Coordinator, Lisa Whittlesey from Texas A&M University, with input from experienced JMG leaders in Tennessee. They are excited to share the things our camp has learned, through the years, from our award winning camp. For more information or if you have questions about this year's Junior Master Gardener Camp, please email Pam Swoner at [jrmg@mgofdc.org](mailto:jrmg@mgofdc.org).

## Bus Field Trip to Louisville

*by Jason Goodrich, Corresponding Secretary, Class of 2013*

On **Saturday, June 4th**, the Master Gardeners of Davidson County will be conducting its second field trip of 2016 to the **Yew Dell Botanical Gardens outside of Louisville, Kentucky**.

The cost of the trip will be \$40 including transportation and admission fees. **Registration will open on April 1st**. Please bear in mind that registration is on a first come, first seated basis and that your registration is not considered complete until payment has been received.

An itinerary for the trip is forthcoming and we are looking forward to hosting another trip! You'll receive an e-blast reminding you when registration opens. If you have questions, please email me at [info@mgofdc.org](mailto:info@mgofdc.org).

# 2016 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

by Bob Mather, Class of 2000

We're looking forward to having a great time at the start of March as the 2016 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show gets under way. Now in its 27th year, the show will **begin on Thursday, March 3rd at 10am through Sunday, March 6th at 5pm**. This year's theme: "Small Spaces, Grand Gardens"

We're planning on having a great time greeting visitors to the show at the entrance and sharing gardening tips and details about our hard work in the community at our booth. We hope you're able to come out and enjoy the show!



If you're volunteering—whether as a new intern or a certified Master Gardener—please **remember to bring your badge in order park and be admitted to the show for free**. Please also note that volunteer parking may only be accessed via Gate 2, the Bransford Ave/Benton Avenue entrance. If you're using your GPS, input this address for easy directions: 509 Benton Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203. 🌱

# 2016 Urban Gardening Festival

by Nancy Wilcenski, Class of 2014

Mark your calendars for our seventh annual Urban Gardening Festival to be held rain or shine on Saturday, May 21st!

If you're unfamiliar with the event or haven't attended in the past, it's a wonderful event and I hope you'll be able to visit this year.

The Urban Gardening Festival is an educational outreach program we host each year inviting the public to learn more about a wide variety of gardening methods and techniques that also engages them with local artisans, exhibitors, growers, markets, organizations, and producers from across the Greater Nashville and Middle Tennessee region.

The event is hosted amid our 8,800-square-foot Demonstration Garden at Ellington Agricultural Center, our green learning space that features so many wonderful ways to garden. As

with last year's event, this year we will have a Programs Tent where our Master Gardeners as well as other vendors will present on a number of topics and themes—yet more opportunities to earn continuing education hours.

We will also have many opportunities to volunteer with the festival over the next few months. Here's how you can help:

➡ Plants—Master Gardeners, as you begin preparing your gardens and have a few extra plants, consider potting them with fresh soil and donate to them for our annual plant sale. We'll also be potting plants at several of our project gardens in addition to starting several varieties in our greenhouse.

It is important that these plants be disease and weed free when donating them for our plant sale. All of our plants are required to be inspected for fire ants by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture the morning of the festival. Please contact Judy Burger with questions at (615) 244-4533 or at [judyburger@rocketmail.com](mailto:judyburger@rocketmail.com).

➡ Crafts—If you're artsy and want to make and donate crafts to our Master Gardener Arts and Crafts sale, please contact Lynn Ashford at [lbashford23@yahoo.com](mailto:lbashford23@yahoo.com) or (615) 957-1310.

➡ Demonstration Garden—The gardens are always gorgeous because of the many dedicated Master Gardener volunteers who work in this beautiful space at Ellington Agricultural Center. Preparing the beds does require extra help.

Please consider volunteering during scheduled work days this spring. It's a wonderful opportunity to earn volunteer hours and learn quite a lot from the myriad of garden beds. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Shirley Lee and Tyann Chappell at [demogarden@mgofdc.org](mailto:demogarden@mgofdc.org).

➡ Setup & Breakdown—We will begin setup for the festival beginning at 8am on Friday, May 20th. Later that day, scheduled vendors will setup from 3:30pm-7:00pm. Setup will continue from 6:00am-8:30am on Saturday, May 21st just before our event begins.

Breakdown will begin promptly at 4:00pm at the close of the festival. Several volunteers will be needed to help guide vendors to their booth locations and assist with setup.

➡ Event Volunteers—We will have many opportunities during the festival for volunteers. From greeters to garden guides and presenters to face painters, we hope you'll consider coming out to volunteer and enjoy a wonderful day in the gardens.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up to volunteer, please contact Nancy Wilcenski by email at [ugf@mgofdc.org](mailto:ugf@mgofdc.org) or (615) 881-4707. 🌱



**Master Gardeners of Davidson County**

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Join us at our March meeting on Thursday, March 10th at  
6:30pm in the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural  
Center!*



*Grassmere emerging from winter.  
Photo by Anne Bush/MGDC.*